

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES POLICY

COMMITTEE – 25 OCTOBER 2023

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS - COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee (Councillor Tom Hunt)

Q.1 Sarah Owen MP told the Manchester Evening News at Labour party conference that "I've had people lobby me for extra funding for local government for their areas, but actually that's not the kind of conversation that we have or we want to have". Considering your recent amendment at full Council which stated that the you "believe government needs to step up and provide fairer funding", what representations have you made to Sarah Owen MP and other Labour shadow ministers concerning increasing funding to local government?

A.1 Since 2010 Sheffield has been hammered by the Conservative and Tory-Lib Dem coalition governments. This Council's funding has been cut by 29%, or £856 per resident in real terms since 2010, compared to the national average of a cut of 20% and £581 per resident.

In her comments, Sarah Owen MP went on to emphasise that we need to have a serious grown-up conversation about the situation that the next government will inherit. 13 years of economic mismanagement since 2010 means that the next government will inherit an economy with growth is on the floor and with UK borrowing costs and interest rates significantly higher than a year ago after the Tories' disastrous mini-budget.

Labour will get the economy growing by providing certainty and stability, not the chaos and short-term fixes that we have suffered from under the Tories. A thriving economy can only be built on the bedrock of economic stability. That is why a Labour government will have fiscal rules that treat every pound of taxpayers' money with respect and will invest in industries of the future which will create good jobs across the country, tackle the climate crisis and support our public services.

The Labour Party has made it clear that the funding settlement for councils is too short-term and that it will look at introducing longer-term settlements for councils.

I have no doubt that Labour's economic approach is in the best interests of our country and will serve us well in Sheffield, as we benefit from public services built on economic stability and a proper plan for economic growth. I regularly make representations to local Labour MPs and to colleagues within the wider Party, fighting for Sheffield to get the best deal. I will continue to do that at every opportunity, and I have no doubt that a Labour Government would deliver fairer funding for local government which would massively benefit this city.