

Agenda Item 11

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH, on Wednesday 4 September 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 & Greenhill Ward</i>
Richard Shaw
Sophie Thornton | 10 | <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Craig Gamble Pugh
Robert Reiss
Alan Woodcock | 19 | <i>Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward</i>
Nighat Basharat
Ibby Ullah |
| 2 | <i>Beighton Ward</i>
Kurtis Crossland
Ian Horner
Ann Woolhouse | 11 | <i>Ecclesall Ward</i>
Barbara Masters
Shaffaq Mohammed | 20 | <i>Park & Arbourthorne</i>
Mia Drazaic
Ben Miskell |
| 3 | <i>Birley Ward</i>
Matthew Dwyer
Denise Fox
Karen McGowan | 12 | <i>Firth Park Ward</i>
Fran Belbin
Nikki Belfield
Abdul Khayum | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i>
David Barker
Mike Drabble
Dianne Hurst |
| 4 | <i>Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward</i>
Maleiki Haybe
Brian Holmshaw | 13 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i>
Sue Alston
Andrew Sangar
Cliff Woodcraft | 22 | <i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i>
Dawn Dale
Mark Rusling
Garry Weatherall |
| 5 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i>
Talib Hussain
Mark Jones
Safiya Saeed | 14 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i>
Alexi Dimond
Marieanne Elliot
Paul Turpin | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i>
Mike Chaplin
Jayne Dunn
Gareth Slater |
| 6 | <i>City Ward</i>
Douglas Johnson
Ruth Mersereau
Martin Phipps | 15 | <i>Graves Park Ward</i>
Steve Ayris
Rob Bannister
Mohammed Mahroof | 24 | <i>Stannington Ward</i>
Penny Baker
William Sapwell |
| 7 | <i>Crookes & Crosspool Ward</i>
Tim Huggan
Ruth Milsom
Minesh Parekh | 16 | <i>Hillsborough Ward</i>
Christine Gilligan Kubo
Toby Mallinson
Henry Nottage | 25 | <i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i>
Julie Grocutt
Janet Ridler
Mark Whittaker |
| 8 | <i>Darnall Ward</i>
Qais Al-Ahdal
Mary Lea
Zahira Naz | 17 | <i>Manor Castle Ward</i>
Elle Dodd
Terry Fox
Laura Moynahan | 26 | <i>Walkley Ward</i>
Tom Hunt
Laura McClean
John Wright |
| 9 | <i>Dore & Totley Ward</i>
Joe Otten
Martin Smith | 18 | <i>Mosborough Ward</i>
Glynis Chapman
Tony Downing
Gail Smith | 27 | <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Alan Hooper
Mike Levery
Ann Whitaker |
| | | | | 28 | <i>Woodhouse Ward</i>
Mick Rooney |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angela Argenzio, Rebecca Atkinson, Simon Clement-Jones, Peter Gilbert, Nabeela Mowlana, Alison Norris, Maroof Raouf, Richard Williams and Paul Wood.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 Councillor Fran Belbin declared a personal interest in item 10 on the agenda (Notice of Motion regarding “Supporting Children’s Play and Playwork Through a Joined-Up Strategy For All Ages”) (item 9 of these minutes) on the grounds that she was a trustee of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and the chair of the Sheffield Play Partnership, both of which were referenced in the Motion.

4. PUBLIC PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Statements from the Lord Mayor and the Leader of the Council

- 4.1.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) read the following statement:

“In recent weeks up and down the country we have seen violent thuggery and rioting dressed up as protest. What we saw and let’s call it what it was, was pure far right hate

The events closer to home in Rotherham were abhorrent and shameful. Here in Sheffield, we did see small protests against asylum seekers, Muslims and minority groups but they were very quickly shut down by those who oppose such things, I was proud to see that we were not only a city of sanctuary in name but also in action.

People, coming together to stand up for those in need is a fundamental for a cohesive society and we should all hold its values.

I speak about these values at every citizenship ceremony, where I welcome so many who have fled persecution and I see in their smiles, the relief at being able to live in a country, a city that welcomes them, that will encourage them to flourish, play an active role in our communities, and in the growth of our city. I know just how important belonging here is to them

I tell them diversity is our strength, it's at the core of our values.

The Hate that was aimed at some of the most vulnerable in our society as well those with different faiths or a different skin colour was abhorrent. We all need to be mindful of the impact of the language we use and not allow the promotion of derogatory terms that risk damage to Sheffield's strong resilient communities.

The peaceful rejection we witnessed was so powerful - so much stronger than the hate.

So, thank you to the people of Sheffield who came together to show their unity and support, to reject the racism and hate. I applaud you. The peaceful rejection was so powerful, so much stronger than the hate.

I would like to thank the work carried out by the city's faith leaders, community groups and organisations,

To our very own council staff that came together working across all our communities, and to South Yorkshire police for their bravery during the terrible events, and the tireless work to bring those responsible to justice.

Sheffield is a better place for the diversity in its citizens and its culture. As the First Citizen I am extremely proud of the warm and friendly nature of our people. Long may it continue.

Finally, I would like to send my deepest condolences to the families, friends and the community of the 3 young girls who were brutally murdered in Southport. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We hope now you have the time and space to mourn in peace."

- 4.1.2 The Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) read the following statement:

"This is the first time that this Council has met since the violent disorder that we saw across the country and in South Yorkshire earlier this month.

What we saw in that week was not protest, but far-right hate.

I utterly condemn those who tried to divide us by targeting asylum seekers, Muslims and minority communities, and I condemn everyone who engaged in criminal acts of violence and hate on our streets and online.

What we saw was racist and Islamophobic. It was an attack on what we stand for as a city.

Like everyone here, I am proud that Sheffield is a welcoming city for people seeking asylum and proud that we are a City of Sanctuary.

Our diversity is our greatest strength.

I am proud of the citywide response to the violence and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

To the people of Sheffield who came together to reject racism and hate and show that it has no place in our city.

To Sheffield City Council staff for their hard work to support communities, particularly the Local Area Committee staff who coordinated the response in our communities.

To our partners in the voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith sector for their commitment and dedication to protect and reassure communities, to calm tensions and ensure that people did not come to harm.

To South Yorkshire Police for their critical role to protect and support local communities. I know we all send our best wishes to all officers who were injured in the line of duty.

And to the criminal justice system for their ongoing work to take swift action against those who broke the law and who will now feel the full force of the law.

While we can be proud of our response, we cannot be complacent. People are still fearful and there is much to do to work with our partners to strengthen and develop community cohesion in our city.

We will continue to celebrate our diversity and to stand firm against all forms of racism and Islamophobia, discrimination, and violence.

We must work in partnership with the voluntary, community and faith sector, the Police, health organisations and with Government to engage with communities, promote unity, bring people together and ensure that Sheffield remains a welcoming city.”

4.2 Lord Mayor's Communications

4.2.1 The Lord Mayor congratulated Councillors Kurtis Crossland and Sophie Thornton on their recent marriage.

4.2.2 She also wished to offer congratulations to all the athletes who had trained in the city who had competed in the Olympic Games recently held in Paris, or who had competed, or who were due to compete, in the Paralympic Games currently being held in that city. She added that she had been honoured to be invited by Badminton England to attend the Paralympics during the previous weekend and she commented on how well attended the events had been and how grateful the local Paralympians were to Sheffield for providing their training facilities.

4.3 Public Petitions, Questions and Statements

The Lord Mayor reported that four petitions were to be presented at the meeting. No questions had been received from members of the public on matters relating to items of business on the agenda for the meeting, and no statements had been received from the public. She added that written responses to questions received from three members of the public on matters relating to the remit of full Council had been provided to the questioners and published on the Council's website in advance of the meeting, and no supplementary questions arising from those responses had been received.

4.4 Ordinary Petitions

4.4.1 *Petition Calling on the Council to Stop the Pedestrianisation of Surrey Street*

The Council received a joint paper and e-petition containing a total of 89 signatures calling on the Council to stop the pedestrianisation of Surrey Street.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Elaine Bird, who asked for the pedestrianisation scheme to be reconsidered, as in her view its full impact had not been considered. She also asked what arrangements had been made for the necessary turning of large lorries which needed to access Norfolk Street for deliveries, but which could not turn around within Norfolk Street in order to exit the city centre, and what arrangements would be put in place for refuse collection from the shops on Surrey Street. Additionally, she underlined the negative effect on disabled and elderly people of cutting off the Connect buses access to the City Centre, thus making access to the city

centre more difficult, and of the loss of parking places, including disabled parking spaces and the loss of loading bays. Ms Bird stated that public transport needed to be improved before schemes like this one were put in place and the impact on small independent businesses should also be considered.

The petition was referred to Councillor Ben Miskell (Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Miskell stated that he was proud of the transformation of the city centre and from talking to businesses on Surrey Street he knew that they valued the positive impact that the investment was having on footfall.

With regards to lorries turning in the vicinity of Norfolk Street, Councillor Miskell advised that options were being considered to facilitate a 'turning area' for larger vehicles, along Norfolk Street in the vicinity of Surrey Street. He explained that large HGV vehicles using the loading bay at Marks and Spencer, currently reversed into the loading bay and exited the area via Norfolk Street, Arundel Gate and High Street. So, he felt that the new scheme would be a significant improvement.

Councillor Miskell emphasised that local businesses had been consulted on the plans, and discussions with them would be ongoing throughout the final design stage, and as works progressed to improve the street. He stressed the need for engagement work to continue and confirmed that he would continue to engage with businesses on Surrey Street personally.

In relation to refuse collection, Councillor Miskell stated that similarly to the pedestrianised area of Fargate, it was proposed that vehicles servicing businesses would be permitted to drive on Surrey Street during the hours of Midnight to 10am, and 6pm to Midnight. He stated that this would mean that refuse vehicles could directly access the front of Surrey Street businesses during those hours and that this was a standard approach taken by cities up and down the country. He added that the needs of local businesses for specific requirements such as refuse collection were being considered as part of the improvements.

Regarding broader accessibility, Councillor Miskell explained that as part of the wider Connecting Sheffield City Centre project, an assessment was made of disabled parking, in order to assess demand and to prioritise blue badge holders. This was to ensure the prioritisation of spaces for those with the greatest mobility needs, closest to some of the city's shops and services.

Councillor Miskell also stated that 16 blue badge spaces were to be installed on Union Street and 2 on Union Lane, with a total provision of 18 disabled bays, as part of the project and that the

new blue badge bays would not be subject to time limits for stays, and would be marked at 6.6 metres each, with signage installed instructing users to keep the first and last bays clear for rear-loading vehicles. This meant that in total there would be a net increase of 2 Disabled Parking Bays in the City Centre as part of this project, meaning that provision would be improved.

Additionally, Councillor Miskell advised that the Council was reviewing proposals for Leopold Street, to explore options for more disabled parking spaces even closer to Fargate and Surrey Street. He underlined that it was important to say that the remaining disabled bays on Surrey Street, Norfolk Street, and Holly Street/ Balm Green would still provide other parking options. Also, consultation was underway with various stakeholders regarding disabled parking in the City Centre, and this would be used to inform a wider review through a Sheffield City Centre Access and Movement Plan, that was being developed, and he would welcome the input of the petitioner into this.

Councillor Miskell emphasised that it was important to note that whilst the Council respected Ms Bird's points, there were others who took a very different view about the plans to improve the city centre, and the Council had to also give weight to those voices. He quoted supportive comments from 3 local business owners, Stefano Capasso, owner of Café Tucci, Simon Webster, Co-Founder and CEO of Thornbridge Brewery, and the trustees at the Montgomery Theatre on Surrey Street.

Councillor Miskell advised that the Council had been engaging with businesses on Surrey Street, on the proposed changes to the Traffic Regulation Order that was required to implement pedestrianisation of the section of Surrey Street, and this was due to be advertised the following week. He explained that this would launch a period of statutory consultation, and should the Council receive objections, the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee would then need to receive a report for a decision before proceeding. Given this, he said he was happy to refer to the petition in the report. He advised that he anticipated that the report would be considered at the October or November, Transport, Regeneration and Climate committee, which Ms Bird was welcome to attend. He was therefore happy to refer the petition to the Policy Committee.

4.4.2 *Petition Calling on the Council to Make All Schools Practice Emergency Drills on a Termly Basis*

The Council received an e-petition containing 15 signatures calling on the Council to make all schools practice emergency drills on a termly basis.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Jayne Mason and Carron Britton, who stated that they were motivated to bring the petition due to an incident which had taken place at Birley School in the preceding May, where some children did not know what to do when the emergency alarm sounded. The petitioners felt that making emergency drills compulsory would ensure consistency between schools, make sure all teachers, including supply teachers knew the procedure, and ensure that children who changed schools would still know what to do when the alarm sounded. Regular drills would also reduce the likelihood of children finding the experience frightening. The petitioners suggested that the drills should be carried out once a term, throughout the school year, to keep the procedure fresh in the children's minds and that they be conducted in an age-appropriate way.

The petition was referred to Councillor Dawn Dale (Chair of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Dale stated that she understood the anxiety caused when local schools implemented lock down procedures to keep children safe. and she empathised with the parents.

Councillor Dale advised that schools were generally the safest places for children, and in her experience in the Education, Children, and Families Policy committee, she had seen the extensive efforts schools made to ensure children's safety. She was grateful to schools and parents for their commitment to maintaining safety, and this vigilance from all stakeholders ensured the ongoing safety of children in and out of school.

Councillor Dale explained that Schools received their policies from the Department for Education. This included statutory policies like 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024', and non-statutory guidance such as the 2024 'Protective Security and Preparedness for Educational Settings,' which these drills would fall under. She added that the non-statutory guidance allowed schools to decide for themselves on this, which made it challenging to enforce uniform lockdown measures nationwide.

Despite this, Councillor Dale advised she would be writing to schools to ask that they consider how often safety drills are carried out and stated that she would be happy to meet the petitioners to discuss the matter in more depth.

4.4.3 *Petition Calling on the Council to Demand Veolia Recognise Unite The Union*

The Council received a joint paper and e-petition containing a total of 240 signatures calling on the Council to pressure its outsourced provider for waste management services, Veolia, to

recognise the Unite Trade Union for negotiating purposes.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Joel Mayfield, who stated that Unite was bringing the petition on behalf of its members at Lumley Street Depot, working for Veolia who operated the waste management contract on behalf of Sheffield City Council. He added that in the last year the contract had earned Veolia £11.7m in post-tax profits. He explained that a significant proportion of the workforce were former Council employees whose employment was transferred via TUPE, when the waste was contracted out around 20 years before, so this meant that in his view they were to some extent still the responsibility of the Council.

Mr Mayfield advised that when the service was run by the Council, 3 Unions had been recognised and that as far as he was aware, this agreement was still applicable. He emphasised his view that it was important that a competent Union of the worker's choice was able to negotiate terms and conditions. At present Mr Mayfield advised that GMB was the only Union that Veolia was prepared to recognise at this location for the purpose of negotiating pay and conditions, and this denied Unite members a place at the negotiating table. He stated that as a significant proportion of the workforce were Unite Members, the management had been approached on a number of occasions to ask for a joint recognition agreement. Unite already had a Health and Safety Representative and a Shop Steward on site who were able to represent colleagues in work related matters and were allowed reasonable paid leave to engage in Union training and business. This amounted to de facto recognition in his view, and the request was that full recognition be granted in line with GMB. He stated that being unable to achieve recognition, Unite Members had no choice but to take indefinite strike action which was at that time in its third week. The strike was not about money but was about the right to be represented in negotiations.

He called on the Council to resolve the issue and advised that as Veolia operated the contract on behalf of the Council, the Council was being asked to intervene.

The petition was referred to Councillor Joe Otten (Chair of the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Otten Stated that he understood that the dispute related to the ask of Unite for recognition from Veolia, who currently had a longstanding single recognition agreement with GMB, who represented the majority of the workforce. He added that moving to joint recognition required the agreement of both unions, and that he understood there was an offer from the TUC to meet with them to discuss the situation. He hoped that this could go ahead.

Councillor Otten explained that the Council did not get directly involved with disputes between Veolia and its employees and Unions, but were interested that the service worked, that workers were happy and that everybody got their bins emptied

Councillor Otten advised that the impact of the strike on the Veolia workforce, meant that there were some delays to scheduled bin collections and that the Bring sites had been temporarily closed to prioritise doorstep collections. Regular service updates were being provided to residents via the Council's service alerts and he hoped that the negotiation with the TUC would go ahead, and the dispute would be resolved.

4.4.4 *Petition Calling on the Council to Eliminate Unnecessary Double Yellow Lines in Neepsend*

The Council received an e-petition containing 3,836 signatures calling on the Council to eliminate unnecessary double yellow lines in the Neepsend area of Sheffield.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Nick White, who stated that he was speaking on behalf of his daughters, Charlotte and Daisy White, who had run a salon in Kelham Island since 2017. He advised that issues with parking had been exacerbated there by the introduction of new access and parking arrangements which meant there were 200 fewer parking spaces on the streets. Many business owners were reporting a 40% downturn in trade, particularly since the bus gate on Rutland Road had been introduced.

Mr White explained that customers still using the salon were being inconvenienced and potentially made unsafe, by having to park on back streets further away from the salon. There was no disabled parking or dropped kerbs, to assist wheelchair users (although Mr White acknowledged this could be part of the scheme once it was completed). In his view this seemed to contradict the Council's aim to bring more businesses to the area. He added that the small independent traders of Kelham Island needed the Council's support to ensure the area could thrive.

Mr White suggested that the pay and display metres which were going to be installed should be for a three-hour maximum stay, and that ideally there should be a car park in the vicinity of Kelham Island large enough to meet the demand for parking there. He then read out messages from his daughter's salon clients underlining the difficulties with parking, which he advised had led to some people speculating that the Council were deliberately trying to drive trade into the City Centre.

The petition was referred to Councillor Ben Miskell (Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Miskell stated that the proposal to implement a parking scheme had been considered and agreed by committee in December 2023, after an additional period of engagement with businesses in the autumn of that year, and that had followed wider engagement with residents and businesses across Kelham and Neepsend, where over 8,500 properties had been sent information.

Councillor Miskell advised that Kelham and Neepsend was one of Europe's best and most up and coming neighbourhoods, and the Council aimed to address longstanding challenges related to parking availability and safe access in the area, as well as increasing choice about how people travel.

Councillor Miskell explained that he understood the concerns, however, the previous historical arrangement of uncontrolled parking had resulted in spaces being taken up by people parking for free all day, many of whom were then walking into the city centre for work. This had led to available parking spaces being at a premium for people wishing to visit the area, people whose shifts started later, or any resident leaving and coming back during the day. It had also impacted on loading and unloading during the day and access for larger vehicles. He added that the changes proposed would formalise where drivers should park, and where they should not park, by providing pay and display bays with permits available for eligible business and residents, yellow line restrictions, and places for loading on-street.

Councillor Miskell stated that similar parking schemes in other areas of the city had increased the turnover of parked vehicles and therefore provided a greater level of availability of parking spaces and access for people living, working in, and visiting the area.

Councillor Miskell advised that by managing parking effectively and safely the Council aimed to support the ongoing regeneration and investment in the area, planning for the future, and that without action, the pressure for parking in the area would increase with the new residential developments planned and a city centre which continued to develop and grow. Many high-profile developments were currently in construction, including a major new development at West Bar (one of the largest office projects in Northern England regenerating a 7.3-acre site), as well as £67 million of investment with Homes England which would deliver 1,500 new homes. Also, there were 550 new homes earmarked on the Cannon Brewery site.

Councillor Miskell advised that as a result of engagement about Kelham and Neepsend, the following alterations had been made:

- a more flexible approach to the number of permits issued to businesses.
- changes to some of the operational hours of pay and display.
- the addition of a 20 minutes' free parking period.
- the introduction of special evening 'flat' rates to boost the night time economy of £2 (after 4.30pm, Monday to Saturday) and all-day Sunday.

Councillor Miskell also advised that the parking scheme was being introduced at the same time as the delivery of the Connecting Sheffield: Neepsend - Kelham - City Centre active travel project, which would significantly improve cycling, walking and wheeling, as well as public transport links for residents, businesses and visitors to the area. It also connected communities in Pitsmoor and Burngreave, to employment opportunities in the city centre, enhancing social mobility through greater transport choice. He stated that projects had been designed to complement one another, with certain yellow line restrictions needed for the delivery of the improved cycling, walking and wheeling infrastructure and associated improvements to the streets in the area, sitting alongside award-winning grey-to-green landscaping.

Additionally, Councillor Miskell set out that the Council had recently adopted Vision Zero, which was a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries in Sheffield, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Ensuring that junctions were clear of parked vehicles helped to achieve this.

Councillor Miskell emphasised that he understood that some people might have reservations about the changes, and the Council was committed to working with them, and would try to solve any problems that they may have wherever possible. The Council had already committed to a full review of the scheme, which would take place 12 months after implementation. As part of this, he would be inviting business owners in the area to attend an event on Monday 16 September from 5pm to 6pm in the upstairs room at Cutlery Works, co-chaired by Louisa Harrison-Walker, Chief Executive at Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Dr Sam Chapman, co-Chair of the South Yorkshire Transport Forum. At this event, business owners would be able to share their thoughts about development in the area, hear more about future plans and get the latest information on parking, permits and layouts. The Council would do its best to continue to listen, learn and adapt plans, wherever possible and address any individual problems that may arise.

Councillor Miskell confirmed that he would refer the petition to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee, which would expect to receive reports about the implementation period, and he would ensure that reference was made to the petition. As always, the petitioners were welcome to attend and take part.

4.5 Supplementary Public Question

The Lord Mayor stated that Linda Harrison, one of the members of the public who had submitted a question and had received a written response prior to the meeting, was in attendance at the meeting seeking to ask her question although she hadn't given notice of this in advance of the meeting. The Lord Mayor added that she would use her discretion and invite Mrs Harrison to ask her question.

Linda Harrison asked "What is the Council's policy on allowing mobility scooters to be kept in the hallways of communal blocks, and why has this been changed in the last two years? For background, I have recently been told that I am no longer allowed to keep my scooter in our communal hallway despite it not blocking a fire escape or getting in anyone's way, although I was given permission to do this two years ago."

In response, Councillor Douglas Johnson (the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee) stated that he was not able to discuss individual cases in a public meeting, but the relevant Council Officers had been asked to deal with her case.

With regards to the policy, Councillor Johnson confirmed that the current policy needed to be looked at again, it had been signed off in 2015 so was nearly 10 years old. In the meantime, he recognised that it was an important issue and that the major factor influencing it was fire safety, but this needed to be balanced with residents' mobility needs. He confirmed that he would speak to Mrs Harrison personally regarding her own case.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 Urgent Business

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

5.2 Written Questions

- 5.2.1 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.
- 5.2.2 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).

6. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "HELPING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY CHANGES TO WINTER FUEL PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROB REISS AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RICHARD SHAW

- 6.1 It was moved by Councillor Rob Reiss, and seconded by Councillor Richard Shaw, that:-

this Council notes:-

- (a) the announcement by the new Government to end universal Winter Fuel Payments and restrict eligibility to those in receipt of Pension Credits or other benefits;
- (b) that under the new policy, only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 per week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for Pension Credits, significantly lower than the Living Wage rate;
- (c) that only 63% of families entitled to Pension Credits claim them, meaning the 800,000 households across the country missing out on this payment will now also not receive Winter Fuel Payments;
- (d) that data from the Department of Work and Pensions indicates almost 75,000 pensioners in Sheffield will lose access to Winter Fuel Payments under the revised policy;
- (e) that the Energy Price Cap will rise by 10% in October;
- (f) that the 12-month Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot scheme in the Liberal Democrat-chaired South Local Area

Committee (LAC), designed to support the most vulnerable, is projected by October 2024 to generate £93,814 in additional income and savings for residents, through helping them claim benefits they are entitled to or reductions in their bills;

this Council believes that:-

- (g) universal Winter Fuel Payments of up to £300 have been an essential support to pensioners;
- (h) the ending of universal Winter Fuel Payments combined with the increased Energy Price Cap will push thousands of pensioners into fuel poverty, including in Sheffield;
- (i) the threshold at which pensioners do not qualify has been set too low and many on lower and middle incomes will now not receive the payments;
- (j) it is important to increase awareness of benefits such as Pension Credits, to ensure people access the support they are entitled to;
- (k) projects like the Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot in the South LAC are demonstrable success stories in placing money in residents' pockets;

this Council resolves to:-

- (l) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider building on the success of the South LAC Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot scheme by requesting officers bring a proposal to the Committee on introducing a similar scheme that covers the whole of Sheffield;
- (m) also request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider commissioning other relevant services to urgently commence an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credits; and
- (n) request group leaders sign a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed.

6.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mark Rusling, and seconded by Councillor Nikki Belfield, 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 (h):-

- (a) acknowledges the significant challenges facing our national economy, including the reported £22 billion budget shortfall inherited by the new Government, and notes the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) announcement that the previous Government was spending more than they had revealed to the OBR;
- (b) believes that, after 14 years of economic mismanagement by previous governments, the scale of the task facing the new Government to rebuild Britain is significant;
- (c) notes that the Government has committed to protecting the 'triple lock' pension, which saw the state pension rise by £900 this year and notes that a further rise will be announced at the budget in October;
- (d) believes that the Government has had to make some difficult decisions to fix the foundations of the economy due to the dire state of the public finances;
- (e) notes that around 1.3 million households in England and Wales will continue to receive Winter Fuel Payments, and welcomes the Government's efforts to boost take-up of Pension Credit to ensure low-income pensioners continue to get this help;
- (f) welcomes this Council's work with partners to raise awareness about Pension Credit and to boost take up, and thanks the Council's Cost of Living team for their work to proactively identify all households in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, but currently not receiving Pension Credit, and to contact them providing information and support about how to apply;
- (g) encourages all elected members to share Pension Credit information with residents; and
- (h) welcomes the Government's extension of the Household Support fund which will enable support to continue to be provided to struggling households.

6.3 It was then moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and seconded by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of the words "Liberal Democrat-chaired" in paragraph (f);
- 2. the addition of new paragraphs (j) and (k) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (j) and (k) as new

paragraphs (l) and (m):-

- (j) the cut to Winter Fuel payments and retention of the Two Child Cap on benefits shows that the new Government have made a political choice that the cost of austerity will fall on those who can least afford it;
- (k) instead of imposing renewed austerity, the new Government has the power to raise public spending and investment, increase taxes on the wealthy and polluters, and properly regulate big businesses and financial institutions;

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

- (n) we desperately need the Government to act urgently on home insulation schemes to keep people safe, warm and out of poverty, and instead of cutting the Winter Fuel Allowance, it would make more sense to give pensioners the option to use it to help finance the installation of insulation measures and solar panels to reduce their energy bills permanently;

4. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (l) and (m) as new paragraphs (o) and (p).

5. the deletion of original paragraph (n) and the addition of a new, re-lettered paragraph (q) as follows:-

- (q) notes that the Green Group has written to the Chancellor calling for the restoration of Winter Fuel payments to all pensioners and urges other political groups to do the same.

6.4 Following a contribution from another two Members, it was **RESOLVED:** On the motion moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, 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 speaker from each Group.

6.5 After contributions had been made by a further three Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Rob Reiss, the amendment moved by Councillor Mark Rusling was put to the vote and was lost.

6.5.1 The votes on that Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the Amendment - (33) The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) and Councillors Matthew Dwyer, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Ruth Milsom, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Fran Belbin, Nikki Belfield, Abdul Khayum, Rob Bannister, Elle Dodd, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Nighat Basharat, Ibbi Ullah, Mia Drazaic, Ben Miskell, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dawn Dale, Mark Rusling, Mike Chaplin, Gareth Slater, Janet Ridler, Mark Whittaker, Tom Hunt, Laura McClean, John Wright and Mick Rooney.

Against the Amendment (41) - Councillors Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Kurtis Crossland, Ian Horner, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Maleiki Haybe, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Qais Al-Ahdal, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Steve Ayris, Mohammed Mahroof, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Terry Fox, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Dianne Hurst, Garry Weatherall, Penny Baker, Will Sapwell, Julie Grocutt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

Abstained from voting on the Amendment (1) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn).

6.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the vote and was lost, except for Parts 1 and 3 of the amendment, which were carried.

6.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 12 Members; AGAINST - 62 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they voted for Part 1 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted

against, they voted for Parts 2 and 3 of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted against, they voted for Part 3 of the amendment.)

6.7 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 announcement by the new Government to end universal Winter Fuel Payments and restrict eligibility to those in receipt of Pension Credits or other benefits;
- (b) that under the new policy, only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 per week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for Pension Credits, significantly lower than the Living Wage rate;
- (c) that only 63% of families entitled to Pension Credits claim them, meaning the 800,000 households across the country missing out on this payment will now also not receive Winter Fuel Payments;
- (d) that data from the Department of Work and Pensions indicates almost 75,000 pensioners in Sheffield will lose access to Winter Fuel Payments under the revised policy;
- (e) that the Energy Price Cap will rise by 10% in October;
- (f) that the 12-month Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot scheme in the South Local Area Committee (LAC), designed to support the most vulnerable, is projected by October 2024 to generate £93,814 in additional income and savings for residents, through helping them claim benefits they are entitled to or reductions in their bills;

this Council believes that:-

- (g) universal Winter Fuel Payments of up to £300 have been an essential support to pensioners;
- (h) the ending of universal Winter Fuel Payments combined with the increased Energy Price Cap will push thousands of pensioners into fuel poverty, including in Sheffield;
- (i) the threshold at which pensioners do not qualify has been set too low and many on lower and middle incomes will

now not receive the payments;

- (j) it is important to increase awareness of benefits such as Pension Credits, to ensure people access the support they are entitled to;
- (k) projects like the Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot in the South LAC are demonstrable success stories in placing money in residents' pockets;
- (l) we desperately need the Government to act urgently on home insulation schemes to keep people safe, warm and out of poverty, and instead of cutting the Winter Fuel Allowance, it would make more sense to give pensioners the option to use it to help finance the installation of insulation measures and solar panels to reduce their energy bills permanently;

this Council resolves to:-

- (m) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider building on the success of the South LAC Cost of Living In-Person Support pilot scheme by requesting officers bring a proposal to the Committee on introducing a similar scheme that covers the whole of Sheffield;
- (n) also request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider commissioning other relevant services to urgently commence an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credits; and
- (o) request group leaders sign a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the new Winter Fuel Payment policy to be suspended and reviewed.

6.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 41 Members; AGAINST - 33 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)

7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ON MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ANGELA ARGENZIO AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALEIKI HAYBE

7.1 It was moved by Councillor Maleiki Haybe, and seconded by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, that this Council:-

- (a) condemns the organised racist and Islamophobic violence by far-right rioters in many towns and cities in England;
- (b) recalls that it resolved on 5 July 2023 to reaffirm our status as a City of Sanctuary;
- (c) believes the divisive rhetoric of some mainstream politicians and media has fuelled the recent violence and the 'Stop the Boats' narrative has contributed to division and has helped further stigmatise migrants and asylum seekers;
- (d) notes comments by Dame Sara Khan, former independent adviser for social cohesion and resilience, that successive governments have failed the British people and left local authorities struggling to deal with consistent extremist challenges;
- (e) notes the fear of violence and intimidation terrified many people of colour, especially women, and made people feel unsafe in their home city;
- (f) acknowledges that the threat of serious violence impacted negatively on businesses in the local economy;
- (g) recognises that migrants have always contributed to our society as workers, taxpayers and citizens and that segregation of asylum-seekers into different systems for homelessness, destitution and work creates further division and lack of cohesion in society;
- (h) condemns the policy of austerity, which causes hardship and resentment amongst the communities most left behind;
- (i) welcomes the scrapping of the Rwanda deportation scheme and Bibby Stockholm barge, and also thanks the police and Crown Prosecution Service for pursuing rightful convictions and for the local press for reporting on the sentences;
- (j) thanks the people of Sheffield who came out to show their support for a modern Britain, with a determination to stand against violence, intimidation and racism;
- (k) believes that the majority of people in Sheffield want an asylum system that is fair, well managed and humane; and
- (l) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister with a copy of this motion and to ask him to

consider implementing the recommendations of the Khan Review of social cohesion.

7.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, and seconded by Councillor Mike Levery, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) to (l) as new paragraphs (d) to (m):-

(c) notes that in 2023, 84,425 individuals made asylum applications in the UK;

2. the substitution, in new paragraph (d), of the words “rhetoric of some politicians, media, and misinformation on social media sites” for the words “rhetoric of some mainstream politicians and media”;

3. the deletion of new paragraph (i) [the original paragraph (h)] and the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows:-

(i) believes that asylum seekers should have the right to work if they have been waiting for a decision for more than three months, enabling them to support themselves economically and socially through community integration;

7.3 After contributions from six other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Maleiki Haybe, the amendment moved by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof was put to the vote and was carried.

7.3.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 62 Members; AGAINST - 11 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on Part 3 of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 3 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

(a) condemns the organised racist and Islamophobic violence by far-right rioters in many towns and cities in England;

(b) recalls that it resolved on 5 July 2023 to reaffirm our status

- as a City of Sanctuary;
- (c) notes that in 2023, 84,425 individuals made asylum applications in the UK;
 - (d) believes the divisive rhetoric of some politicians, media, and misinformation on social media sites has fuelled the recent violence and the 'Stop the Boats' narrative has contributed to division and has helped further stigmatise migrants and asylum seekers;
 - (e) notes comments by Dame Sara Khan, former independent adviser for social cohesion and resilience, that successive governments have failed the British people and left local authorities struggling to deal with consistent extremist challenges;
 - (f) notes the fear of violence and intimidation terrified many people of colour, especially women, and made people feel unsafe in their home city;
 - (g) acknowledges that the threat of serious violence impacted negatively on businesses in the local economy;
 - (h) recognises that migrants have always contributed to our society as workers, taxpayers and citizens and that segregation of asylum-seekers into different systems for homelessness, destitution and work creates further division and lack of cohesion in society;
 - (i) believes that asylum seekers should have the right to work if they have been waiting for a decision for more than three months, enabling them to support themselves economically and socially through community integration;
 - (j) welcomes the scrapping of the Rwanda deportation scheme and Bibby Stockholm barge, and also thanks the police and Crown Prosecution Service for pursuing rightful convictions and for the local press for reporting on the sentences;
 - (k) thanks the people of Sheffield who came out to show their support for a modern Britain, with a determination to stand against violence, intimidation and racism;
 - (l) believes that the majority of people in Sheffield want an asylum system that is fair, well managed and humane; and
 - (m) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister with a copy of this motion and to ask him to

consider implementing the recommendations of the Khan Review of social cohesion.

7.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 73 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraphs (i) and (m) of the Substantive Motion. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (i) of the Substantive Motion.)

8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "UNITY AGAINST HATE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NABEELA MOWLANA AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ZAHIRA NAZ

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Zahira Naz, and seconded by Councillor Ibby Ullah, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that our diversity is our greatest strength;
- (b) is proud that Sheffield is a welcoming city for people seeking asylum and is proud that we are a City of Sanctuary;
- (c) believes that the violence we saw across the country, and in South Yorkshire, last month was not protest, but far-right hate;
- (d) condemns those who tried to divide us by targeting asylum seekers, Muslims and minority communities and condemns everyone who engaged in criminal acts of violence and hate on the streets and online;
- (e) believes that racism and Islamophobia hurts all communities and creates fear and pain;
- (f) will not tolerate attacks on mosques or on Muslim communities;
- (g) is proud of the citywide response to the violence and records its appreciation and thanks to:-
 - (i) the people of Sheffield who came together in a spirit of unity and compassion to reject racism and hate;
 - (ii) Sheffield City Council staff for their hard work to support communities and particularly notes the work

of Local Area Committee staff to coordinate the response;

- (iii) the voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith sector for their work to protect and reassure communities;
 - (iv) South Yorkshire Police for their work to protect and support local communities, and sends its best wishes to all officers who were injured in the line of duty; and
 - (v) the criminal justice system for taking swift action against those who broke the law;
- (h) believes that the Council's work to reassure and engage with communities has highlighted excellent practice and partnership working, and further believes that learning from the past month should be captured to develop the Council's community engagement and partnership work and to develop and strengthen our work on promoting community cohesion; and
- (i) resolves to continue to:-
- (i) celebrate our diversity and to stand firm against all forms of racism and Islamophobia, discrimination, and violence; and
 - (ii) support our communities, promote unity and ensure that Sheffield remains a welcoming city.

8.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, and seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (h) as follows and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (h) and (i) as new paragraphs (i) and (j):-

- (h) believes that community cohesion can be further achieved by allowing asylum seekers to work, and so integrate themselves into their communities and support the local economy;

8.3 It was then moved by Councillor Toby Mallinson, and seconded by Councillor Alexi Dimond, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (j):-

- (h) therefore regrets that the Council has not declared Sheffield an Israeli apartheid free zone;
 - (i) notes the “Israel Premier Tech Pro-Cycling Team” has funding connections to the Israeli Government and therefore regrets that it will be competing in the Tour of Britain;
2. the addition of new paragraphs (k) to (p) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (i) as a new paragraph (q):-
- (k) believes the divisive rhetoric of some mainstream politicians and media has fuelled the recent violence and the ‘Stop the Boats’ narrative has contributed to division;
 - (l) notes comments by Dame Sara Khan, former independent adviser for social cohesion and resilience, that successive governments have failed the British people and left local authorities struggling to deal with consistent extremist challenges;
 - (m) recognises that migrants have always contributed to our society and that segregation of asylum-seekers into different systems for homelessness, destitution and work creates further division;
 - (n) condemns the ongoing policy of austerity, which causes hardship and resentment amongst the communities most left behind;
 - (o) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister with a copy of this motion and to ask him to consider implementing the recommendations of the Khan Review;
 - (p) resolves to encourage every Sheffield elected member to work to ensure that dialogue around migration is not framed negatively, instead highlighting the human and ethical aspects, and the many positive economic and cultural benefits, of migration.

8.4 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 addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows and the re-

lettering of the original paragraphs (f) to (h) as new paragraphs (g) to (i):-

(f) believes that divisive rhetoric made by politicians such as Nigel Farage and Sir Keir Starmer against minoritised groups further exacerbates an already alarming rate of Islamophobia;

2. the addition of a new paragraph (j) as follows and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (i) as a new paragraph (k):-

(j) believes that councillors should speak against racist/Islamophobic rhetoric and actions of affiliated party members or party leaders.

8.5 After contributions from two other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Zahira Naz, the amendment moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar was put to the vote and was carried.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 35 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 37 Members.)

8.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Toby Mallinson was then put to the vote and was carried, except for Part 1 and paragraph (n) in Part 2 of the amendment, which were lost.

8.6.1 The votes on that Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For Part 1 of the - Councillors Maleiki Haybe, Brian
Amendment (12) Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth
Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Qais Al-
Ahdal, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne
Elliot, Paul Turpin, Christine Gilligan
Kubo, Toby Mallinson and Henry
Nottage.

Against Part 1 of the - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor
Amendment (56) Safiya Saeed) and Councillors
Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton,
Kurtis Crossland, Ian Horner, Ann
Woolhouse, Matthew Dwyer, Karen
McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark
Jones, Tim Huggan, Ruth Milsom,
Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira
Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Craig
Gamble Pugh, Robert Reiss, Alan
Woodcock, Barbara Masters,
Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin,

Nikki Belfield, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Steve Ayris, Rob Bannister, Mohammed Mahroof, Elle Dodd, Laura Moynahan, Glynis Chapman, Tony Downing, Gail Smith, Nighat Basharat, Ibbi Ullah, Mia Drazaic, Ben Miskell, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dawn Dale, Mark Rusling, Mike Chaplin, Gareth Slater, Penny Baker, Will Sapwell, Janet Ridler, Mark Whittaker, Tom Hunt, Laura McClean, John Wright, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker and Mick Rooney.

Abstained from voting on Part 1 of the Amendment (5) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst and Julie Grocutt.

For paragraphs (k), (l), (m) & (p) in Part 2 of the Amendment (36) - Councillors Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Kurtis Crossland, Ian Horner, Ann Woolhouse, Maleiki Haybe, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Qais Al-Ahdal, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Steve Ayris, Mohammed Mahroof, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Penny Baker, Will Sapwell, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

Against paragraphs (k), (l), (m) & (p) in Part 2 of the Amendment (32) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) and Councillors Matthew Dwyer, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Ruth Milsom, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Fran Belbin, Nikki Belfield, Rob Bannister, Elle Dodd, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Nighat Basharat, Ibbi Ullah, Mia Drazaic,

Ben Miskell, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dawn Dale, Mark Rusling, Mike Chaplin, Gareth Slater, Janet Ridler, Mark Whittaker, Tom Hunt, Laura McClean, John Wright and Mick Rooney.

Abstained from voting on paragraphs (k), (l), (m) & (p) in Part 2 of the Amendment (5) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst and Julie Grocutt.

For paragraph (n) in Part 2 of the Amendment (12) - Councillors Maleiki Haybe, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Qais Al-Ahdal, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson and Henry Nottage.

Against paragraph (n) in Part 2 of the Amendment (56) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) and Councillors Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Kurtis Crossland, Ian Horner, Ann Woolhouse, Matthew Dwyer, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Tim Huggan, Ruth Milsom, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Craig Gamble Pugh, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Nikki Belfield, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Steve Ayris, Rob Bannister, Mohammed Mahroof, Elle Dodd, Laura Moynahan, Glynis Chapman, Tony Downing, Gail Smith, Nighat Basharat, Ibbly Ullah, Mia Drazaic, Ben Miskell, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dawn Dale, Mark Rusling, Mike Chaplin, Gareth Slater, Penny Baker, Will Sapwell, Janet Ridler, Mark Whittaker, Tom Hunt, Laura McClean, John Wright, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker and Mick Rooney.

Abstained from voting on paragraph (n) in - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox,

Part 2 of the Amendment (5) Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst and Julie Grocutt.

For paragraph (o) in Part 2 of the Amendment (68) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) and Councillors Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Kurtis Crossland, Ian Horner, Ann Woolhouse, Matthew Dwyer, Karen McGowan, Maleiki Haybe, Brian Holmshaw, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Ruth Milsom, Minesh Parekh, Qais Al-Ahdal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Craig Gamble Pugh, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Nikki Belfield, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Steve Ayriss, Rob Bannister, Mohammed Mahroof, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Elle Dodd, Laura Moynahan, Glynis Chapman, Tony Downing, Gail Smith, Nighat Basharat, Ibbi Ullah, Mia Drazaic, Ben Miskell, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dawn Dale, Mark Rusling, Mike Chaplin, Gareth Slater, Penny Baker, Will Sapwell, Janet Ridler, Mark Whittaker, Tom Hunt, Laura McClean, John Wright, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker and Mick Rooney.

Against paragraph (o) in Part 2 of the Amendment (0) - None.

Abstained from voting on paragraph (o) in Part 2 of the Amendment (5) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst and Julie Grocutt.

8.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Qais Al-Ahdal was then put to the vote and was carried, except for Part 1 of the amendment, which was lost.

8.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 36 Members; AGAINST - 32 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 5 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they voted for Part 2 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on Part 1 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that our diversity is our greatest strength;
- (b) is proud that Sheffield is a welcoming city for people seeking asylum and is proud that we are a City of Sanctuary;
- (c) believes that the violence we saw across the country, and in South Yorkshire, last month was not protest, but far-right hate;
- (d) condemns those who tried to divide us by targeting asylum seekers, Muslims and minority communities and condemns everyone who engaged in criminal acts of violence and hate on the streets and online;
- (e) believes that racism and Islamophobia hurts all communities and creates fear and pain;
- (f) will not tolerate attacks on mosques or on Muslim communities;
- (g) is proud of the citywide response to the violence and records its appreciation and thanks to:-
 - (i) the people of Sheffield who came together in a spirit of unity and compassion to reject racism and hate;
 - (ii) Sheffield City Council staff for their hard work to support communities and particularly notes the work of Local Area Committee staff to coordinate the response;
 - (iii) the voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith sector for their work to protect and reassure communities;
 - (iv) South Yorkshire Police for their work to protect and support local communities, and sends its best

- wishes to all officers who were injured in the line of duty; and
- (v) the criminal justice system for taking swift action against those who broke the law;
 - (h) believes that community cohesion can be further achieved by allowing asylum seekers to work, and so integrate themselves into their communities and support the local economy;
 - (i) believes that the Council's work to reassure and engage with communities has highlighted excellent practice and partnership working, and further believes that learning from the past month should be captured to develop the Council's community engagement and partnership work and to develop and strengthen our work on promoting community cohesion;
 - (j) believes the divisive rhetoric of some mainstream politicians and media has fuelled the recent violence and the 'Stop the Boats' narrative has contributed to division;
 - (k) notes comments by Dame Sara Khan, former independent adviser for social cohesion and resilience, that successive governments have failed the British people and left local authorities struggling to deal with consistent extremist challenges;
 - (l) recognises that migrants have always contributed to our society and that segregation of asylum-seekers into different systems for homelessness, destitution and work creates further division;
 - (m) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister with a copy of this motion and to ask him to consider implementing the recommendations of the Khan Review;
 - (n) resolves to encourage every Sheffield elected member to work to ensure that dialogue around migration is not framed negatively, instead highlighting the human and ethical aspects, and the many positive economic and cultural benefits, of migration;
 - (o) believes that councillors should speak against racist/Islamophobic rhetoric and actions of affiliated party members or party leaders; and
 - (p) resolves to continue to:-

- (i) celebrate our diversity and to stand firm against all forms of racism and Islamophobia, discrimination, and violence; and
- (ii) support our communities, promote unity and ensure that Sheffield remains a welcoming city.

8.8.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 68 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 5 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraph (h) and voted against paragraphs (j), (k), (l) & (n) of the Substantive Motion.)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S PLAY AND PLAYWORK THROUGH A JOINED-UP STRATEGY FOR ALL AGES" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LAURA MOYNAHAN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DAWN DALE

9.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Laura Moynahan, and formally seconded by Councillor Dawn Dale, that:-

this Council:-

- (a) notes the well-documented benefits of play, particularly outdoor play, for children's physical, mental, social, and emotional development;
- (b) believes that play is a vital component of childhood, promoting creativity, resilience, problem-solving, and social interaction;
- (c) supports the essential role of qualified playworkers with knowledge of the Playwork Principles, creating safe environments for children to engage in self-directed, spontaneous play and allowing them the freedom to take risks and learn through their own experiences;
- (d) notes the profound impact of austerity measures and the COVID-19 pandemic on play opportunities and playwork services, with the reduction in funding for community services leading to the closure of vital play spaces and limited access to qualified playworkers, resulting in a diminished play experience for many children;
- (e) believes that despite these challenges, Sheffield City Council has demonstrated its commitment to providing play

settings through initiatives such as Pounds Park and ongoing improvements to parks and green spaces across the city, helping to restore much-needed play opportunities for children of all ages;

- (f) notes the invaluable role of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCF) in supporting play and playwork across the city, with organisations such as Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, Sharrow Community Forum, and Manor After School Kids Klub (MASKK), forming part of the Sheffield Play Partnership, being instrumental in delivering play services;
- (g) believes that the successful joint working between the Play Partnership, the VCF and the Council is pivotal in promoting play and playwork across the city to help work towards sustainable play opportunities for children;

this Council resolves to:-

- (h) welcome and endorse the ongoing joint efforts between Sheffield City Council and the Sheffield Play Partnership to play and playwork for the city's children;
- (i) call on the Council's Education, Children and Families Policy Committee, and the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee to consider working together to develop a joined-up strategy for play and playwork within the Council's Belonging Framework;

this Council commits to:-

- (j) building upon the excellent work currently taking place in family hubs, community youth services, and through the support of VCF organisations;
- (k) ensuring that there is comprehensive support for children of all ages, from 0 to 18 years (or 25 years for those with SEND), with particular attention to the gap in services for children aged 5-10, who often fall between early years and youth services provision; and
- (l) creating inclusive, high-quality play opportunities in communities and ensuring that Sheffield is a child friendly city.

9.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, and formally seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (f) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) to (i) as new paragraphs (g) to (m):-
 - (c) notes that policies such as the two-child limit on benefits keep hundreds of thousands of children in poverty with significant impact on their mental and physical health;
 - (d) notes that the Household Support Fund has helped tens of thousands of families in Sheffield such as through Free School Meal vouchers in the school holidays and is a vital safety net for the most vulnerable families;
 - (e) welcomes the Government's decision to extend the Household Support fund for six months, and hopes this vital support will be made permanent, as it is essential to provide children with the foundations on which they can further their development through education and play;
 - (f) supports the Liberal Democrat manifesto promise to put a dedicated mental health professional in every primary and secondary school, providing support for all young people;
 2. the addition of a new paragraph (n) as follows:-
 - (n) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with a copy of this motion, calling for the abolishment of the two-child benefit cap and for a permanent provision of the Household Support Fund;
 3. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (j) to (l) as new paragraphs (o) to (q).
- 9.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, and formally seconded by Councillor Alexi Dimond, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-
1. the addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (f) and (g) as new paragraphs (g) and (h):-
 - (f) believes that free-to-use, open play spaces are genuine improvements to parks and green spaces and the Council should take every opportunity to prioritise inclusive, free and open play spaces to

increase play opportunities for children;

2. the addition of new paragraphs (i) and (j) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (k):-
 - (i) regrets that children today do not have the opportunities for play which their parents and grandparents had due to the exponential increase in motor vehicles which take up space and make streets dangerous;
 - (j) notes that in December 2017, the Council voted against a trial to develop a Play Streets policy framework pilot to take place in Sheffield in the summer of 2018, including designing a quick and simple application process for residents wishing to facilitate playing out sessions on their street, and removing barriers to them doing so;
 3. the re-lettering of the original paragraph (i) as a new paragraph (l), and the addition of the following sub-paragraphs at the end of that paragraph:-
 - (i) for that strategy to include enabling a Sheffield pilot including designing a quick and simple application process for residents wishing to facilitate playing out sessions on their street, and removing barriers to them doing so; and
 - (ii) that the strategy is informed by Playing Out schemes currently or previously operating successfully in places such as Leeds, Hackney, and Bristol, to learn about the key steps to successfully implementing the policy;
 4. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (j) to (l) as new paragraphs (m) to (o).
 5. the addition, at the end of newly re-lettered paragraph (o) [the original paragraph (l)], of the words “where children can play and travel safely to and from school”.
- 9.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof was put to the vote and was carried.
- 9.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 39 Members; AGAINST - 33 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)
- 9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot was then

put to the vote and was lost, except for Parts 1 and 5 of the amendment, which were carried.

9.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 12 Members; AGAINST - 57 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 5 Members. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted against, they voted for Parts 1 and 5 of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members abstained from voting, they voted against 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:-

- (a) notes the well-documented benefits of play, particularly outdoor play, for children’s physical, mental, social, and emotional development;
- (b) believes that play is a vital component of childhood, promoting creativity, resilience, problem-solving, and social interaction;
- (c) notes that policies such as the two-child limit on benefits keep hundreds of thousands of children in poverty with significant impact on their mental and physical health;
- (d) notes that the Household Support Fund has helped tens of thousands of families in Sheffield such as through Free School Meal vouchers in the school holidays and is a vital safety net for the most vulnerable families;
- (e) welcomes the Government’s decision to extend the Household Support fund for six months, and hopes this vital support will be made permanent, as it is essential to provide children with the foundations on which they can further their development through education and play;
- (f) supports the Liberal Democrat manifesto promise to put a dedicated mental health professional in every primary and secondary school, providing support for all young people;
- (g) supports the essential role of qualified playworkers with knowledge of the Playwork Principles, creating safe environments for children to engage in self-directed, spontaneous play and allowing them the freedom to take risks and learn through their own experiences;

- (h) notes the profound impact of austerity measures and the COVID-19 pandemic on play opportunities and playwork services, with the reduction in funding for community services leading to the closure of vital play spaces and limited access to qualified playworkers, resulting in a diminished play experience for many children;
- (i) believes that despite these challenges, Sheffield City Council has demonstrated its commitment to providing play settings through initiatives such as Pounds Park and ongoing improvements to parks and green spaces across the city, helping to restore much-needed play opportunities for children of all ages;
- (j) believes that free-to-use, open play spaces are genuine improvements to parks and green spaces and the Council should take every opportunity to prioritise inclusive, free and open play spaces to increase play opportunities for children;
- (k) notes the invaluable role of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCF) in supporting play and playwork across the city, with organisations such as Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, Sharrow Community Forum, and Manor After School Kids Klub (MASKK), forming part of the Sheffield Play Partnership, being instrumental in delivering play services;
- (l) believes that the successful joint working between the Play Partnership, the VCF and the Council is pivotal in promoting play and playwork across the city to help work towards sustainable play opportunities for children;

this Council resolves to:-

- (m) welcome and endorse the ongoing joint efforts between Sheffield City Council and the Sheffield Play Partnership to play and playwork for the city's children;
- (n) call on the Council's Education, Children and Families Policy Committee, and the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee to consider working together to develop a joined-up strategy for play and playwork within the Council's Belonging Framework;
- (o) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with a copy of this motion, calling for the abolishment of the two-child benefit cap and for a permanent provision of the Household Support Fund;

this Council commits to:-

- (p) building upon the excellent work currently taking place in family hubs, community youth services, and through the support of VCF organisations;
- (q) ensuring that there is comprehensive support for children of all ages, from 0 to 18 years (or 25 years for those with SEND), with particular attention to the gap in services for children aged 5-10, who often fall between early years and youth services provision; and
- (r) creating inclusive, high-quality play opportunities in communities and ensuring that Sheffield is a child friendly city where children can play and travel safely to and from school.

9.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 73 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (c) to (f), (j) and (o) of the Substantive Motion.)

10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT TO SCRAP THE TWO-CHILD BENEFIT CAP" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR QAIS AL-AHDAL AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALEIKI HAYBE

10.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Qais Al-Ahdal, and formally seconded by Councillor Maleiki Haybe, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that:-
 - (i) children who grow up in poverty are less likely to attain higher education, while more likely to experience mental health issues, and worse employment prospects later in life;
 - (ii) a recent report by the Commons Education Committee shows mental health and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the causes for increased students' absence in schools;
 - (iii) according to the Child Poverty Action Group, 250,000 children would be immediately lifted out of poverty if the policy preventing parents from

receiving Universal Credit or Tax Credits for more than two children is removed;

- (iv) the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has reported that in the next year, 250,000 more children will likely be affected by the policy, and by the end of the next Parliament, an extra 670,000 children will likely be affected;
 - (v) the upfront cost of removing the two-child limit will be approximately £3.4 billion a year in the financial year 2024/25 according to the IFS, which amounts to roughly 3% of the total working-age benefit budget;
 - (vi) Muslim and Jewish communities may be disproportionately impacted by the two-child limit policy more than other faith groups; and
 - (vii) not a single Labour MP from Sheffield voted to support an amendment to the recent King's Speech which would have removed the two-child benefit limit to Universal Credit;
- (b) believes that it has a moral duty to advocate for families in need, and pressure the Government to pursue welfare policies that alleviate poverty and the causes of poverty;
 - (c) also believes that further research is needed into potential savings on the long-term costs of removing the two-child limit, which the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests may reduce as overall life outcomes improve;
 - (d) recognises that the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits stops working-class families from claiming benefits for more than two children, despite the clear need in the current economic crisis;
 - (e) further recognises that families affected by the cap miss out on £3,455 annually for every child affected; and that the policy has been widely regarded as a key cause of child poverty;
 - (f) believes that Sheffield's Labour MPs should have voted to remove the 2-child benefit limit, against the Prime Minister's direction;
 - (g) opposes the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits;

- (h) requests the Government to copy the Scottish Child Payment benefit policy;
- (i) requests the Government to tax the top 300 richest persons in Britain by an extra 1% to help cover economic deficits; and
- (j) requests that the Chief Executive submits this Council's resolution to the Prime Minister.

10.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Rob Bannister, and formally seconded by Councillor Tom Hunt, 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 (h):-

- (a) notes that tackling child poverty is at the heart of the Government's mission to break down barriers to opportunity and improve the life chances of every child;
- (b) welcomes the Government establishing a cross-departmental Child Poverty Taskforce to address the root causes of poverty and notes that the Taskforce will publish a Child Poverty Strategy in spring next year;
- (c) supports the Government's range of work to tackle poverty and boost household incomes, including providing free breakfast clubs for all children, and introducing the New Deal for Working People to help make work pay and focusing on helping people get back into work;
- (d) acknowledges the significant challenges facing our national economy, including the reported £22 billion budget shortfall inherited by the current Government, with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) announcing the previous Government were spending and borrowing more than they had revealed to the OBR, with the deficit now £4.7bn higher than the OBR originally forecast;
- (e) notes the Labour Party voted against the introduction of the two-child benefit cap but, given the dire financial situation inherited, the Government has resolved not to make unfunded spending commitments;
- (f) welcomes the extension of the Household Support fund which will enable councils to continue to provide support to the most vulnerable households;
- (g) welcomes local efforts to tackle child poverty and

particularly welcomes the launch of the Sheffield Poverty truth commission later this month; and

- (h) looks forward to working together with the Government to tackle poverty.

10.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Sue Alston, and formally seconded by Councillor Richard Shaw, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (h) and (i) and the addition of a new paragraph (h) as follows:-

- (h) requests that the Government consider tax changes to make the economy fairer for everyone, such as reversing the previous Government's tax cuts for the big banks and raising the Digital Services Tax on tech giants.

10.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Rob Bannister was put to the vote and was lost.

10.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 33 Members; AGAINST - 40 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)

10.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Sue Alston was then put to the vote and was also lost.

10.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 28 Members; AGAINST - 43 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members.)

10.6 The original Motion, in the following form, was then put to the vote:-

That this Council:-

- (a) notes that:-
 - (i) children who grow up in poverty are less likely to attain higher education, while more likely to experience mental health issues, and worse employment prospects later in life;
 - (ii) a recent report by the Commons Education Committee shows mental health and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the causes for increased students' absence in schools;
 - (iii) according to the Child Poverty Action Group, 250,000 children would be immediately lifted out of poverty if the policy preventing parents from receiving Universal Credit or Tax Credits for more

- than two children is removed;
- (iv) the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has reported that in the next year, 250,000 more children will likely be affected by the policy, and by the end of the next Parliament, an extra 670,000 children will likely be affected;
 - (v) the upfront cost of removing the two-child limit will be approximately £3.4 billion a year in the financial year 2024/25 according to the IFS, which amounts to roughly 3% of the total working-age benefit budget;
 - (vi) Muslim and Jewish communities may be disproportionately impacted by the two-child limit policy more than other faith groups; and
 - (vii) not a single Labour MP from Sheffield voted to support an amendment to the recent King's Speech which would have removed the two-child benefit limit to Universal Credit;
- (b) believes that it has a moral duty to advocate for families in need, and pressure the Government to pursue welfare policies that alleviate poverty and the causes of poverty;
 - (c) also believes that further research is needed into potential savings on the long-term costs of removing the two-child limit, which the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests may reduce as overall life outcomes improve;
 - (d) recognises that the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits stops working-class families from claiming benefits for more than two children, despite the clear need in the current economic crisis;
 - (e) further recognises that families affected by the cap miss out on £3,455 annually for every child affected; and that the policy has been widely regarded as a key cause of child poverty;
 - (f) believes that Sheffield's Labour MPs should have voted to remove the 2-child benefit limit, against the Prime Minister's direction;
 - (g) opposes the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits;
 - (h) requests the Government to copy the Scottish Child

Payment benefit policy;

- (i) requests the Government to tax the top 300 richest persons in Britain by an extra 1% to help cover economic deficits; and
- (j) requests that the Chief Executive submits this Council's resolution to the Prime Minister.

10.7 On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried, except for paragraphs (h) & (i), which were lost.

10.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 40 Members; AGAINST - 33 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (h) & (i) of the Motion.)

10.8 Accordingly, the resolution passed by the Council was as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that:-
 - (i) children who grow up in poverty are less likely to attain higher education, while more likely to experience mental health issues, and worse employment prospects later in life;
 - (ii) a recent report by the Commons Education Committee shows mental health and cost-of-living pressures on families are among the causes for increased students' absence in schools;
 - (iii) according to the Child Poverty Action Group, 250,000 children would be immediately lifted out of poverty if the policy preventing parents from receiving Universal Credit or Tax Credits for more than two children is removed;
 - (iv) the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has reported that in the next year, 250,000 more children will likely be affected by the policy, and by the end of the next Parliament, an extra 670,000 children will likely be affected;
 - (v) the upfront cost of removing the two-child limit will be approximately £3.4 billion a year in the financial year 2024/25 according to the IFS, which amounts

- to roughly 3% of the total working-age benefit budget;
- (vi) Muslim and Jewish communities may be disproportionately impacted by the two-child limit policy more than other faith groups; and
 - (vii) not a single Labour MP from Sheffield voted to support an amendment to the recent King's Speech which would have removed the two-child benefit limit to Universal Credit;
- (b) believes that it has a moral duty to advocate for families in need, and pressure the Government to pursue welfare policies that alleviate poverty and the causes of poverty;
 - (c) also believes that further research is needed into potential savings on the long-term costs of removing the two-child limit, which the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests may reduce as overall life outcomes improve;
 - (d) recognises that the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits stops working-class families from claiming benefits for more than two children, despite the clear need in the current economic crisis;
 - (e) further recognises that families affected by the cap miss out on £3,455 annually for every child affected; and that the policy has been widely regarded as a key cause of child poverty;
 - (f) believes that Sheffield's Labour MPs should have voted to remove the 2-child benefit limit, against the Prime Minister's direction;
 - (g) opposes the two-child limit for Universal Credit and Tax Credits; and
 - (h) requests that the Chief Executive submits this Council's resolution to the Prime Minister.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

- 11.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17th July 2024 be approved as a true and accurate

record.

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

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

(a) it be noted that, in accordance with the authority given by the City Council at its annual meeting held on 15th May 2024, the Monitoring Officer had authorised the following appointments, with effect from the dates shown:-

Economic Development and Skills Committee - Councillor Julie Grocutt appointed as a substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 27th August 2024.

Planning Committee - Councillor Mary Lea replaced Councillor Mark Jones as substitute member of the Committee, with effect from 11th August 2024.

Great Sheffield Board Places: Housing - Councillor Elle Dodd replaced Councillor Laura Moynahan, with effect from 2nd August 2024.

University Technical College Trust Board - Councillor Jayne Dunn removed as member, with effect from 27th August 2024.

(b) it be noted that the Sheffield City Partnership Board and Local Access Forum, on which Members have previously been appointed to serve, both ceased in July 2024; and

(c) approval be given for Councillor Sophie Thornton to replace Councillor Andrew Sangar on the Senior Officer Employment Committee.

(NOTE: 1. Paragraph (c) in the schedule of appointments circulated to the meeting was withdrawn from consideration to allow for further investigations to take place on the places available to the Council on the Beighton Relief in Need Charity; and

2. The above appointments incorporate the appointment of Councillor Sophie Thornton to replace Councillor Andrew Sangar on the Senior Officer Employment Committee, which was reported to the meeting by Councillor Joe Otten as an addition to the schedule of appointments circulated to the meeting.)

This page is intentionally left blank