

## **Green Budget Amendment Template 2020/21**

### **Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin**

That the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 19th February, 2020, as relates to the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 20/20/21, be replaced by the following resolution:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

1. continues to condemn the cuts to local authority funding, which is a political choice by central government, and applauds the efforts of politicians and campaigners calling for an alternative to this policy;
2. notes that Sheffield's citizens have suffered through continual cuts to council funding - and consequently to services to the public;
3. believes that central Government has utterly failed to address the growing and substantial crisis in the care of older and disabled people and that, even passing on extra costs through council tax increases, the sum raised is still wholly inadequate to meet the cost of social care;
4. notes, however, that long-term, outsourced contracts with big private businesses have not taken an equivalent share of the cuts; and that long-term costs of finance stretch into Sheffield's future until 2057;
5. therefore recognises that, despite Government suggestions to the contrary, austerity and its effects are not going away and that Elected Members in Sheffield, however difficult the crisis we face, have a responsibility to do the best we can for the people of Sheffield, prioritising the available resources to protect communities and the most vulnerable and working towards a more equitable and resilient city;
6. accordingly, thanks the officers of the Council, voluntary and private sectors directly affected by the austerity programme, for the way they have responded to the increasing cuts and made sacrifices;
7. Welcomes the progress now being made on issues in previous amendments submitted by the Green group, including:
  - a. Webcasting of council meetings
  - b. Mental health resilience work in schools

- c. Steps towards re-opening the Don Valley Railway
  - d. Significantly increased funds to support the least well-off with council tax bills
  - e. Funding to prepare brownfield sites for development, in order to save greenfield locations;
8. Believes that the city's resilience will be tested by the climate crisis and is therefore disappointed that, despite declaring a "climate emergency" over a year ago, no proposals appear in the Administration's budget to address the climate emergency;
  9. Will therefore provide funding to recruit an entire team of environmental sustainability officers to address the need for warmer homes; locally-owned, clean energy production; increased active travel and public transport; and to support businesses and householders to make carbon-reducing changes in response to the climate emergency;
  10. regrets the lost opportunity of jobs in the renewable energy industry and thousands of cheaper energy bills for council tenants when proposed by Green Councillors in 2014; but will still promote energy efficiency schemes in maintained schools by using £500,000 of unallocated Community Infrastructure Levy receipts;
  11. will go further and set aside £1 million of unallocated New Homes Bonus to introduce solar panels on council housing, to generate energy and to reduce tenants' bills;
  12. Will build climate resilience into the city's housing stock by ensuring that all funding for new-build council housing is only used for housing designed at high standards of thermal efficiency so that future tenants do not risk fuel poverty.
  13. Will earmark £1 million of Local Transport Plan funding for active travel schemes, including providing cyclists with the protection of segregated cycle lanes and secure bike storage, thereby increasing the numbers of Sheffield citizens cycling to work and contributing towards improved physical and mental health and better air quality;
  14. will recognise the failure to build this city's cycling infrastructure and will therefore appoint a cycling officer to promote the ability of Sheffield residents to choose this form of transport;

15. further, will earmark £50,000 to purchase e-cargo bikes to allow the Council, businesses and organisations to carry goods around the city in a cleaner, quieter, more sustainable way;
16. Will put £500,000 of unused Community Infrastructure Levy funding to invest in electric vehicle charging points.
17. will ensure that all future Local Transport Plan spending is used only on sustainable modes of transport that do not have any adverse impact on air quality;
18. In line with this principle, will encourage use of public transport by providing free bus and tram travel on the six Sundays before Christmas, in place of the current subsidy for free car parking in the city centre;
19. believes the public is becoming more aware and concerned at the dangers of illegal levels of air pollution and will therefore invest in public-facing visual displays on the city's air quality monitoring stations, to ensure the public can see and monitor the measure of air pollution affecting them in real time;
20. will stop reimbursing car-parking claims for Elected Members who do not have a blue badge;
21. Will tackle the increasing scourge of dangerous and irresponsible parking by creating 6 new jobs for parking enforcement officers, to be provided with e-bikes instead of patrol cars;
22. will develop proposals to introduce a workplace parking levy for larger employers, in order to generate additional long-term revenue to invest in the city's public transport, whilst improving air quality and encouraging more active forms of travel to work;
23. will reduce the price of residents' parking permits to 2010 levels and dissuade commuters from driving into the city centre by increasing on-street parking by 40p, meaning that people living in some of the most congested and polluted areas of the city are not subsidising other transport services;
24. will re-introduce the FreeBee bus service in the city centre, operating every 10 minutes, 12 hours a day, by investing in 3 new electric buses owned directly by the local authority;
25. will take steps to increase the potential for more affordable housing in the city by funding a pilot project of a small number of energy-efficient "container homes", such as those already being pioneered at Heeley City Farm;

26. will create an additional officer post to bring empty homes back into use, in order to tackle the blight and waste of empty houses, increase housing supply with far less energy consumption than new building, and generate additional revenue through council tax and New Homes Bonus;
27. will fund an additional post to help tenants and take enforcement action on substandard rented housing in the private sector;
28. Will take further steps to open up the workings of democracy by increasing the number of public tours to show off the Town Hall and its heritage, building on Sheffield's success with Heritage Open Days.
29. recognises the cultural and economic importance of the city's heritage and will therefore expand skills in the Planning Service with funding for a dedicated heritage officer;
30. asserts that in a properly regulated planning system, it is essential that developers comply with planning conditions and will therefore fund an additional planning enforcement officer to maintain high standards for the benefit of the public;
31. will maximise the expertise of our planning officers and bring fees for pre-application planning advice for larger property developers into line with other major cities;
32. will require the Licensing Service to publish its full accounts;
33. will cut political spin from the Town Hall and will remove the posts of Group Policy Officers from the Council payroll, requiring politicians to do their own research and press work;
34. Notes that evidence to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee about governance was clear that the public want to see more active work in local areas and will therefore reverse the Administration's proposed cut to locality working
35. Will also reverse the Administration's funding cut to Upperthorpe Healthy Living Centre;
36. will support the voluntary sector by increasing funding for advice centres, which was previously cut by this Administration, thus protecting jobs and helping people facing the real difficulties of universal credit;
37. recognises the number of people in serious financial hardship and therefore welcomes the further £200,000 increase in the Council Tax hardship fund, as

proposed in Green Party Councillors' budget proposals in recent years, to protect more of the 30,000 poorest families in the city;

38. recognises the particular difficulties faced by young people leaving care setting up their own homes for the first time and will therefore set aside funding to meet council tax bills paid until the age of 25;
39. recognises the ongoing value of the city's library service and rewards the hard work of volunteers who have supported their local branch libraries by providing funding to ensure a paid, professional librarian in every branch library;
40. Will pilot the development of a "Library of Things" in a staffed library to reduce individual consumption of occasionally-used household items;
41. notes that Green councillors first proposed a Living Wage in 2008 to address low pay and will now tackle the principle of income inequality head-on by reducing the pay of senior officers on salaries over £50,000 a year, narrowing the gap between the highest and lowest paid in the Council to within a 10:1 ratio;
42. will further reduce eight posts in the HR function to protect frontline services;
43. Notes that the proposals in this amendment will provide over £1 million in every future year for social care.
44. will promote health, activity and fun by funding outdoor gym equipment in the city's parks and developing the network of park runs throughout the whole city, working alongside community organisations
45. will commemorate the very origins of a municipal authority for public health by providing the public with clean, fresh water through the provision of new drinking fountains in major parks, thereby reducing waste and litter from single-use disposable plastics;
46. Will support these further improvements in the city's parks by increasing parking charges in them;
47. will also invest in planting trees bearing edible fruit in open spaces and parks, to be decided and distributed fairly on a Ward basis;
48. will promote the city's economic opportunity of specialist tourism by engaging two part-time ecologists to market and lead specialist nature tours on Sheffield's nearby and unique moorland, thereby generating further income for the Council and for the city's economy;

49. will fund an extra four Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) and employ four Safer Neighbourhoods Officers, with a focus on youth work, to support young people and their families.
50. Will support the many voluntary, business and public sector agencies trying to address homelessness, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and aggressive begging in the city centre by providing funds for a new worker under the Help Us Help umbrella;
51. Will put further resource into prevention work by supporting an additional substance misuse worker;
52. Notes that these proposals will result in a net gain of 34 permanent jobs directly employed by the Council, in addition to the increased employment in the voluntary sector and from capital investment.
53. recognises the hard work of Sheffield citizens who have highlighted the economic risks attached to fossil fuels and the need for Sheffield City Council to do business ethically; and welcomes the inclusion, in its Treasury Management Strategy, of commitments not to hold any direct investments in fossil fuels or companies involved in tax evasion or grave misconduct;
54. approves the updating of the statutory Regulation 123 list to include the spending of unallocated Community Infrastructure Levy within the limits set out above;
55. therefore requests the Executive Director, Resources to implement the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/2021 in accordance with the details set out in the reports on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme now submitted, but with the following amendments:-

### **Revenue Budget Proposals**

---