

To all Members of the

COUNCIL

AGENDA

Notice is given that a Meeting of the Council is to be held
as follows:

VENUE: Council Chamber, Floor 2, Civic Office, Doncaster
DATE: Thursday, 27th November, 2014
TIME: 2.00 p.m.

(Please note the commencement time of the meeting)

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

ITEMS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest, if any.
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th September, 2014 (Pages A.1 - A.27).
5. To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.

Issued on 19th November, 2014

Senior Governance Officer
for this meeting

David M. Taylor
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A. Items where the Public and Press may not be excluded.

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6. Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13:-

- (a) Question from Mr T. Knowles, 7a Amersall Crescent, Scawthorpe, Doncaster, DN5 9HS, 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 relocating the local studies section to the Mansion House benefit the public?”

- (b) Question from Mrs J. Brown, 23 Howden Close, Bessacarr, Doncaster, 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?”

- (c) Question from Mrs P. Collins on behalf of Caregate Action Group, 17 Rectory Mews, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7LG, 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?”

- (d) Question from Mr D. Morgan, 18 Stone Cross Drive, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 7QH, 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?”

For Decision

7. Mayor's Draft Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2016/17. 1 - 58
8. Report of the Remuneration Panel on a Review of aspects of the Members' Allowances Scheme In Doncaster MBC. 59 - 66
9. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014. 67 - 98
10. Local Government and Housing Act 1989 – 6 Month Review of the Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees. 99 - 108
11. Approval of Councillor Absence. 109 - 112
12. Appointment to an Outside Body: Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board. 113 - 116
13. 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:-

“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.”

14. 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:-

“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.”

15. To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Neil Gethin and Seconded by Councillor Rachel Hodson, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1:-

“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.”

16. 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:-

“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.”

17. Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3:-

(i) Questions on Notice to the Executive:-

None received for this meeting.

(ii) Questions without Notice to the Executive and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Councillor John Mounsey.

For Information

18. To receive the Minutes of the following Joint Authorities:-

- 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.