

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 1ST DECEMBER 2021

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. INCREASING RAIL CONNECTIVITY AND CAPACITY FOR SHEFFIELD

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes, with enormous disappointment, the decision to cancel the high-speed rail link from Sheffield to the Midlands as a huge setback for the city of Sheffield;
- (b) notes the huge capacity constraints on the line between Sheffield and Leeds;
- (c) notes that this constrains the ability to put more goods on rail rather than road that will hamper efforts to meet our carbon net zero goals;
- (d) believes that the health of many Sheffielders, particularly on the east of the city, will continue to suffer from the harmful effects of poor air quality as fewer goods movements will be able to be moved from road to rail;
- (e) believes that for all this Government's talk about 'the Northern Powerhouse' and 'levelling up' they are still making disgraceful decisions like this one which will see Sheffield cut off from the high-speed train network;
- (f) believes this is another example of the Government failing to support our communities and our city, harming our city's potential for future economic prosperity and development compared to our neighbouring cities of Leeds and Manchester;
- (g) believes that Sheffield not being a part of the High-Speed network will only encourage people into their cars and cause environmental damage;
- (h) believes that the Government should reconsider and needs to support the full implementation of High-Speed Rail and the so called 'Northern Powerhouse Rail'; this should be done with far tighter financial controls and increased accountability than there has previously been to ensure that these projects are value for money;
- (i) believes that both the Government and this Council should address problems with implementation to ensure that the complete HS2 network opens as early as possible to meet our decarbonisation goals while minimising the destruction of precious UK habitats and woodland;
- (j) also notes, with disappointment, the Government's decision not to give funding to restore the Sheaf Valley Line, a key route in our city that if fully developed could take hundreds of vehicles off our roads daily, helping us tackle the menace of both traffic and air pollution that many of our local communities around the Sheaf valley face;

- (k) however, believes that this Council needs to do more to promote railways and that the Co-operative leadership have not adequately fought Sheffield's corner and made arguments central Government could not ignore for Sheffield's full inclusion in HS2;
- (l) believes this is also a failure of the political leaders of South Yorkshire, who by not working together to promote our region have contributed to this decision being taken; and
- (m) requires that the Chief Executive write to the Transport Minister expressing this Council's disappointment and desire to see the HS2 cancellation decision reconsidered.

2. PROTECTING PATIENTS AND STAFF AFTER NHS CHANGES

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that the Health and Care Bill seeks to remove barriers to integrating services to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities, but believes it fails to do so by only paying lip service to social care;
- (b) broadly supports the Bill's focus on improving the health and wellbeing of the population and the duty of bodies to have regard to this in making decisions;
- (c) supports the emphasis of the Bill on the duty to engage with patients, carers and representatives;
- (d) supports the requirement for NHS Integrated Care Boards and local authorities to establish a Health and Care Partnership with responsibility for producing an integrated care strategy;
- (e) welcomes the Bill's recognition of the key role of Health and Wellbeing Boards and the health and wellbeing strategies and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment they produce;
- (f) welcomes the flexibility afforded to each Integrated Care System in making its own arrangements for joining up services and setting local strategies for improving population health;
- (g) notes with dismay that the Bill, as drafted, would result in this Government breaking its manifesto pledges not to raise national insurance tax and that no-one would have to sell their home to pay for care;

- (h) believes that the Health and Care Bill seeks to raise taxes on low and middle income families, with the prospect of them losing their homes to fund care costs and does nothing to increase social care quality or capacity;
- (i) furthermore, notes that the Health and Care Bill makes no mention of the millions of unpaid carers in the UK who are twice as likely to suffer from ill health as a result of caring;
- (j) condemns the power grab by the Secretary of State within the Bill that includes the power to abolish arm's length bodies and to approve or reject ICS Chairs, rather than protecting the independence of the NHS;
- (k) welcomes the Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee's decision to establish a Scrutiny ICS Liaison Group to monitor the development of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System to ensure local Sheffield-place scrutiny by elected Members is integrated within the SYICS Framework;
- (l) is troubled that the Health and Care Bill gives the Secretary of State the power to call in NHS reconfiguration proposals, and believes that the role of local health overview and scrutiny committees in these matters should not be undermined;
- (m) believes with great concern that this proposal does nothing to assist social care whilst this Government has continually cut support for local councils and vulnerable people;
- (n) is concerned that local authority influence over local health and wellbeing could be side-lined if Integrated Care Boards are not correctly constituted;
- (o) is concerned that the Secretary of State will be empowered by the Health and Care Bill to deregulate unspecified NHS roles currently safeguarded by professional regulation, which in turn could threaten patient safety and staff development and training;
- (p) notes with alarm that the Health and Care Bill allows private companies to sit on ICS Boards and Partnerships, and that NHS England has accredited over 200 corporations and businesses – many US-owned – to help develop ICSs;
- (q) is concerned that allocation of ICS wide budgets, if not accompanied by strong place-based delegation, could result in commissioning decisions that are based more on detached area-wide targets than on localised need;
- (r) is concerned that when the South Yorkshire ICS takes on statutory powers, Clinical Commissioning Group staff across the footprint will become a single SY NHS workforce and that staff may find themselves redeployed between places across the county;
- (s) believes:-
 - (i) proposals for ICS's do not resolve the issues of chronic under-funding, shortage of services, inequality, high staff vacancies, workload, and

stress in the NHS, and that there continues to be inherent risks of increase of private contracts, more down-skilling and outsourcing of NHS jobs, reduced services, and significant spending cuts;

- (ii) it is time to restore the NHS to a fully accountable, publicly run service, free to all at the point of use, and that full scale repeal of the 2012 Health & Social Care Act and new legislation for a universal, comprehensive and publicly provided NHS are required;
 - (iii) that the Government should establish a cross-party NHS and Care Convention to find a fair and equitable long-term funding solution for the NHS and social care, so that everybody gets the high-quality healthcare they deserve;
 - (iv) therefore that the Government should put on hold the Health and Care Bill until proper social care reforms are brought forward; and
 - (v) that genuine integration, based on the wider determinants of health, involves more input from local authorities not less, and that place-based decision making that allows for joint commissioning of NHS and Council funds to support local care provision is vital;
- (t) calls for the legislation to include the following principles to be incorporated into the constitution of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System:-
- (i) that the NHS must ensure that the health and wellbeing of unpaid carers are taken into account when decisions are taken concerning the health and care of the person for whom they care;
 - (ii) no private providers should hold positions on the Integrated Care Board;
 - (iii) all ICS bodies should allow for the full participation of local authorities;
 - (iv) all ICS decision-making bodies to be held in public, with published agenda and minutes, and open to public and local authority scrutiny;
 - (v) continuation of the role of individual and joint local authority scrutiny bodies, with the ability to call in decisions;
 - (vi) delegation to place-based commissioning, including for NHS funding to be deployed into Joint Commissioning arrangements with councils so as to support local care provision; and
 - (vii) safeguards for all NHS staff that prevent forced or unreasonable re-deployment; and
- (u) accordingly, resolves to forward this motion to the Sheffield CCG and the incoming Chair and Chief Executive of the SY ICS.

3. BETTER BUSES FOR SHEFFIELD

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the £200m, including £100m to improve Supertram and £35m for buses promised to Sheffield in the recent Budget to support public transport;
- (b) however, notes the regional imbalances for bus funding whereby buses in London get the funding equivalent of £76 per head, and yet in Sheffield it is only £5, and believes this is simply unacceptable;
- (c) also believes that Sheffield has been left with often poor bus services, with services frequently being late, cramped, unreliable, expensive and in poor condition;
- (d) believes that the Mayor of South Yorkshire must exercise powers to bring bus services back under local control (franchising), at the earliest practicable date, and central government must do more to provide significant funding to revitalise local transport;
- (e) believes that once again the Mayor of South Yorkshire has “missed the bus” regarding improving bus services in Sheffield and South Yorkshire with the alternative “Enhanced Partnership” arrangements brought in this summer;
- (f) supports Clive Betts MP’s call for the roll-out of Bus Franchising to be speeded up and fully endorses the consistent commitment, over very many years, of the major opposition party to introduce bus franchising in Sheffield;
- (g) believes that a good public transport system should run where people need it, when people need it and at a price that is affordable;
- (h) believes that excellent public transport, and people friendly neighbourhoods are key to reducing pollution, congestion, improving health, and contributing to our zero carbon by 2030 pledge;
- (i) notes with concern the ongoing reduction in bus services given the importance of frequency and reliability to passengers, fears that at least some service reductions will become permanent, and states that this is a self-defeating action, and calls upon the Administration to lobby against such proposals;
- (j) furthermore notes, with disappointment, the recent news that the Sheffield Supertram has announced it is reducing the frequency of its services by up to 50% due to a temporary shortage of drivers;
- (k) believes that in many industries across the country, driver shortages are having an impact on our services and public transport and that this is in part due to the negative effects of Brexit on our economy;

- (l) calls upon public transport operators to ‘pull out all the stops’ to get new drivers recruited and trained to make sure this disruption to services is short;
- (m) believes that Sheffield Trams could also benefit from more local control and calls for local and regional bodies to investigate ways this could be brought forward;
- (n) welcomes the news that since the publication of the main opposition group’s original motion, the Leader of this Council has decided to take action and hold a meeting with transport operators, but fears this may be too little too late in view of what this Council believes to be 10 years of in-action from his party on local transport;
- (o) calls once again on the Administration to give notice to withdraw from the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement, which has, this Council believes, proven to be a “Bus Cuts” partnership agreement; and
- (p) believes that this Council should work to improve all of Sheffield’s public transport and needs to make sure services are integrated and work together to make local public transport work for the people who need it.

4. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (POLICY)

RESOLVED: That this Council approves the Statement of Principles (Policy) under the Gambling Act 2005, as set out in the report of the Executive Director, Place, now submitted.

5. APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT (CO-OPTED) MEMBER TO THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) endorses the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel’s decision, taken on 20th September 2021, to commence the process to appoint a third independent (co-opted) member; and
- (b) approves the proposal to amend the Panel Arrangements to allow three co-opted members, subject to the Agreement of the Secretary of State.