

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 19th February, 2014, as relates to the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2014/15, be replaced by the following resolution:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:

- (1) notes that the previous Government increased the national deficit year-on-year from 2001 onwards, reaching a total of £43 billion prior to the economic crash, to the point where £1 in every £4 the Government spent was borrowed;
- (2) regrets that as a result of this reckless deficit, difficult decisions are required in all areas of public spending;
- (3) confirms that thanks to the difficult decisions the Government have taken the economy is growing, unemployment is reducing and the deficit is falling;
- (4) believes these moves to build a stronger economy could not have been achieved without Liberal Democrats in Government;
- (5) applauds that despite tough financial constraints Liberal Democrats in Government have been able secure policies that will help build a fairer society, including:
 - (i) raising the income tax threshold to give 24 million ordinary workers a £700 tax cut;
 - (ii) helping give every child the best start in life by introducing a £2.5 billion pupil premium, delivering 15 hours free childcare for disadvantaged two years olds and committing to free school meals for all infant pupils;
 - (iii) supporting young people by creating more apprenticeships than ever before and improving vocational education through investment in University Technical Colleges; and
 - (iv) tackling climate change and helping to create jobs by investing in renewable energy and home insulation;
- (6) in particular, highlights the following Government investments next year, which will help to build a stronger economy and a fairer society in Sheffield:
 - (i) £8.7 million to help freeze Council Tax for a fourth consecutive year, saving families an average of £185 a year;
 - (ii) £44.3 million for the third year of the Streets Ahead programme, which

will see every road, pavement and streetlight in the City repaired;

- (iii) £5.4 million to provide Free Early Learning for disadvantaged two-year-olds, £25 million for Sheffield schools through the Pupil Premium and £5 million for Sheffield City Region to support young people into jobs;
 - (iv) millions of pounds invested in Sheffield's trams, trains and buses, alongside commitments to electrify the Midland Mainline and a new High Speed Rail station in Sheffield; and
 - (v) ongoing support for the local economy through the Regional Growth Fund, enterprise zones, and the Sheffield City Deal;
- (7) believes Liberal Democrat action in Government has helped contribute to what the State of Sheffield 2013 Report described as a "look and feel of the city, and its quality of life [which] has never been stronger for many people";
- (8) contrasts this summary with dangerous propaganda of local Labour politicians, who predicted a 'post-soviet meltdown' and riots in the streets of Sheffield;
- (9) finally, thanks the Government for the historic reform of business rates, which gives local councils greater control over the funding they raise locally;
- (10) yet regrets that instead of seizing this opportunity to secure extra funding for local services, this Administration continue to turn away jobs and investment and stand accused by business leaders of "closing its doors" to business;
- (11) adds this to the long-list of failings of the current Administration alongside secretive reviews, centralising decisions and mismanagement of Council budgets;
- (12) highlights that finance officers are currently estimating a £3 million deficit in this year's budget outturn and contrasts this incompetence with the previous Administration who left a budget surplus of £6.2 million;
- (13) notes that while the Council faces a budget gap of £58 million this year, its funding from the Government has reduced by just £27 million and believes the remaining gap results from the hangovers of budget mismanagement and the priorities set out by this Administration;
- (14) believes that the Administration's claims that Sheffield has been treated unfairly do not stand up to serious scrutiny and notes the following reductions in formula funding to illustrate this point:
- (i) Sheffield City Council – 9.7%
 - (ii) Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea – 10.7%

- (iii) East Dorset – 12.6%
 - (iv) Epsom & Ewell – 12.6%
 - (v) St Albans – 12.7%
 - (vi) West Oxfordshire – 13%
- (15) furthermore, condemns the missed opportunities overseen by the current Administration, which have forced the Council into what appear in practice irreversible positions, noting in particular;
- (i) that Government funds were on offer to help save weekly black bin collections, but to return the service now would cost local taxpayers £9.2 million;
 - (ii) that the Council failed to bid into a £77 million fund to improve facilities for cyclists across Sheffield, missing out on a unique chance for funding;
 - (iii) that local athletes offered to run the Don Valley Stadium at no cost to local taxpayers, but to rebuild the destroyed stadium would now cost roughly £48 million;
 - (iv) that nevertheless this city remains saddled with the debt run up by previous administrations including £28 million next year to pay off the facilities built for the disastrous World Student Games; and
 - (v) that the Administration have splashed out millions on high paid consultants, Council offices and political pet projects; funds which can never be regained for local taxpayers;
- (16) regrets that the current Administration refuse to accept responsibility for their own failures simply because they think they can get away with blaming someone else;
- (17) recommends that the Administration stop playing the blame game and investigate the following sensible savings in order to protect vital services;
- (i) reducing budgets for Trade Unions officials, which have been consistently protected to the detriment of front-line services;
 - (ii) reducing posts in policy, research and performance, instead of front-line staff;
 - (iii) eliminating costly pet projects – like Park Hill and Burngreave New Deal – and making better use of allocated reserves such as the Local Growth Fund;
 - (iv) a small reduction in pay for the top 25% of earners in the Council, to

produce a more equal structure and protect low-paid jobs such as care workers; and

- (v) requesting officers to bring forward proposals for shared services, setting modest financial targets in the first year;
- (18) confirms that by agreeing these savings, the Council could continue to provide the front-line services that local people care most about, such as;
- (i) ensuring that no library closes by restoring cuts proposed by the Administration;
 - (ii) supporting business by reversing this Administration's parking hikes and supporting vital city-centre events;
 - (iii) increasing recycling by slashing the charge for green bins and increasing opening hours at local recycling centres;
 - (iv) making best use of the Government's New Homes Bonus to protect Sheffield's Green Belt by investing in empty homes and supporting brownfield development;
 - (v) keeping costs low for local families by reducing parking permit and allotment charges, alongside a freeze in Council Tax;
 - (vi) investing in the services that matter most to local residents, including parks, early years, cleaner streets and facilities for young people; and
 - (vii) giving local people a greater say in how money is spent in their area by handing more control to Local Action Partnerships;
- (19) therefore instructs the Executive Director, Resources to implement the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2014/2015 in accordance with the details set out in the reports on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme now submitted, but with the following amendments:-

Local Growth Fund (New Homes Bonus)			
Savings		Investments	
Use of uncommitted funds	1000	Tripling investment for bringing empty homes back into use	790
Reprioritise funds set aside for Darnall Shop Fronts	270	Investing in brownfield sites to bring them up to economically deliverable standard	500
Reprioritise funds for the Green Links project in the Park Hill area	350	Increasing investment in local high streets through the Successful Centres programme	330
Total	1620	Total	1620

Fairness Commission			
Savings		Investments	
Reprioritising funds for equality hubs, discretionary fund and the Campaign for Fairness	170	Make a real difference to inequality by investing in modernising early years services and ensuring children get the best start in life	170
Total	170	Total	170

General Revenue Fund			
Savings		Investments	
Instigate a pay review with a proposed reduction of 2.5% for staff on a salary between £30k and £39k and 5% on a salary greater than £39k	1200	Ensure that no library is closed by reversing reductions in funding for the libraries service	900
Reduce the number of full-time trade union officials to one per union and charge for membership subscriptions	325	Lower the cost of green bins by a third by reducing the charge from £60 to £40	378
Remove plans for 'independent' libraries	262	Double discretionary funding for Local Action Partnerships and set a minimum level £10k per ward	300
Remove final council tax exemptions for empty homes	200	Make city-centre parking free after 18:30 and all-day on Sundays	300
Delete three senior manager posts	150	Reduce the charge for parking permits to their previous levels	112
End the ongoing subsidy of the Burngreave New Deal "white elephants"	100	Restore funding for parks maintenance	100
Reduce posts within the policy team	100	Create a targeted fund to ensure services for young people continued to be offered across the city	100
Set a modest savings target for shared services with other local authorities in Sheffield City Region	100	Reverse proposed deletion of routes from the Council's gritting schedule	100
Reduce funding for City Centre Ambassadors	70	Investment to tackle fly-tipping and dog-fouling across communities	100
Delete allowances for Cabinet Advisors and reject a 1% pay rise for Councillors	53	Reverse cuts to the MADE Festival; Tramlines and Fright Night	95
Set a modest savings target for shared services between Sheffield trusts	50	Block proposed increases in allotments charges	80

Withdraw funding from the Sheffield First Partnership	32	Increase opening hours at recycling centres by a total of three days	75
Implement savings from the Town Hall contract	18	Restore funding for Whirlow Hall Farm	20
Total	2660	Total	2660

Local Transport Plan			
Savings		Investments	
Delay the Park Hill parking permit zone by a year	100	Accelerate programme to tackle dangerous parking outside Sheffield schools	100
		Reallocate decision making over £1.7 million of transport funding away from the Cabinet Member and to Local Action Partnerships	Cost-neutral
Total	100	Total	100

General Capital Fund			
Savings		Investments	
Reduce scope of the Howden House refurbishment by just 10%	70	Refurbish Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park	20
		Contribution towards re-opening the pool at Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	50
Total	70	Total	70

- (20) accepts that a report will need to be brought forward on a Council pay review and therefore notes that proposed investments in libraries, parking charges and recycling centres are dependent on this report or alternative savings;
- () approves those specific projects included in the 2013/14 to 2017/18 Capital Programme at Appendix 8 of the report on the Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17, **subject to the amendments outlined in paragraph 19 above??**, with block allocations being included within the Programme for noting at this stage and detailed proposals will be brought back for separate Member approval as part of the monthly monitoring procedures;
- () notes the proposed Capital Programme for the 5 years to 2017/18 as per Appendix 8 of the report on the Capital Programme, **subject to the amendments outlined in paragraph 19 above??**;
- () approves the allocations from the Corporate Resource Pool and the policy outlined in Appendix 4 of the report on the Capital Programme such that the commitment from the CRP is limited to one year and no CRP supported schemes are approved beyond 2014-15, and if substantial capital receipts are realised within 2013-14 or 2014-15 a further report will be brought to

Members as part of the monthly approval process;

- () after noting the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director, Resources now submitted on the Revenue Budget 2014/15, approves and adopts a net Revenue Budget for 2014/15 amounting to £451.248m, as set out in Appendix 3 of that report, **and subsequently amended in the light of paragraph 19 above??**, as follows:-

Set out Budget breakdown (Appendix 3 or as amended?) as in previous years.

- () approves a Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1,282.75 for City Council services, i.e. at the same level as 2013/14;
- () approves the Revenue Budget allocations and Budget Implementation Plans for each of the services, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Revenue Budget report, **subject to the amendments outlined in paragraph 19 above??**;
- () notes the latest 2013/14 budget monitoring position;
- () approves the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategies set out in Appendix 7 of the Revenue Budget report and the recommendations contained therein;
- () approves the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement set out in Appendix 7 of the Revenue Budget report;
- () agrees that authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to undertake Treasury Management activity, to create and amend appropriate Treasury Management Practice Statements and to report on the operation of Treasury Management activity on the terms set out in these documents;
- () approves the proposed amount of compensation to Parish Councils for the loss of council tax income in 2014/15 at the levels shown in the table below paragraph 186 of the Revenue Budget report;
- () approves the proposed changes to empty property discounts in respect of Council Tax, as set out in the Revenue Budget report;
- () agrees that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 and onwards, approved by the Council on 15th May, 2013, be also implemented for 2014/15, but no annual increase be implemented during 2014/15 in relation to Basic, Special Responsibility (including the Pensions Authority), Co-optees and Dependent Carers' Allowances;
- () approves a Pay Policy for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 8 of the Revenue Budget report;
- () notes that, based on the estimated expenditure level of £451.248m set out in Appendix 3 of the Revenue Budget report **(or if changed "set out in**

paragraph 19 above”), the amounts shown in **part B below**?? would be calculated by the City Council for the year 2014/15, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;

- () **notes the precepts issued by local parish councils which add £???,???** to the calculation of the budget requirement in accordance with **Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**;
- () notes the information on the precepts issued by the South Yorkshire Police **and Crime Commissioner** and the South Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority, together with the impact of these on the overall amount of Council Tax to be charged in the City Council’s area;

AMOUNTS CALCULATED/VALUATION BANDS/PRECEPTS ETC – APPENDIX 6(a), (b) & (c)