

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

27TH NOVEMBER, 2014

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL was held at the CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER, on THURSDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Pat Haith  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Paul Wray  
Mayor - Ros Jones  
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Iris Beech, Paul Bissett, Joe Blackham, Susan Bolton, Andrew Bosmans, Elsie Butler, Paul Coddington, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Richard Cooper-Holmes, Tony Corden, Linda Curran, Monty Cuthbert, Neil Gethin, James Hart, Barbara Hedley, Charlie Hogarth, Sandra Holland, Mark Houlbrook, Barbara Hoyle, Eva Hughes, Deborah Hutchinson, Frank Jackson, Mick Jameson, Bob Johnson, Alan Jones, Jane Kidd, Ted Kitchen, Pat Knight, Sue Knowles, Tracey Leyland-Jepson, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John McHale, Hilary McNamee, Christine Mills, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, Jane Nightingale, Susan Phillips, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Tony Revill, Kevin Rodgers, Craig Sahman, Patricia Schofield, Dave Shaw, Alan Smith, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson and Martin Williams.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nuala Fennelly, Bob Ford, Fred Gee, Rachel Hodson, R. Allan Jones, Ken Keegan, John Sheppard, Jonathan Wood and Yvonne Woodcock.

51. RECENT DEATHS OF FORMER CIVIC MAYOR AND ARMTHORPE WARD COUNCILLOR, MARGARET PINKNEY AND FORMER CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND STAINFORTH WARD COUNCILLOR, PATRICK MULLANY

Prior to the commencement of formal business, the Chair of Council, Councillor Pat Haith referred to the recent deaths of former Civic Mayor and Armthorpe Ward Councillor, Margaret Pinkney and former Chair of the Education Committee and Stainforth Ward Councillor, Patrick Mullany.

Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, stood in silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

52. RECENT DEATHS OF FIVE TEENAGERS ON THE 15TH NOVEMBER IN CONISBROUGH

Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, also observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and remembrance in relation to the recent tragic deaths of five teenagers on the 15th November in Conisbrough:-

Bartosz Bortniczak, aged 18,  
Blake Cairns, aged 16,  
Arpad Kore, aged 18,  
Jordanna Goodwin, aged 16; and  
Megan Storey, aged 16

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

54. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th September, 2014, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chair of Council, Councillor Pat Haith, made the following Announcement:-

"It's with great pleasure that I can inform Council that a geography teacher from McAuley High School, Becki Quigley, has been awarded the Rex Walford Award.

This is a national award that recognises the work of a young geography teacher and is awarded by the Royal Geographical Society.

Miss Quigley will be presented with her award at a ceremony in London tomorrow. I'm sure colleagues will join me in congratulating Miss Quigley on her success."

There were no announcements from the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Members or from the Chief Executive.

56. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

(a) Question from Mr. T. Knowles to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“A library is a temple of learning and I was quite amazed to find over a period of 3 days in early November, how Doncaster Central Library had been emptied of people who usually have time (2 hours) to access the computers in gallery formation adjacent to the well-stocked, untouched hardback books. In the 1980’s this library had an activity for books only and quiet study locations. It has slowly transformed into a cyber station. This phenomena of an empty library when networks are not operating begs the question as to the future use of these libraries. Will they expand in computer or liber use and could re-locating the local studies section to the Mansion House benefit the public?”

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, gave the following reply:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Knowles. You raise a very good point about the future of Library services.

The recent downtime of public computers at the Central Library was due to a problem experienced with computer servers which affected several Council ICT systems. Whilst these problems are very rare, Officers are currently looking at a contingency plan should this situation occur again.

What the popularity of computers in Libraries does clearly demonstrate is the changing nature of information gathering, learning and study. With so many services also now being provided online, access to the internet is no longer an ‘optional extra’, but an essential part of day to day life for many people.

For residents who do not have access to computers and the internet at home, free access in Libraries can be a valuable lifeline. All Libraries around the country have public computers and in Doncaster, we have made a commitment to provide free wi-fi to residents at all 24 Libraries across the Borough. This work starts imminently and some Libraries already have the service.

This does not mean the end for hard copy books. The future of Libraries is likely to be a mix of traditional printed books and the use of Libraries for meetings, events and study, which will be enhanced with access to digital reading material and information online.

The potential for the Local Studies Library and other Library facilities to move in to the Mansion House, has been researched by Officers. Unfortunately, it is not feasible due to the likely impact of shelving units and other resources on the flooring and walls of this important building.

However, we are committed to providing high quality, accessible Library services in appropriate locations, including the Local Studies Library, and we will review options for this in the New Year.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Mr. T. Knowles asked the Mayor, the following supplementary question:-

“I accept your explanation. I grew up with Libraries. They are an institution and are a lifeline for some people. It used to be a place where you could study in silence, but now with mobile phones, this is no longer the case. I feel that we are losing our values and traditions. I believe that you can have computers and the internet but you need a gateway of opportunities. Not everyone is on the internet, so I feel that you should go around the table again to look at the future of Libraries?”

In response, the Mayor stated that:-

“We will always seek to deliver in every medium possible. We do need to modernise and recognise that computers are a valuable lifeline for the young and older people who don’t have a computer at home. Modernisation does need to take place. Thank you for your question.”

(b) Question from Mrs. J. Brown to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“How can we feel confident and secure in continuing quality care that the elderly are at present receiving in the seven Council-run homes where the standard of care and staff training is excellent, when there is reported evidence of poor quality care in a number of private homes, and Doncaster Council and CQC have had to move the residents to other accommodation, for example, Clifton Court in Sprotbrough?”

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, gave the following reply:-

“Thank you for your question Mrs Brown.

The Council along with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), have a high expectation of quality in the private care home sector.

Indeed, there are increasingly closer working relationships with other agencies and the Council, to monitor and improve the care delivered.

DMBC has an experienced dedicated Contract Monitoring Team that works with all care homes to improve the quality of care. Recently, they have introduced a new Quality Improvement Framework (QIF) to support care homes in delivering higher standards of quality and to move the homes from a time and task focus to an outcome focus for residents.

The team is working closely with the care home owners and managers on a regular basis. We are also developing a tool that will highlight any early warning indicators to personnel in the Council so that appropriate investigation and where necessary, action can be taken.

There is a great deal of good care in Doncaster. There is always a risk that problems may occur within individual homes, whoever the provider is. What is important is that they are identified and dealt with.

The decision to support the CQC in the movement of individuals from Clifton Court was not taken lightly, but highlights the view of the CQC, the Council and the CCG, in acting proactively when there is failure in the care market.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Mrs. J. Brown asked the Mayor, the following supplementary question:-

“How many staff are in the Contract Monitoring Team and what qualifications do they have to do the job, which is a massive task?”

In response, the Mayor stated that:-

“I do not have the answer to hand, but I will ensure that you are provided with a written response.”

(c) Question from Mrs. P. Collins to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“One of the main reasons for the Council care homes' wonderful reputation is the stable, local workforce. Given the well-known difficulties that many of the private homes have in recruiting and then keeping staff, how can we have any confidence in the plan to privatise when many, including the new-build at Woodlands, struggles to recruit staff when they are paid just a basic wage for a very demanding 12 hour shift.

If the Council manages to sell its care homes to a trust or private buyer, what steps will the Council take to ensure that its current highly-skilled staff are retained, and receive pay and conditions commensurate with their current posts?”

(d) Question from Mr. D. Morgan to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“If the Council manages to sell its care homes to a trust or private buyer, what steps will the Council take to ensure that its current highly-skilled staff are retained and receive pay, and conditions commensurate with their current posts?”

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, responded to the above two questions together as follows:-

“Thank you for your questions.

As you will be aware, in June Cabinet requested that Officers seek to identify potential alternative providers for the Council's seven care homes. I am pleased that this process has identified enough interest to commence a formal procurement process which, if successful, would mean the care homes will not close.

The procurement process to transfer the care homes has started and is being designed to ensure high quality of care for our residents. Staff would continue to be protected not just in legislative terms, through such things as TUPE, but also through our expectations on an incumbent provider to maintain a skilled and effective workforce.

Staff will be fully consulted on the proposals and the implications for them and the service, in light of these planned changes.

Any aspects of this process that affects staff will be undertaken in line with relevant legislation and Council policies and procedures.

This will be a key element of both the Council's tender documentation and the responses by the bidders, and will form part of the evaluation criteria.

In terms of the wider question of care home staffing, the Council and the CCG are working hard to continually improve the recruitment, retention, skills and training of the local staff working in the care home sector in Doncaster. This is happening through a number of interventions, for example:-

- The Council directly works with all care homes in Doncaster to deliver specific pieces of training for workers and a leadership programme for Residential Managers;
- There has also been work with a number of care homes to support staff in the management of clients with complex dementia conditions;
- The Council and the CCG have commissioned a pilot programme about improving care quality by sharing best practice locally;
- Work is underway to commission a Residential Care Home Education Service; and
- The Council is currently at the early stages of exploring the possibility of delivering in partnership with Universities, a Local Skills Academy for care workers.

Council Officers have spoken to care providers in Doncaster, including the new care home in Woodlands, and they have confirmed that they are not currently experiencing problems in recruiting social care staff.

We are of course committed to supporting high quality care across all care homes in Doncaster, through a highly skilled workforce."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Mr. D. Morgan asked the Mayor, the following supplementary question:-

“I refer to the second paragraph of your response, where you state that ‘Staff would continue to be protected not just in legislative terms, through such things as TUPE, but also through our expectations on an incumbent provider to maintain a skilled and effective workforce’. Can you explain what TUPE involves and how will it protect them?”

In response, the Mayor stated that:-

“TUPE is the Transfer of Undertaking Protection of Employment Rights. All staffs terms and conditions will transfer with them.”

Mr. D. Morgan asked the Mayor a further question:-

“How long does this last for?”

In response, the Mayor stated that:-

“I believe I’ve answered the question. The staff will be TUPE’d as we do with all of our staff within the organisation.”

#### 57. MAYOR’S INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015/16 TO 2016/17

The Council considered a report which set out the Mayor’s initial budget proposals for 2015/16 to 2016/17, with particular emphasis on addressing the remaining £16.1m shortfall in the total savings of £109m. Doncaster Council faces an unprecedented set of cuts and pressures on its budget having delivered £93m of savings and efficiencies in the 3 years from 2011 to 2014. In February 2014, the Council was faced with having to cut expenditure or raise money by a total of £109m, between 2014 and March, 2017.

In presenting her proposals, the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, announced that in February, 2014, she had proposed a 3 year budget strategy, as the scale of cuts that were unprecedented in Local Government, could not be delivered without proper financial planning. Members were informed that the cuts had amounted to £358 per man, woman and child, and that this was on top of the £305 previously saved. The £109m the Council had to save by 2017, £93m had been identified and the draft proposals she presented today, would seek to address the remaining £16.1m that had not been identified in February.

The Mayor highlighted that the draconian cuts that the Council had to deliver were not of the Council’s making. These were unfair cuts imposed on the Council by Central Government, but that it was the Council’s responsibility to ensure that the Council proposed a robust balanced budget.

The Mayor emphasised that her key priorities were still jobs and growth, along with protecting the vulnerable which did mean modernising and delivering services differently.

Furthermore, the Mayor, in outlining the key messages from the budget, pointed out that the Council was still in a difficult financial position because of the size of the Government funding cuts. However, the work the Council was doing was starting to pay dividends. The Council had come out of Government intervention, with better governance and sound financial management. The Council was modernising and improving services, making them run more efficiently and saving money. The Council was bringing new jobs and economic growth to Doncaster, thereby benefitting residents and generating new business rates and helping to protect services from Government cuts.

The Mayor spoke of how the Government cuts had been eroding services, but the work the Council was doing was helping to protect against this. It was further reported that the remaining £16m had been found without having to slash frontline services. The Council had also worked hard to be able to continue investing in services, which was why the Council had also been able to deliver services, including the new Extra Care Housing for older people and introducing 'Help to Live at Home'. In terms of how the money had been found, the Mayor stated that this had been a result of lower than expected interest and inflation rates, individual savings areas such as saving on pensions and reducing the number of Councillors, and Senior Managers.

The Mayor explained that whilst the Council had less money for running costs, it did however have some funding to invest in equipment. The Mayor also referred to the Streetlamp project which replaced the Council's energy hungry lamp posts with LED lights. The Mayor reported that the Council would save an extra £750,000 per year on running costs, by improving lighting, reducing light pollution and using less energy which would be managed more effectively, by being able to control individual lights. Furthermore, the Council would be investing in grass cutting and street cleaning equipment, which would help to save money, while delivering improved results for local residents.

The Mayor further reported that the Council was anticipating the receipt of an extra £1m in business rates as key projects to create new jobs and economic growth in Doncaster started to deliver results. These included the new airport link road, the iPort Logistics Hub at Rossington and the Civic and Cultural Quarter development in the Town Centre. An example of which was the new cinema and restaurants, which were to be built by the private sector and would improve the Town for residents and visitors, create 100 jobs and provide over £100,000 every year in business rates, which would help to protect services.

The Mayor indicated that more homes were to be built to help around 100 people who needed support and that £1.3m was to be invested over the next three years. New 'Extra Care' housing schemes would provide 86 modern apartments for older people with direct access to housing support and a personal care package, helping them to live independently in their own home.

In addition, more 'Extra Care' schemes were to be progressed in the New Year, which would help older people, complement the Council's new Help to 'Live at Home' care scheme and the new Community Equipment Service, which would provide people with the support they needed more quickly.



In conclusion, the Mayor stated that she had promised to come back to the Council with proposals for the remaining £16m needed to balance the budget. The Government cuts had been deep and harsh. The Council have had to make difficult decisions in February, but the action taken meant that the Council was minimising cuts to frontline services. The improvements had put the Council on a sound footing, which was more modern, efficient and cost effective, and meant that the Council had also been able to invest in new services and facilities for residents. The Council's plans for creating jobs and growth were bringing benefits to local people and the Borough. The Council needed to continue along this path in order to capitalise on the success that was starting to be seen.

Following the Mayor's address, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the Mayor's budget proposals.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the launch of the Mayor's draft budget proposals for 2015/16 and 2016/17, be noted and that following consultation and after taking into account Parish precepts, levies and the Final Government Settlement, these will be proposed at Full Council on 3rd March, 2015; and
- (2) the additional revenue budget proposals required to close the remaining £16.1m budget gap for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as set out in the report and in Appendix Bi (Budget Savings £18.3m) and Appendix Bii (Growth Initiatives £2.1m), be noted.

58. REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION PANEL ON A REVIEW OF ASPECTS OF THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME IN DONCASTER MBC

The Council considered a report, introduced by Mr. Keith Marriot, the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), on a review of aspects of the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

It was reported that each Local Authority was required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to have in place a Scheme for Members' Allowances and that before an Authority made or amended a Scheme, it must have regard to the recommendations made by an IRP.

Members noted that since the Full Council meeting held on 25th September, 2014, when changes to the membership of the IRP were approved, the Panel had met on two separate occasions to review some aspects of the current Scheme of Member Allowances and in reaching its recommendations, had regard to the Schemes operating in a range of other Local Authorities and took into account information provided by Officers.

The report by the IRP, which was attached as Appendix A to the report, set out within paragraph 8, details of its main recommendations with regard to the independent member on the Audit Committee, the payment of an all-inclusive attendance per hearing allowance for each co-opted member on the Audit Hearings Sub-Committee, the payment of an all-inclusive attendance allowance for each co-opted member on the Audit Hearings Sub-Committee for attendance at the Audit Committee meeting that considered the Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer on complaint handling and ethical governance activity and the inflationary index for determining annual increases in Member Allowances be in line with the NJC pay award for Local Government employees.

Members were also informed that a staff pay award had recently been agreed at a headline rate of 2.2%, which ran from January, 2015 to March, 2016. Consequently, all Member Allowances would be increased by 2.2% with effect from January, 2015.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Mr. Marriot for his informative report.

Following Members being afforded the opportunity of commenting on the report, an addendum to recommendation 3(v) of the report was Moved by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones and Seconded by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones , to read as follows:-

“Elected Members will waive the proposed rise in their allowance of 2.2% from the beginning of January, 2015 until the end of March, 2016.”

Following comments from a number of Members, a vote was taken on the addendum to the Motion proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, which was declared as follows:-

For – 52

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

On being put to the meeting, the addendum to the recommendation 3(v) in the report proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

- (1) an allowance of £606 per annum be paid to the independent member on the Audit Committee to take immediate effect;

- (2) an all-inclusive attendance per hearing allowance be paid to each co-opted member on the Audit Hearings Sub-Committee at a rate of £150 per hearing;
- (3) an all-inclusive attendance allowance of £50 be paid to each co-opted member on the Audit Hearings Sub-Committee for attendance at the Audit Committee meeting that considers the Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer report on complaint handling and ethical governance activity;
- (4) recommendations (2) and (3) above take effect from 1st April, 2015;
- (5) the inflationary index for determining annual increases in Member allowances be in line with the NJC pay award for Local Government employees; Elected Members will waive the proposed rise in their allowance of 2.2% from the beginning of January, 2015 until the end of March, 2016;
- (6) all other elements of the Members' Allowances Scheme remain unchanged; and
- (7) authority be given to update the Members' Allowances Scheme within the Council Constitution accordingly.

59. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014.

The Council considered the Doncaster Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report 2014, which was presented by Dr. Tony Baxter, Director of Public Health, who provided an overview of the key issues within the report.

Members noted that the 2014 Doncaster DPH Annual Report was the second since the transfer of the specialist Public Health function from the NHS to the Council in April 2013. The Annual Report reflected on feedback from the Local Government Association independent health and wellbeing Peer Review in Doncaster in November 2013. It focused on the opportunities and challenges posed by the new public health duties related to health improvement and what the Council and partners were doing, and might do to meet these effectively.

The report also described progress against recommendations made in last year's annual report and made recommendations for decision makers locally which it was hoped would contribute to the improvement of health and wellbeing in Doncaster. The Director of Public Health had a statutory duty to write a report on the health of the local population and the Authority had a duty to publish it, the content and structure of which was something to be decided locally.

Whilst welcoming the report, Members referred to the figures quoted on pages 7 and 9 of the Annual Report regarding the percentage of children and adults who were overweight or obese, and sought clarification, particularly in relation to what percentage of Doncaster's working population were obese and how excess weight was being tackled in Doncaster. The Director of Public Health confirmed that the percentage was around 30%. However, he undertook to provide Councillor Cynthia Ransome and Councillor Phil Cole with a more comprehensive response, in writing.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Dr. Tony Baxter for his informative report.

RESOLVED that the Doncaster Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014, be noted.

60. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 – 6 MONTH REVIEW OF THE PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (Minute No. 17(15) – 13th June, 2014)

Further to the above Minute, the Council considered a report which advised Council on the mid-year review of the proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by Council, as a consequence of changes to the Political composition of the Authority.

Members noted that since the Annual Meeting in June, 2014, a bye-election was held on 24th July, 2014, following a casual vacancy that had arisen in the Edenthorpe, Kirk Sandall and Barnby Dun Ward Ward, which resulted in Councillor Paul Bissett being elected to the vacant seat. In addition, Councillor Paul Coddington, who was an Independent Member, had joined the UKIP Group.

RESOLVED that

- (1) in view of the Labour Group's over representation by 1 seat, the Labour Group lose one seat from the Planning Committee (Councillor John Sheppard);
- (2) as a consequence of (1) above, the 1 seat removed from the Labour Group be reallocated to the UKIP Group;
- (3) as a consequence of (2) above, the following UKIP Group Member, Councillor Paul Bissett, be appointed to the seat on the Planning Committee vacated by the Labour Group;
- (4) a representative from the Doncaster Children's Services Trust be appointed to the membership of the Health & Wellbeing Board, for the reasons set out at paragraph 23 of the report; and

- (5) it be noted that no revisions were made to Committee and Sub-Committee memberships by Political Group Leaders.

61. APPROVAL OF COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

It was noted by Council that as Councillor Tony Revill was in attendance at the meeting, Members were therefore requested to consider whether to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer, the ability to approve extended periods of absence for Members in appropriate circumstances.

Members noted that at present, there was no delegated authority in the Constitution to cover approval of Member absences beyond six months. Such a delegation to the Monitoring Officer would avoid the need to convene an extraordinary meeting of Council to consider such requests. Therefore, Council was requested to approve the following delegation:-

“The Monitoring Officer is authorised to approve requests in writing for Member absence in excess of six months, if satisfied that the grounds for such a request are reasonable. (Members are asked to make requests prior to the expiry of the fifth month of absence.)

In the event that any such approval is granted, a report will be presented to the next available meeting of Council.

In the event that the Monitoring Officer does not feel able to approve the request Council will be asked to consider the extension.”

At this point in proceedings, Councillor Tony Revill wished to place on record his thanks for the support and best wishes he had received over the last six months, during his period of absence. Members responded accordingly, and expressed their best wishes to Councillor Revill for the future.

RESOLVED that

- (1) authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to approve extended periods of absence for Members in appropriate circumstances and for such approvals to be reported to the next available meeting of Council for information; and
- (2) the Council’s Constitution be updated accordingly.

62. APPOINTMENT TO AN OUTSIDE BODY: DONCASTER EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

The Council considered a report which sought approval to appoint a representative to the Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board following the recent resignation of Councillor Linda Curran.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones on behalf of the Council, thanked Councillor Curran for the valuable contribution she had made to the Internal Drainage Board.

RESOLVED that Councillor Dave Shaw be appointed to replace Councillor Linda Curran on the Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board, to take effect from 28th November, 2014, until 31st October, 2016.

63. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, WRITTEN NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PAUL BISSETT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PAUL CODDINGTON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Paul Bissett and Seconded by Councillor Paul Coddington:-

“This Motion is about how the Council fulfils its moral obligation to the environmental care of this community and how it exercises its roles and functions. The Council has a duty of care to its residents and communities that outweighs cost considerations and any obligations it might have to its ruling political party.

The waste transfer station at Kirk Sandall demonstrates all the failings of this Labour dominated Council, its planners and its Councillors, from early in the process of deciding to build at Kirk Sandall, right through to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to the planning application being granted. No one has addressed the detrimental effects or costs to the local community in terms of health, traffic congestion, damage to the local housing market and future economic growth.

This motion urges the council to reconsider its decision before any further development of this site takes place, by considering other alternative sites that are not adjacent to any residential areas.”

Additional supplementary information relating to the Motion proposed by Councillor Paul Bissett, was tabled at the meeting for Members’ consideration.

During consideration of the Motion, advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer as to whether Councillor Bissett’s Motion should have been accepted for inclusion on the Council agenda, particularly in view of the fact that the decision to grant the application for the Waste Transfer Station, had been previously approved by the Planning Committee. Members were informed that the Motion was concerned with a major Council project which was to be constructed at a cost of £6.7 million from funds authorised by Council. Whilst the Council could not reconsider the decision of the Planning Committee, it was appropriate for wider issues associated with the project to be debated, including site selection, which was the subject of the Motion.

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 Paul Bissett, which was declared as follows:-

For – 3

Against – 43

Abstentions – 3

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

64. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, WRITTEN NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CRAIG SAHMAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JANE KIDD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Craig Sahman and Seconded by Councillor Jane Kidd:-

“This Council condemns the negative impact of the Government’s welfare reforms on disabled people and the recent comments by Government Minister Lord Freud at the Conservative Party Conference when he said that:-

‘You make a really good point about the disabled. There is a group where actually, as you say, they’re not worth the full wage.’

Lord Freud’s comments were further compounded by the widely reported contentious remarks made by Andrew Selous MP (Con), a Justice Minister who also told a meeting at the Conservative Conference that:-

‘Disabled people work harder because they’re grateful to have a job.’

The Government’s welfare reform programme has had a significant impact on disabled people with the discredited work capability assessment, the bedroom tax and the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment, which means people are waiting for six months for an assessment.

This Council notes Lord Freud’s apology but calls on the Government to ease the burden faced by disabled people as a result of the unfair welfare reforms and, through its language and actions, promote a more positive, supportive approach to disabled people in the UK.”

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 Craig Sahman, which was declared as follows:-

For – 43

Against – 1

Abstentions – 4

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

RESOLVED that this Council condemns the negative impact of the Government's welfare reforms on disabled people and the recent comments by Government Minister Lord Freud at the Conservative Party Conference when he said that:-

'You make a really good point about the disabled. There is a group where actually, as you say, they're not worth the full wage.'

Lord Freud's comments were further compounded by the widely reported contentious remarks made by Andrew Selous MP (Con), a Justice Minister who also told a meeting at the Conservative Conference that:-

'Disabled people work harder because they're grateful to have a job.'

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This Council notes Lord Freud's apology but calls on the Government to ease the burden faced by disabled people as a result of the unfair welfare reforms and, through its language and actions, promote a more positive, supportive approach to disabled people in the UK."

65. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, WRITTEN NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NEIL GETHIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JANE NIGHTINGALE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Neil Gethin and Seconded by Councillor Jane Nightingale:-

"This Council has and is facing a budget gap of £109 million over three years, significantly reducing the finances available to deliver public services for local people.



At a time when many household incomes are falling in real terms and household bills have increased, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds worth of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share.

This country would benefit from a system where everyone pays their fair share of tax, enabling the protection of high quality public services.

This Council therefore calls on Central Government to listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies.”

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 Neil Gethin, which was declared as follows:-

For – 50

Against – 0

Abstentions – 0

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

RESOLVED that this Council has and is facing a budget gap of £109 million over three years, significantly reducing the finances available to deliver public services for local people.

At a time when many household incomes are falling in real terms and household bills have increased, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds worth of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share.

This country would benefit from a system where everyone pays their fair share of tax, enabling the protection of high quality public services.

This Council therefore calls on Central Government to listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies.

66. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, WRITTEN NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BILL MORDUE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PHIL COLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.1

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

“That this Council:-

- registers its opposition to the Northern and Transpennine Express franchise requirement for driver only trains, and the Government’s plans to make driver only trains mandatory;
- supports the RMT (National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers’) campaign to protect on-board conductors on the Northern and Transpennine routes and hundreds of essential rail jobs;
- believes that, if implemented, the plan would result in cuts to funding, fare rises, service and timetable cuts and the loss of hundreds of essential rail jobs;
- also believes that in addition to the loss of skilled jobs, passenger service and passenger safety will be worsened by this plan to remove guards and conductors from services and introduce Driver-Only-Operation;
- notes that these proposals come on top of rail fare hikes and the pre-existing understaffing of many stations and the closure of ticket offices, making guards and on-board conductors even more essential to passenger safety;
- believes that protecting and increasing staffing levels are the most effective way of improving security and passenger safety;
- notes that the driver is responsible for safe operation of the train and the on-board conductor for the protection of passengers;
- notes that currently, guards and on-board conductors are fully trained in operational safety, route knowledge, including safely securing doors, protecting the train and acting in emergencies such as driver incapacity;
- believes that these types of cuts to rail services particularly have an impact on disabled, older and women passengers, and go against the wishes of passengers who value proper staffing of trains and stations; and
- urges the Government and Rail North to protect passengers and the communities who rely on these rail services by withdrawing these proposals and instead hold meaningful consultations to deliver properly funded, properly staffed and affordable railways in the North.”

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 Bill Mordue, which was declared as follows:-

For – 45

Against – 0

Abstentions – 4

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

RESOLVED that that this Council:-

- registers its opposition to the Northern and Transpennine Express franchise requirement for driver only trains, and the Government's plans to make driver only trains mandatory;
- supports the RMT (National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers') campaign to protect on-board conductors on the Northern and Transpennine routes and hundreds of essential rail jobs;
- believes that, if implemented, the plan would result in cuts to funding, fare rises, service and timetable cuts and the loss of hundreds of essential rail jobs;
- also believes that in addition to the loss of skilled jobs, passenger service and passenger safety will be worsened by this plan to remove guards and conductors from services and introduce Driver-Only-Operation;
- notes that these proposals come on top of rail fare hikes and the pre-existing understaffing of many stations and the closure of ticket offices, making guards and on-board conductors even more essential to passenger safety;
- believes that protecting and increasing staffing levels are the most effective way of improving security and passenger safety;
- notes that the driver is responsible for safe operation of the train and the on-board conductor for the protection of passengers;
- notes that currently, guards and on-board conductors are fully trained in operational safety, route knowledge, including safely securing doors, protecting the train and acting in emergencies such as driver incapacity;

- believes that these types of cuts to rail services particularly have an impact on disabled, older and women passengers, and go against the wishes of passengers who value proper staffing of trains and stations; and
- urges the Government and Rail North to protect passengers and the communities who rely on these rail services by withdrawing these proposals and instead hold meaningful consultations to deliver properly funded, properly staffed and affordable railways in the North.

67. 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 accepted the following questions from Elected Members during 'Question Time':-

A. Questions to Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster

Q. Councillor Sandra Holland asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“In reference to the recent car accident which occurred on the A630 in Conisbrough, where five young people tragically lost their lives, it seems that other accidents have happened on this stretch of the road. Councillors have asked the Police to carry out an urgent review. Mayor Jones, will you commit to this review and will you give your commitment to road safety as part of the review, to ensure that this won't happen again?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“I whole heartedly support the work that has been done, so of course, I will do this. We were all shocked by what happened in Doncaster, which sadly cut the lives short of Bartosz Bortniczak, Blake Cairns, Arpad Kore, Jordanna Goodwin and Megan Storey. Our thoughts are with their families and friends and the school community. It is important not to jump to conclusions, but we will work with the Police investigation and for there to be a review of the road, and make it as safe as it can be. If it is agreed, road safety will be implemented. Books of condolences at the Mansion House, are still open for people to sign.”

Q. Councillor Patricia Schofield asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“On the 15th October, the Cabinet voted to adopt the Doncaster Physical Activity and Sports Strategy for 2014 to 2020. Many of the actions contained within the document did not have any defined timescales which the outcome would be achieved by. How will you measure the impact of the strategy. Will we have to wait until 2020 to find out if it is working or not?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“What Cabinet voted on was a strategy and in that strategy, you would expect to see an action plan. Once these dates and action plan are done, they will be made available to all.”

Q. Councillor James Hart asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“Why do we have a flag pole on Sir Nigel Gresley Square without a flag. What are you afraid of. Are you afraid of showing your patriotism?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“I’m not afraid to show my patriotism, but I know that there are rules in place. I’m led to believe that the flag pole is not a permanent fixture. We do fly the flag at the Mansion House. My patriotism should not be questioned, as my desire is to bring the Borough forward.”

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“Regarding your earlier comments about street cleaning, I did do something about street cleaning. We did win a silver award for clean streets. We were second in the country. The trophy is down stairs in the cabinet. You are doing our staff a dis-service, who have worked so hard to achieve this. The question you asked about related to 1,400 victims; did you get a satisfactory answer?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“We all know where the figure was extrapolated from. It was from the ‘Jay’ report, which was pulled from 66 reports. We are seeking to assist children who have been sexually exploited.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the Mayor of Doncaster, the following supplementary question:-

Q. “I would like to meet with you regarding your position on the Police and Crime Panel?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“I am always available to speak to. Please speak to one of my staff in the Executive Office, who will arrange a meeting with me.”

Q. Councillor Alan Smith asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“I asked you a question at the last Council meeting regarding the ‘Big Switch’. I registered with the ‘Big Switch’, but I was rather disappointed with the outcome. This is regarded as the best thing for utilities, but I found that E-on was offering the same terms for any man in the street. I also looked at other utility companies. Can you tell me how many people physically registered for the ‘Big Switch’, how many people switched and how many man hours of DMBC staff were taken up to do this. I believe that we as a Council, can look at alternative sources to get better results. This is one of your priorities to reduce the standard of living costs?

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“It has been a priority of mine to find savings for residents. I don’t know the exact figure, but I think it is in excess of £100,000, made by the residents of Doncaster through the ‘Big Switch’. I can provide this information to you in a written response.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Alan Smith asked the Mayor of Doncaster, the following supplementary question:-

Q. “If £100,000 has been saved from those who had registered, they have done themselves a dis-service and I feel that the Council has been duped?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“They do offer several differing suppliers. I have personally benefited from this. I will ask Officers to provide this information. This is not about duping anyone. We have some money for staff to cover this. This service has been offered to some of the most vulnerable in society. Many people do not have the privilege of a computer in their own homes. It is about making things easier for people. It is not about duping people. Shame on you for saying that the Council is duping people. We are trying to help the most deprived.”

Q. Councillor Paul Bissett asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“Regarding the decision relating to the cinema and restaurant development, and the flag pole, has this been part of public consultation exercise?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“The cinema and restaurant development is part of the Civic and Cultural Quarter, which has been funded by the private sector. As we obtain the rates from these businesses, we will get 4 restaurants. If all you have got to think about is a flagpole, I suggest that you come and join us on this side of the Chamber, to help us to turn things around and help grow our economy.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Paul Bissett asked the Mayor of Doncaster, the following supplementary question:-

Q. “Seeing the manner in which you have reacted to my question, is this a sore point?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“No it is not. The flagpole is a temporary flag pole and it hasn’t been used before.”

Q. Councillor Andy Pickering asked the Mayor of Doncaster:-

“I would like to thank the Mayor and Councillor Alan Jones for their unexpected recent visit to Mexborough, whilst delivering leaflets for the Mexborough Labour Party. Can I ask what prompted you to spend time on the streets of the Town?”

A. The Mayor of Doncaster gave the following response:-

“I am always there to support my Party when we want to get information out there to people. I have been grass roots all my life and whatever needs to get done, I will be there.”

B. Questions to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Equalities and Cohesion

No questions were put to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Equalities and Cohesion.

C. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Neighbourhoods

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked Councillor Joe Blackham:-

“Regarding enforcement, thank you for the figures you sent me. Litter and Fly Tipping are on the increase, yet fines are on the decrease and planning enforcement is insignificant. Are there any plans to correct this in the future?”

A. Councillor Joe Blackham gave the following response:-

“I inherited this from your Portfolio Area and I found enforcement to be not fit for purpose. There will be a full review taking place. There will be a single enforcement entity. There will be a one-stop shop. There will imminently be an announcement to say that planning enforcement will be up and running. This will provide synergy benefits which will give an enhanced offer.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked Councillor Joe Blackman, the following supplementary question:-

Q. “I am sorry that you found it failing considering that we have won many awards for enforcement, but I will take on your reply.”

D. Questions to Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member, Support to Lead Member for Children’s Services with a focus on Safeguarding

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked Councillor Tony Corden:-

“My question relates to truancy. Is it a wise use of tax-payers money to pay for radio advertising to combat truancy. How much is it costing and how is this to be measured. Surely, this is not necessary when all the enforcement tools are in place. Why cannot they be used?”

A. Councillor Tony Corden gave the following response:-

“This would be a question for Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Lead Member for Children’s Services, but she is not here today. I do not have the costs to hand therefore, I will provide you with a written response. However, I believe that anything to combat truancy is a good thing.”

E. Questions to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Lead Member for Children’s Services

No questions were put to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Lead Member for Children’s Services.

F. Questions to Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, Leisure and Tourism, and Veteran’s Champion

Q. Councillor James Hart asked Councillor Bob Johnson:-

“At our last full Council meeting, you assured Members that Doncaster would get a fair allocation of funds in future LEP skills programmes. The current programme ‘Skills Made Easy,’ has a target to enrol 641 apprentices over the course of the 4 year programme.



Over the whole LEP Region, the programme is currently 47.6% down on enrolments against target and in fact in Doncaster, it is underperforming by 70%. To date, 319 apprentices should have been enrolled through the programme in Doncaster, but only 97 have been enrolled. Can you look into this mismanagement of this programme and share with Members, the plan which is hopefully in place to address this under performance?"

A. Councillor Bob Johnson gave the following response:-

"We are one of the better performing Councils of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership). I will ensure that this information is provided in a written response. There are a limited number of companies that can qualify for the programme, which has wiped out 50% of our businesses. Rather than stand still, we have looked at other apprenticeship programmes. SCR (Sheffield City Region) is one of our better performers. We have achieved 580. We will achieve the Mayor's target of 750 and we will be pushing for over a 1,000.

In relation to the 'Skills Made Easy' contract, there is a lot of activity taking place. We were only allocated with a portion of the budget, so we only ended up with funding for 2 Advisors, but were subsequently told that we needed 6. We have shown we can do it. It is a numbers game. Once we get 6, we will do more and smash the target."

Q. Councillor Alan Smith asked Councillor Bob Johnson:-

"The Cabinet recently voted to adopt the Inward Incentive Pilot Scheme, which is welcomed by myself and colleagues. However, the Job Creation Grant has a qualifying threshold of £3,000 which would require an employer to take on a minimum of 6 full time staff. This will help many SME's (Small Medium Enterprises), especially the smaller ones, who rarely recruit more than one or two people in any one intake. What further initiatives are you considering to create jobs within SMEs?"

A. Councillor Bob Johnson gave the following response:-

"Regarding the Inward Incentive, I believe that it is a good scheme, but it is a pilot scheme. It is early days. In terms of the £3,000 limit, we are looking at this. With regard to the Skills Made Easy contracts, the employer can get £1,500, so there is a way in helping smaller businesses through the Skills Made Easy programme."

Q. Councillor Dave Shaw asked Councillor Bob Johnson:-

"Could you provide an update on the situation regarding St. James Pool. Are there any plans to re-open the pool?"

A. Councillor Bob Johnson gave the following response:-

“No, there are no plans to re-open St. James as a swimming pool. The Council requires in excess of £2m to make it safe. It will cost over £100,000 to run. We are looking at various options of how we can re-use this building, but the Council does not intend to re-open this as a swimming pool.”

G. Questions to Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

In the absence of Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Knight should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after this meeting and that the Cabinet Member would respond accordingly.

H. Questions to Councillor Christine Mills, Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Waste

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked Councillor Christine Mills:-

“Regarding St. Leger Homes, £8m was saved by the last administration on the St. Leger Homes Management Fee. In the last 18 months, I have seen no such savings. They are in a position to award a surprised tenant £9.00 per week to subsidise his social habit. The gentlemen in question, says that he has no problem. We have a weekly newspaper, one page, reporting this incident. A double page by our Director of Public Health reporting how Doncaster is attempting to resolve addictions. Do you despair at these actions and how can we avoid this embarrassing situation happening again?”

A. Councillor Christine Mills gave the following response:-

“Yes, I did see the report in the press and have asked Officers to do a briefing note on this. A lot of this information is personal information, which I can't share with you this afternoon. But, I will assure you Councillor Ransome that the proper procedures are in place.”

I. Questions to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

No questions were put to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

J. Questions to Councillor John Mounsey, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Q. Councillor Alan Smith asked Councillor John Mounsey:-

“The Local Government Act 2000, brought about the ‘Concept of Overview and Scrutiny’, which stated ‘Where there is a Majority Group, Local Authorities might consider it appropriate to have all or some Committees Chaired by Members outside the Majority Group’, which was an excellent step forward. What is the DMBC ruling on this?”

A. Councillor John Mounsey gave the following response:-

“Thank you for your question. You have made a valid point. All my time as being Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, I have asked for and have got opposition Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, but this year we have looked at protocols and Scrutiny is not politically proportionate. But what I can say is that all groups do work together. However, some Members who are not here today are not attending Overview and Scrutiny meetings. The role of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account. There is nothing at the moment to suggest that things will change. It is up to other political parties to say who they want as Chairs or Vice-Chairs. Overall, Overview and Scrutiny will hold the Executive to account and we will make improvements.”

#### 68. MINUTES OF THE JOINT AUTHORITIES

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

- A. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 11th and 18th September, and 29th October, 2014.
- B. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 8th September, 2014, and Section 41 Briefing Notes for October and November, 2014.
- C. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 2nd October, 2014.