

Agenda Item 14

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 6 November 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>
Simon Clement-Jones
Richard Shaw
Sophie Thornton | 10 <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Robert Reiss
Alan Woodcock | 19 <i>Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward</i>
Nighat Basharat
Maroof Raouf
Ibby Ullah |
| 2 <i>Beighton Ward</i>
Ian Horner
Ann Woolhouse | 11 <i>Ecclesall Ward</i>
Peter Gilbert
Barbara Masters
Shaffaq Mohammed | 20 <i>Park & Arbourthorne</i>
Mia Drazaic
Ben Miskell
Nabeela Mowlana |
| 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>
Angela Argenzio
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>
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
Richard Williams |
| 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>
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>
Rebecca Atkinson
Joe Otten
Martin Smith | 18 <i>Mosborough Ward</i>
Glynis Chapman
Tony Downing | 27 <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Alan Hooper
Mike Levery
Ann Whitaker |
| | | 28 <i>Woodhouse Ward</i>
Alison Norris
Mick Rooney |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kurtis Crossland, Alexi Dimond, Craig Gamble Pugh, Julie Grocutt, Maleiki Haybe and Gail Smith.

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

4. PUBLIC PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Pre-Election Rules on Publicity

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) stated that the meeting was being held within the pre-election period for the Woodhouse Ward By-Election on 28 November 2024 and that, accordingly, the Pre-Election Rules on Publicity would need to be adhered to. She reported that guidance on the Rules had been issued to all Members and she emphasised that Members must refrain from making speeches or asking supplementary questions which relate directly to the Woodhouse Ward, or are about matters that are likely to be locally contentious and, furthermore, must also avoid naming or making reference to candidates who are standing at the election.

4.2 Public Petitions, Questions and Statements

The Lord Mayor reported that two petitions were to be received at the meeting. She added that written responses to questions received from eight 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 three supplementary questions arising from those responses had been received. In addition, one statement relating to the remit of full Council had been received from a member of the public. No questions had been received from members of the public on matters relating to items of business on the agenda for the meeting.

4.3 Petitions

4.3.1 Petition for Residents Only Parking on Troutbeck Road, Sheffield 7

The Council received a petition containing 19 signatures calling on the Council to install a resident only parking scheme on Troutbeck Road, Sheffield 7.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Callum Sweet, who stated that the residents of Troutbeck Road wished to work with the Council to find a way to tackle problem parking on the road, which was causing increasing tension, including between residents and nearby businesses. During planning consultations for the Jacob's Gate development, potential residents had been told that they would have two private parking spaces each, but these had not been provided, and this was contrary to Highways regulations. Staff members from local businesses on Abbeydale Road were also parking on Troutbeck Road due to inadequate parking provision and bus lane restrictions.

Mr Sweet advised that this meant residents in the terraced housing were struggling to find parking spaces on weekdays, and this was particularly difficult for people with young children and those with disabilities. These issues were causing conflict between residents and some staff at the STEPS facility, who claimed that the road within the Jacob's Gate area was private land. Mr Sweet requested clarification on this from the Council. He added that a petition suggesting a permit holder only policy, had been signed by 13 of the 15 terraced houses on Troutbeck Road, one more had given verbal agreement, and the only house not included was owned by STEPS. Residents were hoping to work with the Council to establish the detail of how a permit scheme would operate.

The petition was referred to Councillor Ben Miskell (Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Miskell stated that the previous week at the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee meeting, it had been decided to introduce several measures on Abbeydale Road aimed at improving bus transit times in order to reduce congestion, support economic growth, and offer people more travel options. It was also part of a broader effort, led by South Yorkshire's Mayor, Oliver Coppard, on bus franchising.

Councillor Miskell advised that, in making this decision, the Committee had removed a small number of parking spaces on Abbeydale Road, which was a necessary step to meet the Council's city-wide priorities. He added that the Committee was aware of the concerns about parking availability on Troutbeck Road and accordingly he would refer the petition to the Committee for further consideration in order to explore potential solutions to mitigate the issue, including the potential for a limited parking scheme.

4.3.2 Petition Requesting the Council to Restore the Winter Fuel Allowance

A petition was received containing 217 signatures calling on the Council to restore the winter fuel allowance to pensioners.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Alistair Tice, representing the Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition, who stated that despite the Labour Government saying that there would be no return to austerity, its decision to cut the winter fuel allowance of up to £300 from nearly 10 million pensioners, was a callous austerity policy. He added that pensioners in Britain received the lowest state pension in Western Europe and energy prices had increased by a further 10%. This meant that many pensioners would face the choice of heating or eating in the coming winter. He said that Age UK estimated that 2.5 million pensioners were already in fuel poverty, and he believed that the fuel allowance cut would make this worse.

Mr Tice stated that the cut would only save the Government £1.5 billion per year, yet if all the pensioners eligible for pension credit who had not yet claimed it did so, it would cost £2.2 billion. He believed that the Government was doing this to prove to the establishment that the Government would make tough decisions and hard choices, but these would be tough and hard on pensioners. He added that Labour Councillors had justified the cut by saying the allowance had been paid to rich pensioners who did not need it, but pensions were a universal benefit and in his opinion it would be better to tax the "super rich".

Mr Tice concluded by saying that an estimated 75,000 pensioners in Sheffield were affected by the cut. The petition called on the Council to use the Household Support Fund or similar, to restore the £200 or £300 loss to pensioners, as had already been done by Tower Hamlets and Barnsley Councils. Mr Tice stated that the Council had half a billion pounds in reserves, so in his view the Council could afford his suggestion.

The petition was referred to Councillor Tom Hunt (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Hunt stated that the change to the Winter Fuel Payment was a necessary choice and that it had been made because the previous government made spending commitments without knowing where the money was going to come from, and this had left a £22 billion black hole in public finances for the Labour government to sort out.

Councillor Hunt hoped that everyone would welcome the fact that the Winter Fuel Allowance would continue to support those most in need. He added that in the national budget announcement made in the previous week, the Household Support Fund had been extended for a further year. Additionally, the Council was working in partnership with Citizens Advice Sheffield and the Department for Work and Pensions, to increase the uptake of Pension Credit. As part of this, the Council has written out to over 7,000 households who it had identified as being in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, but not Pension Credit. This had led to a rise in people claiming Pension Credit. Councillor Hunt added that he was sure that the signatories to the petition would also welcome the Government upholding the "triple lock" on state pensions.

Councillor Hunt advised that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee would be examining the issue further at its December meeting, and therefore he was happy to refer the petition to that meeting. He asked that the petitioners

encourage people they think might be entitled to Pension Credit to get in touch so that the Council can make sure that the people who need the support get it.

4.4 Supplementary Public Questions

4.4.1 Supplementary Questions, from Julie Pearn, Calling on the Council to Fly the Palestinian Flag on 29th November

Julie Pearn asked “On 29th October 2024, in a welcome move, a Declaration of Friendship was signed between the cities of Sheffield and Nablus “to promote friendship, understanding and exchange experience and knowledge”. I hope this bond will strengthen empathy with Palestinians throughout Palestine, who suffer daily humanitarian catastrophe at the hands of the Israeli Occupation.

Will the City of Sheffield give a first concrete expression to its Declaration and fly the Palestinian flag on November 29th, the UN Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People?”.

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that the Council had a protocol for the flying of flags, and he had requested that the Chief Executive follow the procedure for considering the request to fly the Palestinian flag on 29th November. He would inform Ms. Pearn of the outcome of that process in due course.

Regarding the friendship agreement with the city of Nablus, on the West Bank, Councillor Hunt advised that he had been proud to be at the signing ceremony with the Lord Mayor and other group leaders the previous week where he had a positive conversation with the Mayor of Nablus and other members of the Nablus municipality about how to extend the hand of friendship, and extend the links between the cities of Sheffield and Nablus. He added that the Council would explore options for further expressing the city’s solidarity and friendship with Nablus and would welcome any suggestions in that regard.

4.4.2 Supplementary Questions, from Annie O’Gara, Regarding the Council’s Contract with Barclay’s Bank

Annie O’Gara asked “Discretion means the freedom to decide, in the light of one’s own values, what should be done in any situation. You say SCC operates ‘at all times in line with our values’.

SCC’s PQQ [Pre-Qualification Questionnaire] of 2018 said this about grave misconduct which can trigger Discretionary Exclusion: ‘To be considered grave misconduct [the matter] does not have to have been ... established ... by a judgment which has the force of res judicata. The authority will consider any cogent evidence’.

Yet in your reply to me you emphasise res judicata, referencing a court’s naming of companies, seemingly minimising your own power to exercise discretion.

The International Court of Justice ruled that the Occupation is unlawful, that there is evidence of genocide, that countries must not provide aid/assistance to Israel. Those who invest in, and underwrite, the weapons trade slaughtering and maiming thousands, do provide aid/assistance, like Barclays, complicit to the tune of billions of pounds in the arms trade.

Your powers of discretion are greater than you choose to use regarding Barclays, a complicit and compromised bank, you refuse even to express concern to Barclays.”

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that he would repeat what he had said in answer to the original question, i.e. that the Council acted at all times in line with its values and its ethical procurement policy and would continue to do so. He added that the policy would be brought back to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee later in the municipal year. On the specific point around PQQ, Councillor Hunt confirmed that he would provide a written response, but he was clear that the Council was acting in line with both its values and the ethical procurement policy.

4.4.3 *Supplementary Questions, from Jonathan Feldman, Calling on the Council to Adopt the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism*

Jonathan Feldman asked “It is disingenuous to quote from the IHRA [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance] without reference to the examples in it - most of these associate antisemitism with criticism of Israel and have quite clearly played a role in the political discourse.

First, how does the Council know that the IHRA has not stifled debate? There is plenty of evidence (e.g. from the European Legal Support Centre - their report is here:https://res.cloudinary.com/elsc/images/v1694507437/Freedom-of-Speech-and-Academic-Freedom-in-UK-Higher-Education-BRISMES-ELSC/Freedom-of-Speech-and-Academic-Freedom-in-UK-Higher-Education-BRISMES-ELSC.pdf?_i=AA) that people are worried about accusations of antisemitism in any institution where the IHRA has been adopted. The Council themselves referred to the IHRA when they asked Julie Pearn to stop speaking at a meeting. It took months, and the intervention of a legal letter, before the Council back tracked.

Second, the Jerusalem Declaration is an improved version leaving no doubt that criticism of Israel per se is not antisemitic, in contrast with the IHRA where the examples are used to stifle comment as described above. To say that the IHRA is widely adopted is a defensive position that also seeks to limit discussion. Capital punishment was once widely adopted too. Why would the Council not seek to review and improve its policies?”

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that the Council had adopted the IHRA definition in 2019, and whilst he was aware that the definition was subject to a substantial debate, the Council remained committed to it. The

Council did not believe that the IHRA definition had limited its political discourse within the Council.

Councillor Hunt added that the IHRA definition had been widely endorsed by various governments, institutions, and organisations worldwide, making it the commonly referenced standard for recognising and addressing antisemitic behaviours. Additionally, the UK Government, European Parliament, the EU monitoring centre on Racism and Xenophobia and the UK College of Policing had all formally adopted it.

Councillor Hunt stated that he found it disappointing to be having the conversation when the broader picture was that in the last year there has been a rapid increase in the reporting of both antisemitism and Islamophobia and the fear, anxiety and harm this caused was a stain on society.

Councillor Hunt confirmed that the Council stood against and worked to eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment and victimisation and actively sought to foster good relationships between people, especially when there was division, and when this was challenging.

4.5 Public Statement

The following statement was read out at the meeting by Paul Wimpenny -

Since October 2023, even when in receipt of a petition signed by 7,500 people, the Council has taken no meaningful action to recognise the suffering of the Palestinian people.

They insisted that to declare Sheffield an Israeli apartheid-free zone, would be merely “symbolic”. In reality, many organisations, like Amnesty International, have seen the point in labelling Israel an apartheid regime.

Furthermore, in July 2024 the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel is also in breach of the “Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”.

We refute, therefore, that any actions taken would be symbolic only. They have a persuasive moral force.

Other suggestions:

- *Demand Barclays bank withdraws investments in the Israeli arms trade, or change banks.*
- *Urge the South Yorkshire Pension Fund to divest from companies with Israeli interests.*
- *Offer advice to all Sheffield businesses regarding the legality of trading with Israel at this time.*
- *Fly the Palestinian flag above the Town Hall on 29th November, “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people”, as Rotherham Council has decided to do.*

Sheffield City Council has to decide whether it opposes injustice or seeks merely to appease those who justify apartheid and genocide.”

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 Urgent Business

With the permission of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn), Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed asked the following question relating to urgent business, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6:-

“What representation will the Council make to the Government on behalf of its local partners including charities, care providers and hospices that are facing unsustainable cost increases due to the rise in employer National Insurance Contributions announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in her Autumn Budget?”

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that the rate of Employer National Insurance Contributions would rise by 1.2 percentage points to 15%. He added that this had been a decision taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of a package of measures to provide stability to the public finances. He explained that he was waiting for further details, but it was worth noting that the Government was also choosing to protect small businesses by doubling the Employment Allowance to £10,500 and expanding it to all eligible employers. The Office for Budget Responsibility expected 250,000 employers to gain from these changes and an additional 820,000 to see no change.

Councillor Hunt confirmed that he would be happy to have a conversation with employers from across the city who wanted to talk to the Council about the changes to gain a deeper understanding of their implications.

5.2 Written Questions

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.

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 "MAKE SHEFFIELD A PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY CITY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GILLIGAN KUBO AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RUTH MERSEREAU

6.1 It was moved by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, and seconded by Councillor Ruth Mersereau, that this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) that Councillors regularly receive complaints about vehicles parked on pavements, dangerous road crossings, bins blocking footways, broken dropped kerbs, obstructive advertising boards and panels, litter and slippery and icy pavements;
- (b) the Council's Transport Vision aims to deliver safer and inclusive streets, making it easy to walk, wheel and cycle and states that "we want our streets to be easy to navigate for everyone, including people using wheelchairs or mobility aids, blind or partially sighted people, and residents walking with young children in prams";
- (c) all Sheffielders are pedestrians at some point of every journey;
- (d) the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee is developing a Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Investment Plan (WWCIP);
- (e) the 2020 road policing report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services found an absence of effective road safety strategies and highlighted that an increase in numbers killed and injured coincided with a decrease in the amount that the police spent on roads policing;
- (f) the Council has committed to a "Vision Zero" type approach to significantly reduce the yearly average of 357 people killed and seriously injured on Sheffield's roads;

believes that:-

- (g) making Sheffield a Pedestrian Friendly City will have environmental, health and financial benefits for everyone;
- (h) making Sheffield a truly Pedestrian Friendly City will require the Council to lead on action across services in terms of investment, enforcement and better working practices, such as:
 - (i) ensuring pavements are kept clear of litter, fly-tipping, bins, leaves and ice;
 - (ii) enforcing illegal or dangerous parking, especially on pavements and dropped kerbs, where it limits access for disabled people;
 - (iii) looking for pedestrian improvements such as more road crossings and more 20mph zones in residential areas;

- (iv) removing physical obstacles to pedestrians in footways;
- (v) improving signage for walking routes; and
- (vi) rolling out more Liveable (low traffic) Neighbourhoods in consultation with local communities to make streets safer and more pleasant;

resolves to:-

- (i) ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to include the above in its WWCIP, with Sheffield aiming to become a Pedestrian-Friendly City;
- (j) ask the South Yorkshire Police and Mayor to prioritise and properly fund road safety, and to improve accessibility for pedestrians, including reversing the decision to abandon Operation Parksafe; and
- (k) support the cross-committee working group proposed to be established by the Transport, Regeneration and Climate and Waste and Street Scene Policy Committees, which will aim to work with parking services and the police to eliminate obstructive parking and reduce road danger for all walkers, wheelers and cyclists.

6.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ruth Milsom, and seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (d) as follows:-
 - (b) the Council's work making Sheffield more pedestrian friendly, including significant progress delivering 20mph zones (over 50 installed or in construction), and the success of School Streets with 12 permanent schemes, four in trial, and more planned;
 - (c) the ongoing delivery of:-
 - (i) Connecting Sheffield schemes, including pedestrianised parts of the city centre and installation of West Bar roundabout; and
 - (ii) the Road Safety Action Plan, including Local Safety Schemes, school streets, 20mph zones, new powers to enforce moving traffic offences, implementing Safer Roads and delivering educational interventions;
 - (d) the Government's welcome announcement of £650m funding for local transport in 2025-26, including the renewal of Sheffield's Supertram system;
2. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (b) and (c) as new paragraphs (e) and (f);

3. the deletion of the original paragraph (d) and its replacement by a new paragraph (g) as follows:-
 - (g) the Council's cross-party Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Investment Plan (WWCIP), particularly its strong focus on neighbourhood improvements and creating safer routes for walking, wheeling, and cycling, prioritising community-led design to ensure investments align with local needs and projects to improve access to areas of employment and education establishments, and reduce transport-related social exclusion;
 4. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (e) to (i) as new paragraphs (h) to (l);
 5. the addition of a new paragraph (m) as follows:-
 - (m) support the cross-party Police and Crime Panel in scrutinising the Mayor's emerging Police And Crime Plan, recognising the active role Panel members play in advising the Mayor and promoting Sheffield's priorities, including road safety;
 6. the deletion of the original paragraph (j) and its replacement by a new paragraph (n) as follows:-
 - (n) support the cross-party members of the Police and Crime Panel in seeking a constructive way forward following the withdrawal of Operation ParkSafe by South Yorkshire Police;
 7. the re-lettering of the original paragraph (k) as a new paragraph (o).
- 6.3 It was then moved by Councillor Tim Huggan, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-
1. the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (g) and (h) as new paragraphs (h) and (i):-
 - (g) that Operation ParkSafe was cancelled following a successful pilot scheme with almost 900 reports of parking obstruction submitted in 12 months;
 2. in the newly re-lettered paragraph (i), the addition at the end of sub-paragraph (i) of the words "including supporting community activity such as litter pickers and snow wardens";
 3. in the newly re-lettered paragraph (i), the addition of a new sub-paragraph (iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraphs (iv) and (v) as new sub-paragraphs (v) and (vi):-

- (iv) inclusive mobility practices as outlined by the Royal National Institute for Blind People such as tactile paving surfaces and accessible crossings;
- 4. in the newly re-lettered paragraph (i), the deletion of the original sub-paragraph (vi) and its replacement with a new sub-paragraph (vii) as follows:-
 - (vii) rolling out Liveable (low traffic) Neighbourhoods where they are supported by local communities that would be impacted;
- 5. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (i) to (k) as new paragraphs (j) to (l); and
- 6. the addition of a new paragraph (m) as follows:-
 - (m) ask the Government to give Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners devolved powers to fund the cost of the administration of programmes like Operation ParkSafe from penalty notices issued through the scheme, and accordingly, asks the Leader of the Council to forward the motion to the Government and to the South Yorkshire Mayor.
- 6.4 After contributions from four other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, the amendment moved by Councillor Ruth Milsom was put to the vote and was carried, except for Part 6 of the amendment, which was lost.
- 6.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 4 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat and Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 6 of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted against, they voted for paragraphs (b) and (d) in Part 1 of the amendment.)
- 6.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Tim Huggan was then put to the vote and was carried.
- 6.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 74 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on Parts 4 and 6 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 4 of the amendment.)
- 6.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form and was carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) that Councillors regularly receive complaints about vehicles parked on pavements, dangerous road crossings, bins blocking footways, broken dropped kerbs, obstructive advertising boards and panels, litter and slippery and icy pavements;
- (b) the Council's work making Sheffield more pedestrian friendly, including significant progress delivering 20mph zones (over 50 installed or in construction), and the success of School Streets with 12 permanent schemes, four in trial, and more planned;
- (c) the ongoing delivery of:-
 - (i) Connecting Sheffield schemes, including pedestrianised parts of the city centre and installation of West Bar roundabout; and
 - (ii) the Road Safety Action Plan, including Local Safety Schemes, school streets, 20mph zones, new powers to enforce moving traffic offences, implementing Safer Roads and delivering educational interventions;
- (d) the Government's welcome announcement of £650m funding for local transport in 2025-26, including the renewal of Sheffield's Supertram system;
- (e) the Council's Transport Vision aims to deliver safer and inclusive streets, making it easy to walk, wheel and cycle and states that "we want our streets to be easy to navigate for everyone, including people using wheelchairs or mobility aids, blind or partially sighted people, and residents walking with young children in prams";
- (f) all Sheffielders are pedestrians at some point of every journey;
- (g) the Council's cross-party Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Investment Plan (WWCIP), particularly its strong focus on neighbourhood improvements and creating safer routes for walking, wheeling, and cycling, prioritising community-led design to ensure investments align with local needs and projects to improve access to areas of employment and education establishments, and reduce transport-related social exclusion;
- (h) the 2020 road policing report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services found an absence of effective road safety strategies and highlighted that an increase in numbers killed and injured coincided with a decrease in the amount that the police spent on roads policing;
- (i) the Council has committed to a "Vision Zero" type approach to significantly reduce the yearly average of 357 people killed and seriously injured on Sheffield's roads;

- (j) that Operation ParkSafe was cancelled following a successful pilot scheme with almost 900 reports of parking obstruction submitted in 12 months;

believes that:-

- (k) making Sheffield a Pedestrian Friendly City will have environmental, health and financial benefits for everyone;
- (l) making Sheffield a truly Pedestrian Friendly City will require the Council to lead on action across services in terms of investment, enforcement and better working practices, such as:
 - (i) ensuring pavements are kept clear of litter, fly-tipping, bins, leaves and ice, including supporting community activity such as litter pickers and snow wardens;
 - (ii) enforcing illegal or dangerous parking, especially on pavements and dropped kerbs, where it limits access for disabled people;
 - (iii) looking for pedestrian improvements such as more road crossings and more 20mph zones in residential areas;
 - (iv) inclusive mobility practices as outlined by the Royal National Institute for Blind People such as tactile paving surfaces and accessible crossings;
 - (v) removing physical obstacles to pedestrians in footways;
 - (vi) improving signage for walking routes; and
 - (vii) rolling out Liveable (low traffic) Neighbourhoods where they are supported by local communities that would be impacted;

resolves to:-

- (m) ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to include the above in its WWCIP, with Sheffield aiming to become a Pedestrian-Friendly City;
- (n) support the cross-party Police and Crime Panel in scrutinising the Mayor's emerging Police And Crime Plan, recognising the active role Panel members play in advising the Mayor and promoting Sheffield's priorities, including road safety;
- (o) ask the South Yorkshire Police and Mayor to prioritise and properly fund road safety, and to improve accessibility for pedestrians, including reversing the decision to abandon Operation Parksafes;
- (p) support the cross-committee working group proposed to be established by the Transport, Regeneration and Climate and Waste and Street Scene Policy Committees, which will aim to work with parking services and the police to eliminate obstructive parking and reduce road danger for all walkers, wheelers and cyclists; and

- (q) ask the Government to give Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners devolved powers to fund the cost of the administration of programmes like Operation ParkSafe from penalty notices issued through the scheme, and accordingly, asks the Leader of the Council to forward the motion to the Government and to the South Yorkshire Mayor.

6.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 74 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (l)(vii) and on paragraphs (o) and (q) of the Substantive Motion. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (c), (g) and (n) of the Substantive Motion.)

7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "REAFFIRMING SHEFFIELD'S COMMITMENT TO TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND SUPPORTING THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MARK RUSLING AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW DWYER

7.1 It was moved by Councillor Mark Rusling, and seconded by Councillor Matthew Dwyer, that this Council:-

- (a) reaffirms its commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign and the principles it represents: never to commit, excuse, or remain silent about male violence against women and girls (VAWG);
- (b) notes that it will be White Ribbon Day on 25th November, a day which encourages positive action to challenge harmful cultures and behaviours that lead to violence against women and girls;
- (c) notes the progress since the Council motion in November 2021 committing to the White Ribbon campaign, noting that, as an accredited organisation, we have a detailed action plan, as approved by White Ribbon, setting out our work until 2025;
- (d) notes statistics remain clear and shocking - in the year ending March 2023, South Yorkshire Police recorded 39,016 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes;
- (e) believes these figures demand urgent action, and welcomes the Council's upcoming Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy, which will build on our existing efforts and outline a strong, multi-agency response;
- (f) welcomes the Government's recent enhancements to workers' rights around sexual harassment, including protections against third-party abuse, and supports VAWG being a key mission of this Government;

- (g) believes masculinity can be positive, but that too often toxic masculinity spread online has normalised misogyny among some young men and therefore welcomes the Government's plans to tackle sexism in schools; and the critical importance of outreach work with men and boys;
- (h) renews our efforts and commits to:-
 - (i) expanding Leadership and Outreach by increasing the number of White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions among our councillors and workforce;
 - (ii) encourage every male councillor to be a White Ribbon Ambassador;
 - (iii) strengthen partnerships with communities, stakeholders and institutions, including our local football clubs, to engage young men;
 - (iv) prioritising Education and Prevention, in line with our Action Plan, ensuring that each service has a dedicated Lead for the White Ribbon Campaign, and commit to prevention across all services; and
 - (v) strengthening Safety in the Night-Time Economy; working closely with licensed premises to further promote the "Ask for Angela" campaign, and Sheffield's Women and Girls Night-time Safety Charter and Toolkit for businesses in the night-time economy; and
- (i) urges all Members to continue championing the White Ribbon Campaign, support the forthcoming Strategy, and reaffirm the Council's role in ending violence against women and girls, committed to changing the culture, supporting victims, and to make our city a safe and equal place for all.

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

- (g) notes that there was no indication at the Autumn Budget of how much funding has been allocated to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, which will require specialist services to tackle meaningfully;
- (h) notes that the £813,311.02 secured in the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner area to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls since 2023 through the Safer Streets Fund is dwarfed by the £65million hole in the Police finances;

7.3 It was then moved by Councillor Martin Phipps, and seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (j) to (p) as follows:-

- (j) believes the city centre Safe Square pilot, which provided a safe space including medical assistance, phone charging, advice and signposting and assistance getting home if needed on Friday and Saturday evenings, was a great success;
 - (k) notes that the Safe Square had positive feedback from women welcoming it as “providing a comfort and a support network for those out in the city centre” and providing an “extra feeling of security”; and that it has also had positive feedback from businesses in the night-time economy, the police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service;
 - (l) notes the Yorkshire Ambulance Service estimated a potential saving of over £3000 a month due to reduced callouts thanks to the Safe Square, with a potential for further savings with greater signposting;
 - (m) notes the South Yorkshire Police surveyed 24 officers on the Safe Square, with officers estimating a time saving on average between 30 minutes and an hour per shift it was operating;
 - (n) believes it is important to re-launch a permanent Safe Square as soon as possible;
 - (o) resolves to request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee urgently work with and request funds from those organisations that have benefited from the resource, such as police, ambulance services, and partners, to urgently launch a permanent Safe Square, to be operating ahead of the festive season; and
 - (p) asks the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and NHS Foundation Trusts, asking for a response.
- 7.4 Following contributions from another three Members, it was **RESOLVED**: On the motion moved by Councillor Mick Rooney, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, 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 two speakers.
- 7.5 After contributions had been made by a further two Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Mark Rusling, the amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten was put to the vote and was carried.
- 7.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 39 Members; AGAINST - 34 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)
- 7.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Martin Phipps was then put to the vote and was also carried.

- 7.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 73 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraphs (n) to (p) of the amendment.)
- 7.7 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form and was carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) reaffirms its commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign and the principles it represents: never to commit, excuse, or remain silent about male violence against women and girls (VAWG);
- (b) notes that it will be White Ribbon Day on 25th November, a day which encourages positive action to challenge harmful cultures and behaviours that lead to violence against women and girls;
- (c) notes the progress since the Council motion in November 2021 committing to the White Ribbon campaign, noting that, as an accredited organisation, we have a detailed action plan, as approved by White Ribbon, setting out our work until 2025;
- (d) notes statistics remain clear and shocking - in the year ending March 2023, South Yorkshire Police recorded 39,016 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes;
- (e) believes these figures demand urgent action, and welcomes the Council's upcoming Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy, which will build on our existing efforts and outline a strong, multi-agency response;
- (f) welcomes the Government's recent enhancements to workers' rights around sexual harassment, including protections against third-party abuse, and supports VAWG being a key mission of this Government;
- (g) notes that there was no indication at the Autumn Budget of how much funding has been allocated to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, which will require specialist services to tackle meaningfully;
- (h) notes that the £813,311.02 secured in the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner area to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls since 2023 through the Safer Streets Fund is dwarfed by the £65million hole in the Police finances;
- (i) believes masculinity can be positive, but that too often toxic masculinity spread online has normalised misogyny among some young men and therefore welcomes the Government's plans to tackle sexism in schools; and the critical importance of outreach work with men and boys;

- (j) renews our efforts and commits to:-
 - (i) expanding Leadership and Outreach by increasing the number of White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions among our councillors and workforce;
 - (ii) encourage every male councillor to be a White Ribbon Ambassador;
 - (iii) strengthen partnerships with communities, stakeholders and institutions, including our local football clubs, to engage young men;
 - (iv) prioritising Education and Prevention, in line with our Action Plan, ensuring that each service has a dedicated Lead for the White Ribbon Campaign, and commit to prevention across all services; and
 - (v) strengthening Safety in the Night-Time Economy; working closely with licensed premises to further promote the "Ask for Angela" campaign, and Sheffield's Women and Girls Night-time Safety Charter and Toolkit for businesses in the night-time economy;
- (k) urges all Members to continue championing the White Ribbon Campaign, support the forthcoming Strategy, and reaffirm the Council's role in ending violence against women and girls, committed to changing the culture, supporting victims, and to make our city a safe and equal place for all;
- (l) believes the city centre Safe Square pilot, which provided a safe space including medical assistance, phone charging, advice and signposting and assistance getting home if needed on Friday and Saturday evenings, was a great success;
- (m) notes that the Safe Square had positive feedback from women welcoming it as "providing a comfort and a support network for those out in the city centre" and providing an "extra feeling of security"; and that it has also had positive feedback from businesses in the night-time economy, the police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service;
- (n) notes the Yorkshire Ambulance Service estimated a potential saving of over £3000 a month due to reduced callouts thanks to the Safe Square, with a potential for further savings with greater signposting;
- (o) notes the South Yorkshire Police surveyed 24 officers on the Safe Square, with officers estimating a time saving on average between 30 minutes and an hour per shift it was operating;
- (p) believes it is important to re-launch a permanent Safe Square as soon as possible;

- (q) resolves to request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee urgently work with and request funds from those organisations that have benefited from the resource, such as police, ambulance services, and partners, to urgently launch a permanent Safe Square, to be operating ahead of the festive season; and
- (r) asks the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and NHS Foundation Trusts, asking for a response.

7.7.1 (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 (g) and (h) and abstained from voting on paragraphs (p) to (r) of the Substantive Motion.)

8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "A FAIR DEAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MIKE LEVERLY AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW SANGAR

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Mike Levery, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, that this Council:-

notes that:-

- (a) Sheffield City Council is currently projected to be £34 million over budget by the end of this financial year;
- (b) according to the Local Government Association, one in four councils will need to apply for exceptional financial support in the next two years, without additional funding;
- (c) a recent report from the National Audit Office described the current Special Educational Needs (SEN) system as “not achieving value for money and is unsustainable”;
- (d) the Prime Minister has announced that the single bus fare cap will rise to £3 when the existing cap of £2 expires at the end of 2024;
- (e) in Sheffield, the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee General Fund is currently overspent by £14.1million;
- (f) according to research from the Health Foundation, real-terms social care spending per person will be at least 5% lower in 2024/25 than it was in 2009/10;
- (g) in Sheffield, the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee is currently overspent by £9million;

- (h) in 2023/24, Sheffield City Council incurred a loss of £4.9million as a result of legislation relating to supported accommodation and the lack of Government funding to fully subsidise housing for those experiencing temporary homelessness;
- (i) this financial year, the Council is expected to lose out on £7.1million due to this legislation;
- (j) also in this financial year, homelessness support in temporary and exempt accommodation is forecast to cost the Council £12.6 million;

believes that:-

- (k) without additional funding, local government provision will continue to decline;
- (l) without additional funding, more local authorities will be forced to issue Section 114 notices, effectively declaring bankruptcy;
- (m) local authorities require sufficient and sustainable funding in order to meet growing demand for services that our communities rely on every day;
- (n) Sheffield City Council faces serious financial challenges in the coming months and years; and
- (o) the burden of fixing the country's economy should fall on the broadest shoulders including big banks, social media companies and oil and gas giants rather than hard working households.

8.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Zahira Naz, and seconded by Councillor Elle Dodd, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (p) to (y) as follows:-

This Council:-

- (p) believes challenges facing local government are caused by systemic under-funding by governments since 2010, by high inflation, and rising demand for services;
- (q) notes since the original motion was published the Government has delivered a Budget to provide more support for councils, and with poorest households gaining the most;
- (r) notes the Budget provides a pay rise for over 3 million workers who receive the National Living Wage, and increases the state pension by up to £470;
- (s) supports councils getting 100% of Right To Buy receipts and new funding for the NHS to deliver an extra two million operations, scans and appointments a year;

- (t) supports the extension to the Household Support Fund to help those in hardship;
- (u) welcomes the biggest increase in Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction;
- (v) welcomes additional support for local government, social care and for tackling homelessness;
- (w) supports new investment for rebuilding schools, new affordable housing and investment in clean energy;
- (x) commits to ensuring that every pound of public money is spent wisely and to always manage our budget prudently and responsibly; and
- (y) commits to work cross-party over the coming months to prepare a balanced budget for 2025/26.

8.3 It was then moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and seconded by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (p) to (r) as follows:-

- (p) in order to do this, rather than taxing employment, the Government should have taxed wealth at 1% on assets over £10 million and 2% on assets over £1 billion to raise £50-70 billion to help support valued public services;
- (q) while welcoming the small reduction in Right to Buy discounts and allowing councils to keep more of the proceeds of house sales, abolishing the right to buy council housing altogether would have provided better protection for our overstretched housing stock; and
- (r) the Government has disappointed local authority signatories to the Future of Council Housing report, which include this Council, by failing to meet the gap of £644m equal to income lost due to the 2023-25 rent cap.

8.4 It was then formally moved by Councillor Joe Otten, and formally seconded by Councillor Sue Alston, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (g) to (j) as new paragraphs (h) to (k):-
 - (g) Care England, a representative body for care providers, has warned the rise in employers' National Insurance Contributions (NICs) announced at the Autumn Budget risks creating a £2 billion hole in the sector;
2. the addition of a new paragraph (l) as follows:-

- (l) at the Autumn Budget, Local Housing Allowance rates were frozen despite private rent increases by an average of 8.4% in the last year;
 - 3. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (k) to (o) as new paragraphs (m) to (q);
 - 4. the addition of new paragraphs (r) and (s) as follows:-
resolves to:-
 - (r) write to the Deputy Prime Minister:-
 - (i) advocating for clear funding pathways for care providers who cannot afford the rise in employer NICs; and
 - (ii) calling on the Government to properly fund the increased costs that Local Authorities will be subject to resulting from the National Living Wage and employers' NICs increases; and
 - (s) ask the Leader of the Council to forward this motion to the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 8.5 After contributions from two other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Mike Levery, the amendment moved by Councillor Zahira Naz was put to the vote and was carried, except for paragraph (q) of the amendment, which was lost.
- 8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 74 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (p) and (q) of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (q) of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (p) to (s), (v) and (x) of the amendment.)
- 8.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was lost, except for paragraph (r) of the amendment, which was carried.
- 8.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 17 Members; AGAINST - 33 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 25 Members. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members abstained, they voted against paragraph (p) and for paragraph (r) of the amendment.)
- 8.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten was then put to the vote and was carried.
- 8.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 41 Members; AGAINST - 34 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes that:-

- (a) Sheffield City Council is currently projected to be £34 million over budget by the end of this financial year;
- (b) according to the Local Government Association, one in four councils will need to apply for exceptional financial support in the next two years, without additional funding;
- (c) a recent report from the National Audit Office described the current Special Educational Needs (SEN) system as “not achieving value for money and is unsustainable”;
- (d) the Prime Minister has announced that the single bus fare cap will rise to £3 when the existing cap of £2 expires at the end of 2024;
- (e) in Sheffield, the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee General Fund is currently overspent by £14.1million;
- (f) according to research from the Health Foundation, real-terms social care spending per person will be at least 5% lower in 2024/25 than it was in 2009/10;
- (g) Care England, a representative body for care providers, has warned the rise in employers’ National Insurance Contributions (NICs) announced at the Autumn Budget risks creating a £2 billion hole in the sector;
- (h) in Sheffield, the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee is currently overspent by £9million;
- (i) in 2023/24, Sheffield City Council incurred a loss of £4.9million as a result of legislation relating to supported accommodation and the lack of Government funding to fully subsidise housing for those experiencing temporary homelessness;
- (j) this financial year, the Council is expected to lose out on £7.1million due to this legislation;
- (k) also in this financial year, homelessness support in temporary and exempt accommodation is forecast to cost the Council £12.6 million;
- (l) at the Autumn Budget, Local Housing Allowance rates were frozen despite private rent increases by an average of 8.4% in the last year;

believes that:-

- (m) without additional funding, local government provision will continue to decline;
- (n) without additional funding, more local authorities will be forced to issue Section 114 notices, effectively declaring bankruptcy;
- (o) local authorities require sufficient and sustainable funding in order to meet growing demand for services that our communities rely on every day;
- (p) Sheffield City Council faces serious financial challenges in the coming months and years;
- (q) the burden of fixing the country's economy should fall on the broadest shoulders including big banks, social media companies and oil and gas giants rather than hard working households;
- (r) the Government has disappointed local authority signatories to the Future of Council Housing report, which include this Council, by failing to meet the gap of £644m equal to income lost due to the 2023-25 rent cap;

this Council:-

- (s) believes challenges facing local government are caused by systemic under-funding by governments since 2010, by high inflation, and rising demand for services;
- (t) notes the Budget provides a pay rise for over 3 million workers who receive the National Living Wage, and increases the state pension by up to £470;
- (u) supports councils getting 100% of Right To Buy receipts and new funding for the NHS to deliver an extra two million operations, scans and appointments a year;
- (v) supports the extension to the Household Support Fund to help those in hardship;
- (w) welcomes the biggest increase in Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction;
- (x) welcomes additional support for local government, social care and for tackling homelessness;
- (y) supports new investment for rebuilding schools, new affordable housing and investment in clean energy;
- (z) commits to ensuring that every pound of public money is spent wisely and to always manage our budget prudently and responsibly;

(aa) commits to work cross-party over the coming months to prepare a balanced budget for 2025/26;

resolves to:-

(bb) write to the Deputy Prime Minister:-

(i) advocating for clear funding pathways for care providers who cannot afford the rise in employer NICs; and

(ii) calling on the Government to properly fund the increased costs that Local Authorities will be subject to resulting from the National Living Wage and employers' NICs increases; and

(cc) ask the Leader of the Council to forward this motion to the Deputy Prime Minister.

8.8.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 40 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 35 Members. Although Labour Group Members abstained, they voted for paragraphs (s) to (aa) and against paragraphs (g), (l), (r), (bb) and (cc) of the Substantive Motion. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (s) of the Substantive Motion. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (s), (t), (u), (x) and (z) of the Substantive Motion.)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "THANK YOU TO SHEFFIELD'S FOSTER CARERS" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DAWN DALE AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LAURA MCCLEAN

9.1 It was moved by Councillor Dawn Dale, and seconded by Councillor Laura McClean, that this Council:-

(a) believes that every child should have the best start in life;

(b) is committed to making Sheffield a place where all children belong, and all young people can build a successful future and believes that foster carers in Sheffield help that become a reality;

(c) says a big thank you to all foster carers and kinship carers who open their home to support children and young people;

(d) believes that foster carers provide loving, stable homes for children and young people;

(e) says thank you to the network of foster carers who provide support for each other, and thanks the Council's Fostering Team for their work to provide training for foster carers and 24/7 support;

- (f) welcomes the recent government announcement of £44 million to support kinship and foster carers;
- (g) notes that Sheffield needs more foster carers to help look after children and young people in our city;
- (h) believes that all elected members should help to raise the profile of fostering in Sheffield so that more children and young people have a safe, loving home;
- (i) encourages people in Sheffield to consider becoming a foster carer;
- (j) notes the Council's 'Fostering Friendly Employer' policy aims to set an example for other employers to follow, including providing five days extra leave for Council staff if they foster a child;
- (k) recommends that anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should contact Sheffield Fostering Service to find out more;
- (l) notes National Care-Leavers Week (28 October to 3 November) with the Council delivering a 7-day programme of activity for our care-experienced young people, aged 16-25, including activities like film screenings, learning and cooking sessions, Breakfast Clubs, and an Education and Employment Fair;
- (m) congratulates Speak Up Now youth group (for older care-experienced young people) for their nomination for a National Voice Award, noting their innovative work on 'Comfy Cozy Crates', which provide blankets, pots and pans, cutlery, a cookbook and a doorbell, as many care leavers report feeling unsafe where they live;
- (n) believes it is important to ensure the voices of care-experienced young people are heard by the Council and all public bodies so that they help to shape our work, and notes that since 2022 the Council has recognised care experience as a protected characteristic; and
- (o) congratulates the Council's Voice and Influence Team for their work in ensuring the voices of care-experienced young people help to influence our work.

9.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Atkinson, 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 the original paragraphs (h) to (o) as new paragraphs (i) to (p):-

- (h) notes that the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee received a proposal to reduce the amount that the Staying Put Provider receives in skills allowance to 50% once a young person has turned 19;

- 9.3 It was then moved by Councillor Peter Gilbert, and seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (p) to (r) as follows:-
- (p) notes that over the last year, 45 foster carers left the Council's fostering service, while only 11 were recruited;
 - (q) further notes that a quarter of Sheffield's 433 children in foster care live in care provided by private companies; and
 - (r) believes that the conditions for foster carers need to be improved if this Council does not want to see more children in for-profit care.
- 9.4 Following a right of reply from Councillor Dawn Dale, 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 - 37 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 35 Members.)
- 9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Peter Gilbert was then put to the vote and was also carried.
- 9.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 38 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 35 Members.)
- 9.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form and was carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that every child should have the best start in life;
- (b) is committed to making Sheffield a place where all children belong, and all young people can build a successful future and believes that foster carers in Sheffield help that become a reality;
- (c) says a big thank you to all foster carers and kinship carers who open their home to support children and young people;
- (d) believes that foster carers provide loving, stable homes for children and young people;
- (e) says thank you to the network of foster carers who provide support for each other, and thanks the Council's Fostering Team for their work to provide training for foster carers and 24/7 support;
- (f) welcomes the recent government announcement of £44 million to support kinship and foster carers;

- (g) notes that Sheffield needs more foster carers to help look after children and young people in our city;
- (h) notes that the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee received a proposal to reduce the amount that the Staying Put Provider receives in skills allowance to 50% once a young person has turned 19;
- (i) believes that all elected members should help to raise the profile of fostering in Sheffield so that more children and young people have a safe, loving home;
- (j) encourages people in Sheffield to consider becoming a foster carer;
- (k) notes the Council's 'Fostering Friendly Employer' policy aims to set an example for other employers to follow, including providing five days extra leave for Council staff if they foster a child;
- (l) recommends that anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should contact Sheffield Fostering Service to find out more;
- (m) notes National Care-Leavers Week (28 October to 3 November) with the Council delivering a 7-day programme of activity for our care-experienced young people, aged 16-25, including activities like film screenings, learning and cooking sessions, Breakfast Clubs, and an Education and Employment Fair;
- (n) congratulates Speak Up Now youth group (for older care-experienced young people) for their nomination for a National Voice Award, noting their innovative work on 'Comfy Cozy Crates', which provide blankets, pots and pans, cutlery, a cookbook and a doorbell, as many care leavers report feeling unsafe where they live;
- (o) believes it is important to ensure the voices of care-experienced young people are heard by the Council and all public bodies so that they help to shape our work, and notes that since 2022 the Council has recognised care experience as a protected characteristic;
- (p) congratulates the Council's Voice and Influence Team for their work in ensuring the voices of care-experienced young people help to influence our work;
- (q) notes that over the last year, 45 foster carers left the Council's fostering service, while only 11 were recruited;
- (r) further notes that a quarter of Sheffield's 433 children in foster care live in care provided by private companies; and
- (s) believes that the conditions for foster carers need to be improved if this Council does not want to see more children in for-profit care.

- 9.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 71 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraphs (h), (q), (r) and (s) of the Substantive Motion.)

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

- 10.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 2nd October 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.

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

- 11.1 **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:-

Senior Officer Employment Committee - Councillor Steve Ayris replaced Councillor Sophie Thornton, with effect from 14th October 2024.

(b) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Boards, etc.:-

Housing Policy Committee - Councillor Richard Williams to replace Councillor Gail Smith.

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

Cycle Forum - Councillor Ben Miskell to replace Councillor Mark Jones.

(d) it be noted that (i) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 22nd October 2024, appointed Richard Groves to the post of Director of Operations, within the Adult Care and Wellbeing Service, and that Mr. Groves is expected to start in post on a date to be agreed in January 2025 and (ii) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 23rd October 2024, appointed Catherine Buntten to the post of Director of Quality,

Strategy Delivery and Partnerships within the Adult Care and Wellbeing Service, and that Ms. Buntten started in post on 4th November 2024.

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