

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH, on Wednesday 4 July 2012, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor John Campbell)
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Vickie Priestley)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Arbourthorne Ward</i>
Julie Dore
John Robson
Jack Scott | 10 | <i>Dore & Totley Ward</i>
Colin Ross
Joe Otten
Keith Hill | 19 | <i>Mosborough Ward</i>
Anthony Downing
David Barker |
| 2 | <i>Beauchief/Greenhill Ward</i>
Roy Munn
Simon Clement-Jones
Clive Skelton | 11 | <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Joyce Wright
Steven Wilson
Garry Weatherall | 20 | <i>Nether Edge Ward</i>
Nikki Bond
Qurban Hussain
Anders Hanson |
| 3 | <i>Beighton Ward</i>
Ian Saunders
Chris Rosling-Josephs | 12 | <i>Ecclesall Ward</i>

Diana Stimely
Roger Davison | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i>

Martin Lawton |
| 4 | <i>Birley Ward</i>
Bryan Lodge
Denise Fox
Karen McGowan | 13 | <i>Firth Park Ward</i>
Sheila Constance
Chris Weldon
Alan Law | 22 | <i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i>
Sioned-Mair Richards
Peter Price
Peter Rippon |
| 5 | <i>Broomhill Ward</i>
Jayne Dunn
Stuart Wattam
Shaffaq Mohammed | 14 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i>
Sue Alston
Andrew Sangar | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i>
Tony Damms
Leigh Bramall
Gill Furniss |
| 6 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i>
Jackie Drayton
Ibrar Hussain
Talib Hussain | 15 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i>
Steve Jones
Tim Rippon
Cate McDonald | 24 | <i>Stannington Ward</i>
Katie Condliffe |
| 7 | <i>Central Ward</i>
Robert Murphy
Jillian Creasy
Mohammed Maroof | 16 | <i>Graves Park Ward</i>
Denise Reaney
Ian Auckland
Bob McCann | 25 | <i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i>
Richard Crowther
Philip Wood
Alison Brelsford |
| 8 | <i>Crookes Ward</i>
Rob Frost

Geoff Smith | 17 | <i>Hillsborough Ward</i>
George Lindars-
Hammond
Robert Johnson
Janet Bragg | 26 | <i>Walkley Ward</i>
Neale Gibson

Nikki Sharpe
Ben Curran |
| 9 | <i>Darnall Ward</i>
Mary Lea
Harry Harpham
Mazher Iqbal | 18 | <i>Manor Castle Ward</i>
Pat Midgley
Jenny Armstrong
Terry Fox | 27 | <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Adam Hurst
Alf Meade
Trevor Bagshaw |
| | | | | 28 | <i>Woodhouse Ward</i>
Jackie Satur
Mick Rooney |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Anginotti, David Baker, Penny Baker, Isobel Bowler, Helen Mirfin Boukouris, Lynne Rooney, Ray Satur and Janice Sidebottom.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2012 were approved as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Petition concerning opening hours of Household Waste Recycling Centres

The Council received a petition, containing 4,000 signatures, requesting the Council to increase the hours of opening of household waste recycling centres.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Pete Davies, GMB Trade Union, who referred to the background to the current dispute between the Council and employees working at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres. He outlined the concerns of the GMB Union, which represented the employees, that they had not been included on a Tendering Panel, along with representatives of Veolia and SOVA, when the renewal of the current contract and its business model for the recycling service had been considered. He believed that, if the GMB had been represented on the Panel, the current industrial dispute might have been avoided through a business model which would have maintained the level of service, number of jobs and improved the terms and conditions of employees which, he suggested, were insufficient.

Mr Davies added that, since January, 2012, the number of employees had reduced from 44 to 28, but paradoxically, there had been an increase in management posts to 10, which, he considered, was an inappropriate delivery model. Currently, the service was faced with losing jobs and a reduction in the terms and conditions of employees and of opening hours at Recycling Centres. Mr Davies contended that this situation had left employees, who were some of the lowest paid in the City, with little opportunity to earn a living wage and with no alternative but to take strike action, which was part of an overall, massive campaign, captured by the petition submitted to the meeting and the major sacrifices being made by the workforce who had been on strike for 28 days.

Mr Davies stated that the Council's partners had shown little interest in a business model which would increase income from recycling, but he was pleased that the Council had agreed, through one of its Scrutiny Committees, to examine the position of the current recycling business model and service delivery and the future of recycling in the City in general.

Following an approach from the GMB to discuss a business model which would keep Household Waste Recycling Centres open to the public, the Council had entered into discussions, the outcome of which was that there had been assurances from the Council, SOVA and Veolia that employees at the Centres would not lose their jobs. Mr Davies stressed that it was now crucial for the Council, starting with the Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that there was an effective approach to recycling services in the City. He stated that problems experienced in Sheffield had implications for surrounding local authority areas as people were taking their waste elsewhere. He also referred to potential capacity issues when the change to fortnightly collections was implemented.

Mr Davies drew the Council's attention to the fact that industrial action had now been suspended and thanked the Council for its intervention and for listening to the views of GMB members. He hoped that the present momentum would continue.

Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene) responded by thanking Mr Davies for presenting the petition to Council and he acknowledged the significant number of people who had signed the petition. He stated that he understood the strength of feeling on this issue, exhibited both by staff and the public and need to pursue the improvement of the service which was crucial in enabling the Council to become a zero landfill Authority. However, the budgetary pressures on the service would remain and needed to be placed in the context of a £170 million reduction in the funding available to the Council over three years and, therefore, there was a need to focus on the problems confronting the service. Some consensus had now been achieved with Veolia and SOVA to improve employee pay and terms and conditions and he concurred that the conversations between respective parties and associated momentum needed to continue.

Councillor Scott said that he believed that it was vital to continue with communications between all parties on the future of the recycling service. As far as the Scrutiny Committee discussions were concerned, he wanted them to be part of a thorough review process, where the Council would, with Veolia and SOVA, seek to address the issues that caused the dispute. He was thankful that a resolution to the dispute had now been found and confirmed that he would continue to work for an effective solution to the problems highlighted by the dispute for the benefit of the public and employees.

Public Questions

(a) Public Questions on the future of the Number 4 Bus Service and

Consultation on changes to Bus Services

Mrs Dorothy Manners asked why there were plans to suspend the No. 4 bus service on Psalter Lane and why part of that service would be re-routed from Psalter Lane to Ecclesall Road, which was already serviced by numerous bus services, whilst there were none on Psalter Lane, leaving people, like herself, who relied on an accessible bus service, without one. She also referred to the fact that the current number 4 bus service on Psalter Lane had become increasingly unreliable due, in the main, to mechanical failure, which had created a situation where people had to walk substantial distances to other routes, and to a negative impression of the bus companies concerned.

Jean Cromar referred to the fact that, under current proposals, the number 4 bus service would be terminated, with public transport between Millhouses and the City Centre being provided by Service 83 via Ecclesall Road. She stated that the number 4 service was well used, but confirmed that the service was plagued by regular bus breakdowns. The buses used on the route were also not accessible by wheelchair users. Therefore, she felt that the service would be discontinued by default. She suggested that the current proposals would diminish the accessibility to public transport for some users, particularly those who lived between Psalter Lane and Ecclesall Road, who were faced with walking up and down steep hills for example, Roche Road and Hunter House Road, which showed that the proposals had paid little attention to the topography of the area or the needs of older or disabled residents in the planning of services. She also pointed out that there were approximately 24 buses per hour available on Ecclesall Road.

She asked, therefore, if the Council would support the continuation of that part of the service from Banner Cross to Psalter Lane and Cemetery Road and its connection with services on Ecclesall Road as well as endorsing the view of the local Community Assembly that there should still be a bus service on Psalter Lane.

In connection with consultation arrangements, Jean Cromar indicated that, in respect of the proposed changes to the number 4 service, there were no notices in the Arundel Gate and Pond Street Transport Interchanges, no leaflets were available concerning the changes and there were no notices on the buses travelling along the No. 4 route. She referred to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's (SYPTTE) intention to hold a consultation meeting on 12th July, 2012 and the requirement that objections to any proposed changes to bus services should be submitted by the 9th July and asked whether the Council could ask the SYPTTE about the consultation process, at the same time asking them to seek the withdrawal of the statement made by Councillor Anders Hanson that local Labour Councillors supported the withdrawal of the No. 4 service which, she alleged, was untrue.

In response, Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development) stated that the Council generally supported the Bus Partnership Agreement (BPA) as it believed that the Agreement would lead to improvements in the vast majority of bus services. He indicated that, under

the BPA, some fares would reduce, access for people with disabilities would be improved and buses would generally be newer and therefore more reliable.

However, he acknowledged that there were disadvantages arising from the Agreement on some routes. All of the changes, though, had been the subject of agreement between the bus operators and the SYPTTE. In terms of consultation, Councillor Bramall understood leaflets were available on the consultation on all buses, there were facilities which provided for on-line or telephone access to information and every bus should possess information notices concerning any proposed changes. Should there be any problems with the consultation process, then he would pass these on to the SYPTTE. He added that he had not heard of any issues from other groups but he hoped that the consultation process should identify any problems, to which solutions should be sought. Local Labour Members, Councillors Hussain and Bond, had said to him that they were not satisfied with the proposed changes to the number 4 bus service.

Councillor Bramall indicated that he generally supported the BPA which would seek to address problem areas and the public's views on these could be aired at the Sheffield On The Move consultation event to be held on 12th July, 2012. However, he would raise the concerns now made at the meeting with the SYPTTE.

(b) Public Question on Contract Profits

Mr Nigel Slack referred to a response given to his question at a meeting of the Cabinet on 20th June 2012, that the Council operates 537 contracts with 700 private companies and charities for the provision of 'public' services. This amounted to a total of some £730 million each year or 49% of the Council's annual budget. It was also made clear that, for the 'strategic' contracts, it was normal for these to include agreed profit margins as part of the contract terms. Examples were given of Capita at 10% and Veolia at 11%.

Mr Slack asked for the following information for all the agreed profit contracts: who are the 'Partner' private companies; how much is each contract worth per annum; and what is the agreed profit percentage on each; and when does each contract come up for renewal or renegotiation?

Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) responded that it was difficult to provide a detailed answer to Mr Slack's questions due to the confidential nature of some of the information, so he would answer them in the broadest sense with further detail being provided in writing to Mr Slack by Council officers as appropriate. He confirmed that the Council provided services in a number of ways, including in – house or through private companies and voluntary organisations through formal contracts and this had been the case over a number of years. Each contract was subject to a rigorous and open procurement process, through which, the Council aimed to secure high quality services, providing value for money. The

contracts were subject to regular review and monitoring to help identify whether these aims were being met. He acknowledged the need for companies to make stipulated profits under Council contracts but stated that such contracts also brought service efficiencies and offered investment and innovation, for the benefit of the Council and service users.

(c) Public Question on Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Mr Nigel Slack indicated that he had also attended the recent Central Community Assembly meeting where a presentation was given by Amey concerning the upcoming PFI contract for Sheffield's highways.

He was given to understand that this £80 million per annum (or £42,000 per Kilometre) contract was the result of a six year bidding and 'value for money' exercise, yet neither Amey nor the department representatives could advise him of the anticipated profit margin for this contract.

Mr Slack, therefore, asked did the Council really, less than two months from the anticipated start of this contract, have no indication of how much of our Council contribution will be 'gobbled up' by private company profits. If so, how can the department involved be certain of value for money? If not, what is the anticipated profit margin for this contract?

Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) confirmed that the tendering/contractual process had taken approximately six years, with the funding for the contract having been awarded to the Council by the previous Government. The Council had agreed to increase its own investment in the Scheme to make up the reduction of the funding previously allocated by the Government. The commencement of the contract had been delayed and the contract had been subject to rigorous review and value for money investigations, by the Government and the Council. The scheme provided a huge investment in Sheffield and would bring quality outcomes for the City's highways, including street lighting, signage and highway tree management. There was a recognised requirement to improve the City's highways network to an acceptable standard and the PFI scheme, which was the largest in the Country, was the only realistic option for bringing about these improvements. The approach was supported by both of the largest political groups on the Council.

Councillor Lodge added that some of the detailed information requested by Mr Slack was commercially sensitive, but that officers would supply Mr Slack with as much detail as the Council was able to.

Order of Business

It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Simon Clement Jones, that the Council does now proceed to the consideration of item of business number 10 on the Summons concerning bus services.

On being put to the vote, the motion was negatived.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 Urgent Business

There were no questions relating to urgent business under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(ii).

5.2 Questions

A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated and supplementary questions under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4 were asked and were answered by the appropriate Cabinet Members.

5.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

There were no questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue, Integrated Transport, Pensions or Police under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6 (i).

6. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES

Resolved: on the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that (a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Panels, Groups, etc and to representatives on External Bodies:-

City Centre, South and East Planning and Highways Committee	-	Remove Councillor Nikki Sharpe to Create a vacancy
West and North Planning and Highways Committee	-	Councillor Denise Reaney to replace Councillor Katie Condliffe
Planning and Highways Committee Substitute Members	-	Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs to fill a vacancy
Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	-	Councillor Katie Condliffe to replace Councillor Denise Reaney
Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	-	Councillor Peter Rippon to replace Councillor Roy Munn
Appeals and Collective Disputes Committee	-	Councillors Garry Weatherall and Roy Munn to fill Vacancies
Access Liaison Group	-	Councillor Tony Downing to fill a vacancy

Allotments and Leisure Gardens Advisory Group	-	Councillors Tony Downing, Martin Lawton and Steve Wilson to fill Vacancies
Building Schools for the Future Strategic Board	-	Councillors Jenny Armstrong, Jackie Drayton and Denise Fox to fill vacancies
Corporate Parenting Panel	-	Councillors Jenny Armstrong, Jackie Drayton Nikki Sharpe, Geoff Smith and Sioned-Mair Richards to fill vacancies
Deputy Chief Executive's Joint Consultative Committee	-	Councillor Harry Harpham to fill a vacancy
Communities Joint Consultative Committee	-	Councillor Mazher Iqbal to fill a vacancy
Place Joint Consultative Committee	-	Councillor Leigh Bramall to fill a vacancy
Children, Young People and Families Joint Consultative Committee	-	Councillor Jackie Drayton to fill a vacancy
Resources Joint Consultative Committee	-	Councillor Bryan Lodge to fill a vacancy
Disabled Persons Housing Strategy Monitoring and Scrutiny Group	-	Councillors Tony Damms and Harry Harpham to fill vacancies
East End Strategy Group	-	Councillors Harry Harpham, Mary Lea, Peter Price, Ray Satur and Pat Midgley to fill vacancies
Environmental Performance Working Party	-	Councillors Ibrar Hussain and Alf Meade to fill vacancies
Fairer Charging Commission	-	Councillors Mary Lea and David Barker to fill vacancies
Fairtrade Working Group	-	Councillor Martin Lawton to fill a vacancy
Information Services Steering Group	-	Councillor Stuart Wattam to fill a vacancy

Monitoring and Advisory Board (Adult Services)	-	Councillor Mick Rooney to fill a vacancy
Planning Committee Advisory Group	-	Councillors Leigh Bramall, Isobel Bowler, Alan Law and Peter Rippon to fill vacancies
Planning Policy Advisory Group	-	Councillors Isobel Bowler, Steve Wilson, Leigh Bramall and Alan Law to fill Vacancies
Sheffield Conservation Advisory Group	-	Councillor Peter Price to fill a vacancy

(b) approval be given to appoint representatives to serve on other bodies, as follows:-

Sheffield Health and Social Care Foundation Trust Council of Governors	-	Councillor Clive Skelton to fill a vacancy
Sheffield Compact	-	Councillor Mazher Iqbal to replace Councillor Karen McGowan
Sheffield Tobacco Control Programme Accountable Board	-	Councillor Garry Weatherall to replace Councillor Ibrar Hussain
Sheffield Theatres Trust	-	Councillor Ben Curran to fill a vacancy

(c) it be noted that in accordance with the authority given by the City Council at its Annual Meeting held on 16 May 2012, the Chief Executive had appointed the under-mentioned members to fill vacancies on bodies as follows:-

Planning and Highways Committee Substitute Members	-	Councillor Ian Saunders to fill a vacancy
Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board	-	Councillors Julie Dore, Jackie Drayton, Harry Harpham and Mary Lea to fill vacancies

(d) it be noted that in accordance with their delegated powers, the Community Assemblies have nominated the under-mentioned members to serve on Sheffield Homes Area Boards as follows:-

Sheffield Homes East Area Board	-	Councillor Mazher Iqbal from the East Community Assembly
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Sheffield Homes Central Area Board	- Councillor John Robson from the East Community Assembly
	- Councillor Mohammed Maroof from the Central Community Assembly
Sheffield Homes North West Area Board	- Councillor Bob Johnson from the Central Community Assembly

7. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton, that the role of the Monitoring Officer, as outlined in the report of the Chief Executive circulated with the agenda, be noted and the Director of Legal Services be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st August, 2012.

8. NEW STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton, that this Council:-

- (a) adopts the Members' Code of Conduct set out at Appendix 1 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive now submitted;
- (b) adopts the procedure for investigating complaints and the sanctions as set out at Appendix 2 of the report;
- (c) establishes a Standards Committee in accordance with the amended Article 9 in Part 2 and the terms of reference in Part 3 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report, and agrees to disapply proportionality to the Committee as set out at paragraph 3.3.2 of the report;
- (d) notes the Guidance on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests circulated by the Monitoring Officer, set out at Appendix 5 of the report;
- (e) delegates to the Monitoring Officer the power to make such amendments to the Members' Code of Conduct and the procedure for investigating complaints as are required by guidance and regulation when they are issued by the Government and directs that any amended document be circulated to all Members forthwith;
- (f) notes that an Independent Person will be appointed in compliance with the Localism Act; and
- (g) gives approval for the Constitution to be amended accordingly.

8.2 Members' Interests

The Council received a presentation concerning requirements relating to the registration and declaration of Members' interests from the Director of Legal Services.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

It was moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst, that this Council:-

(a) deplores the Government's shambolic mishandling of welfare reform which has seen delays to the introduction of universal credit to 2014 at the same time as other reforms, including the localisation of council tax benefit, will be implemented from 2013;

(b) regrets that the Government's mismanagement of the economy and the failure of initiatives such as the Work Programme has contributed to an increasing benefits bill;

(c) opposes the Government's proposals on council tax benefit localisation which will see a 10% cut in funding for council tax benefit in addition to the £170 million budget gap faced by the Council over the next four years;

(d) believes that the localisation of council tax benefit has been completely mismanaged by the Government and should have been aligned with the introduction of universal credit;

(e) notes research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies which indicates that the working poor will be hit hardest by the cuts to council tax benefit, completely contradicting the Government's stated aims in its welfare reform programme;

(f) further notes research by the Local Government Association warning that the cut is also likely to hit hardest councils in the most deprived areas of the country and authorities in the wealthiest areas of the country will experience a smaller cut;

(g) regrets that this mirrors the Government's unfair policy of giving heavy cuts to Sheffield whilst at the same time wealthier areas of the country are experiencing next to no cuts at all; and

(h) regrets that this is a further example of this Government hitting the most vulnerable the hardest which is exemplified by cuts to housing benefit, the reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants and cuts to tax credits.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, seconded by

Councillor Alison Brelsford, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) deplores the last Government for building up a record national deficit over a period of eleven years, to the point where £1 in every £4 the Government spent was borrowed;
- (b) regrets the need for reductions in Government spending as a result of the last Government's reckless disregard for public finances;
- (c) notes with concern proposals to reduce the funding for council tax benefit by 10% as a result of localisation;
- (d) supports the Government's decision to protect vulnerable residents by ensuring pensioners will be exempt from reductions in council tax benefit;
- (e) deplores attempts by the MP for Sheffield South East to introduce a new power for local authorities to charge students for council tax; and
- (f) however, calls upon the Government to reconsider its reduction in council tax benefit grants to ensure any changes in council tax meet the underlying principle of welfare reform – that is to incentivise work.

On being put to the vote, Paragraph (c) of the amendment was carried and the remaining paragraphs were negatived.

(Note: Councillors Councillors Julie Dore, John Robson, Jack Scott, Roy Munn, Ian Saunders, Chris Rosling Josephs, Bryan Lodge, Denise Fox, Karen McGowan, Jayne Dunn, Stuart Wattam, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain, Talib Hussain, Mohammad Maroof, Geoff Smith, Mary Lea, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Joyce Wright, Steven Wilson, Garry Weathall, Sheila Constance, Chris Weldon, Alan Law, Steve Jones, Tim Rippon, Cate McDonald, George Lindars Hammond, Robert Johnson, Janet Bragg, Pat Midgley, Jenny Armstrong, Terry Fox, Tony Downing, David Barker, Nikki Bond, Qurban Hussain, Martin Lawton, Sioned Mair Richards, Peter Price, Peter Rippon, Tony Damms, Leigh Bramall, Gill Furniss, Richard Crowther, Philip Wood, Neale Gibson, Nikki Sharpe, Ben Curran, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, Jackie Satur, and Mick Rooney.voted for Paragraph (c) of the above amendment and against Paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) and asked for this to be recorded.)

After a right of reply from Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) deplores the Government's shambolic mishandling of welfare reform which has seen delays to the introduction of universal credit to 2014 at

- the same time as other reforms, including the localisation of council tax benefit, will be implemented from 2013;
- (b) regrets that the Government's mismanagement of the economy and the failure of initiatives such as the Work Programme has contributed to an increasing benefits bill;
 - (c) notes with concern proposals to reduce the funding for council tax benefit by 10% as a result of localisation;
 - (d) opposes the Government's proposals on council tax benefit localisation which will see a 10% cut in funding for council tax benefit in addition to the £170 million budget gap faced by the Council over the next four years;
 - (e) believes that the localisation of council tax benefit has been completely mismanaged by the Government and should have been aligned with the introduction of universal credit;
 - (f) notes research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies which indicates that the working poor will be hit hardest by the cuts to council tax benefit, completely contradicting the Government's stated aims in its welfare reform programme;
 - (g) further notes research by the Local Government Association warning that the cut is also likely to hit hardest councils in the most deprived areas of the country and authorities in the wealthiest areas of the country will experience a smaller cut;
 - (h) regrets that this mirrors the Government's unfair policy of giving heavy cuts to Sheffield whilst at the same time wealthier areas of the country are experiencing next to no cuts at all; and
 - (i) regrets that this is a further example of this Government hitting the most vulnerable the hardest which is exemplified by cuts to housing benefit, the reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants and cuts to tax credits.

The votes on the above amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For Paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) to (i) (55) - Councillors Julie Dore, John Robson, Jack Scott, Roy Munn, Ian Saunders, Chris Rosling Josephs, Bryan Lodge, Denise Fox, Karen McGowan, Jayne Dunn, Stuart Wattam, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain, Talib Hussain, Robert Murphy, Jillian Creasy, Mohammad Maroof, Geoff Smith, Mary Lea, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Joyce Wright,

Steven Wilson, Garry Weathall, Sheila Constance, Chris Weldon, Alan Law, Steve Jones, Tim Rippon, Cate McDonald, George Lindars Hammond, Robert Johnson, Janet Bragg, Pat Midgley, Jenny Armstrong, Terry Fox, Tony Downing, David Barker, Nikki Bond, Qurban Hussain, Martin Lawton, Sioned Mair Richards, Peter Price, Peter Rippon, Tony Damms, Leigh Bramall, Gill Furniss, Richard Crowther, Philip Wood, Neale Gibson, Nikki Sharpe, Ben Curran, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, Jackie Satur, and Mick Rooney.

- Against Paragraphs (a), (b) - and (e) to (i) (19) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw
- Abstained on Paragraphs - (a), (b) and (e) to (i) (1) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor John Campbell).

10. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING BUS SERVICES

It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Sue Alston, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls its support for the twin-track approach of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority regarding Bus Partnerships and Quality Contracts;
- (b) welcomes improvements to some bus routes as part of the proposed bus partnership agreement but regrettably notes that many local people will lose out, such as residents on Psalter Lane, in Stocksbridge or in Ringinglow Village;
- (c) urges the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to investigate these routes in particular as part of their consultation and deliver improved services for these residents;
- (d) believes it is becoming clearer that a voluntary partnership will not deliver the fair, affordable and equitable bus service that Sheffield

residents deserve;

- (e) reiterates the cross-party support in this Council for a 'Quality Contracts' strategy for Sheffield; and
- (f) therefore encourages South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and this Council to deliver a fully-tendered network by continuing its pursuit of 'Quality Contracts'.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (f) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (g) as follows:-

- (b) therefore welcomes the Bus Partnership Agreement has been announced which improves the bus offer in Sheffield through creating a stable bus network and delivering improvements to a number of routes and the standard of buses across the City; introducing new forms of ticketing and reductions in fares of up to 14%;
- (c) recalls the resolution of the Integrated Transport Authority meeting of the 7th June, 2012 which was supported by all Integrated Transport Authority Members, including the mover of the motion:

RESOLVED – That the Authority:

- (i) Notes the progress on Partnerships across the county and endorses work on both the Partnership and Quality Contract options in Sheffield.
- (ii) Endorses the signing of the Sheffield Heads of Terms agreement.
- (iii) Approves "in principle" the certifying of Qualifying Agreements on corridors where bus service timetables were co-ordinated, subject to Schedule 10 Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 and considers that the Agreements:
 - (a) were in the interests of persons using the local bus services in the ITA's area; and
 - (b) did not impose restrictions on Operators which were indispensable for the attainment of securing improvements to local bus services or improving congestion.
- (iv) Notes that Sheffield City Council and SYPTE Officers would be briefing member groups prior to consultation and would seek full Council and ITA approval post consultation and prior to launch;

- (d) welcomes that, subject to the planned consultation, the Bus Partnership Agreement is likely to be implemented before November 2012 and will see real improvements for Sheffield bus users immediately;
- (e) believes that the majority of Sheffield bus users will benefit from the Bus Partnership Agreement and supports its progression;
- (f) acknowledges that the final routes of the Agreement are still subject to the consultation, the results of which will be considered by the Integrated Transport Authority when determining routes before finalising the Agreement; and
- (g) reiterates its support for the twin-track approach, noting that the continuation of which was outlined in a Members Briefing Note circulated to the main opposition group dated 28th May 2012 and included the following: "5.1 SYITA will be asked to consider this option to improve the bus offer alongside the Quality Contract (bus franchised) option".

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The votes on the above amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

- For the amendment (54) - Councillors Julie Dore, John Robson, Jack Scott, Roy Munn, Ian Saunders, Chris Rosling Josephs, Bryan Lodge, Denise Fox, Karen McGowan, Jayne Dunn, Stuart Wattam, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain, Talib Hussain, Mohammad Maroof, Geoff Smith, Mary Lea, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Joyce Wright, Steven Wilson, Garry Weathall, Sheila Constance, Chris Weldon, Alan Law, Steve Jones, Tim Rippon, Cate McDonald, George Lindars Hammond, Robert Johnson, Janet Bragg, Pat Midgley, Jenny Armstrong, Terry Fox, Tony Downing, David Barker, Nikki Bond, Qurban Hussain, Martin Lawton, Sioned Mair Richards, Peter Price, Peter Rippon, Tony Damms, Leigh Bramall, Gill Furniss, Richard Crowther, Philip Wood, Neale Gibson, Nikki Sharpe, Ben Curran, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, Jackie Satur, and Mick Rooney.
- Against the amendment (21) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon

Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Robert Murphy, Jillian Creasy, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw

Abstained on the amendment - The Lord Mayor (Councillor John Campbell).
(1)

After a right of reply from Councillor Ian Auckland, the original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recalls its support for the twin-track approach of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority regarding Bus Partnerships and Quality Contracts;
- (b) therefore welcomes the Bus Partnership Agreement has been announced which improves the bus offer in Sheffield through creating a stable bus network and delivering improvements to a number of routes and the standard of buses across the City; introducing new forms of ticketing and reductions in fares of up to 14%;
- (c) recalls the resolution of the Integrated Transport Authority meeting of the 7th June, 2012 which was supported by all Integrated Transport Authority Members, including the mover of the motion:

RESOLVED – That the Authority:

- (i) Notes the progress on Partnerships across the county and endorses work on both the Partnership and Quality Contract options in Sheffield.
- (ii) Endorses the signing of the Sheffield Heads of Terms agreement.
- (iii) Approves “in principle” the certifying of Qualifying Agreements on corridors where bus service timetables were co-ordinated, subject to Schedule 10 Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 and considers that the Agreements:
 - (a) were in the interests of persons using the local bus services in the ITA’s area; and

- (b) did not impose restrictions on Operators which were indispensable for the attainment of securing improvements to local bus services or improving congestion.
- (iv) Notes that Sheffield City Council and SYPTE Officers would be briefing member groups prior to consultation and would seek full Council and ITA approval post consultation and prior to launch;
- (d) welcomes that, subject to the planned consultation, the Bus Partnership Agreement is likely to be implemented before November 2012 and will see real improvements for Sheffield bus users immediately;
- (e) believes that the majority of Sheffield bus users will benefit from the Bus Partnership Agreement and supports its progression;
- (f) acknowledges that the final routes of the Agreement are still subject to the consultation, the results of which will be considered by the Integrated Transport Authority when determining routes before finalising the Agreement; and
- (g) reiterates its support for the twin-track approach, noting that the continuation of which was outlined in a Members Briefing Note circulated to the main opposition group dated 28th May 2012 and included the following: "5.1 SYITA will be asked to consider this option to improve the bus offer alongside the Quality Contract (bus franchised) option".

(Note: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw voted for Paragraphs (a), (c), (f) and (g) and against Paragraphs (b), (d) and (e) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING APPRENTICESHIPS

It was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Nikki Sharpe, that this Council:-

- (a) is extremely concerned by the current levels of youth unemployment both in Sheffield and nationally, and believes that the actions of the current Government are hitting young people disproportionately hard;
- (b) believes that this Council must do all it can to ensure that a generation of young people are not left on the scrap heap by the heartless actions

of the present Government;

- (c) welcomes that the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme introduced by the present Administration has now given the opportunity of an apprenticeship to 100 young people;
- (d) notes this approach, which has seen £1 million invested in apprenticeships, is in stark contrast to the previous Administration whose Leader broke a promise to commit £1 million of the Council's own resources to support the Future Jobs Fund in Sheffield;
- (e) thanks partners in the public, private and voluntary sector who have employed an apprentice, noting that the Sheffield Apprenticeship Scheme has involved a 50% Council contribution to the wages of an apprentice and a 50% employer contribution; and
- (f) welcomes the wider work taken by the present Administration to increase the uptake of apprentices in the City and the doubling of the number of apprentices funded by the Sheffield Apprenticeship Scheme to 200 and calls on any local employers who wish to take on an apprentice in the future to contact the Council.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of all the words after the word "nationally" in paragraph (a) and their substitution by the words "which has risen consistently since 2004";
2. the substitution of the word "heartless" by the word "reckless" and the word "present" by the word "previous" in paragraph (b);
3. the deletion of paragraph (d);
4. the relettering of paragraph (c) as new paragraph (f) and paragraphs (e)-(f) as new paragraphs (h)-(i); and
5. the addition of new paragraphs (c)-(e) and (g) as follows:
 - (c) therefore, endorses the £1 billion Youth Contract announced by the Deputy Prime Minister, which will tackle the scandal of youth unemployment, and will provide:
 - (i) 160,000 wage incentives for 18-24 year olds worth up to £2,275;
 - (ii) 250,000 additional work experience places for 18-24 year olds;

- (iii) 20,000 incentive payments to encourage smaller businesses to recruit their first apprentices; and
- (iv) a new programme of intensive support for 16 and 17-year olds who are not in employment, education or training;
- (d) thanks the Government for its £8.5 million contribution towards a Sheffield University Technical College, which will provide vital training and skills to the next generation of Sheffielders;
- (e) furthermore, wholeheartedly supports the Local Enterprise Zone, which will bring an estimated 12,600 new jobs to the Sheffield City Region by 2015, and welcomes the recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, of £15 million of Government funding for advanced manufacturing research in the Sheffield City Region; and
- (g) notes that all participants on the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme will receive at least Level 2 training, which will be funded by the Coalition Government, and reiterates its thanks to the Government for this support;

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

After a right of reply from Councillor Leigh Bramall, the original Motion was put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) is extremely concerned by the current levels of youth unemployment both in Sheffield and nationally, and believes that the actions of the current Government are hitting young people disproportionately hard;
- (b) believes that this Council must do all it can to ensure that a generation of young people are not left on the scrap heap by the heartless actions of the present Government;
- (c) welcomes that the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme introduced by the present Administration has now given the opportunity of an apprenticeship to 100 young people;
- (d) notes this approach, which has seen £1 million invested in apprenticeships, is in stark contrast to the previous Administration whose Leader broke a promise to commit £1 million of the Council's own resources to support the Future Jobs Fund in Sheffield;
- (e) thanks partners in the public, private and voluntary sector who have employed an apprentice, noting that the Sheffield Apprenticeship

Scheme has involved a 50% Council contribution to the wages of an apprentice and a 50% employer contribution; and

- (f) welcomes the wider work taken by the present Administration to increase the uptake of apprentices in the City and the doubling of the number of apprentices funded by the Sheffield Apprenticeship Scheme to 200 and calls on any local employers who wish to take on an apprentice in the future to contact the Council.

(Note: 1. The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw voted for Paragraphs (c), (e) and (f) and against Paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for Paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) and (f) and abstained on Paragraph (d) of the Motion as asked for this to be recorded.)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

It was moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, that this Council:-

(a) recalls the Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Jillian Creasy at the Council meeting on 13th June 2012, and expresses disappointment at the decision of the largest party in the council chamber to oppose moving the item up the agenda, given the clear interest in the public gallery;

(b) notes that following the change of Administration in May 2011, a further £150,000 was removed from the budget of recycling centres, and believes this was a short-sighted move given the Administration's plan to end weekly black bin collections;

(c) understands that Blackstock Road has the highest tonnage of any recycling centre, and therefore expresses dismay at the Administration's decision to close Blackstock Road three days a week, while the recycling centre in what the Council believes to be in one of the Administration's 'favoured areas' remains open seven days a week;

(d) furthermore, notes with disappointment the failure to avoid strikes, and regrets the effect this has had on the service for local residents;

(e) in addition, recalls the decision of the present Administration to end the free collection of garden waste, and notes that more than a year after it was first agreed, the flexible blue bin/box offer has still not been fully rolled out;

(f) believes the simultaneous strategies of the present Administration to end weekly black bin collections and reduce recycling services always amounted to a recipe for disaster; and

(g) therefore, in light of the Administration's decision to enforce fortnightly bin collections, calls upon the Administration to re-consider its reductions to recycling centre opening hours.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jillian Creasy, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (b) and (c);
2. the addition of new paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) as follows:-

(b) recognises that, due to global resource depletion, the value of materials is increasing and the profit to be made from re-using and recycling is rising;

(c) would prefer any such profit to be used to maintain and improve the service to the public and the business community and to create local job opportunities rather than boost the income of profit-making national or multinational companies and their share-holders;

(d) recognises that the front line workers and their union representatives can provide inside knowledge about services and make useful suggestions about more efficient and innovative ways of running services;

3. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) to (g) as new paragraphs (e) to (h).

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

(Note: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw voted for Paragraph 2, sub-clauses (b) and (d), and against the remaining paragraphs and asked for this to be recorded.)

It was then moved by Councillor Jack Scott, seconded by Councillor Leigh Bramall, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words 'That this Council' and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

(a) regrets that the Council has had to reduce spending by £55 million in the 2012/13 budget and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group

continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;

(b) further regrets that to meet this unprecedented financial gap in the budget, the Council has had to reduce the opening hours of the five Household Waste Recycling Centres, however acknowledges that the previous Administration made the majority of the cuts to these Centres in the 2011/12 budget;

(c) notes that the Council makes every effort to provide the best possible waste service, including sufficient opening hours at the Household Waste Recycling Centres to offer a sustainable service, working within the severe financial constraints imposed by the Government;

(d) recognises that the present Administration have made several improvements to original proposals to manage the reductions in opening hours and under the revised opening hours, Sheffield's five Household Waste Recycling Centres will be open a total of 23 days every week, with all sites open on the peak days of Friday to Monday, sites open every day of the week and summer opening times until 6pm which better suits the needs of users;

(e) notes that in their 2012/13 budget amendments, neither opposition group proposed to reverse any savings to Household Waste Recycling Centres which would be required to re-consider reductions in opening hours and believes that the late involvement of the main opposition group after the revised opening hours have already been implemented is nothing more than blatant political opportunism;

(f) deplores the outrageously misleading and factually inaccurate accusations made in the press in recent weeks by the Leader of the main opposition group that the distribution of reductions in opening hours across Household Waste Recycling Centres have been politically motivated;

(g) confirms for the record that there is absolutely no truth in the claims that the distribution of reductions in opening hours across Household Waste Recycling Centres have been politically motivated, and notes the following statement made by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services at SOVA:-
"SOVA Recycling Ltd were asked, as were all those organisations who submitted a tender to run the sites in 2011, how they proposed to allow commercial waste to be accepted at the sites. Due to the licenses under which the sites operate, household waste and commercial waste must be kept separate. This meant that a site had to be chosen which would need be closed to the public during the periods it would be accepting commercial waste. SOVA specifically chose Blackstock for this purpose, with the decision being based on its more central location, with Douglas Road being deemed unsuitable due to its layout and the fact the buildings on the site were needed to process recycling materials."

(h) further confirms that the only favoured area of the present Administration is the whole of Sheffield;

(i) calls upon the Leader of the main opposition group to apologise to the people of Sheffield for what this Council regards as an attempt to mislead them by claiming that the distribution of reductions in opening hours were politically motivated;

(j) further remembers that the Leader of the main opposition group was previously the Cabinet Member who oversaw the most shambolic mismanagement of the waste service the City has known through the introduction of blue boxes to recycle paper which angered many local people and welcomes that the present Administration are now resolving this issue across the City;

(k) reiterates its regret for all cuts to waste services, however, recognises that they are ultimately a consequence of the Liberal Democrat Party's, led by the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam, decision to support a Conservative-led Government which is heavily cutting Sheffield's budget at the same time as some of the wealthiest councils in the Conservative heartlands receive almost no cuts at all and regrets that the Liberal Democrat Party both locally and nationally continue to refuse to stand up for Sheffield; and

(l) regrets that when Sheffield is facing one of the most challenging periods in its history, the main opposition group continue to resort to making petty and factually inaccurate accusations in an attempt to deflect the responsibility from the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam and the Liberal Democrats who are part of a Government that is imposing unprecedented cuts to the Council's services, which is inevitably impacting on the services that are provided for Sheffield people.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, as then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

(a) regrets that the Council has had to reduce spending by £55 million in the 2012/13 budget and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;

(b) further regrets that to meet this unprecedented financial gap in the budget, the Council has had to reduce the opening hours of the five Household Waste Recycling Centres, however acknowledges that the previous Administration made the majority of the cuts to these Centres in the 2011/12 budget;

(c) notes that the Council makes every effort to provide the best possible

waste service, including sufficient opening hours at the Household Waste Recycling Centres to offer a sustainable service, working within the severe financial constraints imposed by the Government;

(d) recognises that the present Administration have made several improvements to original proposals to manage the reductions in opening hours and under the revised opening hours, Sheffield's five Household Waste Recycling Centres will be open a total of 23 days every week, with all sites open on the peak days of Friday to Monday, sites open every day of the week and summer opening times until 6pm which better suits the needs of users;

(e) notes that in their 2012/13 budget amendments, neither opposition group proposed to reverse any savings to Household Waste Recycling Centres which would be required to re-consider reductions in opening hours and believes that the late involvement of the main opposition group after the revised opening hours have already been implemented is nothing more than blatant political opportunism;

(f) deplores the outrageously misleading and factually inaccurate accusations made in the press in recent weeks by the Leader of the main opposition group that the distribution of reductions in opening hours across Household Waste Recycling Centres have been politically motivated;

(g) confirms for the record that there is absolutely no truth in the claims that the distribution of reductions in opening hours across Household Waste Recycling Centres have been politically motivated, and notes the following statement made by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services at SOVA:-
"SOVA Recycling Ltd were asked, as were all those organisations who submitted a tender to run the sites in 2011, how they proposed to allow commercial waste to be accepted at the sites. Due to the licenses under which the sites operate, household waste and commercial waste must be kept separate. This meant that a site had to be chosen which would need be closed to the public during the periods it would be accepting commercial waste. SOVA specifically chose Blackstock for this purpose, with the decision being based on its more central location, with Douglas Road being deemed unsuitable due to its layout and the fact the buildings on the site were needed to process recycling materials."

(h) further confirms that the only favoured area of the present Administration is the whole of Sheffield;

(i) calls upon the Leader of the main opposition group to apologise to the people of Sheffield for what this Council regards as an attempt to mislead them by claiming that the distribution of reductions in opening hours were politically motivated;

(j) further remembers that the Leader of the main opposition group was previously the Cabinet Member who oversaw the most shambolic mismanagement of the waste service the City has known through the introduction of blue boxes to recycle paper which angered many local people

and welcomes that the present Administration are now resolving this issue across the City;

(k) reiterates its regret for all cuts to waste services, however, recognises that they are ultimately a consequence of the Liberal Democrat Party's, led by the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam, decision to support a Conservative-led Government which is heavily cutting Sheffield's budget at the same time as some of the wealthiest councils in the Conservative heartlands receive almost no cuts at all and regrets that the Liberal Democrat Party both locally and nationally continue to refuse to stand up for Sheffield; and

(l) regrets that when Sheffield is facing one of the most challenging periods in its history, the main opposition group continue to resort to making petty and factually inaccurate accusations in an attempt to deflect the responsibility from the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam and the Liberal Democrats who are part of a Government that is imposing unprecedented cuts to the Council's services, which is inevitably impacting on the services that are provided for Sheffield people.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE "MEET THE CABINET PROGRAMME"

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Harry Harpham, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith, that this Council:-

- (a) believes it is important to improve the way that the Council engages with local people;
- (b) notes the Meet the Cabinet Programme introduced by the present Administration last year which provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions to Cabinet members and to raise issues in their local communities;
- (c) recalls that the meetings were well received and thanks all members of the public who attended the meetings;
- (d) welcomes this new way of engaging with local people;
- (e) further welcomes that the present Administration will be repeating the Meet the Cabinet initiative this year starting in October;
- (f) further welcomes that the present Administration are not only extending the initiative but enhancing it by introducing a "Question Time" style format where the first 30 minutes of the meeting will be chaired by the Community Assembly Chair and will be spent discussing an issue that matters to local people, providing a greater opportunity for members of the public to engage with the Council; and

- (g) notes that the topics for debate in each area will be set by the concerns of local people and calls on all local people who wish to raise an issue to be debated in their area to contact their local Community Assembly.

(Note: Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for Paragraphs (a), (b) and (g) and abstained on Paragraphs (c) to (f) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

14. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

It was moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Denise Reaney, that this Council:-

- (a) understands that as a result of this Administration's decision to end free collections of green bins, up to 30,000 bins could be shredded;
- (b) believes this is a complete waste of an asset which would now cost £600,000;
- (c) understands that many residents who do not currently benefit from a green bin, may appreciate the offer of a green bin, even at the current charge, which is believed to be extortionate; and
- (d) calls on the Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene to write to Veolia to ask that the green bins and the green bin collection service be offered to residents across the City.

(At the request of the mover of the Motion (Councillor Colin Ross) and with the consent of the Council and the seconder, Paragraph (b) of the Motion, published with the Summons for this meeting, was altered by the replacement of the word "originally" with the words "would now".)

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jack Scott, seconded by Councillor Harry Harpham, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words 'That this Council' and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) regrets that the Council has had to reduce spending by £55 million in the 2012/13 budget and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;
- (b) further regrets that to meet this unprecedented financial gap in the budget, the Council can no longer afford to provide a green waste collection service free of charge;

- (c) notes that following the Council's withdrawal of funding for the green waste service, Veolia have come forward with a charged for service, however, this has not extended the green bin collection service city wide;
- (d) notes that in light of this, the main opposition group are proposing to give green bins to people who would not be able to have them emptied or collected in the foreseeable future;
- (e) -
- (f) confirms that the present Administration would like to see a more equitable green waste service with green bins offered to residents across the City and have contacted Veolia to confirm this, however, acknowledges with regret this is now a service no longer funded by the Council due to the Government cuts and ultimately this decision rests with Veolia as the service provider or other providers which come forward.

(At the request of the mover of the amendment (Councillor Jack Scott) and with the consent of the Council and the seconder, Paragraph (e), published in the list of amendments submitted to the Chief Executive was withdrawn from consideration.)

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) regrets that the Council has had to reduce spending by £55 million in the 2012/13 budget and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;
- (b) further regrets that to meet this unprecedented financial gap in the budget, the Council can no longer afford to provide a green waste collection service free of charge;
- (c) notes that following the Council's withdrawal of funding for the green waste service, Veolia have come forward with a charged for service, however, this has not extended the green bin collection service city wide;
- (d) notes that in light of this, the main opposition group are proposing to give green bins to people who would not be able to have them emptied or collected in the foreseeable future; and

- (e) confirms that the present Administration would like to see a more equitable green waste service with green bins offered to residents across the City and have contacted Veolia to confirm this, however, acknowledges with regret this is now a service no longer funded by the Council due to the Government cuts and ultimately this decision rests with Veolia as the service provider or other providers which come forward.

(Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for Paragraphs (a) to (c), against Paragraph (d) and abstained on paragraph (e) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

15. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING EQUAL MARRIAGE

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Neale Gibson, seconded by Councillor Nikki Bond, that this Council:-

- (a) congratulates the organisers of Sheffield Pride for a very successful festival that brought our City together in a celebration of diversity and togetherness;
- (b) recognises the equal rights of all people and supports the campaign for Equal Marriage and calls upon the Government to support legislation to enable this at the earliest possible opportunity; and
- (c) seeks to secure marriage for gay people as a civil vehicle on the same basis as heterosexual marriage, available in a registry office and approved premises.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING HIGHWAYS PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland, that this Council:-

- (a) regrets that Sheffield is home to some of the worst roads in the country and rightful owner of the 'pot-hole city' title;
- (b) believes that the City could have had decent roads if millions of pounds had not been required each financial year to service the Council's debt as a result of the World Student Games;
- (c) welcomes the £2bn Highways PFI project, which will see every road in Sheffield improved and thanks councillors of the current opposition and administration parties for helping to secure the project, in particular the previous Administration, for securing the future of the project at a time of intense public spending reviews;

- (d) thanks the Coalition Government for its £1.2bn contribution to the project, in addition to investment in Sheffield's trains, trams and buses, particularly when public finances are tight as a result of the previous Government's record budget deficit;
- (e) believes investment from this project should be spread fairly across the City, and will oppose any attempt to deliver one level of standard for the Administration's 'favoured areas' and a lower standard for local residents elsewhere in the City; and
- (f) therefore calls upon the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene and the Chief Executive to sign a "First Street, Last Street" public pledge, which will guarantee that the last street and road, and all those before, will be of the same quality as the first street and road to benefit from the Project.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jack Scott, seconded by Councillor Ibrar Hussain, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (f) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (k) as follows:-

- (b) therefore wholeheartedly supports the decision of the previous Government to invest in securing the repair of the whole of the highway infrastructure in Sheffield including the entire highways network, footways, bridges, grass verges, and street signage;
- (c) fully supports the Streets Ahead project and believes that this ambitious scheme is hugely welcomed by local people;
- (d) regrets that the smallest opposition group continue to oppose the project which will transform Sheffield's road network and they would reject the offer of over £1 billion of Government investment into Sheffield supporting the Council to achieve this;
- (e) welcomes action taken by the present Administration to ensure that the project will start in 2012 after significant delay by the previous Administration and cuts in funding by the present Government;
- (f) further welcomes the action taken by the present Administration to ensure the scheme provides maximum value for money for council taxpayers through saving £50 million in the financing of the scheme without making any changes to the specification;
- (g) confirms that as part of the Streets Ahead project with AMEY a specification has been agreed ensuring that roads across all of the City will be fixed and maintained to standard throughout the lifetime of the contract;
- (h) therefore acknowledges the present Administration have already

ensured that a universal standard will be met in delivering the Highways PFI for all streets and roads across the City;

- (i) confirms that the plans for roll out have been determined by ensuring the most prudent delivery of a £2 billion project and not based on political motivation;
- (j) further confirms that the only favoured area of the present Administration is the whole of Sheffield; and
- (k) welcomes the fact that the present Administration are implementing the Highways PFI with work currently due to start in August and looks forward to the improvements to Sheffield's road network that come with it.

(At the request of the mover of the amendment (Councillor Jack Scott) and with the consent of the Council and the seconder, Paragraph (e) of the amendment, as published in the list of amendments submitted to the Chief Executive, was altered by the replacement of the words "years of" by the word "significant".)

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

It was then moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (f) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows:-

- (c) notes that the cross party Treasury Select Committee's report of 19th August 2011 found that PFI funding is now an 'extremely inefficient' method of financing projects and does not provide taxpayers with good value for money; and
- (d) is concerned at the massive increase in liabilities to Sheffield City Council which will burden future council tax payers, and by the Cabinet decision to reduce the budget contribution in the early years of the Highways PFI contract compared with later years.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

The original Motion, as amended, was put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) regrets that Sheffield is home to some of the worst roads in the country and rightful owner of the 'pot-hole city' title;
- (b) therefore wholeheartedly supports the decision of the previous Government to invest in securing the repair of the whole of the highway

infrastructure in Sheffield including the entire highways network, footways, bridges, grass verges, and street signage;

- (c) fully supports the Streets Ahead project and believes that this ambitious scheme is hugely welcomed by local people;
- (d) regrets that the smallest opposition group continue to oppose the project which will transform Sheffield's road network and they would reject the offer of over £1 billion of Government investment into Sheffield supporting the Council to achieve this;
- (e) welcomes action taken by the present Administration to ensure that the project will start in 2012 after significant delay by the previous Administration and cuts in funding by the present Government;
- (f) further welcomes the action taken by the present Administration to ensure the scheme provides maximum value for money for council taxpayers through saving £50 million in the financing of the scheme without making any changes to the specification;
- (g) confirms that as part of the Streets Ahead project with AMEY a specification has been agreed ensuring that roads across all of the City will be fixed and maintained to standard throughout the lifetime of the contract;
- (h) therefore acknowledges the present Administration have already ensured that a universal standard will be met in delivering the Highways PFI for all streets and roads across the City;
- (i) confirms that the plans for roll out have been determined by ensuring the most prudent delivery of a £2 billion project and not based on political motivation;
- (j) further confirms that the only favoured area of the present Administration is the whole of Sheffield; and
- (k) welcomes the fact that the present Administration are implementing the Highways PFI with work currently due to start in August and looks forward to the improvements to Sheffield's road network that come with it.

(Note: 1. The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) and Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Clive Skelton, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Janice Sidebottom, Anders Hanson, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Bob Mccann, Katie Condliffe, Alison Brelsford and Trevor Bagshaw voted for Paragraphs (a) to (d) and (f), (g), (i) and (k) and against paragraphs (e), (h) and (j) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for Paragraphs (a), (g), (h), against Paragraphs (b) to (d), (e), (f) and (k) abstained on paragraphs (i) and (j).)

17. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING PLAYGROUNDS

It was moved by Councillor Simon Clement Jones, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that Sheffield can be proud of its reputation as the greenest city in the country and considers that its parks and green spaces should be accessible to all children and young people;
- (b) notes that there are currently hundreds of disabled children living in Sheffield, including many who are wheelchair users;
- (c) however, understands that currently only four parks across the City have playgrounds that include wheelchair accessible roundabouts;
- (d) thanks the Government for investing in the Graves Park, Rose Garden playground, as part of its Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and welcomes reports that improvements to Rivelin Valley paddling pools will make the facility more accessible to wheelchair users;
- (e) believes that all new playgrounds should contain at least one piece of accessible equipment for wheelchair users and that priority be given to them when replacing old equipment; and
- (f) requests the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure to bring forward a report to Cabinet so that official council policy can be amended accordingly.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jackie Drayton, seconded by Councillor Harry Harpham, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the insertion of the word "previous" *between the words "the" and "Government" in paragraph (d).

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, was put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that Sheffield can be proud of its reputation as the greenest city in the country and considers that its parks and green spaces should be accessible to all children and young people;
- (b) notes that there are currently hundreds of disabled children living in Sheffield, including many who are wheelchair users;
- (c) however, understands that currently only four parks across the City

have playgrounds that include wheelchair accessible roundabouts;

- (d) thanks the previous Government for investing in the Graves Park, Rose Garden playground, as part of its Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and welcomes reports that improvements to Rivelin Valley paddling pools will make the facility more accessible to wheelchair users;
- (e) believes that all new playgrounds should contain at least one piece of accessible equipment for wheelchair users and that priority be given to them when replacing old equipment; and
- (f) requests the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure to bring forward a report to Cabinet so that official council policy can be amended accordingly.