

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH, on Wednesday 4 December 2013, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Vickie Priestley)
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Peter Rippon)

1	<i>Arbourthorne Ward</i> Julie Dore Jack Scott	10	<i>Dore & Totley Ward</i> Keith Hill Joe Otten Colin Ross	19	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> David Barker Isobel Bowler Tony Downing
2	<i>Beauchief & Greenhill Ward</i> Simon Clement-Jones Clive Skelton Roy Munn	11	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Garry Weatherall Steve Wilson Joyce Wright	20	<i>Nether Edge Ward</i> Anders Hanson Qurban Hussain Nikki Bond
3	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Helen Mirfin-Boukouris Chris Rosling-Josephs Ian Saunders	12	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Roger Davison Diana Stimely Penny Baker	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> John Campbell Lynn Rooney
4	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Karen McGowan	13	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Alan Law Chris Weldon Sheila Constance	22	<i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i> Sioned-Mair Richards Peter Price Peter Rippon
5	<i>Broomhill Ward</i> Shaffaq Mohammed Stuart Wattam Jayne Dunn	14	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Andrew Sangar Sue Alston	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Leigh Bramall Tony Damms Gill Furniss
6	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Ibrar Hussain Talib Hussain	15	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Cate McDonald Steve Jones	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Vickie Priestley Katie Condliffe
7	<i>Central Ward</i> Jillian Creasy Mohammad Maroof Robert Murphy	16	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Denise Reaney Ian Auckland Bob McCann	25	<i>Stockbridge & Upper Don Ward</i> Philip Wood Richard Crowther
8	<i>Crookes Ward</i> Sylvia Anginotti Geoff Smith Rob Frost	17	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Janet Bragg Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond	26	<i>Walkey Ward</i> Ben Curran Nikki Sharpe Neale Gibson
9	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Harry Harpham Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea	18	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Jenny Armstrong Terry Fox Pat Midgley	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> Trevor Bagshaw Alf Meade Adam Hurst
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Ray Satur

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Brelsford Martin Lawton, Bryan Lodge, Tim Rippon and Cliff Woodcraft.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of interest from Members of the City Council.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 6th November 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Petitions

(a) Petition Objecting to the Possible Closure of Totley Library

The Council received a petition from the Pupils of Dore, Totley, Totley All Saints and Bradway Primary Schools and King Ecbert Secondary School, objecting to the possible closure of Totley Library.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by some of the Year 6 pupils who were introduced by the Head of Dore Primary School. It was stated that Totley Library was vital to the community and a necessary resource. The Library was friendly and provided books, films and the intranet to enable pupils to do their homework and was a place for people to meet with friends.

The possible closure of the library was upsetting as it provided audio books and books which were easy to read and access to personal computers. The Library was a meeting place for groups, including crafts and history groups. Other libraries were too far away, especially for people without access to a car, including older people.

The opinions of some other children were read out. This included that new technology was not available for everyone because it was too expensive and it might be difficult for some to use to read written material. It was stated that books were much better to read and they helped with children's learning. Children may read less if they did not have a local library and the love of reading often begins at the library. The Council was asked to please save Totley Library from closure.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet

Member for Communities and Inclusion. Councillor Iqbal stated that the Council had made proposals concerning Libraries but no decision had been taken to close any library. The Council wished to hear from people, including young people as part of the consultation on the Library Service. There were a number of libraries that could potentially close and this was not a decision that the Council would have wanted to take. The funding which the Council received from the Government had reduced in the past 3 years and this meant that the Council had to do things differently.

Councillor Iqbal stated that he had spoken to a campaigner and to Councillor Colin Ross to see how Totley Library could be kept open and the Council was working to keep as many libraries open as possible.

The consultation concerning the Library Service would finish on 10 January 2014. Councillor Iqbal stated that it was good to hear people's views and those of the petitioners and he asked that people complete the survey, which was part of the consultation. A final decision about the Library Service would be made in February or March 2014.

(b) Petition Requesting that Newgate Close be Included in the Streets Ahead Project

The Council received a petition containing 77 signatures requesting that Newgate Close be included in the Streets Ahead Project.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Joan Ashton. She stated that people were of the opinion that the Streets Ahead project would improve the roads and pavements. However, there were a number of roads that were unadopted and were excluded from the scope of the Streets Ahead programme, including Newgate Close. The road did not get gritted in the winter or cleared of snow.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene. Councillor Scott agreed that this was an important issue. Only formally adopted roads were included in the Streets Ahead programme and this appeared to be an anomaly which needs to be considered as part of the Council review. The Council was writing to the Government in relation to the funding it received for the Streets Ahead Programme and the issue of unadopted highway. The Council, during the review, would also see if other funding could be found. Newgate Close and other unadopted roads would be looked at. LED Street lights would be installed on Newgate Close in the week commencing 9th December. The issue was in the hands of the Government as much as anything else.

(c) Petition Regarding the Actions of Stagecoach Bus Drivers on Green Lane and The Common, Ecclesfield

The Council received a petition containing 168 signatures, requesting action against the problems being caused by Stagecoach bus drivers parking their cars on Green Lane and The Common, Ecclesfield.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Claire Bolsover, who stated that buses parking at locations on Green Lane and The Common, Ecclesfield often prevented access and egress to local residents' driveways and contributed to traffic queues at the junction near to the public house and prevented traffic flows on Green Lane and The Common. Bus drivers did not necessarily move their vehicles when they were asked to do so and there was concern that there might be an accident. Buses stood while the driver changes took place at locations on Green lane and The Common.

The problems were causing distress to local residents, some of whom required carers and medical care. There was also noise, litter and interference with the putting out of domestic bins for collection.

Moreover, bus drivers parked their own cars on verges at the side of the road, which causes problems for residents and residents had allegedly been verbally abused when they had asked for the cars to be moved as they were causing obstruction and were sometimes parked for up to 14 hours. Attempts had been made to resolve the problems through the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE), which had informed people that the driver swaps should be distributed, rather than be concentrated at Morrison's supermarket.

The City Council was asked to request that all driver changes for services to the City Centre take place at Morrisons and to restrict the duration of parking times on the affected area of The Common, Ecclesfield to a maximum of 4 hours.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Leigh Bramall, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development. Councillor Bramall stated that he was not aware of the matters that had been raised until the Council received the petition and he appreciated the fact that the matter had been brought to his attention. He stated that he had spoken with the operator, Stagecoach and the SYLTE and to local Councillors Steve Wilson, Joyce Wight and Garry Weatherall and he commented that the petition indicated that there were both operational problems and those associated with the attitude of the bus drivers. The issues would be looked into and Councillor Bramall stated that he would raise the matters outlined by the petition at the meeting of the Integrated Transport Authority on 5th December.

4.2 Public Questions

(a) Public Question Concerning the Library Service

Louisa Walker asked why people were being told that it was not an option to run Totley Library as a community library, only as an independent one, which was unlikely to succeed. She asked whether the Council had explored other potential savings and ideas including the use of volunteers at hub libraries and the co-location of other Council services in libraries. She stated that she believed the needs analysis did not take into account the proximity of other community buildings. The Library was also the local polling station. There would be an effect on access for people with limited mobility, including those aged over 65 years.

The bus journey time to the nearest alternative library was 38 minutes. Totley library was the City's sixth busiest library in contrast to other libraries.

She stated that it was contradictory to close libraries when a literacy report and the Fairness Commission both pointed to concerns about the potential closure of libraries. There was no other City Council funded building in Totley and Dore and the closure of the Library would be a short term fix but with costs in the long term. The Council had a responsibility to voluntary groups and to the high number of library users aged over 65 years. She asked whether there was someone available to speak with local residents as regards the Totley Library being run as a community library.

In response, Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, stated that he had received an email from Ms Walker and had also spoken with a campaigner and a date was being organised to speak with residents. No decisions had yet been taken in relation to libraries and the consultation period was ongoing. The report on the future of Library Services referred to research which suggested that independent libraries were not a long term sustainable option, although the report also states that the Council would not rule out a viable proposal.

The funding which the Council receives had been cut and was continuing to be reduced. The annual budget for Libraries had reduced from £9 million in 2012/13 to £6 million in 2013/14 and would reduce further to £4.5 million in 2014/15. The Library Service could not continue as it is, having already reduced opening hours and not filling staffing vacancies. In the United Kingdom, there had been some 400 library closures.

The needs assessment took account of a number of factors and also considered judgements which had been made at Brent Council. The Fairness Commission, the recommendations of which the Council had signed up to, recognised the inequalities which existed in Sheffield and which continued to widen. The needs assessment took these inequalities into account. The Council also had responsibilities with regard to reading and writing and opportunities for children and young people in its role as a corporate parent.

Councillor Iqbal stated that it was important that the Council heard from people with regards the proposals for the Library Service, including completing the survey which formed part of the consultation. He confirmed that a date would be arranged to speak to local residents about the future of Totley Library. A decision on the Library Service would be made in 2014.

(b) Public Question Concerning Public Transport

Adam Butcher referred to a complaint to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive regarding bus services. He stated that people had waited one and a half hours for a service which was scheduled to run every half hour. This occurred on a cold day and although the SYPTE had responded, there had not been a response from the bus operator, First Bus. He asked how we can make sure that the best integrated bus service was available for everyone.

Councillor Leigh Bramall, the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development responded by stating that giving consideration to the needs of people with disabilities when looking at public transport was crucial. The development of Bus Partnerships was to give better services and reduced bus fares. The City had secured a grant of £18 million to invest in improvements, including at junctions to allow buses to travel through junctions more quickly and improve reliability. There were also programmes to improve bus stops and kerb access and tactile paving to help older people and disabled people access buses.

There were a number of reasons why bus services might be delayed, which might be because a vehicle had broken down or due to more systemic problems.

Councillor Bramall stated that he would raise the problems which Mr Butcher had reported and asked him to leave details of the bus service delay to which he had referred, so this matter could be followed up.

(c) Public Question Concerning Winter Maintenance

Lisa Banes referred to the snow fall which was predicted and to the context of budget cuts to the Council by the Government. She asked how the Council would be able to keep the City's roads clear and is there anything that people can do to help?

Councillor Jack Scott, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, responded that the Streets Ahead team were more prepared for the winter this year than in previous years. He referred to the purchase of additional gritting machines, snow ploughs and to the stock of over 16,000 tonnes of grit. Thermal mapping would be used to make sure that grit was applied in the right areas and the full grit run amounted to 620 miles. It was expected that higher areas would be gritted to a greater extent than other areas. Grit bins had been filled and new weather stations had been set up and traffic cameras would also be utilised to observe issues, such as drifting snow.

In terms of what people could do to help, Councillor Scott stated that 450 requests had been received for people to become snow wardens this year, compared to the 86 snow wardens in the previous year. He gave thanks to people for their help and support.

(d) Public question Concerning Golf Courses

Brian Marsden asked why the Sheffield International Venues (SIV) managed golf courses at Beauchief and Birley Wood have a long term lease with the Council, whilst Tinsley Park Golf Course has only a short term, year on year, lease. SIV had indicated that, if a longer term lease was in place, they would be able to plan and invest in the Tinsley Park Golf Course. Such investment was on hold depending on the arrangements for the lease. He commented on the work being undertaken with children by Activity Sheffield, introducing them to the game of golf. Mr Marsden requested a written reply.

In response, Councillor Isobel Bowler, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure, stated that she was not aware that the lease relating to Tinsley Park Golf Course was different to the other golf courses managed by SIV. Activity Sheffield was a Council service and she stated that she was pleased that their work with children in schools in his area was something with which Mr Marsden was impressed. Councillor Bowler confirmed that she would write to Mr Marsden.

(e) Public Question Concerning Health and Wellbeing Board

Peter Hartley stated that there are 4 meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board annually and he pointed out that the next meeting on 12 December coincided with the NHS Trust Board Governors meeting, which he hoped would not happen again because people might want to attend both meetings.

Councillor Mary Lea, the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, responded that the four public meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board were planned in advance for the year. She stated that lots of organisations were keen to send representatives to meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board and it was difficult to organise meetings around every organisation. The Board would try to do its best to arrange meetings when people would be able to attend.

Councillor Lea stated that she would be pleased for NHS Trust Governors to send representatives to meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board. She stated that, if possible, she hoped that representatives of Trust Governing Bodies would also be able to attend the meeting of the Board on 12 December, to be held at the English Institute of Sport.

(f) Public Question concerning Council Agenda Internet Pages

Peter Hartley stated that papers for agenda items 2-7 of the 3 April Council Meeting were not available to view on the Council's webpages.

The Chief Executive noted Mr Hartley's comments and stated that he would ask for the information available on the website to which Mr Hartley now referred, to be checked.

(g) Public Question Concerning Financial Savings

Peter Hartley stated that he had asked the Council to defy the Coalition Government in the past and he now suggested that the Council approach other local authorities in the country and look at ways of saving money.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council responded that the political parties represented on the Council would put budget proposals to the meeting of the budget Council in the form of amendments. Consultation with regards to the Council's budget had already begun and further sessions were to be held. The Council was listening to everyone about how it could ensure that services were

delivered in the context of declining budgets.

With regard to talking to other local authorities, the Council was part of the Public Service Transition Network, where work would be done with the Government and local authorities to find innovative ways of making savings and delivering services differently. She stated that the Core Cities Cabinet had produced a prospectus for growth, which they have presented to the Government. Further information was available on the internet. The Council also wanted more control over finances and policies for local people. The Council had made representations to the Government with regard to the funding cuts to Sheffield, which Councillor Dore stated that she believed were draconian and unfair.

(h) Public Questions Concerning Designated Area for the LGBT Community

Jonathan Marsden referred to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Sheffield and to the strong community within the City's universities. However, he stated that there are not many designated venues in the City and asked whether people in the local LGBT community could have a designated area, similar to Manchester, preferably at the bottom of the Moor, near to Dempsey's nightclub. This would provide a focal point for the LGBT community and would help to stimulate the local economy by attracting visitors.

Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, responded that there was work being undertaken in relation to inclusion and equalities and the Council had published its annual report on equalities and cohesion. Councillor Iqbal stated that he was working with Councillor Neale Gibson, who had also raised the issue to which Mr Marsden had referred. Other groups in the City have also approached the City Council with regards to the identification of a designated area. Councillor Iqbal stated that he would speak further about this issue with Mr Marsden and Councillor Gibson.

(i) Question Concerning Digital Autopsy Machine

Wahid Nazir welcomed the installation in Sheffield of a Digital Autopsy Machine. He also welcomed the campaign by Councillor Ibrar Hussain concerning access to the facility on a free basis. He asked for the Council's opinion.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded by thanking Mr Nazir for sharing the good news concerning the Digital Autopsy Machine and she stated that she and the Lord Mayor had attended the opening of the facility at the Medico-Legal Centre in Upperthorpe. The bringing of this revolutionary technology to Sheffield, by a Malaysian private sector organisation showed their confidence to invest in the City. She stated that there were bereaved families who may choose this option for particular religious and cultural reasons.

She stated that she was glad that Councillor Ibrar Hussain was campaigning for the Government to give free access to Digital Autopsy and stated that the cost of access would take time to reduce as the technology was used more widely. In relation to sponsorship of families who wished to access the facility and found it difficult to finance, that would be a decision for the Government. Specific groups

might also wish to consider sponsoring families to enable them to use the facility.

(j) Public Question concerning Kinematic Film Company, Filming at Council Meetings and Darnall Community Nursery

Chrissy Meleady asked for an explanation of why the Kinematic Film Company, who filmed at a meeting of Council during the period for public questions, was served notice to withdraw from their television studio on Paternoster Row, from a building owned by the City Council and managed by the Council's partner Kier. She stated that the notice to quit their premises came about following Kinematic filming on behalf of families and communities the questions asked of full Council and answers given by Councillor Jackie Drayton.

She stated that the notice to quit was issued by Kier on the instruction of Sheffield City Council out of the blue and followed them filming the questions, complaints and concerns, which Kinematic knew nothing of until they filmed at the Full Council.

These questions, concerns and complaints related to Darnall Community Nursery who had also, she stated, been issued a wrongful Notice to leave their premises, by Sheffield City Council.

Ms Meleady stated that the Sheffield Children's Centre was subjected to having Kier turn off heating and other basic amenities. An associate of the Children's Centre had advocated for Darnall Community Nursery (regarding them being served with a Notice) and then the Children's Centre incurred what families and communities deem to be another reprisal, with the heating being shut off for over 6 months, despite repeated requested for an independent investigation and redress.

Ms Meleady stated that now Kinematic too have been subjected to reprisal, merely for supporting families and communities' voices via filming, at their request, the questions and answers at the Council meeting. She formally requested an independent investigation into this and related matters relating to the Council and its partner Kier going back over many months.

She asked Councillor Dore to explain what the Council's position was on filming in meetings of Full Council. She also asked for an explanation of the Council position on free speech and the right to be free of reprisal and victimisation for those speaking truth to power, including families and communities and those facilitating their voices. Chrissy Meleady asked what Councillor Dore will do to redress the Notice to Kinematic Films and how she would instigate the request for an independent investigation with regards to the concerns she had set out.

She also informed Council that there had been some progress and a boiler had now been ordered for Sheffield Children's Centre and temporary heaters installed by Kier.

(k) Public Question concerning replies in writing to questions at Council

Chrissy Meleady asked why Councillor Drayton had not responded in writing to questions asked on behalf of Reni Aminu, which had been asked at the meeting of Council in November. The questions concerned the appointment of a consultant and were as follows:-

“What best value analysis took place with regard to the appointment/commissioning of the consultant, Julie Dale, for 48 weeks work at a cost of £132,745 for her salary and the agency fees of £26,586 between February 2013 and 8 March 2013, at a time when the Council were claiming poverty and enforcing through a 100 percent grant aid cut on community not for profit early years charities. As the Freedom of Information release shows, Julie Dale was taken on to carry through the axing of the funding to these organisations.”

“What other funding was expended in support of Julie Dale’s role e.g. Personal Assistant and administrative expenses over the extent of her appointment and 48 weeks of her consultancy work etc?”

“Why has the Council not released the information requested with regard to Julie Ward in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act deadlines and why is the Council withholding the full information now.”

Ms Meleady stated that on the 25th November, the Council released information to her that identified costs for the Judicial Reviews relating to Early Years. She stated that additional information relating to the associated costs of the Consultant, Julie Dale is outstanding and information concerning the consultants terms of appointment and terms of reference for her consultancy role etc. She asked why this was and why the Council was thwarting compliance with the law in this instance.

Chrissy Meleady also asked the following questions:

Does Councillor Dore find it acceptable that Councillor Drayton or any other Councillor gives the same response to members of the public month upon month i.e. informing them in response to promises unfilled, letters not sent etc. that she/they/the Council had thought a response had been sent?

Whose responsibility is it to follow through on promises made to the public in Full Council?

Who holds Councillors responsible?

Who monitors this? How are misdemeanours addressed?

What sanctions are in place for breaches?

What role and responsibility do Councillor Dore, the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer hold in regard to the above?

In response to the questions from Chrissy Meleady above, the Leader of the

Council, Councillor Julie Dore, responded that she was not aware that the Kinematic Film Company had been given formal notice to move from the premises at Paternoster Row. She said that she felt absolutely sure that this would not be due to the fact that Kinematic had filmed in the Council Chamber at the last Council meeting. It was likely to be for other reasons such as the expiry or termination of a lease.

Councillor Dore said she had no objection to filming in the Council Chamber at Council meetings.

She also stated that the Council has a Standards Committee through which to make a formal complaint and [you] can go to the Local Government Ombudsman if you are unsatisfied.

A written response would be provided to the detailed questions which Ms Meleady had submitted.

(I) Public Questions concerning Leadership and Behaviour

Martin Brighton stated that the answers to his generic questions are often parried with 'not aware of', or 'please send details', when not only has all the requisite information already been sent, but when asked to review the non-answer, the request for a review is ignored. He stated that all that is happening is to 'kick the can down the road' in the futile hope that the issue will go away. He asked why is the Leader doing this.

Secondly, he stated that the Council, via responses to FoIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests, with respect to a voluntary community group, has shown: a) that there is no evidence to support allegations and innuendo made against it, and b) the group has not only met but exceeded the Council's recognition requirements, and c) the financial penalties were outside Council procedures and policy; and d) the Council has ignored a request for an independent qualified auditor. He asked, therefore, what is the lawful justification for continuing to impose sanction and prejudice upon that group.

Thirdly, Mr Brighton asked, if an executive writes saying that names of complainants against him shall be provided, and that files containing those complaints are held, what action will the Leader take to ensure that the undertaking is honoured and the complaint details provided? Are Councillors and Executives to be trusted to tell the truth; and are there any objections to naming and shaming?

Fourthly, Mr Brighton stated that the Council, in response to allegations, accusations or innuendo against Council officers or members, always insists upon evidence before acting. He asked what are the Council's exceptions to this principle, where it is allowed for the Council officers to impose sanction and financial prejudice whilst publicly admitting doing so in the absence of evidence, and only on the basis of already disproved allegations, accusations and innuendo.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded to the questions from Mr Brighton. She stated that when she said that she was not aware of something, it was because she was not aware and more information needed to be provided.

Councillor Dore stated that the other questions which Mr Brighton had asked related to a particular issue concerning a community group. She understood that the organisation does not meet the particular recognition policy and was not therefore eligible to receive certain funding.

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, Boards, etc.

Senior Officer Employment Committee	- Councillor Ben Curran to fill a vacancy
Castlegate Member Working Group	- Councillor Colin Ross to fill a vacancy
Central Local Housing Area Board	- Councillor Jack Scott to fill a

vacancy

(b) approval be given to the appointment of representatives to other bodies as follows:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| Fairtrade Working Group | - Councillor Martin Lawton to fill a vacancy |
| Sheffield Media and Exhibition Centre Ltd. | - Councillor Jayne Dunn to replace Councillor Nikki Sharpe |
| Mental Health Partnership Board | - Councillor Jayne Dunn to replace Councillor Ben Curran |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | - Councillor Jayne Dunn to replace Councillor Ben Curran |
| National Association of British Market Authorities | - Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs to fill a vacancy |
| National Coal Mining Museum Liaison Committee | - Councillor Garry Weatherall to fill a vacancy |

(c) it be noted that the Leader, in accordance with her Executive powers, has appointed Councillor Ben Curran to replace Councillor Bryan Lodge on (i) the Emergency Planning Shared Services Joint Committee and (ii) the Cabinet Highways Committee;

(d) in accordance with the provisions set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, as amended, and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, as amended, and to set out the arrangements for supporting a request from the governing body of any maintained school within Sheffield to become an admitted body to the South Yorkshire Pension Scheme, as well as who should be responsible for approving such applications to enable such admitted body status to be secured, the City Council gives delegated authority to the Director of Human Resources, in consultation with the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal and Governance and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for finance, to approve any application from any maintained school within Sheffield to become an admitted body to the South Yorkshire Pension Scheme pursuant to the legislation described above, provided the governing body of the school in question consents to:-

- membership of the South Yorkshire Pension Scheme; and
- the transfer of any historical deficit of the school in the pension fund to the governing body.

(e) following the recruitment process undertaken by the Audit Committee to fill

the co-opted vacancy on the Committee, the appointment of Elizabeth Stanley to serve as a non-voting co-opted member of the Audit Committee from 1 January 2014 to 17 May 2017, be confirmed.

7. APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

RESOLVED: That this Council (a) notes the information contained in the report of the Chief Executive now submitted, informing the Council of the recent appointment of Jayne Ludlum to the post of Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families and (b) extends its congratulations to Ms Ludlum on her appointment.

8. DATE OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN 2014

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

(a) gives approval for the date of its Annual General Meeting in 2014 to be moved from 21st May to 4th June, in view of the date of the Municipal Elections in 2014 being moved from 1st May to 22nd May; and

(b) notes the implications of the later date for the Municipal Elections on the terms of office of councillors due to retire in 2014, and of extending the 2013/14 Municipal Year by moving the Annual General Meeting to a later date, as outlined in section 4 of the report of the Chief Executive now submitted.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND

Transport Investment

It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

(a) believes Liberal Democrats are committed to building a stronger economy by rebalancing the British economy away from the City of London and towards revitalising cities across the country;

(b) welcomes news that the Government's transport capital investment outside of London is set to increase by 28% in real terms in 2015-16;

(c) notes that this represents a 16% increase relative to the previous Government's 2010-11 budget;

(d) thanks Liberal Democrats in Government for helping to secure another £16 million to allow the Bus Rapid Transit project to proceed with greener buses, a new highway link and a high quality service between Sheffield

and Rotherham;

- (e) furthermore, backs the on-going consultation into improvements to Dore and Totley station, which will deliver a significantly improved Manchester to Sheffield service;
- (f) fully endorses the Bus Rapid Transit and Northern Hub Rail projects, and thanks the Government for ensuring investment is available to enable these projects to proceed, and calls on future Governments to ensure these projects are completed;
- (g) reminds Members that these projects come in addition to unprecedented levels of investment in Sheffield's transport infrastructure, including £1.2 billion to enable the Streets Ahead project, £58 million for the UK's first tram/train pilot, and new facilities for electric vehicles;
- (h) believes these projects will help build a stronger local economy by creating jobs and enabling Sheffield to become a better place to do business;
- (i) however, notes South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority's 2012/13 budget monitoring report, which demonstrated that projects in which Sheffield City Council were the lead authority, had a total underspend of £2.9 million, more than a third of the allocated budgets;
- (j) regrets that the current Administration have failed to effectively spend the capital funds that have been allocated and believes these failures damage the potential to capitalise on future funding streams; and
- (k) calls upon the Administration to immediately publish its internal review into the failure to manage capital budgets, to ensure these mistakes are not repeated.

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:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (d) and (f) to (k);
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (d); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) to (k) as follows:-
 - (a) welcomes the locally designed and developed City Deal Sheffield secured from Government as a first small step towards devolving real powers from Whitehall to local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
 - (b) welcomes the success of the current Administration and South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) in developing innovative schemes and proposals that have secured tens of millions of pounds, including

tram train, and the Bus Rapid Transport North scheme;

- (c) welcomes proposals to devolve the Northern Rail franchise to a local level;
- (e) notes the success of the current Administration and SYITA in developing the successful Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement;
- (f) notes that the ground-breaking innovation in the development of the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement has led to Sheffield securing £18 million to further improve bus services in the City;
- (g) recalls that local Liberal Democrats consistently opposed the Bus Partnership Agreement, a position that would have denied the city £18 million of investment in public transport, and therefore welcomes the approach taken by the then Liberal Democrat Transport Minister, Norman Baker MP, in contrast to local Liberal Democrats, in recognising the excellent work of the SYITA and the current Administration to deliver a better bus service;
- (h) notes that the hard work of the partnership between the current Administration and the SYITA led to the SYITA being recognised as the Integrated Transport Authority of the Year at the National Transport Awards this Autumn;
- (i) however, notes that the success in securing capital investment comes amid a backdrop of unprecedented Government cuts to Council funding;
- (j) further notes that the level of cuts being imposed on local government is inevitably reducing and limiting the capacity of many local authorities to undertake work to develop the economy and major transport schemes, and believes this issue demonstrates a complete lack of joined up policy from the Coalition Government and demonstrates that the Coalition has no plan for sustainable growth; and
- (k) welcomes the commitment of the Administration to continue to work to deliver innovative transport schemes, in the face of these unprecedented cuts from Government.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

It was then moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the re-lettering of paragraphs (h) to (k) as new paragraphs (j) to (m); and
 2. the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows:-
- (h) notes recent research by KPMG, which highlights South Yorkshire as one

of the biggest winners of the proposed High Speed Rail 2 project;

- (i) fully supports High Speed Rail 2 and regrets that local Labour MPs refused to sign a letter to the Shadow Chancellor calling on him to clarify his position on the project;

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

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) welcomes the locally designed and developed City Deal Sheffield secured from Government as a first small step towards devolving real powers from Whitehall to local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- (b) welcomes the success of the current Administration and South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) in developing innovative schemes and proposals that have secured tens of millions of pounds, including tram train, and the Bus Rapid Transport North scheme;
- (c) welcomes proposals to devolve the Northern Rail franchise to a local level;
- (d) furthermore, backs the on-going consultation into improvements to Dore and Topley station, which will deliver a significantly improved Manchester to Sheffield service;
- (e) notes the success of the current Administration and SYITA in developing the successful Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement;
- (f) notes that the ground-breaking innovation in the development of the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement has led to Sheffield securing £18 million to further improve bus services in the City;
- (g) recalls that local Liberal Democrats consistently opposed the Bus Partnership Agreement, a position that would have denied the city £18 million of investment in public transport, and therefore welcomes the approach taken by the then Liberal Democrat Transport Minister, Norman Baker MP, in contrast to local Liberal Democrats, in recognising the excellent work of the SYITA and the current Administration to deliver a better bus service;
- (h) notes that the hard work of the partnership between the current Administration and the SYITA led to the SYITA being recognised as the Integrated Transport Authority of the Year at the National Transport Awards this Autumn;

- (i) however, notes that the success in securing capital investment comes amid a backdrop of unprecedented Government cuts to Council funding;
- (j) further notes that the level of cuts being imposed on local government is inevitably reducing and limiting the capacity of many local authorities to undertake work to develop the economy and major transport schemes, and believes this issue demonstrates a complete lack of joined up policy from the Coalition Government and demonstrates that the Coalition has no plan for sustainable growth; and
- (k) welcomes the commitment of the Administration to continue to work to deliver innovative transport schemes, in the face of these unprecedented cuts from Government.

(Note: 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (a) to (d) and against paragraphs (e) to (k) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (h), against paragraph (g) and abstained on all of the remaining paragraphs of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

10. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

Energy Costs

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

- (a) believes Britain's energy market isn't working for ordinary families and businesses and the cost of electricity and gas is crippling their family finances;
- (b) regrets that energy bills have risen by almost £300 for families since 2010 and businesses say it's the second biggest cost they face and is concerned that when the price of energy increases energy companies pass this on, but when it drops consumers don't see their bills fall;
- (c) notes recent research by Which? estimating that flaws in the market have left consumers paying £3.9bn a year over the odds since 2010;
- (d) fully opposes the unfair price rises recently announced by the big energy companies including a 10.4% increase in Npower's dual-fuel bills from

December, SSE increasing prices by 8.2% from 15th November, British Gas increasing their prices by 9.2% on 23rd November and Scottish Power raising prices by 8.6% from 6th December;

- (e) notes comments from the Chief Executive of Citizens Advice speaking about the SSE increase “The price rise will be a blow for stretched budgets ... Many households are facing a daily battle to try to make their frozen incomes cover mounting energy, food and travel costs. Further increases will push people into poverty.”;
- (f) believes that the increases represent a rip-off and believes that the present Government have chosen to defend the big energy companies and have failed to stand up for the consumer;
- (g) regrets that the Council’s main opposition group’s spokesperson for energy has followed the line of the Conservative Party in defending the energy companies rather than Sheffield families and is extremely concerned by the following comments he made in “Lib Dem Voice” on 30th September, 2013 “No energy company has a duty to invest in anything” and “To say that energy prices are the fault of the energy companies is obviously on one level correct, but seems to imply that they have a duty to us rather than their shareholders when they set their prices. They have a legal duty not to operate a cartel, but beyond this they pitch their prices to maximise profits.”
- (h) believes that this demonstrates that the main opposition group is only concerned with defending the excessive profits of the big energy companies and has no concern for Sheffield’s hard pressed families who are faced with extortionate increases in their energy bills;
- (i) welcomes the commitment by The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP to freeze energy bills until 2017 upon the election of a Labour Government; and
- (j) further welcomes the commitment that the next Labour Government will reset our energy market so it works for Britain’s families and businesses, with a new tough regulator to stop overcharging.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, 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) is appalled by the latest round of excessive hikes in energy prices and believes these have been caused by the last Government, who took the market from seventeen operators to the dominance of the big six;
- (b) welcomes the latest Government proposals, which will see average energy bills reduced by £50;
- (c) notes that this deal was reached while protecting the fuel poor and

maintaining support levels for green energy and believes that such a deal could not have been reached without Liberal Democrats in Government;

- (d) confirms that this latest announcement follows a number of measures already taken by the Government to tackle high energy bills, including:
 - (i) the ground-breaking Green Deal, including investment described by the Council's Cabinet Member for Environment as "fantastic news for Sheffield";
 - (ii) reversing the previous Government's planned cut to Cold Weather Payments, which are targeted at the most vulnerable;
 - (iii) promoting 'collective switching' and making it easier for households to switch providers;
 - (iv) reducing fuel bills for 2 million families by up to £130 through the Warm Home Discount;
 - (v) rolling out a 'smart meter' programme, which helps people save money and ensures energy companies meet demand more efficiently; and
 - (vi) working with Ofgem to investigate and tackle the big six's profits;
- (e) rejects spurious claims that rising energy prices are linked to green levies and highlights research which demonstrates that the Coalition Government's climate change policies will save consumers roughly £166 in energy bills by 2020;
- (f) believes the Labour Party's proposed price freeze is a con, which could risk blackouts and jeopardise green jobs as well as billions of pounds of investment in low carbon technology;
- (g) furthermore considers that energy companies will significantly hike prices in anticipation of a freeze and that in the long run a freeze will drive smaller operators out of the market, thereby reducing competition and actually upholding high prices;
- (h) recognises the work already undertaken by the Council to support local residents with energy bills including the previous Administration's Free Insulation Scheme, which insulated over 28,000 homes in Sheffield, and the Big Sheffield Switch;
- (i) however, calls on the current Administration to go further to support local residents struggling with high energy bills by:
 - (i) utilising underspends in the Council capital programme to create a £1 million Local Climate Change Fund, to support community micro-generation projects;

- (ii) maximising the use of collective switching, by repeating the Big Sheffield Switch;
- (iii) promoting the Green Deal, by encouraging local residents to make use of free household assessments; and
- (iv) investigating the use of public health funding to support elderly residents with improved insulation.

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

It was 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 (g) to (j) and the addition of new paragraphs (g) to (j) as follows:-

- (g) notes that recent budget amendments by the smaller opposition group would have meant lower bills for thousands of Sheffield residents if they had been supported by this Council;
- (h) is disappointed that this motion contains no suggestion of support from this Council to local residents other than support for promises of possible national action in 2015;
- (i) believes that the announcement of a future Price Freeze policy by The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP will lead to higher energy prices before 2015, adversely affecting the residents of Sheffield; and
- (j) calls on this Administration to produce a report as soon as possible on ways that it can help cut the energy bills of its residents.

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

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (h), (i) and (j) and against paragraph (g) of the above amendment and asked for this to be recorded.)

After a right of reply by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- a) believes Britain's energy market isn't working for ordinary families and businesses and the cost of electricity and gas is crippling their family finances;

- (b) regrets that energy bills have risen by almost £300 for families since 2010 and businesses say it's the second biggest cost they face and is concerned that when the price of energy increases energy companies pass this on, but when it drops consumers don't see their bills fall;
- (c) notes recent research by Which? estimating that flaws in the market have left consumers paying £3.9bn a year over the odds since 2010;
- (d) fully opposes the unfair price rises recently announced by the big energy companies including a 10.4% increase in Npower's dual-fuel bills from December, SSE increasing prices by 8.2% from 15th November, British Gas increasing their prices by 9.2% on 23rd November and Scottish Power raising prices by 8.6% from 6th December;
- (e) notes comments from the Chief Executive of Citizens Advice speaking about the SSE increase "The price rise will be a blow for stretched budgets ... Many households are facing a daily battle to try to make their frozen incomes cover mounting energy, food and travel costs. Further increases will push people into poverty.";
- (f) believes that the increases represent a rip-off and believes that the present Government have chosen to defend the big energy companies and have failed to stand up for the consumer;
- (g) regrets that the Council's main opposition group's spokesperson for energy has followed the line of the Conservative Party in defending the energy companies rather than Sheffield families and is extremely concerned by the following comments he made in "Lib Dem Voice" on 30th September, 2013 "No energy company has a duty to invest in anything" and "To say that energy prices are the fault of the energy companies is obviously on one level correct, but seems to imply that they have a duty to us rather than their shareholders when they set their prices. They have a legal duty not to operate a cartel, but beyond this they pitch their prices to maximise profits.";
- (h) believes that this demonstrates that the main opposition group is only concerned with defending the excessive profits of the big energy companies and has no concern for Sheffield's hard pressed families who are faced with extortionate increases in their energy bills;
- (i) welcomes the commitment by The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP to freeze energy bills until 2017 upon the election of a Labour Government; and
- (j) further welcomes the commitment that the next Labour Government will reset our energy market so it works for Britain's families and businesses, with a new tough regulator to stop overcharging.

(Note 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders

Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (a) and (d) and against paragraphs (b) and (c) and (e) to (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for paragraphs (a) to (f) and abstained on paragraphs (g) to (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

Apprenticeships

It was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Jackie Drayton, that this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the recent confirmation from the Department for Education that Sheffield has by far the highest percentage of young people undertaking apprenticeships of all Core Cities:
- | | | |
|---|------------|------|
| • | Sheffield | 7.8% |
| • | Liverpool | 5.6% |
| • | Nottingham | 5.2% |
| • | Leeds | 5% |
| • | Bristol | 4.9% |
| • | Newcastle | 3.5% |
| • | Manchester | 2.5% |
| • | Birmingham | 2.4% |
- (b) further welcomes that the rate currently being achieved is also among the highest of any local authority in England;
- (c) believes that the commitment to apprenticeships made by the current Administration has played a significant role in helping to achieve this success with policies such as:
- (i) a One Hundred Apprenticeship Programme for young people furthest from the jobs market;
- (ii) a locally developed Skills Made Easy apprenticeship programme, which this Council played a key role in designing, that seeks to create 4000 additional apprenticeships across the Sheffield City Region and uniquely puts the purchasing power for skills in the hands of business, thereby meeting the needs of the local economy, young people and the business community far better than national programmes;
- (iii) the RISE graduate internship programme, which encourages small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to take on graduates; and

- (iv) a pilot of a recently announced Employment and Skills event that will match young people with real jobs and advice on apprenticeships and other training offers;
- (d) further welcomes the City Region's success in securing the £5m Ambition Sheffield City Region bid, which this Administration also played a key role in designing and developing with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and local authority partners;
- (e) notes that the funding for the Ambition Sheffield City Region bid came from a reported huge £250 million underspend in the Deputy Prime Minister's flagship Youth Contract, with reports suggesting just a few thousand businesses had taken up the programme despite the target exceeding 250,000, and therefore welcomes the fact that the success of the Sheffield City Region Bid shows that the Coalition Government has belatedly recognised the success of Sheffield in tackling youth unemployment, and that local authorities and the LEP in this area are better placed to deliver employment programmes for young people;
- (f) believes that this Administration's commitment to apprenticeships and related programmes is good for the City's business community - helping to deliver the right skills to grow our economy and attract future inward investment – and helps to provide a positive future for our young people by giving them a more prosperous future, thereby representing real action on this Administration's priorities to be business friendly and focus on jobs;
- (g) further welcomes the fact that this commitment to apprenticeships is now reflected in the fact that the City has now seen the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETS) reduce to 6.5% - the first time the Council has recorded NEETS of below 7%;
- (h) therefore believes that this is a track record the City and its young people can be proud of and is therefore saddened that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Council's largest opposition group, instead of welcoming this fact and using it to promote the City to investors and the business community, recently chose to incorrectly state that Sheffield was lagging behind other cities on apprenticeships in order to seek short term political gain, despite the potential harm to the City's reputation that such misinformation could well cause;
- (i) confirms that the figures the Deputy Prime Minister and largest opposition group quoted for other cities were net total apprenticeships and that they compared this figure with net additional apprenticeships from the Skills Made Easy programme alone; and
- (j) therefore calls on the Deputy Prime Minister and largest opposition group to immediately make a genuine 'pledge' to stop running Sheffield down for political gain and start standing up for Sheffield alongside the current Administration.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland, 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) laments the appalling legacy of unemployment left by the last Government, including a 42% increase in youth unemployment between 1997 and 2010;
- (b) highlights that in the first year of the Coalition Government, spending on apprenticeships increased by £250 million – a 50% increase on the previous Government's commitments;
- (c) supports all measures to help young people in Sheffield into jobs, including the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, Rise Sheffield, the City Deal, the Youth Contract and University Technical Colleges;
- (d) regrets that the Administration have attempted to reduce policies that have cross-party support to party-political point scoring;
- (e) reminds the Administration that criticisms of its policies are not coming from the main opposition group but from local businesses and highlights comments from leaders in the business community such as claims that the Council is "closing its doors for business" and has "lost touch with the business reality of the 21st Century";
- (f) believes that the only people 'running Sheffield down' are the cynical politicians in the Labour Party, including:
 - (i) the local Labour MP who predicted there would be a "post-soviet meltdown" in the city;
 - (ii) the same Labour MP who – as reported by the BBC – warned of race riots on the streets of Sheffield; and
 - (iii) the current Labour Leader of the Council who wrote to a national publication to claim there would be "Rising crime, increasing community tension and ... the break up of civil society" in Sheffield; and
- (g) condemns the cynical hypocrisy of politicians in the ruling group and their attempts to yet again gag any opposition to their Administration.

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

It was then moved by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, seconded by Councillor Denise Fox, as an amendment that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (g) and the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows:-

- (g) further welcomes the fact that this commitment to apprenticeships is now reflected in the fact that the City has seen the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETS) reduce first to 6.5% and, according to the very latest figures, reduce to 6.2% - the first time the Council has recorded NEETS of below 7%;

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

After a Right of Reply from Councillor Leigh Bramall, the original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the recent confirmation from the Department for Education that Sheffield has by far the highest percentage of young people undertaking apprenticeships of all Core Cities:

•	Sheffield	7.8%
•	Liverpool	5.6%
•	Nottingham	5.2%
•	Leeds	5%
•	Bristol	4.9%
•	Newcastle	3.5%
•	Manchester	2.5%
•	Birmingham	2.4%

- (b) further welcomes that the rate currently being achieved is also among the highest of any local authority in England;

- (c) believes that the commitment to apprenticeships made by the current Administration has played a significant role in helping to achieve this success with policies such as:

- (i) a One Hundred Apprenticeship Programme for young people furthest from the jobs market;
- (ii) a locally developed Skills Made Easy apprenticeship programme, which this Council played a key role in designing, that seeks to create 4000 additional apprenticeships across the Sheffield City Region and uniquely puts the purchasing power for skills in the hands of business, thereby meeting the needs of the local economy, young people and the business community far better than national programmes;
- (iii) the RISE graduate internship programme, which encourages small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to take on graduates; and
- (iv) a pilot of a recently announced Employment and Skills event that

will match young people with real jobs and advice on apprenticeships and other training offers;

- (d) further welcomes the City Region's success in securing the £5m Ambition Sheffield City Region bid, which this Administration also played a key role in designing and developing with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and local authority partners;
- (e) notes that the funding for the Ambition Sheffield City Region bid came from a reported huge £250 million underspend in the Deputy Prime Minister's flagship Youth Contract, with reports suggesting just a few thousand businesses had taken up the programme despite the target exceeding 250,000, and therefore welcomes the fact that the success of the Sheffield City Region Bid shows that the Coalition Government has belatedly recognised the success of Sheffield in tackling youth unemployment, and that local authorities and the LEP in this area are better placed to deliver employment programmes for young people;
- (f) believes that this Administration's commitment to apprenticeships and related programmes is good for the City's business community - helping to deliver the right skills to grow our economy and attract future inward investment – and helps to provide a positive future for our young people by giving them a more prosperous future, thereby representing real action on this Administration's priorities to be business friendly and focus on jobs;
- (g) further welcomes the fact that this commitment to apprenticeships is now reflected in the fact that the City has seen the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETS) reduce first to 6.5% and, according to the very latest figures, reduce to 6.2% - the first time the Council has recorded NEETS of below 7%;
- (h) therefore believes that this is a track record the City and its young people can be proud of and is therefore saddened that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Council's largest opposition group, instead of welcoming this fact and using it to promote the City to investors and the business community, recently chose to incorrectly state that Sheffield was lagging behind other cities on apprenticeships in order to seek short term political gain, despite the potential harm to the City's reputation that such misinformation could well cause;
- (i) confirms that the figures the Deputy Prime Minister and largest opposition group quoted for other cities were net total apprenticeships and that they compared this figure with net additional apprenticeships from the Skills Made Easy programme alone; and
- (j) therefore calls on the Deputy Prime Minister and largest opposition group to immediately make a genuine 'pledge' to stop running Sheffield down for political gain and start standing up for Sheffield alongside the current Administration.

(Note 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (a) and (b) and against paragraphs (c) to (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for paragraphs (a) to (g) and abstained on paragraphs (h) to (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN

Energy Prices (2)

At the request of Councillor Joe Otten (the mover of the Motion) and with the consent of the Council, the Notice of Motion Numbered 12 on the Summons for this meeting was withdrawn.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CLIVE SKELTON

British Nuclear Tests Veterans

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

- (a) recognises the contribution that our serving armed forces and veterans make to our communities;
- (b) notes that its commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant ensures the needs of those residents of Sheffield who serve or have served the country are recognised and supported at a local level;
- (c) congratulates everybody involved in delivering many successful activities in Sheffield, as demonstrated by the inclusion of eleven Sheffield examples in the Royal British Legion's Best Practice Guide to Community Covenants (September 2013);
- (d) further notes that many other residents have, through a range of professions, served the country in equally significant measure in national security and defence – including those who participated in the testing of Britain's nuclear weapons in the 1950s and 1960s;
- (e) welcomes that, following a Ministry of Defence commissioned Health Needs Analysis in 2011 of British nuclear test veterans, the NHS has introduced a number of practical measures to support them;

- (f) believes that other parts of the public and voluntary sector should seek to introduce similar measures to support nuclear test veterans – and that the Council should lead this at a local level by extending the provisions of the Armed Forces Community Covenant to those veterans who live in Sheffield;
- (g) urges the Government to support the campaign of the British Nuclear Tests Veterans' Association by:
 - (i) officially recognising the unique service of these veterans and acknowledge the nation's continuing debt to them; and
 - (ii) supporting the intention to establish a Benevolent Fund of £25million to provide assistance for those veterans and their descendants in need; and
- (h) agrees to ask all the Sheffield MPs to back this campaign and join the Council in urging the Government to support the requests outlined in paragraph (g) above.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

Women of Steel Statue

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

- (a) notes that the Council launched an appeal in February 2013 to raise the £150,000 needed to install the Women of Steel statue, designed by artist Martin Jennings, at Barkers Pool, outside the City Hall;
- (b) believes that this statue will be a fitting tribute to the women of Sheffield who worked in the steelworks and factories through both world wars and were vital contributors to the war effort;
- (c) further believes that this statue and the story it represents will be an inspiration to the present and future women of Sheffield;
- (d) congratulates the performers, organisers and benefactors who between them raised over £60,000 towards the cost of the statue at the recent fundraising concert; and
- (e) urges the people of Sheffield to continue to contribute in many ways to achieve the target which is needed to pay for the statue so that it can be in place during the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)

At the request of Councillor Jillian Creasy (the mover of the Motion) and with the consent of the Council, the Notice of Motion Numbered 15 on the Summons for this meeting was withdrawn.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DIANA STIMELY

Car Parking Initiatives

It was moved by Councillor Diana Stimely, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls motions from the main opposition group in December 2011 and December 2012, calling on the Administration to support local businesses by repeating the previous Administration's Free Christmas Parking scheme;
- (b) notes that other cities and towns, including neighbouring Rotherham, continue to offer free parking schemes in the run up to Christmas;
- (c) reminds Members that proposals in the main opposition group's budget amendment would have provided funding for the provision of free Christmas parking;
- (d) regrets that instead of supporting local traders, this anti-business, anti-car Administration have hiked many city-centre parking charges; and
- (e) calls upon the Administration to reconsider its Christmas policy to re-introduce free Christmas parking in the city and district centres.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor David Baker, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (e) and the addition of new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows:-

- (e) welcomes the Administration's decision to re-introduce free Christmas parking and accepts this as an admission of the failure of their parking policies; and
- (f) urges the Administration to now undertake a full review of city-centre parking, including recent hikes, which were branded 'disgraceful' and 'killing' by local businesses.

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

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for paragraph (f) and against paragraph (e) of the above amendment and asked for this to be recorded.)

It was then moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Neale Gibson, as 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) welcomes the current Administration's announcement last week of a 'Free from Three' parking scheme in the run up to Christmas to provide free parking from 3pm on the Wednesdays in December up to Christmas Day, for on-street and off street parking in the city centre;
- (b) further welcomes the announcement of a first ever trial of a Parking Payback scheme in Broomhill, developed with Broomhill traders, to launch in December;
- (c) notes that the current Administration has also reduced most off-street Council car park fees by up to 50% and has reduced off-prime on-street fees, compared to those levied by the previous Administration;
- (d) further notes that the previous Administration increased parking fees in all but one year of their term, and used Government funding that the Coalition has now cut to fund free Christmas parking schemes; and
- (e) therefore welcomes the current Administration's commitments to be business friendly and focus on jobs, and believes the new parking initiatives recently announced, along with the successful Summer Saturdays programme of activities in the city centre between July and September, demonstrate real action from the Council in the face of unprecedented cuts from the Coalition Government.

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

(Note Councillors Robert Murphy and Jillian Creasy voted for paragraph (b), against paragraphs (a) and (e) and abstained on paragraphs (c) and (d) of the above amendment, and asked for this to be recorded.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the current Administration's announcement last week of a 'Free from Three' parking scheme in the run up to Christmas to provide free parking from 3pm on the Wednesdays in December up to Christmas Day, for on-street and off street parking in the city centre;
- (b) further welcomes the announcement of a first ever trial of a Parking Payback scheme in Broomhill, developed with Broomhill traders, to launch in December;
- (c) notes that the current Administration has also reduced most off-street

Council car park fees by up to 50% and has reduced off-prime on-street fees, compared to those levied by the previous Administration;

- (d) further notes that the previous Administration increased parking fees in all but one year of their term, and used Government funding that the Coalition has now cut to fund free Christmas parking schemes; and
- (e) therefore welcomes the current Administration's commitments to be business friendly and focus on jobs, and believes the new parking initiatives recently announced, along with the successful Summer Saturdays programme of activities in the city centre between July and September, demonstrate real action from the Council in the face of unprecedented cuts from the Coalition Government.

(Note 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (a) and (b) and against paragraphs (c) to (e) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

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

17. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BRYAN LODGE

Sporting Success

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Isobel Bowler, seconded by Councillor Mick Rooney, that this Council:-

- (a) congratulates the following Sheffield sportsmen, sportswomen and teams who have achieved notable success in 2013:
 - (i) Nick Matthews, third time World Squash Champion;
 - (ii) Matthew Fitzpatrick, US Amateur Golf Champion;
 - (iii) Peter James Hallam, Junior Men's British Figure Skating Champion;
 - (iv) Matthew Johnson, City of Sheffield swimmer, member of the British Junior World Champion Relay Team;
 - (v) Sheffield Trampoline Academy, two World Champions, Bryony Page and Lucy Horan;

- (vi) Sheffield Eagles, the first side to win back to back Rugby League Championship Grand Finals;
 - (vii) City of Sheffield Diving Club, Top Boy and Girls Teams in British Diving Talent Games; and
 - (viii) Sheffield FC, inaugural winners of the Pioneers Cup, against teams from Italy and Spain;
- (b) believes these achievements highlight the contribution Sheffield sport clubs and individuals make to the City and thanks performers, officials, and volunteers for their hard work and commitment; and
- (c) directs that a copy of this Motion be sent to the named clubs and that letters of congratulations be sent to those mentioned above who have received individual awards.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROB FROST

Sports Pitches

It was moved by Councillor Rob Frost, seconded by Councillor David Baker, that this Council:-

- (a) believes it is important to support grassroots sport within the city for its well documented community, public health and emotional wellbeing benefits;
- (b) notes the shocking condition of many Council-owned football pitches across Sheffield and considers this a barrier to grassroots participation;
- (c) welcomes the announcement by the Coalition Government, alongside the Football Association and the Premier League, to invest £102 million in grassroots football facilities; and
- (d) calls upon the Administration to bid into this fund to radically improve grassroots football facilities in Sheffield, the home of football.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Isobel Bowler, seconded by Councillor David Barker, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (d) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (d) as follows:-

- (b) welcomes the £4m the Council has secured in recent years from the Football Association and the Football Foundation, enabling investment in pitches across the city from Topley to Bawtry Road and Parsons Cross to Norfolk Park;

- (c) confirms that the Council is working with governing bodies and Sport England on identifying and funding the next wave of improvements; and
- (d) regrets the significant Government cuts to Sheffield's funding which have resulted in a reduction in the parks budget of £4m since 2010 and further regrets the resulting impact on maintenance and investment budgets for our parks, including sports pitches.

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) believes it is important to support grassroots sport within the city for its well documented community, public health and emotional wellbeing benefits;
- (b) welcomes the £4m the Council has secured in recent years from the Football Association and the Football Foundation, enabling investment in pitches across the city from Totley to Bawtry Road and Parsons Cross to Norfolk Park;
- (c) confirms that the Council is working with governing bodies and Sport England on identifying and funding the next wave of improvements; and
- (d) regrets the significant Government cuts to Sheffield's funding which have resulted in a reduction in the parks budget of £4m since 2010 and further regrets the resulting impact on maintenance and investment budgets for our parks, including sports pitches.

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Rob Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Penny Baker, Diana Stimely, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Denise Reaney, Ian Auckland, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) and against paragraph (d) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROBERT MURPHY

Cycle Carriage On Tram/Trains

It was moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian

Creasy, that this Council:-

- (a) notes recent research that showed Sheffield is one of the most congested cities in the country and that congestion is growing;
- (b) notes the recent plans for rail improvements at Dore junction station which will increase capacity on the Hope Valley line and is glad to support these moves which are long overdue;
- (c) believes that when complete the improvements will open opportunities to re-open rail stations such as Heeley, Millhouses and Totley Brook as well as improving journey times and reliability of Trans Pennine services;
- (d) regrets the decision of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) not to approve provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Train vehicles, thereby missing an opportunity to show its support for integrated transport and lead the way with this national pilot;
- (e) reaffirms this Council's support for provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Trains and believes the SYITA decision will reduce support for a Tram/Train extension alongside the current track bed to the south of Sheffield in favour of heavy rail; and
- (f) directs that a copy of this Motion be sent to the SYITA, Stagecoach Supertram and Network Rail.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Robert Johnson, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraph (a) and the addition of a new paragraph (a) as follows:-
 - (a) notes that Government figures show that Sheffield has lower levels of congestion than most other Core Cities;
- 2. the deletion of paragraph (e) and the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-
 - (e) reaffirms this Council's support for provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Trains and regrets the SYITA decision to reject a Tram/Train vehicle design that would have allowed the carriage of cycles to be trialled.

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, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that Government figures show that Sheffield has lower levels of congestion than most other Core Cities;
- (b) notes the recent plans for rail improvements at Dore junction station which will increase capacity on the Hope Valley line and is glad to support these moves which are long overdue;
- (c) believes that when complete the improvements will open opportunities to re-open rail stations such as Heeley, Millhouses and Totley Brook as well as improving journey times and reliability of Trans Pennine services;
- (d) regrets the decision of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) not to approve provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Train vehicles, thereby missing an opportunity to show its support for integrated transport and lead the way with this national pilot;
- (e) reaffirms this Council's support for provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Trains and regrets the SYITA decision to reject a Tram/Train vehicle design that would have allowed the carriage of cycles to be trialled; and
- (f) directs that a copy of this Motion be sent to the SYITA, Stagecoach Supertram and Network Rail.