

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 2 September 2015, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Talib Hussain)
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Denise Fox)

1	<i>Arbourthorne Ward</i> Julie Dore Mike Drabble Jack Scott	10	<i>Dore & Totley Ward</i> Joe Otten Colin Ross Martin Smith	19	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> David Barker Isobel Bowler Tony Downing
2	<i>Beauchief & Greenhill Ward</i> Julie Gledhill Roy Munn Richard Shaw	11	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Joyce Wright	20	<i>Nether Edge Ward</i> Nasima Akther Nikki Bond Mohammad Maroof
3	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Helen Mirfin-Boukouris Chris Rosling-Josephs Ian Saunders	12	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Penny Baker Roger Davison Shaffaq Mohammed	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> John Campbell Lynn Rooney Paul Wood
4	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	13	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Sheila Constance Alan Law Garry Weatherall	22	<i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i> Peter Price Sioned-Mair Richards Peter Rippon
5	<i>Broomhill Ward</i> Jayne Dunn Aodan Marken Brian Webster	14	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	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> Steve Jones Cate McDonald Chris Peace	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Katie Condliffe Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Central Ward</i> Lewis Dagnall Robert Murphy Sarah Jane Smalley	16	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Ian Auckland Steve Ayris	25	<i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i> Jack Clarkson Richard Crowther Keith Davis
8	<i>Crookes Ward</i> Rob Frost Anne Murphy Geoff Smith	17	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond Josie Paszek	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Olivia Blake Ben Curran Neale Gibson
9	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Dianne Hurst Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea	18	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Jenny Armstrong Terry Fox Pat Midgley	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> John Booker Adam Hurst
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Ray Satur

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pauline Andrews, Denise Reaney, Zoe Sykes and Steve Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ray Satur declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item of business numbered 8 on the Summons (Notice of Motion Concerning Changes to Bus Services) as he was employed by First Bus.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st July 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Lord Mayor's Communications

Councillors Shaffaq Mohammed and Andrew Sangar

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Talib Hussain) reported that Councillors Shaffaq Mohammed and Andrew Sangar had both been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Dissolution Honours List 2015 for political service and congratulated both of them on behalf of the Council.

Councillors Jack Scott and Jenny Armstrong

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Talib Hussain), on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillors Jack Scott and Jenny Armstrong, who were recently married.

4.2 Petitions

Petition Opposing Cuts in Bus Services (1)

The Council received a petition containing 815 signatures opposing the cuts in bus services.

Representations of behalf of the petitioners were made by Sharron Milsom who stated that the proposals regarding bus services represented cuts of between 8 and 10 percent and although some concessions had been made in respect of certain bus services, most of the reductions were to be implemented. The South

Yorkshire Passenger Transport website referred to the proposals as service improvements, which she stated was confusing and misleading. There was no way of seeing what was planned in relation to bus services and most people seemed to be unaware of the changes. The consultation regarding the proposals had been inadequate. The consequences for disabled people were of concern in circumstances where parts of some bus routes had been removed. Whilst the dial a ride service was provided for people who had difficulty using mainstream public transport, this was limited to two pre-booked journeys each week. She questioned whether the Equalities Impact Assessment relating to the changes had been adequate and stated that the changes should be halted and that further consultation was required.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Terry Fox, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.

Petition Opposing Cuts in Bus Services (2)

The Council received a petition containing 2817 signatures opposing the cuts in bus services.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Andy Nash. He stated that people had heard about changes to bus services too late and some places would cease to be connected by bus services. He made specific reference to service numbers 83 and 70. The reduction in bus services might result in increased car use and contribute to congestion and air pollution and many people would be affected, including people wishing to travel to hospital, older people and disabled people. Those on low income or working part time would be particularly affected. The consultation had not been effective as it had taken place over a short time period and people had been given only a limited time to respond. There was not useful information regarding the changes on bus stops, except for timetables. Clear information was required so that people were informed of changes to bus services. He stated that he believed Sheffield had taken a backward step in comparison to other cities and that people's views should be taken into consideration.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Terry Fox, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Councillor Fox stated that the consultation could have been better in respect of how it was done, where it took place and who was involved. There was publicity regarding the changes to services and the Council had talked to service users. An Equalities Impact Assessment was also considered. Members had a statutory duty to take account of the protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010.

The proposals sought to establish a stable public transport network and there had been over 2 million additional paying passengers within the voluntary partnership agreement in Sheffield. It was considered a requirement that in Sheffield there should be a city wide multi-use ticket, priced at £2 per day and for an additional £1, tram travel would be included. This represented a reduction in the cost of bus fares. Having been re-examined, a bus service would go from Dore to the Hallamshire Hospital. Councillor Fox also stated that a strategy for low emission

zones would be released soon. Councillor Fox concluded by saying that consultation could and should be done better.

Petition Requesting a Review of the COMPASS Asylum Housing Contract

The Council received a petition containing 37 signatures requesting a review of the COMPASS asylum housing contract.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were received from John Grayson. He referred to a motion passed by Glasgow City Council, which had called for an urgent review of the COMPASS contract for asylum housing. The petition requested Sheffield City Council to also pass a motion calling for such a review. Such a motion would include the preparation of proposals for the Home Office asylum housing contract, which was in line with the needs of people seeking asylum, ahead of the renewal of the contract which would take place in 2017.

Mr Grayson said that G4S had a poor record with regards the implementation of the contract for asylum housing in Sheffield, including rats in houses and asbestos and referred to the impact on people's health, treatment of women who were pregnant and of people forced to share a bedroom. He referred to a specific case to illustrate the treatment of an asylum seeker by housing them in a poor quality property and made reference to the Home Affairs Select Committee's opinion of the quality of provision by G4S. Mr Grayson stated that there was an opportunity for the Council and other partner organisations to develop a good contract for asylum housing which the Home Office could put forward.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Housing. Councillor Dunn stated that she fully supported the points that had been made. She reassured the petitioners that Council officers would meet with the Home Office in the next few weeks and agreed that discussion was needed concerning the quality of housing for asylum seekers. With regard to shared rooms, a legal agreement was being put together and a motion would be put to a Council meeting on the subject of accommodation for asylum seekers.

4.3 Public Questions

Public Question Concerning Accommodation for Asylum Seekers

Stuart Crosthwaite stated that at the Council meeting on 25 March 2015, Councillor Mazher Iqbal had said that the Council would end the practice of forced bedroom sharing in asylum housing in Sheffield. He asked when the City Council would be taking steps to end the practice of G4S forcing bedroom sharing by amending the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licenses of existing G4S properties so as to ban bedroom sharing.

Violet Dickenson asked how many asylum seekers in G4S housing had been affected by the practice of room sharing.

Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Housing, responded by stating that she would like to reassure people that a new system relating to asylum

accommodation would be in place by the end of September 2015. New asylum seekers were not being placed in shared bedrooms.

Public Question Concerning Highways Construction in High Green

Barrie Bellamy, representing High Green Development Trust, stated that highways construction works were taking place on Pack Horse Lane in connection with the building of a new leisure centre and he asked why stakeholders had not been involved or given an opportunity to put their opinions.

Councillor Terry Fox, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, stated that he had spoken with the relevant Council officers in this regard and as a result, the officers would be meeting with people locally, including the ward Councillors as part of a site visit to ascertain the impact of the highways works. The local Councillors would report the outcome of that site visit to him as Cabinet Member.

Public Question Concerning Costs of Property Repairs

Richard Perks stated that he was a leaseholder living in a property in Parson Cross and the block in which he lived consisted of six flats. A new door entry system was recently installed by Kier, using sub-contractors and the charge to the Council was £13,734 for each door. The Council had also signed an agreement with a Burnley based company for roofing repairs to Council properties in the north of Sheffield only. The charge was £67,976,206.27. He asked how the Council could justify such charges in an age of austerity.

Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Housing, stated that the quote to leaseholders to which Mr Perks had referred was being reviewed. The roofing repairs work was subject to a competitive tender and included the roofing works, replacement of roofs and insulation for 32,000 homes. Councillor Dunn said that she would send a detailed response to Mr Perks in writing.

Public Question Concerning Bus Service to Longley Hall Farm

Lisa Banes referred to the withdrawal of buses to Longley Hall estate which would affect people including older and disabled people, who would have to walk a mile to access a bus route.

Councillor Terry Fox, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, stated that routes to the community on Longley Hall Farm were to be restored and he thanked local people in that area who took part in the consultation regarding proposals for bus services.

Public Questions Concerning Child Protection

Martin Brighton stated that the Council Leader had said in June that it was Council policy that complainants or whistleblowers must not be targeted and gagged. He asked if the Council could confirm, with evidence, that those who have reported possible and actual abuse of school pupils have not been targeted or gagged.

Mr Brighton stated that on 3 December 2014, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, stated “if any concerns about child protection, please get in touch with me”. He asked: has any person or group since then raised any such concerns and have those concerns since been resolved; and given the local and regional current and historical concerns about child safeguarding, can the Council be absolutely certain that there are not, nor have been any attempts made to cover up reports of child safeguarding concerns in any way, including suppressing the complaints or targeting the complainants?

Councillor Jackie Drayton, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, stated that her response to Mr Brighton had referred to him informing her as Cabinet Member, if he had concerns relating to a child protection matter. She said that Mr Brighton had not contacted her in this regard. However, if he did have such concerns, he should make contact with her.

Public Question Concerning Organisational Culture and Whistleblowing

Martin Brighton stated that from the Government response to the 9th Report of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee 2014/15, the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council ruling party and administration were determined as having an ingrained culture of bullying, intimidation and denial. He asked, how is the Sheffield City Council ruling party any different?

Paragraphs 74 and 75 of that report refer to examination of the conduct of Rotherham Borough Council officers who now work for other authorities and also of councillors in other authorities whose history determined culpability of wilful neglect and calls for investigation into those persons. Given the Council’s response to him from 5 November 2008, and since, how much progress has been made on the Government’s recommendations referred to in paragraphs 74 and 75, whilst ensuring politically independent scrutiny compliant to paragraph 78 and whistleblowing compliance to paragraph 80?

Public Question Concerning Resolution of Issues

Martin Brighton stated that in the Chamber, the Council Leader was asked how many of the issues raised by him via questions to the Council Leader had been resolved. The Leader declined to say. However, he stated that, had the Leader said ‘one’, it would have been a gross exaggeration. He asked “would the Leader please explain this giant zero to this Chamber.”

Public Question Concerning ‘Whitelisting’

Mr Brighton requested that the Council note that the practice of whitelisting has been seen working within the housing department and take appropriate action.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded to all of the questions which Mr Brighton had asked and informed him that in view of the serious nature of the issues raised, he would receive a written response and this would also apply to questions asked at Cabinet meetings.

Petition

Petition requesting the Felling of a Tree Outside Nos. 6 and 8 Eyncourt Road

The Council received a petition containing 17 signatures requesting the felling of a tree outside Nos. 6 and 8 Eyncourt Road. There was no speaker to the petition.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Terry Fox, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Councillor Fox responded that the petition showed that there were different views and circumstances relating to trees and that a balanced view was required.

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 or Pensions 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 Peter Rippon, that (a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Boards, etc.

Overview and Scrutiny - Councillor Denise Fox to fill a vacancy
Management Committee

Scrutiny Committee Substitute - Councillor Ian Auckland to fill a vacancy
Members

Planning and Highways Committee - Councillor Jack Scott to fill a vacancy
Substitute Members

- Standards Committee Substitute Members - Councillor Peter Price to fill a vacancy
- Hillsborough Local Area Partnership Lead Ward Member - Councillor Josie Paszek to fill a vacancy
- Ecclesall Local Area Partnership Lead Ward Member - Councillor Roger Davison to replace Councillor Penny Baker
- Stocksbridge and Upper Don Local Area Partnership Lead Ward Member - Councillor Keith Davis to fill a vacancy
- Joint Advisory Committee for the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service - Councillor Katie Condliffe to fill a vacancy
- South Yorkshire Joint Advisory Committee on Archives - Councillor Katie Condliffe to fill a vacancy

(b) representatives be appointed to serve on other bodies as follows:-

- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Councillor Steve Ayris to replace Councillor Colin Ross
- Sheffield Lyceum Trust Ltd - Councillor Jackie Drayton to fill a vacancy
- Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust - Councillor Bryan Lodge to fill a vacancy
- Southey/Owlerton Area Regeneration Board - Councillor Garry Weatherall to fill a vacancy
- Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee - Councillor Julie Gledhill to fill a vacancy
- Robin Hood Airport Joint Consultative Committee - Councillor Ian Saunders to fill a vacancy
- Poors Land (Ecclesall Bierlow Charity) - Mr Mike Pye and Mr John Neil to fill vacancies

(c) Jules Jones be re-appointed to serve as a Parent Governor Representative on the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee until 31/7/2016.

(d) Alice Riddell be appointed to serve as a Healthwatch representative observer on the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

7. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

The Council received and noted the Annual Report of the Standards Committee which described the work the Committee had undertaken during the Municipal Year 2014/15.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND

Changes to Bus Services

It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Vickie Priestley, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the recent Sheffield Bus Partnership's public consultation into proposed changes to bus services around Sheffield which ended on 31st July 2015;
- (b) believes that if Sheffield Bus Partnership's proposed changes to bus services go ahead, thousands of people from all across the city face being cut off from the services they need the most, such as hospitals, doctors surgeries, shops and schools, and will leave many residents with, at best hourly, and at worst, no Sunday or evening services at all;
- (c) is concerned that many Sheffield residents who will be affected by the changes have been denied a say due to a number of reasons such as:-
 - (i) the poor timing of the bus consultation during holiday season when many people who rely on buses will be away or off work;
 - (ii) inadequate advertising of the consultation including limited and late publicity on many of the buses that serve routes facing cuts; and
 - (iii) the short consultation period of 25 days (23 days if replying by post), when Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (Councillor Terry Fox) had up to 40 days to give his response to the proposals;
- (d) notes the Sheffield Liberal Democrats' own bus survey which has received over 3500 replies so far, more than Sheffield Bus Partnership's own consultation;
- (e) welcomes the response from SYPTE to the consultation, reconsidering many of the proposed changes, but believes that this does not go far enough;
- (f) calls for a delay in any changes to bus services until another longer, better advertised, consultation is carried out; and

- (g) calls for a "statutory quality contract" system of bus services to be applied in Sheffield.

(Note: Councillor Julie Dore raised a point of order under Council Procedure Rule 17.14 relating to the accuracy of paragraph (d) of the motion as published in the Summons for this meeting.

With the approval of Council and at the request of Councillor Ian Auckland (the mover of the motion), an alteration was made to the form of the above motion as published in the Summons in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.9. The alteration deleted the original Paragraph (d) as published in the Summons and resulted in the re-lettering of the following remaining paragraphs (e) to (h) as paragraphs (d) to (g).)

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

1. the addition of a new paragraph (b) as follows:-

“(b) recognises the need to better organise bus services in Sheffield and welcomes the efforts to do so on behalf of the Sheffield Bus Partnership, however;”

2. the deletion of all the words after the words “the short consultation period of 25 days (23 days if replying by post)” in original paragraph (c)(iii);

3. the addition of a new paragraph (c)(iv) as follows:-

“(c)(iv) the very limited information provided on the reasoning behind the review and specific proposals;”

4. the relettering of original paragraphs (b) and (c) as new paragraphs (c) and (d);

5. the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (g) “, targeting communications to passengers on routes still affected by changes and setting out options with clear information on reasoning behind the proposals”.

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

It was then moved by Councillor Terry Fox, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore, 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 addition of the following words:-

- “(a) notes reports that across the country, bus routes have been reduced and cut back, leading to drastic reductions in bus patronage across the country

and acknowledges that this issue has been prominent in national media in recent weeks;

- (b) welcomes that due to action taken through the Bus Partnership Agreement, Sheffield has bucked this trend, however, regrets that as Sheffield and Sheffield City Region as a whole has been hit hard due to Government cuts, it has not been possible to exempt Sheffield and the wider region from reductions in services, which will inevitably have an impact on routes;
- (c) welcomes that instead of complaining on the sidelines, the present Administration has taken action to listen to local feedback and force changes from the original proposals and secure the new £2 per day weekly ticket which ensures local people can travel on any local bus service at a price which has been cut by 17%;
- (d) recalls comments by former Liberal Democrat Transport Minister, Norman Baker, "The Sheffield Bus Agreement is good news for the city and shows what can be achieved when local councils, bus operators and transport authorities work together for the benefit of passengers. This partnership will transform passengers' experience by making bus travel easier and cheaper" and recalls that the Liberal Democrats in government favoured pursuing the Bus Partnership Agreement, making it extremely difficult for local authorities to deliver a workable Quality Contract scheme; and
- (e) supports measures that would genuinely bring bus services back under local control which are not currently in place through the statutory Quality Contract."

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

Following a Right of Reply by 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) notes reports that across the country, bus routes have been reduced and cut back, leading to drastic reductions in bus patronage across the country and acknowledges that this issue has been prominent in national media in recent weeks;
- (b) welcomes that due to action taken through the Bus Partnership Agreement, Sheffield has bucked this trend, however, regrets that as Sheffield and Sheffield City Region as a whole has been hit hard due to Government cuts, it has not been possible to exempt Sheffield and the wider region from reductions in services, which will inevitably have an impact on routes;
- (c) welcomes that instead of complaining on the sidelines, the present Administration has taken action to listen to local feedback and force

changes from the original proposals and secure the new £2 per day weekly ticket which ensures local people can travel on any local bus service at a price which has been cut by 17%;

- (d) recalls comments by former Liberal Democrat Transport Minister, Norman Baker, "The Sheffield Bus Agreement is good news for the city and shows what can be achieved when local councils, bus operators and transport authorities work together for the benefit of passengers. This partnership will transform passengers' experience by making bus travel easier and cheaper" and recalls that the Liberal Democrats in government favoured pursuing the Bus Partnership Agreement, making it extremely difficult for local authorities to deliver a workable Quality Contract scheme; and
- (e) supports measures that would genuinely bring bus services back under local control which are not currently in place through the statutory Quality Contract.

(Note: 1. Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for paragraph (a) and abstained on paragraphs (b) to (e) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

Sheffield Money

It was moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith, that this Council:-

- (a) is concerned that there are around 50,000 Sheffield residents who are reliant on exploitative payday and doorstep lenders;
- (b) welcomes the establishment of Sheffield Money and believes it will make a valuable contribution in helping people escape the lure of unscrupulous lenders in the City;
- (c) believes that Sheffield Money will:
 - (i) play a key role in helping people to access affordable credit; and
 - (ii) help to tackle the root causes of personal debt by referring people to independent money and debt advice;
- (d) is encouraged that more than 250 people contacted the service in its first week of business; and
- (e) is delighted that the Sheffield Money team have already been recognised

by providers and customers as being knowledgeable and very professional.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows:-

- (f) whilst welcoming the establishment of Sheffield Money and wishing it success, suggests that regular reports on the state of Sheffield Money be brought to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

(Note: with the agreement of Council and at the request of Councillor Andrew Sanger (the mover of the amendment), in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.9, the above amendment as published in the List of Amendments Received by the Chief Executive was altered by the deletion of all of the words after the words "Scrutiny Committee".)

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

Following a Right of Reply by 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) is concerned that there are around 50,000 Sheffield residents who are reliant on exploitative payday and doorstep lenders;
- (b) welcomes the establishment of Sheffield Money and believes it will make a valuable contribution in helping people escape the lure of unscrupulous lenders in the City;
- (c) believes that Sheffield Money will:
 - (i) play a key role in helping people to access affordable credit; and
 - (ii) help to tackle the root causes of personal debt by referring people to independent money and debt advice;
- (d) is encouraged that more than 250 people contacted the service in its first week of business;
- (e) is delighted that the Sheffield Money team have already been recognised by providers and customers as being knowledgeable and very professional; and
- (f) whilst welcoming the establishment of Sheffield Money and wishing it success, suggests that regular reports on the state of Sheffield Money be brought to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

(Note: Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane

Smalley voted for paragraphs (a), (c) (ii), (d) and (f) and abstained on paragraphs (b), (c) (i) and (e) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

10. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JACKIE DRAYTON

Welfare Reform and Child Poverty

It was moved by Councillor Jackie Drayton, seconded by Councillor Mike Drabble, that this Council:-

- (a) is disappointed that as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill the Government is planning to:-
 - (i) scrap binding, measurable targets to reduce child poverty;
 - (ii) stop setting targets that aim to reduce the proportion of households with a below average income;
 - (iii) repeal the majority of the Child Poverty Act, including all the targets, the provision for the Child Poverty Commission (replacing it with a Social Mobility Commission), and the duty to publish UK and local child poverty strategies; and
 - (iv) remove the word 'poverty' from the relevant legislation, renaming the Child Poverty Act 2010 the Life Chances Act 2010;
- (b) believes the Government should amend the proposals set out in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill as follows:-
 - (i) include targets against all measures so that government can be held to account for progress and we are all clear about the amount of change that is needed and by when it is needed;
 - (ii) retain the four income related measures (and the additional severe poverty measure set out in the national child poverty strategy) in addition to any new measures;
 - (iii) ensure that families who are working and in poverty are included in the measures used;
 - (iv) retain the legal duties for local authorities and named partners to cooperate to reduce and mitigate child poverty;
 - (v) retain the word 'poverty' in the name of the Act; and
 - (vi) ensure that there is sufficient time to debate and propose amendments to the elements of the Bill relating to changes to the Child Poverty Act as well as the other changes contained within the Bill;

- (c) notes the recent report by the New Policy Institute whose analysis estimates that a further 300,000 children are living in poverty since the Conservative/Lib Dem Coalition Government implemented a raft of welfare cuts in April 2013;
- (d) notes the findings of research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University last year which found that households with children in Sheffield will have lost on average £1,690 per year as a result of the Coalition Government's welfare cuts;
- (e) is concerned that more children will be pushed into poverty over this Parliament as a result of the further cuts to working-age benefits announced in the Chancellor's Budget;
- (f) agrees with the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Resolution Foundation that cuts to tax credits will lead to increases in child poverty;
- (g) agrees with the Child Poverty Action Group that "No serious plan for the low-paid begins with making them poorer by cutting their tax credits";
- (h) notes the recent report by the Resolution Foundation that showed that two-thirds of those affected by the cuts to tax credits are in work;
- (i) believes that tax credits:-
 - (i) improve the work incentive, and that the dismantling of the tax credit system will damage work incentives; and
 - (ii) have played a key role in reducing child poverty;
- (j) praises the impressive record of the previous Labour Government on child poverty, including the introduction of Child Tax Credit and the national minimum wage, the rolling out of Sure Start centres, and improvements to childcare, all of which helped to support families on low incomes and lift children out of poverty;
- (k) recognises the current Administration's attempts to reduce child poverty in Sheffield, including the establishment of Sheffield Money, the Fairness Commission, and the on-going implementation of its recommendations; and
- (l) welcomes the Council's new Tackling Poverty Strategy which will take action to make things better for children and adults who are in poverty now, and tackle some of the root causes of poverty.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Steve Ayris, 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 addition of the

following words:-

- (a) recalls previous resolutions this Council has passed denouncing the Government's planned cuts to the welfare system;
- (b) is disappointed that four of Sheffield's five Labour MPs failed to oppose on the second reading of the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill, including former deputy leader of the Council Harry Harpham MP;
- (c) notes that the eight Liberal Democrat MPs, including Sheffield Hallam MP, the Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg, voted against the Bill;
- (d) recognises that these cuts will have devastating effects on many of our city's residents, as latest estimates suggest that:
 - (i) 22,000 Sheffield residents and their families will lose an average of £260 per year;
 - (ii) 3,500 of which are hardworking people whose families will have to make up an average £280 shortfall per year in lost tax credits; and
 - (iii) around 4,200 residents in the Employment and Support Allowance work related activity group, considered only temporarily too ill to work, will lose a further £30 per week as their allowance is brought down to the level of Jobseekers Allowance;
- (e) recalls previous resolutions this Council has passed remarking that the impact of the previous Coalition Government's cuts to welfare in Sheffield were 'hitting hardest the poorest in the City';
- (f) regrets that after five years of attacking the Liberal Democrats in the Coalition Government on welfare cuts, Labour MPs have, through silence, nodded through much deeper and unnecessary ideological cuts to the welfare budget which will hit the working poor hardest;
- (g) recognises the Liberal Democrats' role in the previous Government as a moderating force, blocking many of the harshest measures put forward by the Conservatives, such as:-
 - (i) reducing Employment Support Allowance to £30 a week, bringing it in line with Job Seekers Allowance;
 - (ii) withdrawal of housing benefit from 18 – 21 year olds; and
 - (iii) scrapping of maintenance grants for students;
- (h) notes the Labour Party leadership's position of abstaining on the Welfare Bill because they agreed with measures such as:-
 - (i) reducing the welfare cap to £20,000 per household (£23,000 in

London); and

- (ii) limiting child tax credits to two children;
- (i) calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Nick Clegg and Louise Haigh, MPs, to thank them for voting against the Welfare Bill; and
- (j) calls on the Leader of the Council to send a copy of this resolution to the four Sheffield MPs who failed to oppose the Welfare Bill.”

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

(Note: Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for Paragraphs (a) to (f) and (h) to (j) and abstained on paragraph (g) of the amendment and asked for this to be recorded.)

Following a Right of Reply by Councillor Jackie Drayton, the original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) is disappointed that as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill the Government is planning to:-
 - (i) scrap binding, measurable targets to reduce child poverty;
 - (ii) stop setting targets that aim to reduce the proportion of households with a below average income;
 - (iii) repeal the majority of the Child Poverty Act, including all the targets, the provision for the Child Poverty Commission (replacing it with a Social Mobility Commission), and the duty to publish UK and local child poverty strategies; and
 - (iv) remove the word ‘poverty’ from the relevant legislation, renaming the Child Poverty Act 2010 the Life Chances Act 2010;
- (b) believes the Government should amend the proposals set out in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill as follows:-
 - (i) include targets against all measures so that government can be held to account for progress and we are all clear about the amount of change that is needed and by when it is needed;
 - (ii) retain the four income related measures (and the additional severe poverty measure set out in the national child poverty strategy) in addition to any new measures;
 - (iii) ensure that families who are working and in poverty are included in the measures used;

- (iv) retain the legal duties for local authorities and named partners to cooperate to reduce and mitigate child poverty;
 - (v) retain the word 'poverty' in the name of the Act; and
 - (vi) ensure that there is sufficient time to debate and propose amendments to the elements of the Bill relating to changes to the Child Poverty Act as well as the other changes contained within the Bill;
- (c) notes the recent report by the New Policy Institute whose analysis estimates that a further 300,000 children are living in poverty since the Conservative/Lib Dem Coalition Government implemented a raft of welfare cuts in April 2013;
- (d) notes the findings of research carried out by Sheffield Hallam University last year which found that households with children in Sheffield will have lost on average £1,690 per year as a result of the Coalition Government's welfare cuts;
- (e) is concerned that more children will be pushed into poverty over this Parliament as a result of the further cuts to working-age benefits announced in the Chancellor's Budget;
- (f) agrees with the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Resolution Foundation that cuts to tax credits will lead to increases in child poverty;
- (g) agrees with the Child Poverty Action Group that "No serious plan for the low-paid begins with making them poorer by cutting their tax credits";
- (h) notes the recent report by the Resolution Foundation that showed that two-thirds of those affected by the cuts to tax credits are in work;
- (i) believes that tax credits:-
- (i) improve the work incentive, and that the dismantling of the tax credit system will damage work incentives; and
 - (ii) have played a key role in reducing child poverty;
- (j) praises the impressive record of the previous Labour Government on child poverty, including the introduction of Child Tax Credit and the national minimum wage, the rolling out of Sure Start centres, and improvements to childcare, all of which helped to support families on low incomes and lift children out of poverty;
- (k) recognises the current Administration's attempts to reduce child poverty in Sheffield, including the establishment of Sheffield Money, the Fairness Commission, and the on-going implementation of its recommendations;

and

- (l) welcomes the Council's new Tackling Poverty Strategy which will take action to make things better for children and adults who are in poverty now, and tackle some of the root causes of poverty.

(Note: 1. Councillors Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayris, David Baker, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) to (h) and against paragraphs (c), (d) and (i) to (l) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for paragraphs (a) to (h) and (j) to (l) and abstained on paragraph (i) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR STEVE AYRIS

Affordable Housing

It was moved by Councillor Steve Ayris, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the new Government's proposal to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants;
- (b) notes the shortage of affordable rented homes in Sheffield with around 20,000 people on this Council's housing waiting list and is concerned that the current government plans risk making matters far worse;
- (c) notes that a recent opinion poll showed that just 16% of the public believed that extending Right to Buy to housing association tenants would be the most useful way of tackling the affordability crisis; the public's top choice was to help housing associations or councils to build more affordable homes, selected by 46% of the public;
- (d) is concerned that by allowing housing association tenants to purchase their homes at a large discount, the Right to Buy policy will lead to longer waiting lists for homes and fewer social houses, and do nothing to tackle our city's affordable housing needs;
- (e) believes these measures will force housing associations to simply be catching up with replacing homes rather than building affordable housing to give more people homes they need and only benefit the lucky few;
- (f) notes that even the Conservative Mayor of London has said he did not want to see councils "deprived at a rapid rate of their housing stock" if more homes were not being built to replace them;

- (g) recognizes the desire by many to own their own homes and suggests that proposals put forward by the Liberal Democrats, such as a “Rent to Own” model and Shared Ownership housing, would represent a better way of reaching this goal;
- (h) also notes that there are existing routes for housing association tenants to own their own properties – some housing association tenants already have the Right to Acquire; and
- (i) proposes that:
 - (i) this Council works with other neighbouring authorities and housing associations to oppose the current Government proposals; and
 - (ii) a copy of this motion is sent to our local MPs asking them to support the Council’s position; to speak up in Parliament for more social housing and not less and to push for a genuine “one for one” replacement but not at the cost of losing more council housing.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jayne Dunn, seconded by Councillor Sioned Mair-Richards, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-
 - (c) welcomes the current Administration’s plans to deliver new Council housing in Sheffield;”
2. the deletion of original paragraph (g) and the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows:-
 - (g) understands and supports people’s aspirations to own their own home and supports a range of measures put forward by the Labour Party to achieve this, including the abolition of stamp duty for first time buyers on properties worth up to £300,000; First Call, a policy that will give first-time buyers the first choice of up to half of the homes being built in their area; and local first, an initiative to ensure local buyers have the opportunity to purchase properties;”
3. the deletion of original paragraph (i) and the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows:-
 - (i) resolves to continue working with all stakeholders, including neighbouring authorities and Core City partners and local MPs, to oppose the current Government proposals and to promote more social housing and to improve on the disastrous legacy the last Parliament and Coalition Government had for social housing.”
4. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) to (i) as new paragraphs (d) to (j).

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

(Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for parts 1, 3 and 4 and abstained on part 2 of the 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) notes the new Government's proposal to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants;
- (b) notes the shortage of affordable rented homes in Sheffield with around 20,000 people on this Council's housing waiting list and is concerned that the current government plans risk making matters far worse;
- (c) welcomes the current Administration's plans to deliver new Council housing in Sheffield;
- (d) notes that a recent opinion poll showed that just 16% of the public believed that extending Right to Buy to housing association tenants would be the most useful way of tackling the affordability crisis; the public's top choice was to help housing associations or councils to build more affordable homes, selected by 46% of the public;
- (e) is concerned that by allowing housing association tenants to purchase their homes at a large discount, the Right to Buy policy will lead to longer waiting lists for homes and fewer social houses, and do nothing to tackle our city's affordable housing needs;
- (f) believes these measures will force housing associations to simply be catching up with replacing homes rather than building affordable housing to give more people homes they need and only benefit the lucky few;
- (g) notes that even the Conservative Mayor of London has said he did not want to see councils "deprived at a rapid rate of their housing stock" if more homes were not being built to replace them;
- (h) understands and supports people's aspirations to own their own home and supports a range of measures put forward by the Labour Party to achieve this, including the abolition of stamp duty for first time buyers on properties worth up to £300,000; First Call, a policy that will give first-time buyers the first choice of up to half of the homes being built in their area; and local first, an initiative to ensure local buyers have the opportunity to purchase properties;
- (i) also notes that there are existing routes for housing association tenants to own their own properties – some housing association tenants already have

the Right to Acquire; and

- (j) resolves to continue working with all stakeholders, including neighbouring authorities and Core City partners and local MPs, to oppose the current Government proposals and to promote more social housing and to improve on the disastrous legacy the last Parliament and Coalition Government had for social housing.

(Note: 1. Councillors Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, David Baker, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (a) to (g) and (i) and against paragraphs (h) and (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for paragraphs (a) to (g), (i) and (j) and abstained on paragraph (h) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NIKKI BOND

Homophobic Bullying

It was moved by Councillor Nikki Bond, seconded by Councillor Mick Rooney, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that homophobic bullying is unacceptable and must be stamped out;
- (b) is proud to have received national recognition for the fifth year in a row for its work in schools to provide lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender students with mental health and social support, having been ranked in the top 10 local authorities in Stonewall's Education Equality Index 2015; and
- (c) thanks all those involved, including officers, schools, young people, the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service and Fruitbowl – Sheffield's LGBT youth group, who have worked hard for us to receive this recognition.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Katie Condliffe, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:-

- (d) notes the good work done by the Liberal Democrats in the previous Coalition Government to stamp out homophobic bullying, including a £2 million package to be offered to charitable and not-for-profit organisations that come forward with creative ideas to stamp out homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in our schools.

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

The original Motion was then put to the vote and carried as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that homophobic bullying is unacceptable and must be stamped out;
- (b) is proud to have received national recognition for the fifth year in a row for its work in schools to provide lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender students with mental health and social support, having been ranked in the top 10 local authorities in Stonewall's Education Equality Index 2015; and
- (c) thanks all those involved, including officers, schools, young people, the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service and Fruitbowl – Sheffield's LGBT youth group, who have worked hard for us to receive this recognition.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

City Events

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

- (a) notes the success of recent summer events, including:
 - (i) Doc Fest;
 - (ii) Sheffield Design Week;
 - (iii) Sheffield Sky Ride;
 - (iv) Tramlines Music Festival;
 - (v) Sheffield by the Seaside;
- (b) thanks all staff and volunteers who worked incredibly hard to make the events possible;
- (c) encourages local people to attend upcoming events, including:
 - (i) Art in the Gardens, 5th - 6th September;
 - (ii) Great Yorkshire Run, 27th September;
 - (iii) Last Laugh Sheffield Comedy Festival, 1st – 31st October;
- (d) welcomes the increased city centre footfall that such events provide, and the positive impacts for the local economy; and

- (e) notes that many events in the city are funded by local businesses and thanks local businesses for their contributions.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOHN BOOKER

Local Government

It was moved by Councillor John Booker, seconded by Councillor Keith Davis, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that the problems with the Strong Leader and Cabinet/Executive system are:-
- (i) the fact that the 'Cabinet' (or 'Executive') can be composed exclusively of members from one political party;
 - (ii) the fact that the leader has such a monopoly of power;
 - (iii) the fact that members of the Cabinet/Executive are chosen by the Leader;
 - (iv) the fact that the Cabinet/Executive is often not geographically representative;
 - (v) the lack of genuine debate at Cabinet/Executive meetings, with most decisions being taken in advance;
 - (vi) the under-utilisation and marginalisation of backbench Councillors;
 - (vii) the lack of opportunities for backbench Councillors to build up expertise;
 - (viii) the fact that residents do not have equality of representation - those residents with a Councillor who is a Cabinet (or Executive) Member have a Councillor with more influence than those residents with non-Cabinet (or Executive) Councillors, although this can cut both ways if a Cabinet/Executive Councillor uses their position on the Cabinet/Executive to excuse them from engaging in local issues;
 - (ix) backbench Councillors have little incentive to engage actively with their residents as they have little, or no, influence in the decision-making process; and

- (x) the 'strong leader' model personalises local politics in an unhealthy way;
- (b) believes that the problems with Councillors are:-
 - (i) that Councillors are not sufficiently representative of the community as a whole;
 - (ii) that too many Councillors fail to actively engage with the residents in their wards;
 - (iii) that too many Councillors fail to seek out and represent the concerns of their residents;
 - (iv) that too many Councillors fail to alert their residents in advance to forthcoming issues of potential importance; and
 - (v) that too few Councillors have the courage of their convictions to speak out when their party is taking a position which they personally are uncomfortable with;
- (c) believes that the problems with party politics at the local level are:-
 - (i) that too many decisions are taken along party political lines, when party politics is actually irrelevant to the issue at hand;
 - (ii) that there are too many angry exchanges of abuse between members of the political parties, which undermine rational debate;
 - (iii) that it is difficult for residents to stand as independent Councillors, because they have no support structure; and
 - (iv) that party politics at the local level leads to polarised debates and a lack of consensus-building;
- (d) believes that the problems which residents face in trying to influence the decisions which affect them are:-
 - (i) that residents are often not aware of decisions which will affect them or their community until the decision has already been made, and this gives residents the impression that everything is a 'fait accompli';
 - (ii) that where consultation does take place, it is often too late in the decision-making process to make any real difference;

- (iii) that consultation exercises often appear weighted in favour of the Council's preferred option; and
 - (iv) that the Council's interpretation of the results of consultation exercises appears at times to manipulate respondents' viewpoints to justify a pre-determined Council goal;
- (e) believes that the problems with encouraging public engagement are:-
- (i) that many residents feel a general sense of political apathy and are not interested in becoming engaged at the local level;
 - (ii) that many residents feel resentful about the way in which decisions have been made locally and do not trust the Council's intentions;
 - (iii) that many residents feel that their Councillors are powerless to represent them;
 - (iv) that many residents have no contact with their Councillors at all;
 - (v) that many residents do not have the confidence or the knowledge to engage with the Council;
 - (vi) that many residents have never been to a Council meeting and would not know when or where they take place;
 - (vii) that many residents feel that the Council simply doesn't listen or even care what they think;
 - (viii) that many residents are not part of an active residents' association, and feel that their voice will simply not be heard; and
 - (ix) that there is a general failing to engage young people in the political process, and schools too often see politics as 'dirty'!
- (f) believes that the long-term running down of local government is due to:-
- (i) the fact that local government is starved of funding;
 - (ii) the fact that the Government uses 'carrots and sticks' to

persuade and force local councils to fulfil its own goals;

- (iii) the fact that decision-making is increasingly centralised - in spite of the provisions of the Localism Act; and
 - (iv) the fact that the local council doesn't have sufficient officers or the resources to prioritise the adoption of a pro-active approach to engaging with local people; and
- (g) believes that the committee system provides a more democratic form of governance for local authorities, and therefore requests that the necessary steps be taken for this Council to change its governance arrangements to the committee system.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Brian Webster, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows:-

- (h) notes the comprehensive rejection in 2012 of a proposal to run Sheffield with a mayoral system, by a near 2:1 margin; and
- (i) believes any proposal to run Sheffield or its region by a mayoral system should be subject to a further referendum.

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

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) recognises the importance of local people in local decision making;
- (b) believes that local Members play a vital role in this;
- (c) regrets the Labour Administration's decision to end Community Assemblies, which devolved power over some spending to local communities and enabled meaningful decisions to be made on how budgets were spent in their area;
- (d) believes that Local Area Partnerships have proved to be a poor substitute for Community Assemblies; and
- (e) calls on the Administration to devolve more decision making to local areas."

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

The original Motion was the put to the vote and was not carried.

(Note: Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for the Motion except for paragraph (a) (ix) on which they abstained and asked for this to be recorded.)

15. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR VICKIE PRIESTLEY

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

It was moved by Councillor Vickie Priestley, seconded by Councillor Katie Condliffe, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls previous resolutions this Council has passed denouncing the Government's planned cuts to the welfare system;
- (b) is disappointed that 4 of Sheffield's 5 Labour MPs chose to abstain on the second reading of the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill, including former deputy leader of the Council, Harry Harpham MP;
- (c) notes that the eight Liberal Democrat MPs, including Sheffield Hallam MP, the Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg, voted against the Bill;
- (d) recognises that these cuts will have devastating effects on many of our city's residents, as latest estimates suggest that:
 - (i) 22,000 Sheffield residents and their families will lose an average of £260 per year;
 - (ii) 3,500 of which are hardworking people whose families will have to make up an average £280 shortfall per year in lost tax credits; and
 - (iii) around 4,200 residents in the Employment and Support Allowance work related activity group, considered only temporarily too ill to work, will lose a further £30 per week as their allowance is brought down to the level of Jobseekers Allowance;
- (e) recalls previous resolutions this Council has passed remarking that the impact of the previous Coalition Government's cuts to welfare in Sheffield were 'hitting hardest the poorest in the City';
- (f) regrets that after 5 years of attacking the Liberal Democrats in the coalition government on welfare cuts, Labour MPs have, through silence, nodded through much deeper and unnecessary ideological cuts to the welfare budget which will hit the working poor hardest;
- (g) recognises the Liberal Democrats' role in the previous Government as a moderating force, blocking many of the harshest measures put forward by

the Conservatives; and

- (h) proposes that a copy of this resolution be sent to the four Sheffield MPs that abstained on the Welfare Bill.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Bryan Lodge, 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) is opposed to the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill and believes it will push more people into poverty;
- (b) is stunned by the outrageous hypocrisy of the main opposition group's concern for those set to lose out as a result of the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill, when their Party were partners in a Coalition Government which:
 - (i) implemented the hated and unfair bedroom tax;
 - (ii) cut tax credits;
 - (iii) froze the uprating of working-age benefits at 1%, breaking the vital link between benefits and inflation;
 - (iv) made a total mess of the work capability assessments, with 40% of claimants found fit for work appealing, and almost 40% of those appeals proving successful;
 - (v) oversaw a massive increase in the use of benefit sanctions;
 - (vi) delivered a 10% cut in funding for council tax benefit, when the scheme was localised; and
 - (vii) presided over a huge backlog in claims for personal independence payments, leaving disabled people short of vital benefits while waiting for their claim to be processed; and
- (c) recalls that the main opposition group supported the vast majority of the previous Government's cuts to welfare which hit the poorest in the city the hardest and believes that their feigned opposition to welfare cuts is nothing more than cynical political opportunism."

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) is opposed to the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill and believes it will push more people into poverty;
- (b) is stunned by the outrageous hypocrisy of the main opposition group's concern for those set to lose out as a result of the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Bill, when their Party were partners in a Coalition Government which:
 - (i) implemented the hated and unfair bedroom tax;
 - (ii) cut tax credits;
 - (iii) froze the uprating of working-age benefits at 1%, breaking the vital link between benefits and inflation;
 - (iv) made a total mess of the work capability assessments, with 40% of claimants found fit for work appealing, and almost 40% of those appeals proving successful;
 - (v) oversaw a massive increase in the use of benefit sanctions;
 - (vi) delivered a 10% cut in funding for council tax benefit, when the scheme was localised; and
 - (vii) presided over a huge backlog in claims for personal independence payments, leaving disabled people short of vital benefits while waiting for their claim to be processed; and
- (c) recalls that the main opposition group supported the vast majority of the previous Government's cuts to welfare which hit the poorest in the city the hardest and believes that their feigned opposition to welfare cuts is nothing more than cynical political opportunism.

(Note 1. Councillors Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, David Baker, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraph (a) and against paragraphs (b) and (c) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for paragraph (a) and abstained on paragraphs (b) and (c) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

16. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

Electrification of the Midland Mainline

It was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Jack Scott, that this Council:-

- (a) condemns the Government's decision to shelve indefinitely the electrification of the Midland Mainline between Sheffield and London;
- (b) is dismayed that just seven weeks after the General Election the Government reneged on its election pledge to electrify key rail lines in the North, and views the decision as evidence that the North is not considered a priority by the Government;
- (c) questions the Government's claim that they had no knowledge of this before the election;
- (d) calls on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to electrification and to provide a definitive timetable as to when Yorkshire can expect to have the rail upgrades that it needs and was promised before the General Election;
- (e) notes a report by engineering consultants Arup which estimated that electrification would reap economic benefits totalling £95m for Sheffield City Region over a 60 year period, in addition to significant environmental benefits; and
- (f) believes that the pausing of infrastructure projects, such as the electrification of the Midland Mainline:
 - (i) makes a mockery of the Government's commitment to the "Northern Powerhouse"; and
 - (ii) has a detrimental impact on businesses and commuters in Sheffield and across the north of England.

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

1. the deletion of paragraph (c) and the relettering of paragraphs (d) to (f) as new paragraphs (c) to (e); and
2. the addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows:-
 - (f) calls on the Council to lobby the Government on a cross party basis to reinstate the electrification of the Midland Main Line.

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

The original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) condemns the Government's decision to shelve indefinitely the electrification of the Midland Mainline between Sheffield and London;
- (b) is dismayed that just seven weeks after the General Election the Government reneged on its election pledge to electrify key rail lines in the North, and views the decision as evidence that the North is not considered a priority by the Government;
- (c) questions the Government's claim that they had no knowledge of this before the election;
- (d) calls on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to electrification and to provide a definitive timetable as to when Yorkshire can expect to have the rail upgrades that it needs and was promised before the General Election;
- (e) notes a report by engineering consultants Arup which estimated that electrification would reap economic benefits totalling £95m for Sheffield City Region over a 60 year period, in addition to significant environmental benefits; and
- (f) believes that the pausing of infrastructure projects, such as the electrification of the Midland Mainline:
 - (i) makes a mockery of the Government's commitment to the "Northern Powerhouse"; and
 - (ii) has a detrimental impact on businesses and commuters in Sheffield and across the north of England.

(Note: 1.Councillors Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayris, David Baker, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) to (f) and against paragraph (c) and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Aodan Marken, Brian Webster, Robert Murphy and Sarah Jane Smalley voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) to (f) and abstained on paragraph (c) and asked for this to be recorded.)

17. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PENNY BAKER

Jessica Ennis-Hill and Joe Root

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison, that this Council:-

- (a) congratulates Jessica Ennis-Hill, CBE, on becoming the 2015 world champion in the heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships; and
- (b) further congratulates Joe Root for his part in regaining The Ashes and becoming the world No 1 ranked Test batsman.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOHN BOOKER

It was moved by Councillor John Booker, seconded by Councillor Keith Davis, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls that the Labour Representation Council, formed in 1900, allowed political funds to be raised from members of the unions;
- (b) also recalls that the Trade Union Act 1913 gave Trade Unions the right to divide its subscriptions into a Social Fund and a Political Fund;
- (c) notes that the 38 affiliated Trade Unions to the Labour Party collect the political fund automatically; that all members opted in unless they "opt out", and that members do not receive any discount of their subscription fees if they "opt out", with no explanation why;
- (d) believes that nearly five million union members are unwittingly paying large amounts of money directly to the Labour Party, and further believes that this policy is undemocratic and morally bankrupt;
- (e) strongly asserts that every union member should have the choice to pay money to whichever political party they choose, or not to pay anything at all, and that these conditions should be clearly defined, so everyone understands them;
- (f) places on record that, in an attempt to balance this injustice, Trade Unions ballot their members every ten years to continue the political fund, but believes that awareness is low amongst union members and their published material, in effect, steers their members into voting yes to keep the political fund going, and that Section 72 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 is quoted, but Section 82, which relates to "opting out", is not;
- (g) believes that this issue has had a long and troubled history, and has got to change, noting that even Winston Churchill discussed this matter a hundred years ago; and
- (h) further confirms strong support to the Trade Union Movement, but believes that democracy, transparency and fairness must be the cornerstones of these organisations when it comes to the Political Levy.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Mary Lea, 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) believes that trade unions play a vital role in representing the interests of ordinary working people, challenging low pay, erosion of employment rights and health and safety concerns;
- (b) condemns the Government's Trade Union Bill, and views it as an ideologically-driven attack on workers' civil liberties that will restrict basic workers' rights and, at worst, criminalise those campaigning for a fairer deal at work; and
- (c) believes that the economy prospers only when business and employees work together harmoniously and that the Trade Union Bill risks souring that relationship and holding back our economy.

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

It was then moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) recognises the importance of reforming the way political parties are financed;
- (b) asserts that every union member should have the choice to pay money to whichever political party they choose, or not to pay anything at all, and that these conditions should be clearly defined, so everyone understands them;
- (c) believes that this must go hand in hand with reforms to cap large donations;
- (d) notes attempts by the Liberal Democrats in the previous Government to reform party funding; and
- (e) further notes that these proposals were blocked by Labour and Conservative MPs.

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

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that trade unions play a vital role in representing the interests of

ordinary working people, challenging low pay, erosion of employment rights and health and safety concerns;

- (b) condemns the Government's Trade Union Bill, and views it as an ideologically-driven attack on workers' civil liberties that will restrict basic workers' rights and, at worst, criminalise those campaigning for a fairer deal at work; and
- (c) believes that the economy prospers only when business and employees work together harmoniously and that the Trade Union Bill risks souring that relationship and holding back our economy.