

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH OCTOBER 2021

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. DEBATE ON A PETITION ASKING TO LET COMEDIAN, ROY CHUBBY BROWN, PERFORM AT THE SHEFFIELD CITY HALL

RESOLVED: That this Council notes the petition and agrees to take no action.

2. STARK BUDGET CHALLENGE

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that the Authority is facing an overspend of nearly £44million in 2021/22, caused by the continuing additional spending on Council services needed to respond to the pandemic, such as support for families and older people in need, and the sudden end of Covid-related funding from central Government;
- (b) notes that the single biggest financial issue facing councils throughout the country is addressing the social care crisis, and this pressure is particularly felt in metropolitan areas;
- (c) notes that despite the recent announcement from the Government to increase taxes to, in the words of the Prime Minister, 'fix the crisis in social care', it is far from clear how the Government's plan will deliver on this;
- (d) notes, in addition, that despite the promise of additional health and social care investment, it is not expected that this money will be allocated locally, or that councils will be sufficiently compensated for the spiralling costs they have faced in the last eighteen months;
- (e) notes that for over a decade (since 2010/11), in setting its budget, this Council has had to absorb Government funding cuts, and meet increased costs from pressures such as inflation and demand for services, particularly in social care, amounting to £475 million, which has meant a 31% real terms decrease in the Council's spending power;
- (f) notes that for all the Government's talk of 'levelling up', Sheffield continues to suffer austere cuts above the national average, and believes it is the hard-working people and the most at need who continue to shoulder the impact of this shortfall in funding, with government cutting public services to the bone;

- (g) believes that since 2011, everything possible has been done to challenge government to provide a better funding settlement for Sheffield, but successive governments have failed to deliver, and have appeared ideologically driven to cutting public services and pushing the burden of responsibility onto cash-strapped local authorities;
- (h) believes that enough is enough, and the Government has to take responsibility and give a fair financial settlement to local authorities, and that, for all their posturing, their levelling-up agenda is empty rhetoric which spectacularly fails to deliver what is required;
- (i) notes that there is very little detail from Government about how local authorities will be supported going forward, and believes the Council is in a precarious position and that, as such, this Co-operative Executive's approach is the right one - in taking decisive and considered leadership to do everything we can to reduce the budgetary overspend, to prepare for the year ahead, and limit the impact on the services people rely on;
- (j) believes that changes and compromises will have to be made but, as has been done for the last decade, this Council will do everything it can to ensure the most vulnerable are protected, and to continue delivering on our goal of creating a prosperous, fairer Sheffield - tackling inequalities and the climate emergency, strengthening the local economy with better jobs and opportunities, and with improved quality of life for all;
- (k) calls upon the Government to use the opportunity of the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review to provide sustainable and sufficient long-term funding for councils based on:-
 - (i) fairness: so that citizens in the less wealthy council areas are not unfairly penalised;
 - (ii) incentives for local growth and innovation; and
 - (iii) promoting local democracy;
- (l) recognises that the rise in national insurance is unfair and will not resolve the crisis in Health and Social Care, and believes that this Council would favour progressive taxes such as wealth, land and financial transaction taxes;
- (m) notes that years of austerity have resulted in repeated recruitment freezes and a large number of redundancies;
- (n) believes that this has crushed the opportunities of a generation of young people who might otherwise have been taken on as apprentices or in entry-level jobs;
- (o) notes that this has also led to the loss of years' worth of collective experience from the Council's workforce;
- (p) believes that many members of the workforce may benefit from a voluntary reduction in their working hours and that this may allow new opportunities for young recruits to learn additional skills by working alongside them; that there are

benefits of intergenerational skills transfers and more fulfilling working environments for both younger and older workers; and

- (q) therefore requests officers in every portfolio to promote opportunities for reductions in hours for workers, and flexible retirement, in order to encourage new job opportunities for young people and to maintain their pride in jobs well done.

3. ENERGY

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) acknowledges that this Council has declared a climate emergency and therefore needs to be doing all it can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- (b) recognises that we are facing a sharp rise in energy prices this winter, in part due to the United Kingdom's reliance on fossil fuels and the lack of investment in energy efficiency by previous governments;
- (c) notes that over 10% of Sheffield residents live in fuel poverty;
- (d) recognises that increasing investment in, and use of, energy efficiency, followed by renewable energy, are the best ways to bring down the cost of energy supply to people's homes;
- (e) also recognises that increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and use of renewable energy will help Sheffield move towards achieving its environmental targets by reducing carbon emissions;
- (f) further recognises:-
- (i) that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
 - (ii) that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished; and
 - (iii) that revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;

- (g) notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this;
- (h) accordingly, resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 264 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote community-owned and local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and that Sheffield City Council should work with partners across the city to make information accessible to private consumers and local businesses to access any such schemes;
- (i) believes that the emerging local plan should encourage the use of community-owned and local renewable energy supply in any of its considerations;
- (j) further resolves to write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support;
- (k) notes the current gas crisis and believes that UK government needs to do significantly more to end the UK's dependence on overseas gas, and that the current energy crisis is borne out of political failings;
- (l) notes that despite headlines about record amounts of wind and solar power and record numbers of electric cars, climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use continue to rise, and the world's thirst for fossil fuels still appears insatiable, and believes that failure to deal with these trends quickly and fairly as part of an organised and just transition will lead to further environmental destruction, social injustice, and economic chaos;
- (m) believes today's soaring energy bills are also a glimpse into a future of what could happen if we do not change tack, and notes that there are myriad reasons for the current spike in gas prices: the sudden economic growth after the pandemic slump, a cold winter in Europe and Asia, local unplanned-for events, and complicated geopolitics are all partly responsible, but a domestic dearth of systemic thinking is also why many UK citizens are disproportionately affected by the increase in gas prices;
- (n) believes that what this current energy crisis shows us is that, in the 1980s, government should never have sold off our North Sea assets, and instead we could have invested the monies from North Sea exploration into renewables;
- (o) agrees with the comments of Tom Burke, Head of Climate Think Tank E3G, that "bad political ideas have helped pave the way for volatile gas prices. There is nothing new about volatility in commodity prices, but there has been a consistent failure to address reducing gas for heating. This is not an energy crisis, but a crisis of politics";
- (p) believes that we need to take a pragmatic approach to common ownership of the energy sector, and move away from the neoliberal dogmatic approach of

recent government who have espoused a market-driven and privatised approach, which has led to spiralling fuel and energy costs;

- (q) notes that the Council is liaising with groups such as Sheffield Renewables to explore how we can deliver increased levels of renewable energy in the city, including community-owned renewable generation;
- (r) believes, however, that we need significant intervention from the Government to help us go further locally; including to help us turn our waste into biogas, and to help insulate all our homes to make them more energy efficient;
- (s) believes that electric heating, as it currently is, may not work for all homes, especially old houses with poor insulation and, therefore, putting in solar panels and swapping out the boiler is not necessarily the answer;
- (t) notes that due to actions of the previous Administration, the Council purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources, and installed Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating up to 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy;
- (u) requests the Co-operative Executive to direct the Climate Change, Economy and Development Transitional Committee to undertake research, with recommendations, as what more the Council can do to help the city move to more sustainable energy and deliver on the goals of the proposed Local Energy Bill;
- (v) further resolves to work with local experts, such as Sheffield Renewables, to address any local barriers to installation and work together to advance community-owned and local renewable energy supplies, including exploration of the use of Council-owned land and property to support community led renewable energy projects;
- (w) resolves to consider how best to incorporate the promotion of community-owned and local renewable energy supply in Sheffield's 10-point Decarbonisation Plan;
- (x) believes that:-
 - (i) the emerging fuel crisis is pushing more and more Sheffield residents into fuel poverty as bills keep rising and that, as a Council, we have a duty to act;
 - (ii) the emerging fuel crisis demonstrates the need for Sheffield to have more control of its own energy supplies to prepare for the greater demand for electricity locally as measures to clean up our environment are rolled out; with this additional energy needing to come from renewable sources in line with the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency;
 - (iii) the infrastructure needed to provide access to clean and affordable energy should use existing networks as much as possible to reduce the use of new materials;

- (iv) building on the existing district heating system would allow us to reduce Sheffield's carbon footprint and has the potential for a clean source of heat and power; and
 - (v) the Council should investigate innovative and sustainable forms of powering small scale and district heating systems that use the infrastructure already present in Sheffield; this includes exploring heat recovery from mine water which is being promoted by the Coal Authority working with academics, local authorities, central government, and others, to help realise the potential of mine water heat, and which is already being used to heat homes in the Northeast of England; and
- (y) requests that the requirement for new developments to link into a district heating system where this is the most sustainable option, be incorporated into future planning policy.

4. CRISIS IN SOCIAL CARE

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that for over a decade central government have promised a white paper on social care reform – to provide a long-term vision and a financial package to resolve the current crisis in care – and believes that what has now been put forward is a huge, missed opportunity by this Government;
- (b) notes also that the Prime Minister claimed he will 'fix social care once and for all', and yet it is this Council's contention that the recent announcements will make little impact in addressing the scale of the problems, in both the short and long-term and, once again it will be left on local authorities to pick up the pieces;
- (c) notes that the extra funding for social care is not even enough to deal with the immediate pressures on the system, and that social care is the single biggest financial pressure on this Council;
- (d) believes that the Government's social care announcement could, in the words of the Local Government Association (LGA), create 'a situation where the care sector ends up being worse off' and will put more future pressures on councils, not less, as they may have to cover some of the costs of the cap, as the Government are likely to have under-costed, and it is highly unlikely that the Government will be able to move funding initially flowing to the NHS towards social care at a later point, as at no point in British history has money from the NHS been taken back out of it and redirected to elsewhere in the British state;
- (e) notes that much needed improvements to care sector work is still outstanding from government and believes that without proper investment and decent pay and working conditions the sector will never deliver as it should;

- (f) notes that in Sheffield the previous Administration invested £4.2 million into the care sector to enable Sheffield's care workers to be given a pay rise and believes that such funding investment was not only the right thing to do, for the extraordinary effort of care workers throughout the pandemic, but that it also ensures a better service to the benefit of those relying on support;
- (g) believes that the future of social care should be about building communities where people can live healthy independent lives, with a new deal for care workers, and with a new partnership built with families – so they do not put their own health and livelihoods at risk looking after the people they love, or to lose their home to pay for care – but that, sadly, the Government's proposed reforms fail to deliver on every metric you could think of;
- (h) notes the plight of unpaid carers who have performed heroic efforts to look after our most vulnerable in society during the pandemic;
- (i) also calls on the Government to raise the Carer's Allowance by £1000 a year and not what this Council believes to be the insultingly low 5p a day announced in April, allowing our carers to lead decent lives, after recent research suggested a third struggle to make ends meet;
- (j) believes that with over 120,000 vacancies in the sector, professional care staff are overstretched and unable to give people the time and attention they need;
- (k) further believes that the Government's announcement will mean nothing to the staff who need it and that care staff deserve better pay, recognition and career progression, not vague promises of training and a tax on low paid workers, and therefore that the Government's plan is neither the way to reform social care nor the way to pay for it;
- (l) calls upon the Government to work to improve the care sector by investing in staff development, offering good rates of pay, good working conditions and developing a positive culture where staff are valued;
- (m) thanks social care workers for their hard work and sacrifices to care for the people of Sheffield;
- (n) believes that social care workers should be well paid and social care should be properly funded, universal and free-at-the-point of delivery;
- (o) believes that major reform is needed to address the crisis in social care and that, in line with the above principles, a National Care Service should be established; and
- (p) resolves to support the introduction of a National Care Service and to write to Sheffield MPs to lobby Parliament for the introduction of this.

5. DOING MORE FOR THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) thanks all members of the Armed Forces Community (AFC) who have sacrificed so much for the benefit of the nation;
- (b) understands that there is a moral duty on the Administration, and indeed on all Councillors, to do more to support members of the AFC;
- (c) notes the challenges which the AFC (including those who serve as a regular or reservist, veterans and family members of those who serve and have served) face in a range of areas such as housing, employment, finance, skills and health;
- (d) recognises the opportunities from an economic and social perspective of more seamlessly integrating veterans back into civilian life and improving support for all members of the AFC who may be facing a range of challenges additional to those experienced by the average citizen;
- (e) notes that following the publication of the original motion, there has been confusion from some residents about Poppy Days and the city's Poppy Appeal, and we want to make it categorically clear that there is a full programme of remembrance planned for Sheffield, in partnership with the Royal British Legion (RBL), as we have always done;
- (f) believes it is important to note that remembrance events are led by the Royal British Legion, but the Council must do everything in its power to support the RBL and the Armed Forces Community;
- (g) notes that the RBL holds City Poppy Days, which are different from a general Poppy Appeal, in various locations across the country, and that the RBL only host City Poppy Days where they can rely on the availability of members of the Armed Forces - including uniformed personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force - and as such Sheffield have not been asked to host a City Poppy Day, though the Council would, undoubtedly, actively support the RBL if this were the case;
- (h) believes that supporting our Armed Forces Community should never be politicised, and that councillors throughout the city must work together to deliver for our service personnel, veterans, and their families;
- (i) believes that consideration needs to be given to how the Council can go further in supporting our Armed Forces Community –including proposals outlined in the original Notice of Motion, including updating the Community Covenant Annual Newsletter on Sheffield City Council's Armed Forces webpage, looking into increasing the frequency of the newsletter from annual to semi-annual, and ensuring appropriate training to Council Officers – and calls for a cross-party committee to be set-up to look into this, to be led by the Lord Mayor and the Council's Military Champion, and including members from all of the Council's political parties; and

- (j) believes, fundamentally, that any proposals need to be developed alongside the AFC and the RBL.

6. THE MAKING OF THE DORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the outcome of the Dore Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, as outlined in the report of the Executive Director, Place, now submitted; and
- (b) resolves to 'make' the Dore Neighbourhood Plan such that it is adopted as a planning document as part of Sheffield's Statutory Development Plan.

7. UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED: That the amendments to Part 3 (Responsibility For Functions) and Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution made by the Director of Legal and Governance by the insertion of (a) Terms of Reference for the Area Committees, the Governance Committee, the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committees and the Transitional Committees and (b) Procedure Rules for the Area Committees, attached to the report of the Director of Legal and Governance, now submitted, be approved subject to the inclusion of the following addition to the terms of reference of the Transitional Committees:-

e) Supporting Transition

Consider what powers and budgets under the related portfolio areas should be devolved to Area Committees, and to make recommendations to the Co-operative Executive.

8. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES : REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and its recommendations, set out in the report of the Executive Director, Resources, now submitted;
- (b) approves the addition of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for the following roles in the Schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances in the Members' Allowances Scheme as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), and authorises that these SRAs be backdated to 19th May 2021 and be payable from the dates that Members were formally appointed to those roles:-
 - (i) Local Area Committee Deputy Chairs at Band E (£3,269.28 per annum)
 - (ii) Transitional Committee Chairs at Band B (£8,107.82 per annum)
 - (iii) Transitional Committee Vice/Deputy Chairs at Band E (£3,269.28 per annum); and
- (c) approves the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances for Opposition Group office holders, as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the Executive Director's report.

9. VOTE OF THANKS TO FORMER COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED: That this Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to former Councillors Andy Bainbridge, David Baker, Jack Clarkson, Lewis Dagnall, Julie Dore, Jackie Drayton, Adam Hurst, Bob Johnson, Alan Law, Bob Pullin and Jim Steinke, for their hard work and service to the City of Sheffield.