

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2018

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2018, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor George Derx
Vice-Chair - Councillor Majid Khan
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Mick Cooper, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Neil Gethin, John Gilliver, Martin Greenhalgh, Pat Haith, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, David Hughes, Kenneth Keegan, Jane Kidd, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John McHale, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Ian Pearson, Andy Pickering, Andrea Robinson, Kevin Rodgers, Dave Shaw, Derek Smith, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood and Paul Wray.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nigel Ball, Bev Chapman, Nuala Fennelly, Sean Gibbons, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Eva Hughes, Richard A Jones, Nikki McDonald, Cynthia Ransome and Tina Reid.

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

57 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday, 21st December, 2017, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL, THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, made the following announcements:-

“Colleagues, I would like to provide a brief update on Devolution.

In December, Doncaster residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of pursuing a wider Yorkshire devolution agreement, something that is also supported in this Chamber and by local businesses. That is now our settled position.

I have always said that Doncaster would consider interim solutions for the Sheffield City Region which would see Devolution in Yorkshire start to develop. However, we are also clear that Doncaster must be part of discussions for the development of a wider Yorkshire deal. There must also be a mechanism for both Doncaster and Barnsley to become members of the wider Yorkshire Devolution agreement when it comes into existence.

Before Christmas, the Secretary of State wrote to each of the South Yorkshire Council Leaders with his proposals for a way forward. I am pleased that in his letter, the Secretary of State acknowledged that some or indeed all of the South Yorkshire Councils should be free to join a wider Yorkshire Devolution agreement.

I have responded to that letter, as have the other Council Leaders.

The four South Yorkshire Council Leaders have all indicated publicly that there is some merit in considering a two-year term of office for a Sheffield City Region Mayor. This could bring the Sheffield City Region in to line with proposals for development of a wider Yorkshire Devolution deal, with a one term South Yorkshire Mayor either appointed or more likely, elected, from May 2018 until 2020, when a Yorkshire Mayor would be elected.

Unfortunately, the Government has not yet replied to the responses of Council Leaders. That is of course very disappointing, given that the Secretary of State asked for an urgent response to his letter before Christmas.

However, we are pressing the Government to engage with local Councils in South Yorkshire, and indeed those across Yorkshire, to progress these issues with some urgency.

I was also pleased to attend a meeting of Yorkshire Leaders earlier this month where the 17 Yorkshire Councils present confirmed their commitment to Yorkshire Devolution. Colleagues may have noted that since then, the Leader of Wakefield has indicated his support for wider Yorkshire Devolution. This now means that every Council in Yorkshire except for Sheffield and Rotherham, is supportive of developing a wider Yorkshire Devolution deal. That is a strong basis for moving forward and I will continue to keep colleagues and residents updated.

I would also like to make an announcement on the Children's Trust.

I am sure colleagues would like to join me in congratulating our Children's Services staff at both the Children's Trust and the Council, in achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating this week.

Everyone in this Chamber knows the history of Children's Services in Doncaster. Services were not robust and effective, and our children were being let down. That is no longer the case.

Most importantly, this inspection and the four monitoring visits which took place in 2017, found that children in Doncaster were safe. No child was found to be left at risk of significant harm. Inspectors found that children who needed help and protection received good quality support in a timely and responsive way to keep them safe.

We must of course not rest on our laurels. It is now more important than ever that we continue to strive for our young people, both maintaining our standards and continuing to improve the quality of our services.

Turning the situation around has not happened overnight. It has taken a great deal of hard work from many people, so it is also important to recognise and celebrate that achievement.

My thanks go out to everyone who has played their part in improving these vital services for children in Doncaster.”

The Chief Executive, Jo Miller, made the following announcement:-

“I referred at the last meeting to the departure of Simon Wiles, who retired from the Council last week, and is now officially off the payroll. However, I would like to inform Members that his successor, Debbie Hogg, has been appointed as the new Director of Corporate Resources and I would like to thank all Members involved in the process of this appointment. Ms Hogg joins us from Kirklees Council and will take up her post at the beginning of March.”

59 PRESENTATION ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN, PRECEPT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chair welcomed to the meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire, Dr Alan Billings, and the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, Stephen Watson, who were in attendance to provide information on the Police and Crime Plan, Precept and Neighbourhood Policing.

Members had been provided with a copy of this document in order to provide information as to what South Yorkshire Police aimed to achieve and address, setting out its priorities for a five year period from 2017-2021.

Dr Billings informed Council that in the preparation of the Plan, he had met with individuals and groups from every demographic across the region in order to find out what people wanted and how the Police could work to make South Yorkshire a safer place to live. It was noted that the over-riding messages were all remarkably similar, regardless of age, gender and ethnicity and the priorities that emerged as a result were as follows:-

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Treating people fairly

In addition to these priorities, Members were also informed of other issues within the plan including the implementation of a new IT system in place by March 2018, that would look to correct the problems and issues currently felt with the 101 number. It was hoped this would ensure that 101 calls were dealt with in a timely and efficient way, and would also look to explore other options for reporting non-emergency crime.

Members were informed of the Precept for 2018/19, and it was noted that the Government had given permission for all precepts for a Band D property to be raised by £12 per annum. As the Government grant had remained at the same level, this rise was necessary in order to meet the costs of growth and inflation in order to keep communities safe.

Finally, Dr Billings spoke about Neighbourhood Policing and reported to Members that there were plans in place to bring this back into force, building up a successful model that had regrettably been eroded.

Following Dr Billings, Chief Constable Stephen Watson addressed Council, providing further information on how the Police would address the priorities and issues raised by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chief Constable also took the opportunity to introduce Doncaster's new Chief Superintendent, Shaun Morley, following the imminent retirement of Chief Superintendent Tim Innes.

Following the presentation, the Chair afforded to all Members of Council the opportunity to ask questions of Dr Alan Billings and Chief Constable Watson in relation to the issues raised and any concerns that they may have in relation to the Police. Dr Billings and Chief Constable Watson endeavoured to answer all questions at the meeting.

A number of Members in the Chamber took this opportunity to address the Police and Crime Commissioner, and a number of issues were raised including the following:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour within communities
- Problems reporting crime and the issues regarding the 101 number
- The importance of Neighbourhood Policing
- The lack of Police presence on the streets
- How Councillors and local residents could help the Police
- Organised crime in relation to drugs and violence
- Selective licensing
- Speeding within Doncaster's communities

All issues raised were given a thorough response or explanation. Members were also advised to contact their respective local Inspector where they had any further issues or concerns as ongoing communication would support good relationships moving forward.

The Chair concluded the item on the agenda by extending his thanks on behalf of Council to Dr Billings, Chief Constable Watson and other members of South Yorkshire Police who were in attendance, and welcomed Chief Superintendent Morley to Doncaster.

RESOLVED that Council note the contents of the Police and Crime Plan and the accompanying presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME, TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION OF A PETITION ENTITLED 'KEEP OUR NHS PUBLIC - DONCASTER AND BASSETLAW'

The Council considered a Petition entitled 'Keep our NHS Public – Doncaster and Bassetlaw', received from Mr Doug Wright, the Petitioner Organiser, requesting the Council to not approve the Sustainability and Transformation Plans for South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

Prior to debating the Petition, the Chair of Council, Councillor George Derx, outlined the procedure which would be followed. The Petition Organiser would be given 5 minutes to present the Petition and as the Petition was below the 10,000 signature threshold, there would be no discussion or debate involving Elected Members. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Petition would be referred to the appropriate Executive Member.

Mr. Doug Wright, in presenting the Petition, addressed the Council as follows:-

"This petition is in support of keeping the NHS Public for Doncaster and Bassetlaw. It is in reference to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which is now known as the Accountable Care Organisation and which will result in reductions of £139.5m by 2020 in relation to Doncaster and Bassetlaw's Health and Social Care Budget. We believe this reduction in funding will lead to the reduction of services, Hospital closures and increases in early death rates. The new accountable care system is the main instrument for the privatisation of the NHS. The Accountable Care Systems need to be opposed as they are being introduced without adequate consultation and no meaningful public involvement or Parliamentary scrutiny. It is being imposed where NHS care and care services are seriously underfunded. It is being implemented beyond any legal framework and creating problems with governance and legal accountability.

The problems will affect Doncaster's residents. There is one example in Doncaster's CCG. Last year saw the introduction of new treatment guidelines in Doncaster with some operations and procedures that provide unlimited or temporary benefit to patients no longer routinely available such as cataract surgery, hip replacements and gall bladder surgery. These decisions we were told, are made by the clinicians but they are not. They are made by Government and clinicians have to make tough choices as a result of their limited funds.

Last Thursday at the Doncaster CCG meeting, we were told that because of the £139.5m cuts to budgets that had to be found by 2021, the CCG itself has to find £30m by 2021. That's a lot of money. This affects DRI who will have to find £4.5m and RDASH who will have to find a reduction of £500k in their budgets. This gets serious. How can they do that. How can they make these cuts.

There will also be a further reduction of £1.5m to be found in Public Health budgets and from 2019; there will be no funding from Central Government.

I will say that the £571m Health and Social Care gap that has to be found by South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw will lead to the demise of the NHS. What will be lost in the NHS will be difficult to reinstate. There will be talk of under resourced chaos in the NHS in 2021 in my Town.

All our elected representatives from all Political Parties will have watched the finest institution ever created to be broken up, contract by contract. I ask you consider this carefully and refer this to Council or public meeting for further consideration.”

The Chair of Council formally accepted the Petition on behalf of the Council and confirmed that the Petition would be referred to the appropriate Executive Member, Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, for consideration. As Councillor Ball was not in attendance at the meeting, the Chair of Council afforded Cabinet Member Councillor Rachael Blake, the opportunity to comment on the issues raised within the Petition as follow:-

“I’d like to thank Mr Wright for presenting this petition to Council.

The NHS is our most treasured public service and I know this particular issue is one that Mr Wright is very passionate about, as am I. We all value the essential work undertaken by the NHS and the care provided by its staff. It is therefore crucial that the NHS is properly funded and able to continue providing vital public services to our residents.

The Cabinet has previously been invited to support the Sustainability and Transformation Plan covering Doncaster, but chose not to do so and instead noted its development.

We do have concerns about the implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans which at the present time, do not make clear the implications for current care services.

I also note this week, news that the Secretary of State is likely to pause the creation of Accountable Care Organisations until a national consultation can be held on the issue. We are therefore seeking to be kept informed of developments and will of course also formally respond to Mr Wright, in relation to this Petition.”

61 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

There were no questions from the public received for this meeting.

62 PROPOSALS FOR LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FOR 2018/19 (THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)

The Council considered a report, presented by Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services, which sought approval of the proposals for the Localised Council Tax Support for 2018/19.

It was reported that from 1st April, 2013 Council Tax Benefit was replaced by Local Council Tax Support (LCTS). Under LCTS, billing authorities had to decide for working age claims, who was eligible for a reduction in their Council Tax and what level of support they should receive. Support for people of pensionable age and other aspects of the scheme were prescribed by regulations and the Council had no discretion in relation to these matters. Pensioners would continue to receive the same level of support as they would have received under the former Council Tax Benefit system.

Members were informed that approximately 25,940 households currently received a reduction in their Council Tax from Doncaster Council's Local Support Scheme; of these 11,340 were of pension age and 14,600 were of working age on a low income.

It was noted that the Authority was required to consider whether to revise or replace its scheme on an annual basis. The main revisions to the scheme being proposed from the 1st April, 2018 were those the Authority legally had to make under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations which were laid before Parliament on 21st December, 2017 that came into force on the 12th January, 2018. The only other changes proposed were to uprate some of the rates and allowances used to work out support for claims from those of working age. These were uprated in line with the Government's rates that applied to Housing Benefit, and the Authority's local scheme had stipulated that it would apply this uprating on an annual basis since it was introduced in 2013.

In conclusion, the proposed LCTS scheme for 2018/19, continued to provide 100% support to the poorest households in receipt of 'passported' benefits such as Income Support which remained a priority for Doncaster Council. It was noted that this Authority was one of only 37 Councils out of 326 that continued to provide maximum support to those on the lowest income levels.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the protection for Pensioners as a result of the annual uprating of allowances, premiums and non-dependant deductions which are prescribed by the Government and the associated change in expenditure which is funded locally, be noted;
- (2) the Authority will uprate relevant allowances and premiums for those of working age in line with the annual uprating set by the Government and used in the current scheme, and in other forms of support including Housing Benefit; the Government has decided to freeze certain allowances for 4 years from April 2016;
- (3) it be noted that any increase in Council Tax liability for the Council, its major preceptors and local parish preceptors, will increase the cost of Local Council Tax Support; the assumptions used in the cost of the scheme for 2018/19 are an increase of 3.99% for Doncaster's Council Tax;
- (4) the Equality analysis and Due Regard Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be considered as part of the decision making; and
- (5) the revised scheme which is linked at Appendix 2 and has been amended to take into account The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2017 which include amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012, be approved; these amendments in the main are to ensure consistency with changes to social security legislation and also increase certain figures which are used in calculating whether a person is entitled to a reduction and the amount of that reduction. These increases relate to pensioner claims and most of the rates used in the calculation of working age claims have been frozen in line with the rates for Housing Benefit. The

Regulations were laid before Parliament on 21st December, 2017 and come into force on the 12th January, 2018 for application in the Council's revised local scheme from the 1st April, 2018.

63 PROPOSED NEW COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR CARE LEAVERS

The Council considered a report, presented by Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services, which sought approval to provide 100% exemption from the payment of Council Tax from 1st April, 2018 to care leavers who had left the care of Doncaster Council, were resident and otherwise liable to pay Council Tax in Doncaster for a property they occupied as their sole or main residence and were under 25 years of age. Consideration was also given to the proposal that where a care leaver who met the above criteria who was jointly and severally liable for Council Tax with a person or persons who were not a care leaver, the exemption would still apply to the full Council Tax charge for the property. This would ensure the care leaver was not otherwise pursued for collection of any Council Tax unpaid by the other liable person(s).

It was reported that information provided in May 2017 by Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST), outlined that there were 255 DMBC care leavers living in Doncaster; 66 of these care leavers were liable for Council Tax, and under these proposals, would see their liability reduced to zero from 1st April, 2018. The proposed scheme would support these care leavers until they reached the age of 25 and future young people leaving the care of the Council, and taking up independent residence in Doncaster.

Members were informed that a report published by The Children's Society in 2015, highlighted the vulnerability of care leavers to financial pressures, in particular the difficulties encountered when entering independent accommodation for the first time. The report suggested that care leavers were a particularly vulnerable group for Council Tax debt.

Members noted that approximately 66 care leavers currently liable for Council Tax would be eligible for 100% exemption under these proposals and that based on 2017/18 Council Tax charges for a Band A property, the estimated annual cost of these proposals was £55k which would be met by the Council Tax Collection Fund. It was anticipated that the cost may be offset by a reduction in emergency payments made by Doncaster Children's Services Trust to care leavers in crisis as well as further reducing the dependency of these young people on other services.

Members were also informed that Council Tax legislation did not provide a specific discount or reduction for care leavers. However, under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council had the power to reduce liability for Council Tax in relation to individual cases or class(es) of cases where national discounts and exemptions could not be applied.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Care Leavers Council Tax Exemption Scheme at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved to take effect from 1st April, 2018;
- (2) backdated applications be allowed to the start of the financial year in which the application is made (but no earlier than 1st April, 2018); and

- (3) the Council Tax exemption will not apply to empty properties as this could act as a disincentive for care leavers to give the appropriate notice to landlords and increase the number of abandoned properties.

64 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Dr Rupert Suckling was in attendance at the meeting to present his Annual Report to Council, which he outlined was his third Annual Report since he had been in post and was an independent report on the health of people of Doncaster. Members were informed that it was not designed to be a performance report of the public health function nor a performance report of the NHS; it was an overview of the progress made against the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Borough.

Dr Suckling referred to his first Annual Report when he spoke of the 20, 30, 40, 10 approach and now was returning to this approach to re-emphasise its importance. This referred to health being influenced by 20% clinical care, 30% health behaviours, 40% social and economic factors and 10% the built environment, and was looking within his Annual Report of the steps that could be taken to improve health and intervene in health problems.

It was reported that this year, there would be greater focus on the role of the Council and its partners in improving and protecting the health of the people of Doncaster. In each of the blocks, Members noted that there would be an update as to what was happening and some examples of real life stories.

The Overall Picture

It was reported that health was measured by life expectancy and whilst the average life expectancy of people in Doncaster wasn't falling, it was remaining stable, which bucked the trend of the rest of the country where the average life expectancy was falling due to austerity. Members noted however that in terms of healthy life expectancy, whilst people were living longer, once people reached the age of 60+, many people were living with a health condition.

Children

Dr Suckling reported that a lot of time and money had been invested in supporting women to stop smoking during pregnancy, in order to ensure that children were given the best start in life. Doncaster had seen one of the biggest declines in smoking in pregnancy across the country, which was very pleasing. Additionally, the Early Help Strategy and the improvement of physical education and activity within the curriculum was further working towards improving health outcomes. Funding had been received from Sport England which would promote healthy lifestyles. However, there was now the need to put the plans into action and successfully deliver the strategies.

Good Economic Growth

Members were informed that great importance had been placed on economic regeneration and a lot of growth within the economy in Doncaster had been witnessed. However, this needed balancing alongside greater social regeneration and working with communities to ensure holistic health and social care was achieved in all areas.

Preventable Disability

In terms of preventable disability, there were a number of strategies in place with regard to this and a lot of emphasis on tobacco and substance misuse in order to ensure that healthier lives were achieved, and preventable mortality addressed. In addition to this, licensing powers were being explored to determine whether they could be used to address health inequalities in terms of preventable illness and disability.

Unfairness and Inequality

Dr Suckling reported that in the past, there had been a large focus on BME Inequalities and work had been done to address these, and now, moving forward there was increased focus on gender equality. Additionally, there would be a focus on children throughout the coming year, with the desire to address adverse childhood experiences that impacted on living healthy lives.

Members noted that all the points raised within the Annual Report would help to improve the health of the residents of Doncaster.

Further to Dr Suckling's presentation of his Annual Report, the Chair afforded Members of Council the opportunity to ask any questions with regard to this.

A number of questions ensued with the following points raised, all of which Dr Suckling responded to at the meeting:-

- Childhood obesity
- Physical Disabilities and Preventable Disabilities
- Sickness in the workplace
- Air Pollution
- Tobacco misuse and smoking cessation

In response to a number of queries regarding the lack of statistical information contained within the report, although the report was not intended to be a performance report, Dr Suckling commented that in the future, he may give consideration to the provision of an additional report providing statistical information.

RESOLVED that Council note and publish the Director of Public Health's Annual Report.

65 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19

The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19, which was presented by Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services. The Pay Policy Statement set out the Council's policy for paying staff, in particular its senior staff, namely Chief Officers, and detailed the relationship between the highest, lowest and average paid employees in the organisation.

It was noted that the Pay Policy Statement was a public document and was therefore published on the Council's website each year; in doing so demonstrating a willingness to increase accountability, transparency and fairness in the setting of Officers' pay. The Statement also contained information as to where more detailed salary information was published as part of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts.

Councillor Nightingale informed Council that it was proposed that the same format be used this year as in the past, and Members noted the following key points:-

- There had been a positive reduction in the ratios this year between the highest and lowest paid staff within the Council;
- The current ratio between the highest paid salary (£161k, the Chief Executive) and lowest employee salary (£16.8k) had reduced again from 9.68:1 last year, to 9.54:1 this year; and
- The ratio between the highest employee salary and average employee salary had also reduced slightly from 6.39:1 to 6.35:1.

Council noted that the changes as detailed above, continued to show a positive trend. The continuing reduction demonstrated the Council's commitment to reduce the pay difference and increase low pay. It was anticipated that the policy would not need to be amended during the period it covered (April 2018 to March 2019). However, if circumstances dictated that a change of policy was considered to be appropriate during the year then any amendments would be included in the following year's statement presented to Full Council.

Following presentation of the report, the Chair afforded Members the opportunity to comment on the report.

Members welcomed the report as it demonstrated the Council's commitment to equality and reducing wage disparity across its employees.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19 be approved.

66 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT JUNE TO DECEMBER, 2017

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), Councillor Kevin Rodgers, presented a report which provided a summary of the work undertaken by the OSMC and its four Standing Panels in the period of June to December 2017, and also any future issues to be considered.

The Chair conveyed his thanks to all Members, the Executive, Officers, partners and stakeholders, who had taken the time over the past 6 months to attend meetings and engage in the Overview and Scrutiny process.

Councillor Rodgers reported that there continued to be a real effort to focus on performance monitoring and review work in order to ensure a greater impact on future policy development and the improvement of services. The Regeneration and Housing and Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panels had undertaken more detailed task and finish work on a small number of important issues and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel was continuing to undertake the Council's statutory health scrutiny role. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel had focused on a range of key issues; one of these being the Borough's examination results.

Councillor Rodgers reported that importantly, the OSMC had concluded its consideration and responded to the Mayor's draft budget which helped to ensure a thorough and robust consultation process was undertaken in advance of its formal consideration by Council. Outside of formal meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs continued to meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure they were kept up to date with developments in Portfolio areas and could effectively plan and manage Scrutiny work plan issues.

Councillor Rodgers commented that in addition to work undertaken, Scrutiny was also looking forward to 2018, and Council was informed that the OSMC had identified the following major issues that it felt needed focus, as detailed below:-

- The Corporate Plan refresh;
- Education and Skills;
- Monitoring of Doncaster's Strategic Health and Social Care Plans (Sustainability and Transformation Plan, Place Plan, Adults Health and Wellbeing Transformation) through regular updates of plans and performance information;
- Public Health Protection Responsibilities;
- Crime and Disorder – undertaken by the Communities and Environment Panel looking at their performance and priorities; and
- Housing Needs Analysis

Members noted that an evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny was currently being undertaken with evidence gathered through research, discussions and a visit to another Local Authority scrutiny meeting. The outcome of this would be reported back to a future meeting of the OSMC, followed by a presentation to Full Council.

Councillor Rodgers concluded by thanking all Overview and Scrutiny Members, Executive Members, Partners, Stakeholders, Officers and members of the public, who continued to contribute to the Overview and Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED that the work of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and its four Standing Panels for the period June to December, 2017, be noted.

67 PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS - 2018/20

The Council considered a report which outlined the draft diary of meetings for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Municipal Years. The draft diary, attached at Appendix A to the report, this time encompassed two Municipal Years which covered the period from May, 2018 to May, 2020.

It was noted that the move to the four year term of office for Councillors had provided an opportunity to forward plan the Council's Diary of Meetings for a longer period of time, allowing for the better scheduling of decisions, meetings and events throughout the Council. Additionally, it was anticipated that it would prove helpful to Members in organising their schedules over a longer period when balancing their Council commitments with other working or caring responsibilities.

Members noted that the final version of the diary would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2018 and any amendments between consideration of the draft diary and this meeting would be incorporated.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Municipal Years, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (2) the final version of the Diary of Meetings be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2018, for final approval.

68 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, WRITTEN NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PHIL COLE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREA ROBINSON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Phil Cole and Seconded by Councillor Andrea Robinson:-

“This Council believes that the £335 million of additional funding announced in the 2017 Autumn Budget to meet winter pressures has been announced too late to be used effectively.

This Council is also concerned that the pledged increase in funding for the rest of the Parliament falls well below the amount the NHS needs. The £6.3 billion announced for the rest of this Parliament would mean the NHS budget would have grown by just 1.2% between 2009/10 and 2020/21.

This Council is further concerned that:-

- The promise of extra money to end the NHS pay cap is conditional on productivity and agreed changes to terms and conditions.
- There was no extra funding for mental health.
- There was no extra money for social care.

We believe the consequences of this Budget will be to add to the burden of Local Government, Police and other services; lead to a further loss of staff from our NHS and a growing shortfall in the real funding levels required by a modern NHS.”

The Chair afforded all Members in the Chamber, the opportunity to speak on the Motion.

A vote was taken on the Motion proposed by Councillor Phil Cole, which was declared as follows:-

For – 37

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

On being put to the meeting, the Motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED that this Council believes that the £335 million of additional funding announced in the 2017 Autumn Budget to meet winter pressures has been announced too late to be used effectively.

This Council is also concerned that the pledged increase in funding for the rest of the Parliament falls well below the amount the NHS needs. The £6.3 billion announced for the rest of this Parliament would mean the NHS budget would have grown by just 1.2% between 2009/10 and 2020/21.

This Council is further concerned that:-

- The promise of extra money to end the NHS pay cap is conditional on productivity and agreed changes to terms and conditions.
- There was no extra funding for mental health.
- There was no extra money for social care.

We believe the consequences of this Budget will be to add to the burden of Local Government, Police and other services, lead to a further loss of staff from our NHS and a growing shortfall in the real funding levels required by a modern NHS.

69 QUESTIONS BY ELECTED MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES 15.2 AND 15.3

A. Questions on Notice

No questions on Notice from Elected Members, had been received for this meeting.

B. Questions Without Notice

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.2, the Chair of Council sought questions from Elected Members during question time.

A. Questions to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones

There were no questions put to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones.

B. Questions to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Equalities

There were no questions put to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Equalities.

C. Questions to Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture

In the absence of Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Ball should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after the meeting and a response would be provided accordingly.

D. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services

There were no questions put to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services.

E. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

F. Questions to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

In the absence of Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Fennelly should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after the meeting and a response would be provided accordingly.

G. Questions to Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment

There were no questions put to Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment.

H. Questions to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development

There were no questions put to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development.

I. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services

There were no questions put to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services.

J. Questions to Councillor Austen White, Chair of the Audit Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Austen White, Chair of the Audit Committee.

K. Questions to Councillor Phil Cole, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Phil Cole, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee.

L. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

M. Questions to Councillor Kevin Rodgers, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Kevin Rodgers, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

70 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING JOINT AUTHORITIES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following Joint Authorities, be noted:-

- A. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 11th December, 2017.
- B. Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 9th November, 2017.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 27th November, 2017.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 30th November, 2017.

CHAIR:_____

DATE:_____