

# Agenda Item 12

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 17 July 2024, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

## PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Jayne Dunn)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Safiya Saeed)

- |   |   |    |  |    |   |
|---|---|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i><br>Simon Clement-Jones<br>Richard Shaw<br>Sophie Thornton | 10 | <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Craig Gamble Pugh<br>Robert Reiss<br>Alan Woodcock     | 19 | <i>Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Ward</i><br>Nighat Basharat<br>Ibby Ullah          |
| 2 | <i>Beighton Ward</i><br>Kurtis Crossland<br>Ian Horner<br>Ann Woolhouse                         | 11 | <i>Ecclesall Ward</i><br>Peter Gilbert<br>Barbara Masters<br>Shaffaq Mohammed          | 20 | <i>Park &amp; Arbourthorne</i><br>Mia Drazaic<br>Ben Miskell<br>Nabeela Mowlana |
| 3 | <i>Birley Ward</i><br>Matthew Dwyer<br>Denise Fox<br>Karen McGowan                              | 12 | <i>Firth Park Ward</i><br>Fran Belbin<br>Abdul Khayum                                  | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i><br>David Barker<br>Dianne Hurst                            |
| 4 | <i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i><br>Angela Argenzio                                     | 13 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i><br>Sue Alston<br>Andrew Sangar<br>Cliff Woodcraft                  | 22 | <i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i><br>Mark Rusling<br>Garry Weatherall     |
| 5 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i><br>Talib Hussain<br>Mark Jones<br>Safiya Saeed                           | 14 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i><br>Alexi Dimond<br>Paul Turpin                            | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i><br>Jayne Dunn<br>Gareth Slater                              |
| 6 | <i>City Ward</i><br>Douglas Johnson   | 15 | <i>Graves Park Ward</i><br>Steve Ayris<br>Rob Bannister<br>Mohammed Mahroof            | 24 | <i>Stannington Ward</i><br>Penny Baker<br>William Sapwell<br>Richard Williams   |
| 7 | <i>Crookes &amp; Crosspool Ward</i><br>Tim Huggan<br>Ruth Millsom<br>Minesh Parekh              | 16 | <i>Hillsborough Ward</i><br>Christine Gilligan Kubo<br>Toby Mallinson<br>Henry Nottage | 25 | <i>Stocksbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i><br>Julie Grocutt<br>Mark Whittaker     |
| 8 | <i>Darnall Ward</i><br>Qais Al-Ahdal<br>Mary Lea<br>Zahira Naz                                  | 17 | <i>Manor Castle Ward</i><br>Elle Dodd<br>Terry Fox                                     | 26 | <i>Walkley Ward</i><br>Tom Hunt<br>Laura McClean<br>John Wright                 |
| 9 | <i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i><br>Rebecca Atkinson<br>Joe Otten<br>Martin Smith                  | 18 | <i>Mosborough Ward</i><br>Glynis Chapman<br>Tony Downing<br>Gail Smith                 | 27 | <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Alan Hooper<br>Mike Levery<br>Ann Whitaker      |
|   |   |    |  | 28 | <i>Woodhouse Ward</i><br>Alison Norris<br>Mick Rooney                           |

**1. MINUTES SILENCE - DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR BOB PULLIN**

- 1.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) reported with sadness, the death, on 3 June 2024, of former Councillor Bob Pullin who had served on the Council from 2015 to 2021, and Members of the Council observed a minute's silence in his memory.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nikki Belfield, Mike Chaplin, Dawn Dale, Mike Drabble, Marieanne Elliot, Maleiki Haybe, Brian Holmshaw, Ruth Mersereau, Laura Moynahan, Martin Phipps, Janet Ridler, Maroof Raouf and Paul Wood.
- 2.2 Further to the reporting of the apologies for absence from Councillor Wood, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn), seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed), that in view of the ill-health of Councillor Paul Wood, approval be given for his period of office to be extended beyond 6 August 2024, being the six-month period of non-attendance provided for within Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 3.1 There were no items of business identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest made by Members of the Council.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1 Petitions and Public Questions

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) reported that one ordinary petition was to be received at the meeting and questions would be taken from eleven members of the public. She added that four further ordinary petitions were to be received in the absence of a presenter. Finally, a petition containing over 5,000 signatures would be debated at the end of this item of business, and that petition was referred to at item 5(b) on the agenda for the meeting.

## 5.2 Ordinary Petitions

### 5.2.1 Petition Calling on the Council to Keep Burngreave Vestry Hall Under Council Management

The Council received a paper petition containing 186 signatures calling on the Council to keep Burngreave Vestry Hall under Council management, making it accessible and affordable to all.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mohammed Issa, who stated that a local organisation called ACORN had held meetings and asked people to sign a petition with a view to obtaining community support for the group taking over the management of the Hall. This had included the community being misinformed regarding the price of hiring the premises and regarding its current uses. Mr Issa advised that the doors to the Hall were kept closed for security reasons but this did not mean the Hall was not used, entry was facilitated by an intercom. Mr Issa explained that the community was satisfied with the way the Hall was managed, and with its security and access, and wanted the Council to continue to manage it. He added that, if for any reason the Council did want to cease its management, organisations currently operating from within the building would be happy to discuss that with the Council.

The petition was referred to Councillor Kurtis Crossland (the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Crossland thanked the petitioner and everyone who had signed the petition. He apologised that the community had been misinformed and confirmed that there were no plans to change the operating model of Burngreave Vestry Hall. It would continue to be available to the community, for hire. He advised that any changes to the operating model would follow the relevant Council policies which were currently under development.

Councillor Crossland added that the Council was responsible for managing and maintaining approximately 100 community buildings, as well as owning several others that were leased to voluntary, community, and faith-based organisations. The new policy would aim to ensure a more consistent, sustainable, and asset-based approach. The programme was being piloted in the south of the city in collaboration with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

### 5.2.2 Petition Calling on the Council to Install Parking Restrictions on Scaith Wood Drive

The Council received a paper petition containing 145 signatures calling on the Council to install double yellow lines along the odd-numbered side of Scaith Wood Drive. The lead petitioner was Lesley Smith.

There was no speaker for this petition.

The petition was referred to Councillor Ben Miskell (Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee) to provide a written response to the organiser of the petition.

### 5.2.3 Petitions Regarding Waste and Recycling Services

The Council received three electronic petitions organised by Mohammed Faysal Ansar. One petition contained 7 signatures requesting the Council to increase the amount of plastic, tin and glass it recycles, in line with other councils. Another petition contained 5 signatures requesting the Council to make the Sheffield Household Garden Waste Service a 'pay as you use' service. The third petition contained 5 signatures requesting the Council to find a way to introduce a roadside food waste collection service within the Government's deadline of 2026.

There was no speaker for the petitions.

The petitions were referred to Councillor Joe Otten (Chair of the Waste and Streetscene Policy Committee) to provide written responses to the organiser of the petitions.

### 5.3 Public Questions

#### 5.3.1 Questions from Saghir Hussain, Shakil Ahmed, Amjid Tahir, Iqra Besharat and Asif Ditta – asked at the meeting by Saghir Hussain

Questions – Sagir Hussain spoke on behalf of Sheffield Muslim Burial Council and the 5 members of the public, including himself, who had all submitted questions regarding flooding at Shiregreen cemetery. He stated that due to severe flooding issues on site, people's loved ones were being buried in flooded graves. This situation had built up over a number of years, but the Council's Bereavement Services had only recently acknowledged that there was a severe problem and started pumping the water out, twice a week. This action was not adequate. Mr Hussain asked what immediate action the Council was going to take to fix the problem, which was causing upset and concern to the local community.

In response, Councillor Kurtis Crossland (the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) stated that he acknowledged the issues at Shiregreen Cemetery. He confirmed that a Tier 2, city-wide hydrogeologist survey had been commissioned and was currently underway, with the primary objective of conducting ground truthing to determine the exact geological sequence on-site, and establish whether there was perched water or groundwater, within burial depths. Boreholes would be drilled and monitored, groundwater samples would be collected, and a groundwater risk assessment report produced, which would include options for improvements.

Councillor Crossland explained that work was being conducted in accordance with Environment Agency guidelines. He added that the Council was reluctant to commit to a long-term solution before getting the results of the survey.

Managing the water on site was a top priority, and some immediate measures had been taken, such as prioritising burials on higher ground within the plot and, wherever possible, digging graves on the day of burial. Additionally, water was being pumped out of pre-dug graves to manage the water levels effectively.

In relation to the questions on stakeholder involvement, Councillor Crossland advised that Sheffield City Council had led the formation of a Muslim Bereavement Forum, bringing together representatives from different mosques and schools within the faith, including the Sheffield Muslim Burial Council. This group would provide a key forum for discussion and consultation, ensuring broad representation from the Muslim community. Additionally, the Council was developing its Bereavement Strategy which aimed to provide long-term commitment and direction for the provision of services, including burial services that reflected the diverse needs of the city. The strategy had been informed by a public consultation which had received many responses from people of the Muslim faith.

Councillor Crossland also advised that the Council was actively working on identifying new cemetery land. He confirmed that the next stage of the strategy development involved conducting a cross-party task and finish group with councillors, which would go through all the consultation feedback. He concluded that people were right to be angry and that it was important to treat people with respect in life as well as in death, and the bereavement strategy should help the Council to do this, going forward.

### 5.3.2 Questions from Clara Cheung

*Questions – On 21 February 2024, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee of the Council approved the Partner City Policy, which stated that shared values such as the ability to demonstrate the promotion of human rights should be taken into account when building sister-city or relationship or trade collaboration with international cities. It is a good initiative, as the Human Rights Council at the United Nations also shows that local governments are at the forefront of bringing human rights to all, and should adopt the human rights-based approach in policy-making.*

*Based on the current partner city policy, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee then, in the same meeting in February, decided to give up the sister-city relationship with Anshan, China, not to reinitiate the trade and collaboration agreements with the cities of Daqing and Nanchang in China, but to maintain the sister-city relationship with Chengdu, China.*

*Regarding this renewed relationship with cities in China, I would like to raise the following questions:-*

*1. Would Sheffield City Council write to the city councils of Anshan, Daqing and Nanchang in China to inform them about the termination of the previous partner relationships with them? If yes, when, and will the Council officially make any public statement regarding this matter? If not, why not?*

*2. In Sheffield's remaining sister-city in China, Chengdu, there is a well-known Christian Church: Early Rain Covenant Church. According to Release International (a UK-based Christian ministry), "Early Rain may have been targeted because of its open approach to church mission, which has included posting sermons online and street evangelism. The church also ran a Bible school for about 100 students and a primary school." Its meetings, in our sister city Chengdu, regularly attract more than 800 people each week.*

*"The influential leader of Early Rain Covenant Church, Pastor Wang Yi, has been a prominent campaigner for greater religious freedom. In 2018 he wrote a declaration, signed by hundreds of Chinese pastors, which includes a statement of Christian beliefs and a call for an end to persecution."*

*According to Amnesty International's press release in 2019:*

*"In early December 2018, police in Chengdu raided the premises of the Early Rain Covenant Church. About 100 members of the church, including Pastor Wang Yi, were taken away and questioned by the police in the following days."*

*And, "On 30 December 2019, Pastor Wang Yi was sentenced to nine years at the Chengdu City Intermediate People's Court. He had been charged with "illegal business operation" and "inciting subversion of state power," a catch-all charge often used against dissidents and activists who speak out against the government."*

*News about Pastor Wang Yi has been blocked since his arrest in 2018 and people know little about his situation. However, his wife Jiang Rong was able to visit him in prison in October 2021. This was their first meeting in over three years since his arrest.*

*Since Sheffield City Council is a liberal local government that sincerely cares about human rights and is also a sister-city to Chengdu, can the Council write a public letter to the city council of Chengdu to inquire about the status of Pastor Wang Yi? If so, when? If not, why not?*

*Besides, as I recall, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee members in the previous meeting emphasised the great value of having cultural exchanges with Chengdu. Will Sheffield City Council invite members of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu for cultural exchange with people in Sheffield? (Either online exchange or, if budget allows, in-person exchange). If not, why not?*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that, regarding the first question, the Council had considered formally writing to city officials of Anshan to inform them of the decision to relinquish the relationship. However, advice had been sought from the British Embassy in Beijing, who advised that in line with UK-China relations and noting that the relationship had effectively been dormant for many years, formally recording this decision in the minutes of the Committee's meeting was sufficient. The Chinese Consul General, based in Manchester, was also aware of this decision and agreed that this was most the suitable approach.

In respect of Daqing and Nanchang, Councillor Hunt advised that the previous Trade and Collaboration Agreements both expired in 2019. The wording of these documents was such that they would expire on the third-year anniversary of signing, unless both parties were in agreement that they wished to extend them for consecutive one-year terms. Should the parties choose not to renew the Agreements, then there was no requirement – on either party – to formally write to confirm expiry of the Agreement. In both instances, neither party had expressed a desire to renew the Agreements and accordingly, there was no requirement to formally put that in writing.

In response to the second question, Councillor Hunt advised that the incidents referred to happened almost 5 years ago and the Council had no prior knowledge of them, so would need to undertake some enquiries of its own before deciding whether any action should be taken.

Regarding cultural exchange, Councillor Hunt explained that, as a Sheffield resident, Ms Cheung was welcome to reach out to members of the Early Rain Covenant Church to determine their interest to engage, and could then let the Council know about any response, so they could determine whether there was a role for the Council to participate or facilitate exchange. He underlined that Sheffield City Council did not have any budget to facilitate any in-person exchanges.

Councillor Hunt added that the Council strongly encouraged interested residents, businesses and community organisations, to reach out to their equivalents in the Partner Cities and engage directly, as during times of significant budget constraints, responsibility for maintaining and developing relationships further could not rest solely with the City Council, who would seek to support and facilitate where it could.

### 5.3.3 Questions from Ada Li

*Questions – My topic is concerned about the potential cybersecurity threats posed by foreign governments. Talking about CCTV (security cameras and surveillance cameras) used in public and government buildings. How to protect public safety - our privacy and data protection?*

*I am going to bring up 4 concerns for your attention which will lead to underlying risk of using Chinese manufacturers and their products - Chinese made CCTV especially their links to the Chinese government.*

*Firstly, in March this year, news reported that several countries including the US government, our UK government and allies, accused China which was probably the one behind the hacking operations. Targeted millions of people include politicians, lawmakers, government officials, journalists, dissidents, individuals considered not supporting Beijing.*

*Secondly, happened on 7 May, the payroll system of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was hacked by malicious attempts. Despite no data being taken and the name of the country involved not being mentioned, Sky News understands this*

*to be China.*

*This time the targets were employees - personal information, their bank details, privacy protection for everyone is in danger.*

*According to an ITV report in June, documents leaked exposed that the Chinese state operates a hackers-for-hire industry. Chinese government CCP (Chinese Communist Party) hires hackers to make an attempt to monitor the world.*

*More than anything, we need to know - Chinese companies and Chinese manufactures create or build a backdoor to the Chinese government (Beijing) to access data. The Chinese government just uses remote access data whatever and whenever they want from the Chinese companies.*

*TikTok could be a good speculation, a former insider of TikTok claimed a backdoor channel for the Chinese government to access data based on CNN news in June 2023.*

*The UK privacy laws aim to protect privacy and personal information and the importance of informed consent. On the contrary, China's privacy laws aim to protect the government. Through the Chinese-made cameras, who is watching us at the back door? Have they obtained our informed consent?*

*What's more. Hikvision, one of the biggest global CCTV camera suppliers, is a Chinese state-owned manufacturer. Their CCTV cameras were also accused of being used by the Chinese government in the suppression of Uyghur Muslim in Xinjiang China.*

*Finally, China has been accused of supporting Russia by providing components to Moscow for military supplies based on the BBC interview with Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State.*

*The behaviours of Chinese manufacturers and the Chinese government are incompatible with our values and moral standards.*

*Our UK government has banned using Hikvision CCTV in the headquarters area due to security threats. How about the local councils? How about Sheffield Council?*

*What the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, said "We need to be absolutely clear about the security of the UK and the UK needs to "wean itself off" China when it comes to trade, commerce and technology" in interview with POLITICO in Sept 2023.*

*My question is what kinds of CCTV cameras are being used in public and government buildings in Sheffield. If there are existing Chinese-made cameras being used, does the Council have a timetable to remove them?*

*How can the Council procurement process and selection of suppliers take*



*actions to prevent us from these malicious attempts?*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that all supply chains for CCTV and associated equipment must now meet the requirements in the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy, and all ICT contracts include an assessment of security, and suppliers were required to provide certificated evidence of compliance with international security standards ISO27001, along with compliance with the UK Government National Security Centre's Cyber Essential Standard.

Councillor Hunt explained that, historically, Hikvision had been the most popular CCTV cameras and equipment globally due to their cost. The cost to completely remove all Hikvision cameras and equipment from the city and replace them instantly, would be significant. Therefore, the Council's strategy was to replace them on a rolling basis. The numbers of Hikvision cameras in Sheffield were being reduced by replacing them at the end of their life, either when they became very poor quality or failed completely. These cameras were then replaced by cameras from alternative suppliers via the Council's preferred CCTV contractor. He added that this would continue to be the case until all Hikvision, and cameras / equipment from similar companies, were removed.

#### 5.3.4 Questions from Charlotte Killeya

*Questions – Skin cancer rates continue to increase across the UK and are predicted to get even higher in future years.*

*Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer, and the number of cases is also at an all-time high. Cancer Research UK is projecting a record number of Melanoma cases this year.*

*Shockingly, we now have more deaths from Melanoma in the UK than in Australia. I am one of those statistics – at 45-years-old, I'm living with Stage 4 Melanoma.*

*Prevention and awareness are currently lacking and yet they are critical if we are to reduce the number of people suffering from and dying from skin cancer. This requires clear and consistent public health measures at national and local level.*

*As "The Outdoor City" Sheffield is uniquely placed to be an exemplar in the UK on sun safety. Moreover, if we are encouraging our citizens and visitors to enjoy our many beautiful outdoor spaces, we have a responsibility to put in place measures to protect them.*

*Will the Council commit to becoming a "Sun Safe City" as part of being "The Outdoor City"?*

*Will it consider measures such as:-*

- *Raising awareness via social media and on the Council webpage.*

- *As part of its event licensing, make it compulsory that organisers of outdoor events provide free sun cream with a minimum factor of 30.*
- *As a responsible employer, provide information about sun protection and sun cream (factor 30 and above) for their employees who work outdoors.*
- *To look at ways in which we can raise awareness of the dangers of sun bed use in our city.*
- *Pledge to support the #VATBurn Campaign which is asking the government to abolish VAT on factor 30+ sunscreen, making it more affordable.*

*Will the Council work with me and skin cancer charities, to put in place these and other measures, to make Sheffield a “Sun Safe City”?*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that he wanted to thank Ms Killeya for using her experience to help others. He advised that it was correct that the number of newly diagnosed cases of Malignant Melanoma across the UK was rising, and there was nothing to suggest Sheffield was likely to be any different from the national picture. Also, as Ms Killeya suggested, Malignant Melanoma was largely preventable. He outlined some steps which were recommended by the NHS, i.e. avoiding the sun during the hottest part of the day (between 11am and 3pm); never burning; covering up with suitable clothing, including hats and sunglasses; and using sunscreen of at least factor 30.

Councillor Hunt advised that the fact that Australia now had lower numbers of Malignant Melanoma was testament to the fact that they had understood how dangerous sun-exposure could be and had taken appropriate action. He stated that there were steps the City Council could be taking and it would be good to arrange a meeting with Ms Killeya, and public health officials, to discuss them further.

Councillor Hunt explained that the Council was in the process of planning communications with schools to increase their awareness of the harmful effects of the sun and encourage them to develop sun safe policies. He wanted people to enjoy the outdoors safely and would raise the matter with the appropriate Council officers to explore whether they could include safe sun messages and signposting in their marketing. He advised that there was a resource question that needed to be addressed but this could be discussed that as part of the conversation.

Councillor Hunt confirmed that colleagues at South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board were currently developing a cancer strategy, and he would be happy to pass Ms Killeya’s comments on to them. He wished Ms Killeya the very best for her future treatment.

### 5.3.5 Questions from Russell Johnson

*Questions – May I preface the Public Questions by praising the Council for recent progress in City Centre improvements. In particular, Pounds Park is*

*superb, and the Food Hall is a great asset for its intended audience. The general Heart of the City 2 environment is of high quality. I do hope the Council is successful in letting the vacant retail and other spaces and that other parts of the City Centre can be revived as well.*

*1.(a) Given the disappointing history of Urban Splash reneging on their commitments to including affordable housing during later phases of the Park Hill project, is the Council sanguine about awarding the John Lewis/Cole Brothers repurposing contract to that Company?*

*(b) Over a year after the announcement for the building's reuse, there has been no visible progress. May we be optimistic that the scheme will happen, and without demands for public monies? Is there a timescale that Urban Splash and AHMM is expected to comply with?*

*2. (a) Would the Council's stated intention that it would like to be seen as open, honest and transparent and accountable be more credible if the full report on the 'accidental' demolition of the Market Tavern were published? This is in light of the inaccurate SCC communications that the historic building had 'spontaneously collapsed'!*

*(b) Media reports indicate that no action is to be taken against those responsible for the 'accidental error'. Surely that can't be true? If it is, this seems to mean that officers can be incompetent and behave in such a way as to inflict damage to the Council's already tattered reputation with no accountability?*

*I would welcome the Leader's comment on this apparently remarkable and unacceptable situation. Particularly after the 'Containergate' fiasco that led to ridicule of SCC.*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that he welcomed the Green Flag Award being awarded to Pound's Park and the Sheffield General Cemetery on the previous day, and the Outstanding Development of the Year being awarded to Heart of the City at the Insider 2024 South Yorkshire Property Awards the previous week, and wished to offer his congratulations to everyone involved.

Councillor Hunt explained that the process for selecting a contractor for the former Cole Brothers building had been a fully transparent process and involved a number of bids being assessed, including by independent agents, with Urban Splash putting forward the best bid. There was no connection with the Park Hill development, both projects were decided completely independently of each other. He added that the Council was working with Urban Splash to provide affordable homes at Park Hill.

Councillor Hunt advised that he had recently been filmed for a clip which was shared on the Council's social media showing how the inside of the John Lewis / Cole Brothers building had been stripped out. He stated that following the original announcement of the selection of Urban Splash as preferred developer,

a detailed agreement for lease was negotiated and signed at the end of March 2024. Following this, detailed design work had been progressed by Urban Splash who intended to submit an application for planning permission, and listed building consent, in the autumn. Development work would follow this, which was in accordance with the timescales set out in the agreement for lease. Councillor Hunt confirmed that there had been no suggestion of public money being provided for the scheme.

Regarding the Market Tavern, Councillor Hunt stated that the full report by Barrow and Parker, the independent investigator, was commissioned through an internal Council Human Resources procedure and was confidential. It would not be shared publicly, in line with the Council's obligations as an employer on internal HR matters, relating to individual members of staff. However, the Council was aware there were many interested parties in the investigation and its outcomes, so to be as open and transparent as possible the Council had requested a summary version of the report from Barrow and Parker, which had been made available online for the public.

Councillor Hunt explained that the report had given a comprehensive overview of events and set out a number of recommendations which would now be taken forward. This included a recommendation that no further formal action is to be taken in respect of any of the key individuals subject to the allegations. The Council's Director of People and Organisational Culture had reviewed this recommendation in light of the evidence gathered through the disciplinary process and had concurred with the independent investigator that this was the correct outcome.

#### 5.3.6 Questions from Sue Owen

*Questions – The carpet bombing of Gaza, using hundreds of thousands of tons of explosives, has caused devastation to the population, involving the killing of nearly 40,000 people, including over 15,000 children, and the destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches and infrastructure of every kind.*

*Sheffield City Council is part of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund and the Border to Coast Pension Fund which have millions of pounds invested in the arms industry.*

*The range of investments is extensive and includes Airbus, BAE systems, Lockheed Martin, Elbit, QuinetiQ, Raytheon, Rolls Royce and others, all of which provide parts or full weapons, aircraft and drones that are sold to Israel and are used to kill civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.*

*The International Court of Justice is currently investigating Israel for war crimes and genocide in Gaza. This makes arms companies and their financial backers potentially complicit in genocide.*

*We, as pensioners in the South Yorkshire Pension Authority and citizens of Sheffield do not want to be complicit in war crimes and genocide.*

*There is no legal impediment preventing Sheffield City Council having an ethical stance on investments.*

*Will you make a statement making it clear that Sheffield City Council does not support pension investment in the arms industry?*

*And will you commit to raising a discussion at both South Yorkshire Pension Authority and Border To Coast, where representatives of the Council can make the argument for divestment from the arms industry?*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) thanked Ms Owen for her question and agreed that the scenes of devastation in Gaza were heartbreaking and that an urgent ceasefire should be called for.

Regarding the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, Councillor Hunt reiterated that the Council did not administer or have any direct influence over how the pension funds were invested. The funds belonged to the employees and ex-employees who were members of the pension scheme, and the scheme was administered on their behalf by the Pensions Authority.

Councillor Hunt explained that the Members of the Pensions Authority were all elected Members drawn from the four Councils in South Yorkshire, together with three Trade Union observers. The Members of the Pensions Authority had to act in the best financial interests of the Scheme's members and beneficiaries at all times. He added that those that were appointed to membership of the Pensions Authority were appointed in a personal capacity and owed their legal duties to the Pensions Authority. They were not representatives of the Council. The Council could not direct or influence how Members of the Pensions Authority took decisions relating to the administration and management of the pension fund. Those Members had a responsibility to follow the requirements set out in legislation, and independent of their position on the Council, must make their decisions based on what they felt was genuinely in the best interest of the pension fund.

Councillor Hunt advised that the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership was a collaboration of eleven Local Government Pension Scheme funds and managed around 70% of South Yorkshire Pensions Authority's investments. The Partnership maintained their own Responsible Investment Policy and details of their approach to these issues was available. Border to Coast's policies were reviewed annually and considered by the Pensions Authority at its December meeting each year.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) suggested that any further questions could be asked directly to South Yorkshire Pensions Authority or to the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership.

5.3.7 Questions from Annie O’Gara

*Questions – Earlier this year, the Sheffield Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid made a formal complaint, using the Councillors’ Code of Conduct as its benchmark. We believed that the Code of Conduct guaranteed high standards of speech and conduct in public office and that it had been egregiously violated in one of the Council’s most important committees.*

*The Complaint was dismissed with no reference to the Code of Conduct. We were also told that there was no right of appeal. We raised the issue again in the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee with no substantive outcome. Therefore, on June 6<sup>th</sup>, we referred the matter to the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee asking that the complaint be re-heard using the Code of Conduct for Councillors as the benchmark. Our letter was quickly acknowledged, and the Chair of that Committee said that he would ‘look into this matter and ask for it to be investigated accordingly’. We have not had a further reply.*

*Unless some serious steps are taken to restore faith in the Council’s policies, we will have little choice other than to conclude that EITHER the Code of Conduct is a meaningless document, OR that it is selectively applied – both of which scenarios bring this Council into disrepute.*

- 1. Will the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee require a re-hearing of the Complaint using the Code of Conduct as the benchmark?*
- 2. If not, we ask that the Council remove the Code of Conduct from its policies, having failed to implement it with regard to our complaint.*

In response, Councillor Mohammed Mahroof (the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee) stated that he wished to reassure the public that matters of conduct and standards were taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. He explained that it was a statutory requirement, under the Localism Act 2011, to adopt arrangements under which allegations of breaches of the councillor code of conduct could be made, and where appropriate investigated. This was set out in Appendix A of Part 5(b) of the Council’s Constitution. In accordance with paragraph 8 of that Appendix, there was no right of appeal for the complainant or Member against a decision of the Monitoring Officer or Hearing Sub-Committee, and the Chair of the Committee, or the Committee, had no power to override this.

Councillor Mahroof added that Complainants did have a right to complain to the Local Government Ombudsman, where they were dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint, and this right was set out in decision letters. He concluded by saying that whilst he could not comment on individual cases, all standards matters were properly investigated in line with the provisions of the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Audit and Standards Committee received an annual standards report, and the Code of Conduct was kept under review to ensure it remained fit for purpose. He concluded his response by stating that, if there was any further information on top of what had already been submitted, then he would be happy to look at the matter again.

5.4 Petition Requiring Debate: Requesting The Council To Provide Funding For Therapy Services Delivered By Sheffield Women's Charity, Vida

5.4.1 The Council received an electronic petition containing over 27,440 signatures requesting the Council to provide funding for therapy services delivered by Sheffield Women's Charity, Vida. Vida Sheffield is an independent, Sheffield-based charity providing therapy for women and girls who have experienced trauma and abuse.

5.4.2 The Council's Petitions Scheme requires any petition containing over 5,000 signatures from individuals who live, work or study in Sheffield, to be the subject of debate at the Council meeting.

5.4.3 In attendance at the meeting to make representations on behalf of the petitioners were Karen Hague, Chief Executive Officer of Vida Sheffield, who introduced her colleagues, Marilyn Gregory, the Chair of Trustees, and Bex Backley, a service user. Ms Hague stated that she had recently had dental pain and had been able to manage it with pain killers, however the women recovering from trauma who Vida helped, lived with the psychological pain of abuse constantly until they had an opportunity to process their trauma through therapy. 64% of women service users, said they felt suicidal when they joined the service.

Ms Hague stated that National Lottery funding had been extended to secure the service to the end of November 2024, but further funding was needed to keep the service running after that date. She explained that the service was highly respected and had been running for almost 30 years in a competitive funding environment. The Charity needed to raise £80,000 by March 2025, and required £240,000 each year to deliver the service. There were currently not enough services available to meet demand. Vida had 170-200 clients and supported around 50 through its online forum and peer support group. The cost for one-to-one therapy was £1000 per woman, which represented a massive saving to the public purse, and enabled the women affected to positively contribute to society and move on with their lives.

5.4.4 Councillor Angela Argenzio (Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee), in responding to the petition, thanked Ms Hague, the staff and volunteers and trustees at Vida, and everybody who had signed the petition, for bringing the issue to the Council, and for all the work the Charity has done over many years supporting women in Sheffield. She also apologised for the delay in fitting the petition onto the Council's agenda.

Councillor Argenzio outlined the activities and services that the Council undertook to raise awareness and support victims of domestic abuse and stated that Vida was one of a number of charities and groups that did valuable work in the city to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse. She added that many of these charities were facing financial challenges, as were the Council and the NHS, and this put services at risk. Vida closing would mean an increased burden on other mental health and therapy services.

Councillor Argenzio explained that as Vida was an independent charity, with its own finances and Board of Trustees, Council Officers were not legally able to provide direct legal or financial advice and support, so the Council funded Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS) to provide business planning advice, and support to charities and voluntary groups in the City. She noted that Vida had already been in touch with VAS to seek support. Councillor Argenzio advised that due to the strain on current Council budgets, any additional funding the Council provided would need to be taken from an existing budget commitment, which would potentially put at risk other important priorities in the Council's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. However, she emphasised that the Council would do all it could to support Vida in developing a clear business plan, and would continue to talk to the Council's colleagues in the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and the NHS in particular, as part of the financial planning round, to advocate for statutory funding for the work that Vida does.

- 5.4.5 Councillor Sophie Thornton (Deputy Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee) thanked the petitioners, apologised for the delay in hearing the petition, and underlined the connection between national sporting events and increases in domestic abuse. She acknowledged the important work done by Vida and the challenges that small charities faced in securing funding. Councillor Thornton stated that Councillors wished to work together to help the Charity find the funding it needed, on a long term and sustainable basis.
- 5.4.6 Councillor Laura McClean (Labour Group spokesperson on the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee) thanked the petitioners and everybody who signed the petition and acknowledged the important work done by Vida, who she said, worked in an area which the new Labour Government was committed to tackling. She stated that further conversations should take place with the NHS regarding funding.
- 5.4.7 Councillor Julie Grocutt (Sheffield Community Councillors Group spokesperson on the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee) also thanked the petitioners and the people who had signed the petition. She advised that she had spent many years working in a domestic violence unit during the 1990's, and having support networks supported by the voluntary sector had always been invaluable. Therefore, it was disappointing that 30 years on, voluntary organisations were still struggling for funding. Councillor Grocutt called on the Council to lobby the Government to review commissioning practices to promote funding security.
- 5.4.8 Contributions were made by a further two Members of the Council, summarised as follows. Councillor Douglas Johnson stated that service users attended Vida because they trusted the service and felt comfortable there. This was a strength of the voluntary sector, which had been decimated in recent years. Pressure should be kept up, on the health service, to fund clinical services such as those provided by Vida.
- 5.4.9 Councillor Ruth Milsom stated that services in the city were already under a



huge amount of pressure, and it was sad that the need for the services was not diminishing. She advised that she would like to see Vida's funding taken up by the Integrated Care Board and she hoped that the Council could assist by advocating for that.

- 5.4.10 Karen Hague, in exercising the petitioners' right of reply, invited Marilyn Gregory, the Chair of Trustees at Vida, to speak. Ms Gregory advised that Vida was originally the Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum and in the 1990's had founded the multi-agency strategy that currently operated. She stated that if the Council presided over the demise of Vida, it would be a very sad day. Councillors could influence Officers and MPs, and she asked them to write letters of support for the Charity.

Karen Hague also invited Bex Backley, a Vida service user to speak. Ms Backley stated that she had been bounced around statutory services, whilst dealing with the long-term effects of sexual abuse and feeling unable to seek assistance from the Police. There were many different reasons given as to why she was not allowed to access a variety of other services, and it was only when she found Vida that she was offered help with substance use, an eating disorder and other self-destructive coping practices. Vida's help had enabled her to contribute to society, including by working and by being a Mum. The service had brought her back from feeling suicidal, and other women should be offered the same opportunity.

Karen Hague concluded by stating that the organisation felt passed around from pillar to post and needed a statutory agency to take responsibility.

- 5.4.11 The Lord Mayor reported that, in relation to the action to be taken in response to the petition, the Council had two options available to it. These were either to note the petition and take no further action, for the reasons put forward in the debate, or to refer the petition to a Committee or a Strategic Director for consideration, having regard to the comments made by Members during the debate.
- 5.4.12 Following a right of reply from Councillor Angela Argenzio, the Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee, it was:-

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio, seconded by Councillor Sophie Thornton, that the Council refers the matter to the Strategic Director of Public Health and Commissioning for further consideration, with a request that he (a) works with Vida Sheffield and with Voluntary Action Sheffield to help develop a sustainable business and financial plan for the Charity; (b) writes to colleagues in the NHS and Integrated Commissioning Board to ensure consideration is given to Vida's work as part of the NHS financial planning round this year; and (c) writes to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to stress the importance of dedicated resources for counselling and therapy for women and girls affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

## **6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **6.1 Urgent Business**

There were no questions relating to urgent business, submitted under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6.

### **6.2 Written Questions**

6.2.1 A schedule of questions, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Members of the Council are able to ask the Leader of the Council, or any Policy Committee or Sub-Committee or Regulatory Committee Chairs, or Members appointed by the Council to serve on the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, or any other external body or joint committee, questions on matters within the functions of those Bodies.

6.2.2 Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, were asked by the Members who had submitted the original questions and were answered by the relevant Member, until the expiry of the time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "DEBATE NOT HATE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR FRAN BELBIN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR IBBY ULLAH**

7.1 It was moved by Councillor Fran Belbin, and seconded by Councillor Ibbly Ullah, that this Council:-

- (a) notes two city wide elections have taken place in Sheffield in the last three months and thanks everyone who voted and all those who helped to administer the elections for playing their part in the democratic process;
- (b) believes that debating and respectfully disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of our democracy, but that this cannot cross the line into abuse or intimidation;
- (c) further notes that abuse and toxicity in public and political discourse has a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) feel safe and able to represent their residents;
- (d) notes that female councillors and councillors from minoritised groups and those with other protected characteristics often receive the most abuse;

- (e) believes that the intimidation and abuse of councillors and MPs, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy, prevents elected members from representing the communities they serve, deters individuals from standing for election, and undermines public life in democratic processes;
- (f) therefore resolves to:-
  - (i) challenge the normalisation of abuse against politicians and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does;
  - (ii) sign up to the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign and calls on each councillor to sign up to the campaign; the campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation;
  - (iii) work with the LGA to address the abuse and intimidation of local politicians;
  - (iv) ensure the Council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers;
  - (v) regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety;
  - (vi) work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs; and
  - (vii) take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

7.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Penny Baker, and seconded by Councillor Robert Reiss, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (e) and (f) as new paragraphs (g) and (h):-

- (e) notes that whilst social media is a valuable tool for councillors to connect with constituents, it has led to the rise of online harassment and abuse directed to elected officials;
- (f) further notes that this online abuse can transcend traditional boundaries into personal spaces 24 hours a day;

7.3 It was then moved by Councillor Peter Gilbert, and seconded by Councillor Alexi Dimond, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (f) to (j) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (f) as a new paragraph (k):-
  - (f) believes that while all intimidation is wrong, elected representatives must be held to the same standards we expect of others and demonstrate civility, honesty and integrity in accordance with the Nolan principles of Standards in Public Life;
  - (g) believes politicians should not mis-label robust and legitimate challenges to their policies as hate to avoid accountability;
  - (h) believes that an unrepresentative electoral system and laws which stifle protest and dissent help foster an environment of disempowerment, distrust and disengagement;
  - (i) notes that the government led by Sir Tony Blair changed the law on political advertising so that it "doesn't require claims in political campaigns to be truthful or factually accurate";
  - (j) notes that The Electoral Commission warned in 2019 that misleading campaign techniques risk undermining trust in elections and in politicians;
2. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (viii) to (x) in new paragraph (k) [original paragraph (f)] as follows:-
  - (viii) demonstrate that all political parties agree to be held to the same standard of truthfulness and respect that society expects;
  - (ix) ask that the leaders of all groups in the Council co-sign a letter to the Prime Minister asking that political advertising is properly regulated; and
  - (x) ask the Chief Executive to sign up corporately to the Debate Not Hate campaign.

7.4 It was then moved by Councillor Qais Al-Ahdal, and seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of the word "toxicity" in paragraph (c);
2. the addition, at the end of paragraph (d) of the words "and also believes that Sir Keir Starmer must apologise for singling out Bengalis as this fuels further hate towards a minoritised group";

3. the deletion of paragraph (e) and the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-
    - (e) believes that genuine debate and holding councillors and MPs to account for lying during campaigns should not be classed as intimidation or abuse, and should be protected under freedom of speech;
  4. the addition, at the end of sub-paragraph (f)(vii), of the words "while protecting freedom of speech of constituents".
- 7.5 Following a contribution from another Member, it was **RESOLVED**: On the motion moved by Councillor Sue Alston, seconded by Councillor Mary Lea, that Council Procedure Rule 17.6 be suspended to enable the time limit for debate on this item of business to be extended to allow for contributions to be made by a further three Members.
- 7.6 After those three contributions had been made, and following a right of reply from Councillor Fran Belbin, the amendment moved by Councillor Penny Baker was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.
- 7.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Peter Gilbert was then put to the vote and was carried, except for paragraph (i) in Part 1 of the amendment, which was lost.
- 7.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 36 Members; AGAINST - 29 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 6 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they voted for paragraphs (f) and (j) in Part 1 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained on paragraph (i) in Part 1 of the amendment.)
- 7.8 The amendment moved by Councillor Qais Al-Ahdal was then put to the vote and was lost, but in part. Parts 1 and 3 of the amendment were lost, and Parts 2 and 4 of the amendment were carried.
- 7.8.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 9 Members; AGAINST - 54 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 6 Members. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted against, they voted for Parts 2 and 4 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 3 of the amendment.)
- 7.9 The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes two city wide elections have taken place in Sheffield in the last three months and thanks everyone who voted and all those who helped to administer the elections for playing their part in the democratic process;

- (b) believes that debating and respectfully disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of our democracy, but that this cannot cross the line into abuse or intimidation;
- (c) further notes that abuse and toxicity in public and political discourse has a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) feel safe and able to represent their residents;
- (d) notes that female councillors and councillors from minoritised groups and those with other protected characteristics often receive the most abuse and also believes that Sir Keir Starmer must apologise for singling out Bengalis as this fuels further hate towards a minoritised group;
- (e) notes that whilst social media is a valuable tool for councillors to connect with constituents, it has led to the rise of online harassment and abuse directed to elected officials;
- (f) further notes that this online abuse can transcend traditional boundaries into personal spaces 24 hours a day;
- (g) believes that the intimidation and abuse of councillors and MPs, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy, prevents elected members from representing the communities they serve, deters individuals from standing for election, and undermines public life in democratic processes;
- (h) believes that while all intimidation is wrong, elected representatives must be held to the same standards we expect of others and demonstrate civility, honesty and integrity in accordance with the Nolan principles of Standards in Public Life;
- (i) believes politicians should not mis-label robust and legitimate challenges to their policies as hate to avoid accountability;
- (j) believes that an unrepresentative electoral system and laws which stifle protest and dissent help foster an environment of disempowerment, distrust and disengagement;
- (k) notes that The Electoral Commission warned in 2019 that misleading campaign techniques risk undermining trust in elections and in politicians; and
- (l) therefore resolves to:-
  - (i) challenge the normalisation of abuse against politicians and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does;

- (ii) sign up to the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign and calls on each councillor to sign up to the campaign; the campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation;
- (iii) work with the LGA to address the abuse and intimidation of local politicians;
- (iv) ensure the Council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers;
- (v) regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety;
- (vi) work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs;
- (vii) take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers while protecting freedom of speech of constituents;
- (viii) demonstrate that all political parties agree to be held to the same standard of truthfulness and respect that society expects;
- (ix) ask that the leaders of all groups in the Council co-sign a letter to the Prime Minister asking that political advertising is properly regulated; and
- (x) ask the Chief Executive to sign up corporately to the Debate Not Hate campaign.

7.9.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (d), (i) and (j) and sub-paragraphs (viii) to (x) of paragraph (l) of the Substantive Motion.)

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "A HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE EMERGENCY IN SHEFFIELD" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE THORNTON AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WILL SAPWELL**

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton, and seconded by Councillor Will Sapwell, that:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) that the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes;
- (b) that people across Sheffield are struggling to access health and care services;
- (c) that in 2023, almost 900,000 GP appointments in Sheffield took place more than two weeks after booking, representing 24% of all appointments that year;
- (d) that despite this, primary care providers have not been given the funding to employ more GPs, leaving qualified doctors facing unemployment;
- (e) that there is a national dentistry crisis as increasing numbers of practitioners leave the NHS;
- (f) that short staffing of Sheffield Adult Autism and Neurodivergent Service (SAANS) is causing astronomical wait times for ADHD assessments;
- (g) that the Adult Health and Social Care and Education, Children and Families Policy Committees face significant pressure to continue to deliver savings in 2024/25 in the context of increasing demand for services;
- (h) that the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee overspend in 2023/24 was greatly reduced by one-off government funding, with no guarantee that this will continue in 2024/25;
- (i) that difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency as well as undermining overall population health; and
- (j) that both The King's Fund and the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have acknowledged the positive vision the Liberal Democrats have for social care reform and that cross-party working is the only way to achieve this;

This Council advocates for:-

- (k) cross-party collaboration both locally through the Health and Wellbeing Board and nationally through a long-term agreement on funding and



provision of social care;

This Council resolves to:-

- (l) call for:-
  - (i) the establishment of a cross-party commission to forge a long-term agreement on predictable, consistent funding for free personal care;
  - (ii) the immediate review of Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) funding rules so that primary care providers in Sheffield can employ extra GPs; and
  - (iii) an Emergency Health and Care Budget to put this national crisis at the top of the new government's agenda; and
- (m) request the Chief Executive to convey these calls to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

8.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Laura McClean, and formally seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraph (j) and the re-lettering of paragraph (k) as a new paragraph (j).
- 2. the deletion of the section containing paragraphs (l) and (m).
- 3. the addition of new paragraphs (k) to (q) (under the section "This Council advocates for"), as follows:-
  - (k) greater elected member involvement in developing local healthcare strategies, creating opportunities for experience of communities to be heard and utilised;
  - (l) a new national approach to social care, believing successive governments have failed to address the crisis, noting that various political parties have good ideas for consideration, and cross-party working should be encouraged nationally and locally to rise to the challenge;
  - (m) the building of a cross-party consensus for longer-term reform needed to create a sustainable National Care Service, supporting the new government's commitment to exploring how best to manage and support an ageing population, working-age disabled adults, meaningful integration with the NHS, and a more preventative system;
  - (n) enhanced partnership working across employers, workers, trade

unions and government to establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care;

- (o) services locally delivered with a 'home first' principle supporting independent living for as long as possible, standards that ensure high-quality care and ongoing sustainability, and partnerships with responsible providers, and recognises the cross-party work already undertaken by this Council towards such a model;
- (p) further developing local partnership working between NHS and social care to improve hospital discharge and avoidable admissions; and
- (q) pro-active recruitment of NHS dentists to tackle 'dentistry deserts' and reform of the dental contract; and welcomes the evidence-gathering underway by this Council's cross-party Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Healthwatch to provide a detailed local report on access to NHS dentistry in Sheffield to the Department of Health and Social Care.

8.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio, and formally seconded by Councillor Henry Nottage, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new section and new paragraphs (k) to (m) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (k) to (m) as new paragraphs (n) to (p):-

This Council believes:-

- (k) significant public funding is needed to address the crisis in the NHS and Social Care and following the previous Government's spending plans is just a continuation of austerity;
- (l) the only way to reverse the damage caused by previous governments is to stand against the privatisation of our NHS and keep it in public hands; public funding should not be used to finance private profit and shareholders' bonuses;
- (m) there is a crisis in social care nationally, with over 400,000 people awaiting care, reviews, payments or assessment, whilst there are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector;

2. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (iv) to (vi) in new paragraph (o) [original paragraph (l)] as follows:-

- (iv) a wealth tax of 1% on assets over £10 million and 2% on assets over £1 billion to raise £50-70 billion to help address the funding crisis in the NHS and Social Care;

- (v) public funding for trusted voluntary sector organisations taking NHS referrals such as domestic abuse counselling services; and
- (vi) commencement of immediate negotiations on a new NHS dental contract to ensure that dentists are paid properly for their work within the NHS, with a commitment to a firm deadline for rollout.

8.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Laura McClean was put to the vote and was carried.

8.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 71 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against Parts 1 and 2 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 2 of the amendment.)

8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio was then put to the vote and was carried, except for sub-paragraph (iv) in Part 2 of the amendment, which was lost.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 70 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (iv) in Part 2 of the amendment and abstained on paragraph (k) in Part 1 of the amendment and on sub-paragraph (v) in Part 2 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (iv) in Part 2 of the amendment and abstained on paragraph (l) in Part 1 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) that the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes;
- (b) that people across Sheffield are struggling to access health and care services;
- (c) that in 2023, almost 900,000 GP appointments in Sheffield took place more than two weeks after booking, representing 24% of all appointments that year;
- (d) that despite this, primary care providers have not been given the funding to employ more GPs, leaving qualified doctors facing unemployment;
- (e) that there is a national dentistry crisis as increasing numbers of practitioners leave the NHS;

- (f) that short staffing of Sheffield Adult Autism and Neurodivergent Service (SAANS) is causing astronomical wait times for ADHD assessments;
- (g) that the Adult Health and Social Care and Education, Children and Families Policy Committees face significant pressure to continue to deliver savings in 2024/25 in the context of increasing demand for services;
- (h) that the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee overspend in 2023/24 was greatly reduced by one-off government funding, with no guarantee that this will continue in 2024/25;
- (i) that difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency as well as undermining overall population health;

This Council believes:-

- (j) significant public funding is needed to address the crisis in the NHS and Social Care and following the previous Government's spending plans is just a continuation of austerity;
- (k) the only way to reverse the damage caused by previous governments is to stand against the privatisation of our NHS and keep it in public hands; public funding should not be used to finance private profit and shareholders' bonuses;
- (l) there is a crisis in social care nationally, with over 400,000 people awaiting care, reviews, payments or assessment, whilst there are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector;

This Council advocates for:-

- (m) cross-party collaboration both locally through the Health and Wellbeing Board and nationally through a long-term agreement on funding and provision of social care;
- (n) greater elected member involvement in developing local healthcare strategies, creating opportunities for experience of communities to be heard and utilised;
- (o) a new national approach to social care, believing successive governments have failed to address the crisis, noting that various political parties have good ideas for consideration, and cross-party working should be encouraged nationally and locally to rise to the challenge;
- (p) the building of a cross-party consensus for longer-term reform needed to create a sustainable National Care Service, supporting the new government's commitment to exploring how best to manage and support

- an ageing population, working-age disabled adults, meaningful integration with the NHS, and a more preventative system;
- (q) enhanced partnership working across employers, workers, trade unions and government to establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care;
  - (r) services locally delivered with a 'home first' principle supporting independent living for as long as possible, standards that ensure high-quality care and ongoing sustainability, and partnerships with responsible providers, and recognises the cross-party work already undertaken by this Council towards such a model;
  - (s) further developing local partnership working between NHS and social care to improve hospital discharge and avoidable admissions;
  - (t) pro-active recruitment of NHS dentists to tackle 'dentistry deserts' and reform of the dental contract; and welcomes the evidence-gathering underway by this Council's cross-party Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Healthwatch to provide a detailed local report on access to NHS dentistry in Sheffield to the Department of Health and Social Care; and
  - (u) this Council resolves to call for:-
    - (v) public funding for trusted voluntary sector organisations taking NHS referrals such as domestic abuse counselling services; and
    - (vi) commencement of immediate negotiations on a new NHS dental contract to ensure that dentists are paid properly for their work within the NHS, with a commitment to a firm deadline for rollout.

8.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained on paragraph (h) of the Substantive Motion. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained on paragraph (k) of the Substantive Motion.)

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "REALLOCATING SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY FUNDING FROM DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT TO INSULATING HOMES" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PAUL TURPIN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PETER GILBERT**

9.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and formally seconded by Councillor Peter Gilbert, that:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) the intention of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to

commit £138 million of Gainshare Funding to the reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (£5.3 million per year for 26 years);

- (b) that £3.1 million of funding has already been allocated to develop an Outline Business Case to support the reopening of the Airport;
- (c) the proximity to Sheffield of Manchester, Leeds Bradford and East Midlands Airports;
- (d) that the Aviation Sector has stated that it will be net zero by 2050 but there is “no single, clear, sustainable alternative to jet fuel able to support flying on a scale equivalent to present day use” according to the Royal Society;

This Council believes:-

- (e) that any supposed emission savings from “Sustainable” Aviation Fuels will be almost completely negated by growth in flights;
- (f) that airport subsidy benefits people who are already relatively privileged and doesn't do anything to address inequality;
- (g) that, given the proximity of other airports, giving public money to reopening Doncaster Sheffield Airport is unnecessary;
- (h) that airport expansion is incompatible with our local, regional and national climate targets;
- (i) that £5.3 million per year funding would be better spent on supporting a scheme to help insulate homes and develop and increase the amount of renewable technologies to reduce carbon emissions and householders' energy bills;
- (j) that long distance train travel needs investment in infrastructure and lower prices to make it cheaper than highly subsidised air travel;
- (k) that air travel should be limited to sustainable levels with full costs of environmental impacts charged to airlines and airports;

This Council resolves:-

- (l) to not support the reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport;
- (m) to express the view that the £5.3 million per year should be reallocated from supporting airport expansion to supporting a scheme to make homes more energy-efficient;
- (n) to call on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to release the report on the South Yorkshire Citizens' Assembly on Climate;

- (o) to request the Leader of the Council to convey these views to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority; and
- (p) to request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to support policies to lift the implicit subsidy to the aviation industry and tax aviation fuel fairly in order to use the funding raised to support the development of long-distance rail travel.

9.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Tom Hunt, and formally seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell, 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 new paragraphs (a) to (e):-

- (a) is committed to regional economic growth and notes that re-opening Doncaster-Sheffield Airport would significantly boost the regional economy, create 3,000-4,500 jobs directly, and thousands more in indirect and catalyst roles across various sectors;
- (b) believes that reopening the Airport would create an internationally significant, sustainable aviation and advanced manufacturing hub at Gateway East in Doncaster, and notes that the Airport would form a key part of the South Yorkshire Investment Zone;
- (c) believes that South Yorkshire's expertise in advanced manufacturing means that our region is well placed to help to develop green aviation technologies;
- (d) believes that collaboration between industry and academia on sustainable aviation fuels, electric and hybrid propulsion systems, and lightweight materials, can position the region as a leader in green aviation; and
- (e) supports the re-opening of Doncaster-Sheffield Airport.

9.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, and formally seconded by Councillor Tim Huggan, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (p) inclusive; and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (m) as follows:-
  - (c) the long standing commitment of this Council to support an airport in South Yorkshire, particularly Doncaster Sheffield Airport;
  - (d) that the Mayor of South Yorkshire has been firm in his commitment to reopening the Airport, and trust that he will continue to do so in the coming months;
  - (e) the continuing role that manufacturers in South Yorkshire have in

producing components for the aviation industry;

This Council believes:-

- (f) that a reopened Doncaster Sheffield Airport is in the long-term interests of the South Yorkshire economy;
- (g) that long distance train travel needs investment in infrastructure and lower prices to make it cheaper than highly subsidised air travel;
- (h) that a rail link for Doncaster Sheffield Airport must be part of any medium-term plans;
- (i) that airlines should be required to show the carbon emissions for domestic flights compared to the equivalent rail option at booking;

This Council resolves:-

- (j) to respect the right of the City of Doncaster Council and its elected Members to make decisions on allocation of their Gainshare funding;
- (k) to call for a reform on aviation taxes to focus on frequent flyers, while reducing costs for ordinary households who take one or two international return flights per year;
- (l) to call on the Mayor of South Yorkshire and the newly elected government to keep to their promises to re-open Doncaster Sheffield Airport; and
- (m) to call on the Mayor of South Yorkshire to meet with the relevant Minister to explore options for funding a rail link and to report back with a timeline for the implementation.

9.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Tom Hunt was put to the vote and was carried.

9.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 59 Members; AGAINST - 8 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members.)

9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar was then put to the vote and was carried, except for paragraphs (l) and (m) in Part 2 of the amendment, which were lost.

9.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 60 Members; AGAINST - 7 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (l) and (m) in Part 2 of the amendment, and abstained on paragraphs (i) and (k) in Part 2 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted against, they voted for paragraphs (g) and (i) in



Part 2 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) the long standing commitment of this Council to support an airport in South Yorkshire, particularly Doncaster Sheffield Airport;
- (b) that the Mayor of South Yorkshire has been firm in his commitment to reopening the Airport, and trust that he will continue to do so in the coming months;
- (c) the continuing role that manufacturers in South Yorkshire have in producing components for the aviation industry;

This Council believes:-

- (d) that a reopened Doncaster Sheffield Airport is in the long-term interests of the South Yorkshire economy;
- (e) that long distance train travel needs investment in infrastructure and lower prices to make it cheaper than highly subsidised air travel;
- (f) that a rail link for Doncaster Sheffield Airport must be part of any medium-term plans;
- (g) that airlines should be required to show the carbon emissions for domestic flights compared to the equivalent rail option at booking;

This Council resolves:-

- (h) to respect the right of the City of Doncaster Council and its elected Members to make decisions on allocation of their Gainshare funding;
- (i) to call for a reform on aviation taxes to focus on frequent flyers, while reducing costs for ordinary households who take one or two international return flights per year;

This Council:-

- (j) is committed to regional economic growth and notes that re-opening Doncaster-Sheffield Airport would significantly boost the regional economy, create 3,000-4,500 jobs directly, and thousands more in indirect and catalyst roles across various sectors;

- (k) believes that reopening the Airport would create an internationally significant, sustainable aviation and advanced manufacturing hub at Gateway East in Doncaster, and notes that the Airport would form a key part of the South Yorkshire Investment Zone;
- (l) believes that South Yorkshire's expertise in advanced manufacturing means that our region is well placed to help to develop green aviation technologies;
- (m) believes that collaboration between industry and academia on sustainable aviation fuels, electric and hybrid propulsion systems, and lightweight materials, can position the region as a leader in green aviation; and
- (n) supports the re-opening of Doncaster-Sheffield Airport.

9.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 58 Members; AGAINST - 8 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained on paragraphs (g) and (i) of the Substantive Motion.)

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "BUILDING HOMES AND BETTER MANAGING HOUSING STOCK TO DEAL WITH THE HOUSING EMERGENCY AND IMPROVE LIVES OF SHEFFIELD CITIZENS" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DIANNE HURST AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR GARRY WEATHERALL**

10.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Dianne Hurst, and formally seconded by Councillor Garry Weatherall, that this Council:-

- (a) notes research published by Shelter, which states that:-
  - (i) between April 2023 and April 2024, 26,000 social rent homes in England have been lost through demolition or purchase;
  - (ii) over 145,800 children are currently in temporary accommodation due to homelessness;
  - (iii) landlords are converting their homes into affordable rent housing, which is not social rent housing; and
  - (iv) in the financial year 2022-23, there was a net loss of 11,684 social rent homes in England;
- (b) notes that Sheffield mirrors this picture:-
  - (i) between April 2014 and April 2023, the number of Sheffield City

Council owned and managed homes declined from 41,059 to 38,470;

- (ii) in the financial year 2023-24 the main homelessness duty was owed to 843 households, and there were 765 households in temporary accommodation as of 20th June 2024;
  - (iii) at the same time, applicants are advised to seek private rental homes, incurring higher costs which are unaffordable for many; the average private rent was £850 per month last December, compared to an average social rent of £358 for the last financial year; and
  - (iv) the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-25, which was presented to Full Council in February 2024, acknowledges that the city has a shortage of 902 homes and anticipates a further loss of stock each year; it contains no clear targets for building, investment or acquisition during 2024-25 and, in the absence of a 10-year housing strategy, says that a partnership approach will be required;
- (c) believes that this commitment is not sufficiently clear, demonstrates a lack of ambition and, put simply, lets the people of Sheffield down;
  - (d) resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider using the full range of tools available to borrow monies to increase housing stock;
  - (e) calls upon central government to restrict the Right to Buy, in order to protect its investment in social housing and the wellbeing of its citizens;
  - (f) resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider managing remaining properties effectively by:-
    - (i) reviewing and managing tenancies appropriately where reports of empty homes are received;
    - (ii) bringing void properties, regardless of their management arrangements across the Council portfolio, back into use as soon as possible; and
    - (iii) promoting a system whereby properties can be pre-allocated on receipt of notice in order to minimise lost income and prevent damage and vandalism whilst vacant;
  - (g) also resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider investing in retrofitting existing homes on the basis of 'worst first', to create sustainable and desirable homes; and
  - (h) further resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider building new homes for rent at social rent levels, enabling the

regeneration of whole communities as a result.

10.1.1 (NOTE: With the agreement of the Council and at the request of the mover of the Motion (Councillor Dianne Hurst), the Motion as published on the agenda was altered by the substitution of the figure “26,000” for the figure “260,000” in sub-paragraph (a)(i) of the Motion.)

10.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Alison Norris, and formally seconded by Councillor Karen McGowan, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (i) to (m) as follows:-

- (i) notes that public consultation is underway on a new 10-year housing strategy to enable all of our communities to have access to the right homes and neighbourhoods to meet their needs;
- (j) notes that this strategy will not only cover social housing, but also relates to privately owned and privately rented housing;
- (k) notes that Sheffield is experiencing high demand for housing but that the Council is taking steps to increase housing growth in the city, including the Council’s commitment to build and acquire an extra 1,012 council homes within 5 years, making sites available for housing associations and our work to develop three new city centre neighbourhoods;
- (l) welcomes the aims of the newly elected government to deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation; and
- (m) welcomes, furthermore, the Government’s stated commitment to building new social rented homes and to better protect existing stock by reviewing right to buy discounts introduced and increasing protections on newly-built social housing.

10.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton, and formally seconded by Councillor Mike Levery, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(v) as follows:-
  - (v) a recent report by the Regulator of Social Housing shows the City Council has failed to meet their new consumer standards and “does not have an accurate record of the condition of tenants’ homes”;
2. the deletion of paragraph (d) and the re-lettering of original paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (d).
3. the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-

- (e) resolves to ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to implement a ten-year housing emergency upgrade programme with free insulation for those on low incomes;

4. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (f)(iv) to (vi) as follows:-

- (iv) urgently addressing the 10,000 outstanding repairs across its homes;
- (v) setting clear and transparent targets to reduce the backlog of repairs, making better use of the 31% increase in budget in the last two years; and
- (vi) allowing tenants to directly employ an approved contractor where repairs have not been carried out in appropriate time.

10.4 It was then formally moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and formally seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (h) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) to (h) as new paragraphs (i) to (m):-

- (d) believes that council housing is a vital public service we should be proud of;
- (e) notes that the New Economic Foundation has reported that private landlords are set to receive £70 billion in subsidy through housing benefit in five years (2021-26);
- (f) notes this Council is one of the 20 largest local authority landlords in England which signed the recent “Securing the Future of Council Housing” report, with 23 recommendations as urgent solutions to solve the crisis in council housing;
- (g) notes the proposals put forward to government include:-
  - (i) a fair and sustainable model for Housing Revenue Account funding;
  - (ii) ending the Right to Buy for new council house-building;
  - (iii) an immediate cash injection of £644 million;
  - (iv) a new, long-term Green and Decent Homes programme to bring all council housing up to the new standard of safety, decency and energy efficiency by 2030; and
  - (v) funding to complete stalled council house-building schemes, such as the Gleadless Valley masterplan regeneration;

- (h) believes that government should support all these solutions not only because they are what our tenants and residents need and deserve but also because they support the economy, improve wellbeing and reduce the demand on other public services;
- 10.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Alison Norris was put to the vote and was carried.
- 10.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 62 Members; AGAINST - 5 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members.)
- 10.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton was then put to the vote and was also carried.
- 10.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST -0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 3 and sub-paragraph (vi) in Part 4 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Parts 1 and 2 of the amendment.)
- 10.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was also carried.
- 10.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST -0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (e) and abstained on paragraph (h) of the amendment.)
- 10.8 The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes research published by Shelter, which states that:-
  - (i) between April 2023 and April 2024, 26,000 social rent homes in England have been lost through demolition or purchase;
  - (ii) over 145,800 children are currently in temporary accommodation due to homelessness;
  - (iii) landlords are converting their homes into affordable rent housing, which is not social rent housing; and
  - (iv) in the financial year 2022-23, there was a net loss of 11,684 social rent homes in England;
- (b) notes that Sheffield mirrors this picture:-

- (i) between April 2014 and April 2023, the number of Sheffield City Council owned and managed homes declined from 41,059 to 38,470;
  - (ii) in the financial year 2023-24 the main homelessness duty was owed to 843 households, and there were 765 households in temporary accommodation as of 20th June 2024;
  - (iii) at the same time, applicants are advised to seek private rental homes, incurring higher costs which are unaffordable for many; the average private rent was £850 per month last December, compared to an average social rent of £358 for the last financial year;
  - (iv) the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-25, which was presented to Full Council in February 2024, acknowledges that the city has a shortage of 902 homes and anticipates a further loss of stock each year; it contains no clear targets for building, investment or acquisition during 2024-25 and, in the absence of a 10-year housing strategy, says that a partnership approach will be required; and
  - (v) a recent report by the Regulator of Social Housing shows the City Council has failed to meet their new consumer standards and “does not have an accurate record of the condition of tenants’ homes”;
- (c) believes that this commitment is not sufficiently clear, demonstrates a lack of ambition and, put simply, lets the people of Sheffield down;
- (d) believes that council housing is a vital public service we should be proud of;
- (e) notes that the New Economic Foundation has reported that private landlords are set to receive £70 billion in subsidy through housing benefit in five years (2021-26);
- (f) notes this Council is one of the 20 largest local authority landlords in England which signed the recent “Securing the Future of Council Housing” report, with 23 recommendations as urgent solutions to solve the crisis in council housing;
- (g) notes the proposals put forward to government include:-
- (i) a fair and sustainable model for Housing Revenue Account funding;
  - (ii) ending the Right to Buy for new council house-building;

- (iii) an immediate cash injection of £644 million;
- (iv) a new, long-term Green and Decent Homes programme to bring all council housing up to the new standard of safety, decency and energy efficiency by 2030; and
- (v) funding to complete stalled council house-building schemes, such as the Gleadless Valley masterplan regeneration;
- (h) believes that government should support all these solutions not only because they are what our tenants and residents need and deserve but also because they support the economy, improve wellbeing and reduce the demand on other public services;
- (i) calls upon central government to restrict the Right to Buy, in order to protect its investment in social housing and the wellbeing of its citizens;
- (j) resolves to ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to implement a ten-year housing emergency upgrade programme with free insulation for those on low incomes;
- (k) resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider managing remaining properties effectively by:-
  - (i) reviewing and managing tenancies appropriately where reports of empty homes are received;
  - (ii) bringing void properties, regardless of their management arrangements across the Council portfolio, back into use as soon as possible;
  - (iii) promoting a system whereby properties can be pre-allocated on receipt of notice in order to minimise lost income and prevent damage and vandalism whilst vacant;
  - (iv) urgently addressing the 10,000 outstanding repairs across its homes;
  - (v) setting clear and transparent targets to reduce the backlog of repairs, making better use of the 31% increase in budget in the last two years; and
  - (vi) allowing tenants to directly employ an approved contractor where repairs have not been carried out in appropriate time;
- (l) also resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider investing in retrofitting existing homes on the basis of 'worst first', to create sustainable and desirable homes;
- (m) further resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to consider



- building new homes for rent at social rent levels, enabling the regeneration of whole communities as a result;
- (n) notes that public consultation is underway on a new 10-year housing strategy to enable all of our communities to have access to the right homes and neighbourhoods to meet their needs;
  - (o) notes that this strategy will not only cover social housing, but also relates to privately owned and privately rented housing;
  - (p) notes that Sheffield is experiencing high demand for housing but that the Council is taking steps to increase housing growth in the city, including the Council's commitment to build and acquire an extra 1,012 council homes within 5 years, making sites available for housing associations and our work to develop three new city centre neighbourhoods;
  - (q) welcomes the aims of the newly elected government to deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation; and
  - (r) welcomes, furthermore, the Government's stated commitment to building new social rented homes and to better protect existing stock by reviewing right to buy discounts introduced and increasing protections on newly-built social housing.

10.8.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (b)(iv) and paragraphs (c) and (j) of the Substantive Motion. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (e) and abstained on paragraph (h) of the Substantive Motion. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (b)(v) of the Substantive Motion.)

## **11. ORDER OF NOTICES OF MOTION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

11.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and formally seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that:-

Further to Council Procedure Rule 10.2, and having regard to the fact that the order for this meeting had been determined as Labour / Lib Dem / Green / Sheffield Community Councillors, the order in which Notices of Motion shall be listed on the Summons for the remaining five ordinary meetings of the Council in the Municipal Year 2024-25 shall be as follows:-

4 September 2024 – LibDem / Green / Labour / Labour / Cllr Al-Ahdal

2 October 2024 – Labour / LibDem / Labour / LibDem

6 November 2024 – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour

4 December 2024 – LibDem / Labour / Labour / LibDem

5 February 2025 – Labour / Sheff Community Councillors / LibDem / Green

11.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea, and formally seconded by Councillor Fran Belbin, that the motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the word “that:-” and the addition of the following words:-

“this Council:-

- (a) believes that Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 10.2 which states “Provision shall also be made for the inclusion of any individual Motions that are not submitted through the recognised Groups” is unclear in its meaning;
- (b) notes that a group, by definition, is more than one member, and believes that the provision for Members who are not part of a recognised group to submit a motion for debate at Full Council must be more clearly defined;
- (c) requests that following liaison with Group Whips, the Monitoring Officer brings back a report to the next Full Council meeting suggesting any amendments to the Council Procedure Rules to provide for a more precise and unambiguous definition of how individual motions that are not submitted through the recognised groups should be accommodated within the formula for the order of notice of motions, as well as providing different options regarding formulas; and
- (d) resolves that (i) the order in which Notices of Motion shall be listed on the Summons for the ordinary meeting of the Council on 4th September 2024 shall be Lib Dem, Green, Labour, Labour and (ii) the order of motions for subsequent Full Council meetings in the municipal year 2024/25 shall be determined by Full Council following consideration of the above-mentioned report of the Monitoring Officer.

11.3 On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost, except for paragraph (c) of the amendment, which was carried.

11.3.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 28 Members; AGAINST - 38 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted against, they voted for paragraph (c) of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That:-

- (a) further to Council Procedure Rule 10.2, and having regard to the fact that the order for this meeting had been determined as Labour / Lib Dem / Green / Sheffield Community Councillors, the order in which Notices of Motion shall be listed on the Summons for the remaining five ordinary meetings of the Council in the Municipal Year 2024-25 shall be as follows:-

4 September 2024 – LibDem / Green / Labour / Labour / Cllr Al-Ahdal

2 October 2024 – Labour / LibDem / Labour / LibDem

6 November 2024 – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour

4 December 2024 – LibDem / Labour / Labour / LibDem

5 February 2025 – Labour / Sheff Community Councillors / LibDem / Green

- (b) requests that following liaison with Group Whips, the Monitoring Officer brings back a report to the next Full Council meeting suggesting any amendments to the Council Procedure Rules to provide for a more precise and unambiguous definition of how individual motions that are not submitted through the recognised groups should be accommodated within the formula for the order of notice of motions, as well as providing different options regarding formulas.

- 11.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 39 Members; AGAINST - 27 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they voted for paragraph (b) of the Substantive Motion.)

## **12. PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY FOR MEMBERS**

- 12.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

- (a) approves the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached as an appendix to the report of the Director of People and Organisational Culture, and agrees that it be added to the Constitution as an Appendix to the Members' Allowances Scheme at Part 6; and
- (b) approves that maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave taken under this Policy is an approved reason under Section 85 of the

Local Government Act 1972 without needing the further approval of the Council.

### **13. ANNUAL STANDARDS REPORT 2023**

- 13.1 The Council received and noted the Annual Standards Report for 2023, which had been referred to full Council by the Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting held on 21 March 2024, and which showed details of the outcome of the Standards complaints received from January to December 2023.

### **14. CHANGES TO THE REMIT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 14.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Fran Belbin and formally seconded by Councillor Sue Alston, that, as recommended by the Governance Committee, this Council:-
- (a) approves that the Finance Committee be re-established as a Finance and Performance Policy Committee, retaining the same membership; and
  - (b) approves the changes to Part 3.3.1 of the Constitution (Matters Delegated to Policy Committees), as outlined in the report to Governance Committee and as set out in the Appendix to that report.

### **15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- 15.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that (a) the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 7 February, the special meeting of the Council held on 6 March and the annual meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2024, be approved as true and accurate records and (b) approval be given for a note of explanation to be added to the minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2024, inserted in section 4.3.2 (Public Questions from Russell Johnson), as follows:-

*(NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, it came to light, following receipt of a challenge to the accuracy of the response given at the meeting by the Leader of the Council, that the Leader had inadvertently omitted to state several words which had been included in his pre-prepared written response and that those words were of relevance to his explanation of why the formal complaints received in 2021 had been put on hold. The words which had been omitted at the meeting were "and the Council's response to it", and the complete response should have been as follows:- "He stated that the formal complaints submitted in 2021 had not been progressed at that time. This had been because the Independent Inquiry into the Street Trees Dispute had been announced, and it had been felt that the Inquiry and the Council's response to it, would be the better way to resolve the issues raised.").*

**16. MEMBERSHIPS OF COUNCIL BODIES, REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OTHER BODIES AND RELATED ISSUES**

16.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea, and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that:-

- (a) Councillor Ann Whitaker be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Admissions Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/25;
- (b) it be noted that, in accordance with the authority given by the City Council at its annual meeting held on 15 May 2024, the Monitoring Officer had authorised the following appointments, with effect from the dates shown:-

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee - (1) Councillors David Barker, Laura Moynahan, Minesh Parekh and Ibbby Ullah appointed as substitute members of the Committee, with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024; and (2) Councillor Denise Fox appointed as substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Planning and Highways Committee - (1) Councillors Rob Bannister, Mia Drazaic, Mark Jones, Gareth Slater and John Wright appointed as substitute members of the Committee, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024; (2) Councillors Peter Gilbert and Toby Mallinson appointed as substitute members of the Committee, with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024; (3) Councillor Ibbby Ullah appointed as a substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024; (4) Councillor Mark Whittaker replaced Councillor Laura Moynahan, with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024; and (5) Councillor Laura Moynahan replaced Councillor Rob Bannister as a substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

Governance Committee - (1) Councillor Julie Grocutt appointed as member of the Committee, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024; and (2) Councillor Mark Rusling replaced Councillor Laura Moynahan, with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Audit and Standards Committee - Councillor Dianne Hurst appointed as member of the Committee, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

- Admissions Committee - Councillor Garry Weatherall appointed as member of the Committee, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Senior Officer Employment Committee - (1) Councillor Terry Fox appointed as member of the Committee, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024; and (2) Councillor Ibbly Ullah replaced Councillor Laura Moynahan, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Monitoring and Advisory Board (Adult Services) - Councillor Angela Argenzio appointed as member of the Board, with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education - Councillor Garry Weatherall appointed as member, with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Tenant Voices Matter Panel - Councillor Douglas Johnson appointed as member, with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo replaced Councillor Marieanne Elliot as substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- Sheffield Theatres Trust – Directors and Members - Councillors Laura Moynahan, Ann Woolhouse and Brian Holmshaw appointed as members of the Trust, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- Youth Justice Management Board - Councillor Dawn Dale appointed as member of the Board, with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.
- (c) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Boards, etc.:-
  - Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee - Councillor Terry Fox to fill a vacancy as a substitute member of the Committee.
  - Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee - Councillor Dianne Hurst to fill a vacancy as a substitute member of the Committee.
  - Governance Committee - Councillor Dianne Hurst to fill a vacancy as a substitute member of the Committee.
  - Monitoring and Advisory Board (Adult Services) - Councillor Mick Rooney to fill a vacancy.

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee - Councillors Marieanne Elliot, Brian Holmshaw and Paul Turpin to fill vacancies as substitute members of the Committee.

Planning and Highways Committee - Councillor Tim Huggan to replace Councillor Penny Baker as a substitute member of the Committee.

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

Local Access Forum - Councillors John Wright and Ian Horner to fill vacancies.

SOAR Community - Councillor Mark Rusling to replace Councillor Nikki Belfield.

Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities - Councillor Tom Hunt to fill a vacancy.

Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee - Councillor Douglas Johnson to fill a vacancy.

Learning Disabilities Partnership Board - Councillor Gail Smith to fill a vacancy.

Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group - Councillor Barbara Masters to fill a vacancy.

(e) it be noted that the membership of Sheffield Lyceum Theatre Trust Ltd – Directors and Members, is now just two Members of the Council, and that, in accordance with the authority given by the City Council at its annual meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the Monitoring Officer had authorised the appointment of Councillors Laura Moynahan and Joe Otten as members of the Trust, with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024;

(f) it be noted that Member appointments are no longer made to the Pat Midgley Community Hub and the Housing and Neighbourhoods Advisory Panel (as this ceased in October 2023);

(g) it be noted that (i) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, appointed Chris Ellison as Interim Director of Housing, and that Mr. Ellison started in post on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and (ii) in line with paragraph 26 of the Pay Policy Statement which was approved by the Council at its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Chief Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, taking into account the interim recruitment market forces, agreed a market supplement payment of £13,040 fte, lifting the total remuneration package for the Interim

Director to £120,000 fte per annum; and

- (h) it be noted that (i) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 (a.m.), appointed Kerry Darlow to the post of Assistant Director of Finance - Business Partnering, within the Strategic Support Services directorate, and that Ms. Darlow started in post on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024; (ii) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 (p.m.), appointed Glen Swaby to the post of Head of Procurement, within the Strategic Support Services directorate, and that Mr. Swaby started in post on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024; and (iii) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, appointed Catherine Mills to the post of Assistant Director, Transformation, within the Strategic Support Services directorate, and that Ms. Mills started in post on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

- 16.1.1 (NOTE: The above appointments incorporate (1) the appointment of Councillors Marieanne Elliot, Brian Holmshaw and Paul Turpin as substitute members of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, and the appointment of Councillor Tim Huggan to replace Councillor Penny Baker as a substitute member of the Planning and Highways Committee, which were reported to the meeting by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) as additions to the schedule of appointments circulated to the meeting; and (2) the appointment of Councillor Gail Smith to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, and the appointment of Councillor Barbara Masters to the Sheffield Waterways Strategy Group, which were confirmed in view of the withdrawal at the meeting of second candidates for appointment to those two bodies.)

## 16.2 **Appointment to National Football Trust – Sheffield Local Advisory Group**

- 16.2.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) reported that two nominations for appointment to the National Football Trust – Sheffield Local Advisory Group had been received from the relevant political group whips. The nominees were Councillors Ibbby Ullah and Denise Fox. To determine which nominee was to be appointed to the Group, a vote was to be held and the nominee who receives the higher number of votes would be appointed.
- 16.2.2 Members of the Council were asked to choose between Candidate 1 (Councillor Ibbby Ullah) and Candidate 2 (Councillor Denise Fox).
- 16.2.3 On being put to the vote, the result was that Candidate 1 received 28 votes and Candidate 2 received 38 votes. The Lord Mayor abstained from voting.
- 16.2.4 The Lord Mayor stated that Candidate 2 (Councillor Denise Fox) had received the most votes and therefore, it was:-

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Denise Fox be appointed to the National Football Trust – Sheffield Local Advisory Group for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024-25.



**16.3 Appointment to Sheffield Futures Board**

- 16.3.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) reported that two nominations for appointment to the Sheffield Futures Board had been received from the relevant political group whips. The nominees were Councillors Nabeela Mowlana and Denise Fox. To determine which nominee was to be appointed to the Group, a vote was to be held and the nominee who receives the higher number of votes would be appointed.
- 16.3.2 Members of the Council were asked to choose between Candidate 1 (Councillor Nabeela Mowlana) and Candidate 2 (Councillor Denise Fox).
- 16.3.3 On being put to the vote, the result was that Candidate 1 received 34 votes and Candidate 2 received 31 votes. The Lord Mayor abstained from voting.
- 16.3.4 The Lord Mayor stated that Candidate 1 (Councillor Nabeela Mowlana) had received the most votes and therefore, it was:-

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Nabeela Mowlana be appointed to the Sheffield Futures Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024-25.

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