

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING – 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

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

#### ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 6 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “HOUSING AND THE LOCAL PLAN”

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Julie Grocutt, seconded by Councillor Mark Jones

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (d) and (h), the re-lettering of original paragraphs (e) to (g) as new paragraphs (d) to (f), and the addition of new paragraphs (g) to (o) as follows:-

- (g) notes that due to the importance of protecting green spaces, the Council, under the previous Administration, undertook work to determine how the new homes in central Sheffield can be maximised - and following this work, Sheffield City Council produced a plan to meet the already high target of 40,000 new homes, whilst protecting the green belt;
- (h) reaffirms support for this approach, which would have delivered the correct number of homes for the city, whilst ensuring building in the right locations;
- (i) notes with real concern that cities in the North are now being forced by the Government to adhere to unrealistic house building targets, due to a U-turn which, we believe, was enacted to protect shires in the South;
- (j) notes that as a result of the Government’s U-turn, Sheffield will now face a 35% increase in its nationally determined targets for new housing delivery;
- (k) believes that these Government-imposed targets are not appropriate to the scale of need, and threaten Sheffield’s green belt, as well as undermining the good work undertaken by the Council in preparing a plan which would have provided enough homes and in the right locations;
- (l) notes that Sheffield City Council’s Planning Committee has rejected a number of planning applications on green spaces, including in Loxley Valley, but the Government might in the future try and force through similar development, as they seek to take even more control on planning matters away from local councils;

- (m) believes that Sheffield facing a 35% increase on targets by the Government is a real concern for protecting our green spaces and will have an impact to the city's ecology and wildlife;
- (n) commits to challenging the Government and to making sure that we enact a Local Plan that delivers for Sheffield; and
- (o) asks that a copy of the notice of motion is sent to Government to highlight our position, and to all Sheffield MP's, calling on them to stand up for Sheffield and fight in Parliament the unrealistically high housing demands imposed by the Government.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Brian Holmshaw, seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson

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

- (i) believes that Sheffield's Local Plan must include higher environmental and carbon reduction standards and stronger rules on affordable homes than at present;
- (j) believes that more housing is required – but it must be the right housing, of the right size, in the right place; that the target “number of dwellings” does nothing to address the complexity of housing need and that, whether set locally or nationally, any targets must be broken down by size of dwelling;
- (k) believes there needs to be more good quality, affordable housing to rent and more social housing; and
- (l) therefore recommends that the “affordable-free zone” for developers in the city centre, where profits go out of the city and few affordable homes are built, is removed.

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton, seconded by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof

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

- (i) notes that Option A from the 2020 Issues & Options consultation provides a way of meeting the Council's housing forecast without building new houses on green field sites within the Green Belt and therefore commits to basing the draft Local Plan on that option;
- (j) believes that the previous Administration repeatedly ducked responsibility and postponed key decisions until just after local elections

and therefore commits to issuing the draft Local Plan for consultation before next May;

- (k) further agrees that the Council must publish a timetable to produce an adopted local plan, with a firm commitment to a final date of publication; and
- (l) requests the Co-operative Executive to form a task and finish group immediately to deliver up to 2,500 houses in Attercliffe; using the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order powers if necessary, including as many affordable homes as possible in order to provide the homes the people of Sheffield need.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 7 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “‘RIGHT TO FOOD’ - WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE FOOD POVERTY IN THE CITY, AND TO DEVELOP A LOCAL FOOD ACCESS PLAN”**

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Steve Ayris, seconded by Councillor Cliff Woodcraft

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (c) and the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (f) as follows:-
  - (a) recognises that we are seeing a crisis of food poverty;
  - (b) believes that food poverty should never be seen as inevitable;
  - (c) notes that in the last 25 years relative poverty reduced significantly, in part due to the increases in the personal income tax allowance made by the 2010-2015 Government, with the number of people in absolute poverty having halved in that time according to Office for National Statistics (ONS) data;
  - (d) notes the upward turn shown in the number of people in poverty in the last few years due to the policies of the Government since 2015, as shown by research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Institute for Fiscal Studies;
  - (e) recognises that universal access to shelter, a good diet, adequate infrastructures is essential for a rewarding life and believes that the provision of universal access to these basic needs should be at the centre of all council policy;
  - (f) calls upon the Government to provide free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit;

2. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) and (e) as new paragraphs (g) and (h) and the addition of new paragraphs (i) to (k) as follows:-
    - (i) calls on the Government to address the 5-week wait for Universal Credit, using its resources to reduce this to less than one week to stop families in Sheffield falling into a debt trap that they may not get out of;
    - (j) notes the plight of carers who have performed heroic efforts to look after our most vulnerable in society during the pandemic;
    - (k) also calls on the Government to raise the Carer's Allowance by £1000 a year in line with the Universal Credit uplift, and not what this Council believes to be the insultingly low 5p a day announced in April, allowing our carers, many of whom are young people, to not slide into poverty, with recent research suggesting a third struggle to make ends meet;
  3. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (f) to (l) as new paragraphs (l) to (r).
5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alison Teal, seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin

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

- (m) commits to developing a Food Strategy linking the need to reduce carbon to meet climate change targets and boosting biodiversity to protect nature, along with developing a wellbeing economy and improving health equality across the city;
- (n) notes that research evidence shows that urban agriculture provides many benefits in addition to food provision; and these include:-
  - Improving human health through physical exercise and a more nutritious diet
  - Mental health benefits of being outside and engaging in community
  - Protecting soil, improving soil quality, and maintaining carbon storage in soil
  - Improving and enhancing biodiversity
  - Increasing food supply resilience against climate and economic events
  - Reducing food miles and food waste
  - Supporting plant genetic diversity
  - Reducing urban heat island effects
  - Paid employment and training opportunities
  - Community empowerment
  - Reducing poverty
  - Improving community cohesion

- Feeding urban communities sustainably
- (o) commits to working with local organisations like ShefFood, Heeley City Farm, FoodWorks, the University of Sheffield, and others, to develop a Food Strategy to support a rapid increase in urban and peri urban food production; and
- (p) will seek to protect the use of greenbelt land around Sheffield for sustainable agriculture and nature.
6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards, seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell

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

- (m) notes that there are now 2,000 food banks across the UK, and believes that in the 6th richest country in the world this is an absolute disgrace;
- (n) notes that food bank usage has increased during the pandemic, but the preceding decade of austerity meant millions of people were already needing to rely on them - for example, 1.6 million emergency food parcels were distributed by the Trussell Trust in 2019;
- (o) believes that main reasons for referrals to food banks are changes made since 2010 to the benefit system – including payment cuts, delays to benefit payments, and punitive benefit sanctions – as well as the rise of increasingly insecure work and in-work poverty;
- (p) calls on the Government to commit to eradicate food bank usage within three years and reduce usage by half within 12 months; and
- (q) thanks all food banks in Sheffield for their work, and commits to doing everything we can to support them in their invaluable work for communities.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 8 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE”**

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mark Jones, seconded by Councillor Mike Chaplin

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

- (f) believes that the Government needs to get serious about their supposed ‘levelling-up’ agenda and support local authorities, by delivering

regional investment banks – to support councils in creating jobs and building the energy and transport infrastructure we so desperately need;

- (g) notes that the Council has always sought to work with government in delivering positive action in tackling the climate emergency, and protecting against its adverse effects;
- (h) notes, for instance, the multi-million-pound investment in flood defences, and that this Council is building today for tomorrow's changed climate, and that the Council's long-term plan is needed to deliver Natural Flood Measures, but these measures will need investment to maintain and develop, and calls on the Government to support us with substantially more investment in delivering this;
- (i) believes that the Government needs to implement radical waste management strategies and that for too long they have failed to act on this issue, when they should be supporting councils to kick start new clean industrial sectors - reclaiming and retaining energy at every step of a product's life cycle;
- (j) notes the extension to Household Waste Recycling Centre opening times, but this comes at cost to the Council and believes that the Government needs to significantly invest in Sheffield to deliver 21st Century Waste Recycling Centres with a focus on sustainability;
- (k) believes that the Government should provide investment to deliver bio-gas facilities to reduce our national dependency on extractive gas imports, and greater investment to push forward with hydrogen and renewables to reduce carbon emissions from home heating, and reduce carbon emissions whilst housing infrastructure is made fit for the future;
- (l) believes that the Government must offer tax incentives for homegrown companies to develop the energy infrastructure of not only tomorrow, but today;
- (m) believes we need a significant and long-term funding commitment from the Government so that all Council homes can be improved to take them from Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C to net zero, as the current funding arrangements leave a shortfall of funding required which local authorities are unfairly having to pick up;
- (n) calls on the Government to commit to increasing funding on new homes to ensure that homes are built at net zero, and that the biggest challenge in the city for achieving residential net zero is the private sector (rented and owner occupied) with currently little funding available to deal with the cost of retrofitting; and
- (o) believes that the current piecemeal funding strategy of the Government creates unrealistic delivery timeframes, and they should provide much more support and long-term planning to allow councils to invest sustainably and responsibly in tackling the climate emergency.

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Tim Huggan, seconded by Councillor Barbara Masters

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (c) -  
  
“recognising the importance of local government in achieving net zero across the world, and notes that globally, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) have called for COP26 to be recognised as the ‘Multilevel Action COP’ in acknowledgment of the fact that more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions - decisions that are made at a local and individual level”;
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (f) and the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-  
  
(e) calls for the inclusion of a dedicated chapter for local governments in the official agreement reached at COP26, recognising the importance of local government in co-designing and delivering climate action and to ensure that local government is politically and financially empowered to meet that ambition;
3. the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows:-  
  
(g) requests that Sheffield, in committing to the ambitious targets as set out in the ‘ARUP’ report, sets clear targets with a review of progress towards its self-declared Climate Goals being reported to the appropriate committee on an annual basis, together with any actions required to maintain the Council’s commitments.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 9 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “INVESTING IN EARLY YEARS”**

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mike Levery, seconded by Councillor Ann Whitaker

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

- (c) recognises the considerable efforts of the Early Years Team in maintaining contact with the most vulnerable families during lockdowns, and developing online resources to provide advice and guidance to families;

- (d) notes that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sure Start Children's Centres' 2015 report stated that 'the ultimate aim should be to position children's centres at the heart of service provision in their communities to enable them to provide the sort of holistic offer we know to be valued and effective';
- (e) notes that Surestart Children's Centres continue to operate in cities such as Manchester (34 centres), Bristol (24), Liverpool (25), Birmingham (22), Hull (20) and across the Metropolitan District of Leeds (65);
- (f) notes that Hull and Birmingham are examples where local and national charities operate their Children's Centres, and include trained voluntary workers in their Children's Centre teams;
- (g) notes that the number of children's centres in Sheffield had been reduced to 16 by 2017; of the 16, just 5 were Ofsted categorised as Good, and the other 11 were under Notice to Improve;
- (h) notes that Sheffield adopted the Barnsley model of Family Centres in 2017, reducing again to 7 Family Centres and 7 link sites in operation in 2021, a reduction in registered Children's Centres of 85% since 2010; further noting that Barnsley has 5 Family Centres, 5 link sites and 8 outreach venues;
- (i) notes that the Family Centre model changes provision from 0 – 5 to 0 – 18; and that Barnsley have extended their provision across the 0 – 18 age range, and Sheffield has yet to move beyond 0 – 5 four years after adopting this model in 2017;
- (j) notes that the former Children's Centres that are now linked sites have reduced their activity significantly, one site has closed and the activities in others are limited and inconsistent;
- (k) believes that Sheffield's Early Years strategy of Family Centres and link sites is failing to meet the needs of its most vulnerable children, particularly those who have no easy access to their nominated Family Centre;
- (l) believes that other models of provision should be explored including models involving the charitable sector operating as strategic partners for Early Years delivery;
- (m) believes that the link sites are not meeting the very basic needs of the communities they serve; and
- (n) calls on the Co-operative Executive to review the whole operating model of Family Centres and link sites; this should take place at the earliest opportunity with the objective of returning linked sites back to full operation to enable them to regain Surestart Children's Centre status,



returning the city back to the 16 Children's Centres that operated in 2017; a very necessary step in the right direction.

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alexi Dimond, seconded by Councillor Kaltum Rivers

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

- (k) further to (i), will write to Sheffield's MPs to lobby the Government to demand parity for Sheffield's children as compared with those of other cities;
- (l) calls on the Government to commission an independent review of childcare funding and affordability;
- (m) commits to publicly thanking early years practitioners and support staff in the city for caring for children while other services in the city were closed, recognising that their pay, terms and conditions are not commensurate with that of teachers of older children;
- (n) welcomes and commends the partnership between Sheffield Hallam University, Watercliffe Meadow School, Sheffield City Council, and Save the Children UK, which has led to a Early Years Community Research Centre opening in Shirecliffe and commits to looking at innovative ways to fund similar centres in lieu of much-needed central government funding;
- (o) recalls, however, this Council's past choices to close Surestart centres and cut grants to outstanding community nurseries in the most deprived parts of the city where market forces do not support commercial private-sector nursery businesses;
- (p) recognises that the current moment in time is an important point for reflection and collaboration so that the experiences and learning of the last 18 months is not lost;
- (q) recognises that families and children receiving Universal Credit and legacy benefits; asylum seekers, people with no recourse to public funds, speakers of English as an additional language and limited access to the internet, are disproportionately affected by the lack of provision in Early Years and that this has been exacerbated by the pandemic; and
- (r) therefore, commits to bringing stakeholders together from across the city for an open session to discuss approaches to current challenges and share practice.

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