

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. DEVELOPERS CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

RESOLVED:

That this Council believes:-

- (a) that building regulations standards for energy efficiency are not sufficient to address the climate emergency;
- (b) that incorporating renewable energy is not encouraged sufficiently in new developments;
- (c) that actions taken to reduce the risk of flooding need to be encouraged better in new developments through natural flood management and measures such as tree and hedge planting to increase water absorption, catch rainfall and slow down surface water run-off and reduce water pollution;
- (d) that action to preserve and promote biodiversity is not sufficiently appreciated in new developments and should be promoted;
- (e) that developers who go beyond the minimum standards required by national government are not recognised;
- (f) that there is limited public visibility for developers who do more than the minimum they are required to;

That this Council resolves:-

- (g) that the Council will ask developers to give their answers to these questions as part of the Planning Application process by completing a **Developers Climate Change Declaration:-**
 - (i) What measures have been/will be taken to limit the carbon consumed through the implementation and construction processes? e.g. by reusing existing on-site materials, using low carbon materials and sourcing materials locally.
 - (ii) What measures have been/will be taken to utilise renewable or low carbon energy sources either in the course of development or for use by the occupiers of the completed development or both?
 - (iii) What measures have been/will be taken to reduce potential impacts of flooding associated with your proposed development? e.g. Sustainable

Urban Drainage Systems, use of permeable materials, soakaways and leaving some land undeveloped to absorb rainfall.

- (iv) What measures will be taken to promote biodiversity in your proposed development?
- (h) that the Council will publicly recognise annually those developers who have gone above and beyond minimum Government requirements to address the climate and nature emergency;
- (i) that the Council will encourage and recognise developers who address the green skills gap by taking on local apprentices and training staff in the installation of new green technologies; and
- (j) that the Council will use the results of the Developers Climate Change Declarations as an evidence base to encourage Government to improve building regulations so they are more fit for purpose to address the climate emergency.

That this Council:-

- (k) believes that we need an improved and well-resourced national planning system, to meet the need for quality housing standards, and that government needs to utilise expert ecologists and strategic planners to develop revised national guidance standards for housing developments, including flood risk assessments, net biodiversity gain assessments, species and habitat protections, climate change impacts and access for residents to green open spaces;
- (l) notes that the 2019 Labour Party Manifesto committed to a home building programme which delivers net biodiversity gains as well as reductions in carbon footprint, and believes that we need new planning rules to stop developers building inappropriate housing in high-risk areas, such as flood plains;
- (m) believes that councils should play a greater, more robust, role alongside an empowered Environment Agency in being able to halt planning developments in areas of serious flood risk;
- (n) notes that the Council has throughout the last decade required that all new buildings and conversions are designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and function in a changing climate, and that amongst other things, all developments are required to:-
 - (i) achieve a high standard of energy efficiency; and
 - (ii) make the best use of solar energy, passive heating and cooling, natural light, and natural ventilation;
- (o) notes that the Council requires that predicted energy needs of larger developments (five or more dwellings/more than 500 sq m gross internal floorspace) are reduced by 10% when compared to national building regulations, and this is usually delivered through improved building performance or renewable energy installations; and

- (p) believes, however, that our current requirements do not go far enough in tackling our climate and ecological emergencies, and that creating the new Sheffield Plan gives us the opportunity to implement new policies that will help new developments meet the Council's ambitions of the City being net zero by 2030, and that through our 10 Point Plan for Climate Action we are also committing to developing interim revised supplementary planning guidance on renewable and low carbon energy, which we will be able to apply before the Sheffield Plan is adopted.

2. WHITE RIBBON DAY AND ENDING MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that the Council must do everything it can to end male violence against women;
- (b) notes the work of White Ribbon UK in raising awareness and campaigning on this issue, with their particular focus on the need to engage with men and boys;
- (c) notes that November 25 is White Ribbon Day and many organisations across the country use this annual event as an opportunity to raise awareness about violence against women, and believes that Sheffield City Council should mark this occasion and show that the organisation is committed to being part of the solution;
- (d) believes that the White Ribbon Day should be marked by all areas of the Organisation, by undertaking the following:-
- encourage all staff to wear a White Ribbon;
 - share messages about White Ribbon UK, including on social media, and why this is such an important issue to tackle;
 - particularly encourage men to wear a White Ribbon, and make the 'White Ribbon Promise' to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women;
 - display the White Ribbon symbol in and around council buildings – on windows and noticeboards;
- (e) directs that discussions should be undertaken with White Ribbon UK to investigate being part of their White Ribbon Accreditation scheme;
- (f) believes that raising awareness about violence against women, and acting to combat this, is not something that should be just shouted about one day a year, but all year round;

- (g) requests that all Local Area Committee chairs task their committees with investigating what work is being undertaken in their areas to combat violence against women; report on what action the committee will take; and report on how the Council can better support and educate communities on this issue;
- (h) shares concern that the Our Bodies, Our Streets installation on the Ponderosa, highlighting sexual harassment, was burned down, and shares the resolve of the woman who posted a sign reading 'this won't stop us' in the ashes;
- (i) resolves to work alongside the newly formed 'Claim Back West Street' Campaign - which aims to make West Street a safer place, following the recent escalation of drink spiking; and
- (j) reiterates the importance of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to address Violence Against Women and Girls in South Yorkshire, and notes that this constitutes a wide partnership of many organisations: South Yorkshire's four local authorities, youth offending teams, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, clinical commissioning groups/NHS, Department for Work and Pensions, voluntary and faith sectors, educational establishments and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) - and commits to working with the VRU to produce a strategy for South Yorkshire that will give greater coherence to what each organisation is doing individually, as well as putting front and centre the experience of victims.

3. EMPOWERING LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that the Labour-Green Co-Operative Agreement committed to implementing and empowering the new Local Area Committees - giving power back to Sheffield's communities, devolving services to local areas, and giving local people a real say over decisions that affect their communities;
- (b) notes that the Committees are already going further than the previous Community Assemblies, whilst doing so with council finances significantly weaker than they were ten years ago – as since the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition began the national programme of austerity in 2010 (which is still with us), the Council has had its spending power reduced in real terms by £215m (31% of its budget);
- (c) notes that despite the financial difficulties, this Co-operative Administration is committed to making politics closer to the people it should serve and so that citizens can influence the decisions that matter to them and their communities

and be empowered to shape their local areas, but doing so in a fair and prudent way;

- (d) notes that on 17th November the delegation process was informally agreed by the Local Area Committee Chairs, denoting that there is a process in place supported cross-party;
- (e) believes the delegation process outlined will empower the LACs from the 'bottom up' as well as provide a robust process for the delegation from the 'top down' to the LACs from the central committees;
- (f) believes that this is far from a return to Community Assemblies, and that the new arrangements will go much further than they ever did in empowering committees and making the Council more accountable and closer to local needs, but that devolution is a process, not an event, and that this Co-operative Administration remains steadfast in its commitment of making the Council closer to Sheffielders;
- (g) believes in the principle of equity that areas with the greatest need should be allocated the greatest share of resources, and that an even distribution of funding across LACs fails to achieve this;
- (h) believes that the spirit of cooperation needed to begin to accommodate community voices into decision making requires all political groups to set aside their differences and work together for the good of all Sheffielders;
- (i) therefore believes that as part of its current reorganisation, this Council should investigate the recommendations of the Citizens Hubs report by Opus Independents Ltd, alongside consulting with all 84 elected members on their ideas and opinions on how local area decision making within communities and with local residents can work better; and
- (j) believes that local area working requires listening to and engaging all voices of the community, including the seldom heard, and that more outreach into communities is required by the Council to achieve this;

4. COP26: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that in November the UK will host an event many believe to be the world's best last chance to get climate change, and carbon emissions, under control;
- (b) believes that this is an ideal opportunity for us all to take stock of what we are doing to reduce carbon emissions and build towards a more sustainable future;

- (c) believes that Sheffield should lead the way in fighting the climate emergency and do everything possible to work with citizens and partners across the city to foster an understanding of the emergency – taking action that needs to be done, and taking full advantage of the hugely positive changes that a more sustainable economy will produce;
- (d) believes that though tough choices will inevitably need to be taken to address the crisis, this must be done in a fair and just way;
- (e) believes that addressing climate change should not be seen as an economic challenge but an economic opportunity, and that proper government investment into a decarbonised steel industry would help secure the future of steel in the North of England and deliver thousands of jobs in a revitalised green steel industry;
- (f) notes that Sheffield has been crowned the UK’s most environmentally-friendly big city by the independent Green Cities Report, and notes that tackling the climate emergency and making the city more sustainable is not just something that has recently become important to the Council;
- (g) believes that this Council needs to go further and faster to tackle the climate emergency, not waiting for national policy to force it to make changes as is happening with food waste recycling;
- (h) believes this Council should do everything it can to make being environmentally friendly as easy for Sheffield residents as it can by recycling a broader range of plastics;
- (i) believes that waste should also be collected in the most environmentally friendly ways possible and calls for carbon neutral ‘bin lorries’ most appropriate for the terrain of the city of Sheffield to be fully rolled out and working on our streets as soon as possible;
- (j) notes that whilst sending waste to the energy recovery centre is much better for the environment than putting it in landfill, it is not a substitute for recycling;
- (k) therefore, believes that this Council must do everything it can to increase its recycling from the current rate of 26.5%;
- (l) believes that this Council needs to be ambitious and should be aiming to be above the national average recycling rate of 45.5%;
- (m) calls on the Council to look at best practise from other Councils, such as Three Rivers District Council which has a nation leading recycling rate of 64.1%; and
- (n) notes that this Council has voted for and spoken about many motions like this over the last 10 years and believes the time for action is now and requests that reports that matches progress against commitments be submitted on an annual basis to the Council.

- (o) in light of the need for action, therefore, resolves to request that the Co-operative Executive:-
- (i) lobby Government to improve building regulations to ensure all buildings are constructed to the Passivhaus Standard or equivalent;
 - (ii) provide detailed input via the Local Government Association into the Local Net Zero Forum where local government highlights to central government how they can make it easier for councils to take climate action;
 - (iii) investigate the potential for renewable energy on Council land and buildings and return with proposals as soon as possible;
 - (iv) earmark funding for walking and cycling, offering people riding bikes the protection of segregated cycle lanes and secure bike storage, thereby increasing the numbers of Sheffield citizens cycling to work and contributing towards improved physical and mental health and better air quality;
 - (v) invest in planting trees bearing edible fruit in open spaces and parks, to be decided and distributed fairly on a Ward basis; and
 - (vi) provide mandatory carbon literacy training for all Elected Members;
- (p) recognises that affordable, reliable public transport is necessary to reduce private car use, and therefore laments the fact that, in contrast to other devolved authorities, the South Yorkshire Combined Authority has made no progress in moving towards public control of buses through franchising, opting instead for an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, which leaves the final say over the network in their hands; and
- (q) therefore resolves to inform the South Yorkshire Combined Authority of this Council's support for conducting a statutory assessment of franchising and requests a Combined Authority vote to release a "notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment" within 6 months.

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