

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING – 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015

#### List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

#### ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.8 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR GEORGE LINDARS-HAMMOND

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Steve Ayriss

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) regrets the Government’s plan to slash Tax Credits from 1st April 2016;
- (b) notes that despite massive public opposition, and opposition from Conservative backbenchers, the Government attempted to press ahead with these unnecessary ideological cuts that will hit the working poor hardest;
- (c) notes that if the proposed changes to Tax Credits were implemented:-
  - (i) 25,000 families in Sheffield are set to lose out an average £750 a year in Tax Credits; and
  - (ii) 40,000 children in our area would be forced to live in poorer households, reducing their life chances and making it harder for their parents to make ends meet;
- (d) notes that cutting Tax Credits was not in the Conservative Party manifesto, and the Prime Minister explicitly ruled them out during the General Election campaign, meaning the Government does not have a mandate to carry this out;
- (e) regrets that these Government proposals have got to this stage after the Welfare Reform and Work Bill passed through the House of Commons, which 184 Labour MPs failed to oppose, including 4 of the 5 Sheffield Labour MPs;
- (f) notes that the Labour Party has repeatedly wavered on their position on tax credit cuts and two Shadow Cabinet Ministers, MPs Diane Abbott and Seema Malhotra, have been unable to say that the Labour Party would reverse the cuts;
- (g) believes the Labour Lords amendment which was passed on Monday

26th October 2015 to delay the cuts by three years and implement 'transitional measures' is a step in the right direction but it does not go far enough and will be of little solace to hardworking people on low incomes when the Government's proposals are implemented in three years' time;

- (h) notes that the Liberal Democrat peers tabled a 'fatal motion' to kill off Tax Credit changes for good but this was defeated because Labour members in the House of Lords did not support it; and
- (i) therefore, calls on the Council to write to The Baroness Smith of Basildon, Shadow Leader in the House of Lords, regretting the decision of Labour Peers to only delay Tax Credit cuts.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Brian Webster, seconded by Councillor Aodan Marken

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (g) and (h) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (i):-

- (g) agrees with comments made by the Green Peer, Jenny Jones, that the Government's cuts to tax credits are "unthinking, uncaring and cruel", and commends Baroness Jones and all other members of the House of Lords who opposed these cuts;
- (h) further, agrees with Baroness Jones' comments that, "It is regrettable that it falls upon an unelected body to hold this Government to account – but until we have a fully elected second chamber, Peers must continue to properly scrutinise this kind of deeply damaging legislation".

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.9 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR TERRY FOX**

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes the loss of over 4,000 jobs in the steel industry during this year, most recently due to cuts from Tata Steel, which axed 1,200 jobs last week, including 550 in South Yorkshire, and the closure of the SSI plant in Redcar which meant 1,700 job losses;
- (b) notes the UK steel industry is in crisis due to a number of factors,

including the influx of cheap steel from China, rising energy costs, and a strong pound;

- (c) notes the British steel industry's close relationship with Sheffield, renowned as the 'Steel City' due to its historic role in the development of the manufacturing of steel, and that jobs in the steel industry are still important to the City Region;
- (d) notes that during the Coalition, the Government got permission from the European Commission to compensate steel companies for high energy costs, and further notes the comments of the former Business Secretary, Vince Cable, on 21st October 2015 that 'The Treasury is sitting on [this] money.';
- (e) believes that if the UK is to maintain its strategic capacity to manufacture steel, the Government must act fast;
- (f) regrets the lack of action by the Government in recent months and believes that the recent announcement of a £3 million contribution towards re-training workers laid off by Tata Steel in Scunthorpe and £80 million towards redundancy and re-training for steel workers in Redcar is tokenistic and will do nothing to prevent further closures;
- (g) believes that Labour Shadow Chancellor, John McDonnell MP's proposal to nationalise the steel industry is ideological, irresponsible and unnecessary, and that efforts to help the steel industry should be focussed on levelling the playing field for the UK steel industry to compete internationally;
- (h) calls on the Government to:-
  - (i) use the UK's diplomatic relationship with China to address the issue of over production of steel; and
  - (ii) pass on the money agreed with the European Commission to compensate steel companies for high energy costs to alleviate some of the pressure on the industry; and
- (i) requests that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. George Osborne MP.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SHAFFAQ MOHAMMED**

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor George Lindars-Hammond, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) is appalled by the Government's decision to cut tax credits which will reduce the incomes of over 3 million working families, including 27,000 in Sheffield, by an average of £1,300 a year from April 2016;
- (b) believes the Government's decision to cut tax credits clearly shows that the Conservatives are not on the side of working people, and that attempts to rebrand themselves as the 'workers' party' are nothing more than empty rhetoric;
- (c) notes that there was no mention of cutting tax credits in the Conservative Party manifesto and recalls that the Prime Minister explicitly ruled out cuts to tax credits in the run up to the General Election on BBC Question Time on 30 April 2015;
- (d) notes research from the Resolution Foundation which found that the proposed cuts to tax credits will immediately push a further 200,000 children into poverty;
- (e) further notes comments made by Paul Johnson, Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, who said it was "arithmetically impossible" for the increase in the minimum wage to compensate for the loss in tax credits;
- (f) believes that these cuts to the income of working families on low wages are unjustifiable, particularly given cuts to inheritance tax and to the top rate of income tax; and
- (g) calls on the Government to heed the House of Lords' opposition to these cuts and to reverse in full the proposed reductions to tax credits.

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Brian Webster, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (i) and (j) as follows, and the relettering of original paragraph (i) as a new paragraph (k):-

- (i) agrees with comments made by the Green Peer, Jenny Jones, that the Government's cuts to tax credits are "unthinking, uncaring and cruel", and commends Baroness Jones and all other members of the House of Lords who opposed these cuts;
- (j) further, agrees with Baroness Jones' comments that, "It is regrettable that it falls upon an unelected body to hold this Government to account – but until we have a fully elected second chamber, Peers must continue to properly scrutinise this kind of deeply damaging legislation".

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

### 6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Steve Ayris, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

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

- (f) believes that, despite the Administration's 'Outdoor City' rhetoric, their recent actions have put green spaces in the city at risk and are a cause for concern, noting such actions as:-
  - (i) the Council's Planning and Highways Committee approving the decision to expand school provision in Tinsley by building a new school on Tinsley Green Recreational Ground despite this being the only green open space in the Tinsley area;
  - (ii) allowing what is believed to be 117 green belt sites to be at risk of development as part of the 'Call for Housing Sites', and refusing to disclose the locations of these sites;  
  
*(NB: At the meeting of the Council, at the request of Councillor Steve Ayris (the mover of the amendment), the above paragraph as published in the "List of Amendments Received by the Chief Executive" circulated at the meeting, was altered, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.9, by the addition of the words "what is believed to be" after the word "allowing".)*
  - (iii) selling off Cobnar Cottage, part of Graves Park – gifted to the people of Sheffield by J. G. Graves back in 1925;
  - (iv) allowing Amey to fell many mature, healthy highway trees as part of the Streets Ahead programme;
  - (v) the Council's Planning and Highways Committee granting permission for a coal-cleaning operation at Hesley Wood, resulting in hundreds of trees being destroyed; and
  - (vi) declaring green land within the Beauchief Abbey Conservation Area as surplus, risking development; and
- (g) therefore calls on the Administration to:
  - (i) reconsider more sympathetic engineering solutions to preserve highway tree stock;
  - (ii) publish the list of 117 sites in the Green Belt at risk from development;

- (iii) do more to encourage development on brownfield sites; and
- (iv) reassure the public that no more park land will be sold off or developed.

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, seconded by Councillor Aodan Marken

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

- (f) welcomes the Administration's recognition that action needs to be taken to make Sheffield a more pleasant city in which to spend time outdoors and to enable people to be active;
- (g) recognises the potential of a more pleasant urban environment and better mobility for both residents and visitors to Sheffield;
- (h) believes that a true 'Outdoor City' should be a Sheffield where people enjoy spending time outdoors as part of daily life, not only as part of sport and recreation;
- (i) believes that enabling people to undertake physical exercise as part of daily life by walking and cycling for transport will deliver far-reaching benefits over and above those that can be achieved by an 'Outdoor City' focused on recreation alone;
- (j) believes that a true 'Outdoor City' must be a place where ordinary people can walk and cycle safely and that, to enable this to happen, a high quality cycle network should be built to give people a genuine choice to cycle instead of driving and to allow ordinary people to cycle protected from motor traffic, and that this must be designed to be usable by all; and
- (k) stresses that planning and delivering a high quality cycle network must be progressed as a priority in order to meet the Council's aims of increasing the percentage of journeys made by bicycle to 10% in 2025.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JACKIE DRAYTON**

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Vickie Priestley

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion in paragraph (a) of all the words after the words “by 24% this year”; and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (b) and (c) as follows, and the relettering of original paragraphs (b) to (d) as new paragraphs (d) to (f):-
  - (b) recognises that adult education has been underfunded for too long by successive Governments;
  - (c) notes Liberal Democrat manifesto pledges to:-
    - (i) establish a cross-party commission to secure a long-term settlement for the public funding of reskilling and lifelong learning;
    - (ii) set up a review into the VAT treatment of Sixth Form Colleges and FE Colleges to ensure fair treatment in relation to the schools sector; and
    - (iii) extend the current UK budget protection for education to include 16-19 provision.
9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Aodan Marken, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new sub-clause (v) in paragraph (b) as follows:-

- (b)(v) funding the teaching of English as a Second Language (ESOL) is a particularly cost-effective way of integrating communities and removing inequalities and that cuts to this area of funding significantly increase disadvantage and undermine equality of opportunity;

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.13 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW SANGAR**

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Terry Fox, seconded by Councillor Tony Downing

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes with sadness the announcement of the closure of the Redcar blast furnace and the news that Tata Steel is to cut 1,200 jobs across the UK, including many within Sheffield City Region;

- (b) further notes:
  - (i) the huge contribution the steel industry makes to the UK economy, employing 34,500 people across the sector and countless more in supply chains, and achieving exports worth £6bn in 2014;
  - (ii) the challenging global steel market, in particular an over-supply of steel on the international market, which has pushed prices down; and
  - (iii) that UK Steel, trade unions and Members of Parliament have been calling for months for the Government to act to protect the industry;
- (c) condemns the Government for their inaction and their willingness to let British industry bear the brunt of global economic headwinds without protection;
- (d) believes the Government's inaction shows they lack an industrial strategy and have no interest in supporting strategic national industries like steel; and
- (e) calls on the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to intervene directly to save steel plants at risk of closure in the short term, and to develop an active industrial strategy to support the UK steel industry over the long term.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.14 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BRIAN WEBSTER**

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Leigh Bramall

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition in paragraph (a) of the word “proposed” before the words “devolution deal”; and
2. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (i) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (f) as follows:-
  - (b) notes that the current Administration has campaigned against cuts to the Council's budget and will continue to do so, but notes that severe cuts to local government have been imposed irrespective of devolution and therefore does not believe that ruling out receiving powers and funding currently held at Whitehall would benefit the city;



- (c) understands that:-
  - (i) investment is still heavily directed towards London and the South East at the expense of the North and that if the Government is to genuinely deliver on their rhetoric we need to see the Spending Review rebalance this; and
  - (ii) the devolution proposal is just one part of the jigsaw, and that we can only create a strong northern economy with accompanying meaningful investment in the pan-northern transport programmes such as Transport for the North;
- (d) notes that the 2012 mayoral referendum was based on an elected mayor replacing the Council Leader but with no new powers or funding and covering a geography limited to Sheffield, whereas in contrast, the current proposal is fundamentally different with a mayor covering the wider city region geography, and importantly it is only about taking powers down from the Government, not taking powers up from local councils;
- (e) notes that the Chancellor has made it clear that any devolution of powers and funding down from Whitehall to local government is dependent upon an elected mayor as proposed, so whilst locally we have made it clear that a mayor is not what we want, it would be irresponsible to dismiss it out of hand and risk leaving the city behind; and
- (f) further notes that the public will be consulted on the proposal and that the proposal is also subject to final agreement and approval by each Council within Sheffield City Region.

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

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

- (h) fails to see what direct benefits a directly elected mayor will bring for the Sheffield City Region, given the complex governance of the City Region;
- (i) regrets the determination of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to impose a directly elected mayor on any city that wishes to pursue further devolution; and
- (j) is concerned that accepting the condition of a City Region mayor at this stage of negotiations may have weakened our position to bargain for additional powers.

13. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Brian Webster, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy

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

- (j) believes that establishing the role of an elected Sheffield City Region Mayor without taking steps such as a further referendum and a free vote for Members would risk undermining the democratic legitimacy of any elected Mayor in the eyes of their constituents even before they took office.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOHN BOOKER**

14. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Terry Fox, seconded by Councillor Tony Downing

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) believes that climate change poses an existential threat to mankind;
- (b) believes that cooperation with other nations rather than isolation is needed to tackle shared global challenges like climate change and that Britain should be looking outwards and showing international leadership in the transition to clean energy;
- (c) condemns the Government’s decision to scrap subsidies for renewable sources of energy and agrees with John Cridland, Director General of the CBI, that “these changes send a worrying signal about the UK as a place for low-carbon investment”;
- (d) is deeply concerned that the plan to build a prototype plant to capture carbon from a coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire is under threat after Drax Group plc - a key shareholder - pulled out blaming Government cuts in renewable energy subsidies, and calls on the Government to deliver on their manifesto pledge to commit £1bn in carbon capture and storage technology;
- (e) believes that Britain needs to reduce its dependence on imported fuel by investing in a new clean energy system to reduce energy bills and create the skilled jobs our economy needs, and does not think that achieving lower bills and protecting the environment are mutually exclusive goals; and

- (f) further believes that energy should be democratised and welcomes the Administration's plans to explore options to set up a local energy company to tackle unfair fuel prices and bring down bills.

15. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Brian Webster, seconded by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) regrets that successive UK governments have failed to bring forward long-term policies to deal with the related problems of energy price, security and environmental impact;
- (b) further regrets that the UK has not followed the example of European partners such as Germany, which in 2014 benefited from increases in renewable energy and falls in fossil fuel generation, energy consumption and energy prices;
- (c) believes reducing energy consumption through widespread energy efficiency measures is the best way to combat fuel poverty by reducing bills and increasing comfort;
- (d) notes that onshore wind is now the cheapest form of electricity in the UK, according to research by Bloomberg, and further notes comments from Seb Henbest of Bloomberg that, "There's still a tendency for the general public to believe that renewables are really expensive, while coal and gas are really cheap ... This is how it used to be not so long ago, but over the past five years technology costs have come down significantly, along with financing costs."
- (e) notes that coal is the most damaging of all fossil fuels in terms of carbon emissions, air and water pollution;
- (f) notes that while the UK currently subsidises renewable energy by approximately £3.5 billion the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that the UK will subsidise fossil fuels by £26 billion in 2015, or £400 per person, and that the IMF further stated that eliminating this subsidy would reduce fossil fuel related deaths by 50%, reduce carbon emissions by one fifth and generate revenue; and
- (g) believes this Council has a very poor record regarding renewable energy generation, which may have cost the city millions of pounds in loss of investment and potential fuel savings, and calls on the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to bring forward plans for an immediate improvement.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NASIMA AKTHER**

16. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

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

- (e) calls on the Administration to repeat the success of last year and offer free parking in the city centre and local district centres in the run up to Christmas in order to help local business.

17. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, seconded by Councillor Aodan Marken

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (h) as follows:-

- (e) further, encourages Elected Members and the people of Sheffield to show their support for local and independent businesses throughout the whole year;
- (f) recognises the particular importance of supporting sole traders and micro businesses, as well as those organisations focussed on social impact rather than wealth creation, which this Council believes are key to the wellbeing of community economies, and is committed to improving and expanding the help we offer to such businesses and organisations;
- (g) will continue to develop its policies on procurement, with a particular focus on:
  - (i) developing its capacity for procuring goods and services from local and independent businesses wherever practicable; and
  - (ii) ensuring that all businesses, including local and independent businesses, are given the support they need to access and navigate the tendering process; and
- (h) believes that the economy is skewed unfairly in favour of large and multinational businesses, and that this is detrimental not only to small businesses but also to the local economy, and so will endeavour to work to rebalance the local economy in favour of small local businesses.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.18 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN**

18. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Terry Fox, seconded by Councillor Tony Downing

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

- (f) welcomes the Administration's commitment to offer free Christmas Parking incentives during the forthcoming festive season.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.19 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MARTIN SMITH**

19. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ben Curran, seconded by Councillor Leigh Bramall

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

- (d) notes that:-
- (i) the Council deals with each Freedom of Information request on a case by case basis and in line with the Freedom of Information Act; and
  - (ii) for the 2014/15 financial year, less than 1% of refusals were referred to the Information Commissioner;
- (e) notes that the information relating to the main opposition group's Freedom of Information requests on housing sites was not completed at the time the request was received, and that this information will be made available on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 when the public consultation on Phase 1 of the Sheffield Local Plan is published;

*(NB: At the meeting of the Council, at the request of Councillor Ben Curran (the mover of the amendment), the above paragraph as published in the "List of Amendments Received by the Chief Executive" circulated at the meeting, was altered, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.9, by the substitution of the word "completed" for the word "available".)*

- (f) welcomes the Council's intention to publish FOI data on a regular basis;

- (g) notes that the Council has answered tree-related FOI requests, and is committed to continuing to work hard to respond to as many requests as is feasible, given the resources available; and
- (h) will write to the six Sheffield MPs requesting that they resist any attempt by the Government to water-down the provisions within the Freedom of Information Act.