

**DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2015**

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2015, at 2.00 pm.

**PRESENT:**

Vice-Chair - Councillor David Nevett  
Mayor – Ros Jones  
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Elsie Butler, Phil Cole, Tony Corden, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, George Derx, Susan Durant, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, Pat Haith, James Hart, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Sandra Holland, Mark Houlbrook, Eva Hughes, Alan Jones, Glyn Jones, Richard A Jones, Ros Jones, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John McHale, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Tony Revill, Kevin Rodgers, Craig Sahman, Dave Shaw, Alan Smith, Clive Stone, Austen White and Sue Wilkinson.

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair of Council, Councillor Paul Wray, Bev Chapman, John Cooke, Jessie Credland, Kenneth Keegan, Ted Kitchen, Pat Knight, Jane Nightingale and Jonathan Wood.

49 **Declarations of Interest, if any.**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

50 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th September, 2015.**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th September, 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the correction of Councillor Cynthia Ransome's name on page A. 21.

51 **To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.**

The Vice-Chair of Council, Councillor David Nevett, made the following Announcements:-

"Before we commence formal proceedings, I would first like to offer, on behalf of Doncaster Council, our congratulations to Doncaster Belles who have won promotion to Women's Super League 1.

A fantastic achievement; very well deserved and puts The Belles back into the top tier of Women's football where they belong. Well done to all involved and we will be watching their progress in the 2016/17 season with great interest.

I would also like to acknowledge the latest achievements of Ben Parkinson. Ben was recently featured on the BBC programme 'Wilderness Warrior', which followed him during his latest challenge as he paddled 250 miles down the Yukon River in North America.

This would be a daunting trip for anyone, but as ever, Ben's drive and determination to succeed meant that he successfully completed this latest venture. He continues to be an inspiration to us all."

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

"We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the wicked and inhuman terrorist attacks that took place in Paris earlier this month.

I am sure every Member in this Chamber will join me in condemning these barbaric actions and offering our condolences to everyone who has been affected by the attacks, particularly those who have lost loved ones.

These terrorists cannot win. Their attacks do no service to Islam and the perpetrators do not represent the majority of Muslims.

On behalf of the Council, I added my name to a letter from Council Leaders across the UK to the Mayor of Paris, offering our sympathy.

In Doncaster, the Corn Exchange was lit in the colours of the French flag.

The flag in the Civic Square was flown at half-mast and many hundreds of people across the Borough held a moment of silence in respect for all those who were sadly killed or injured.

We must of course all remain vigilant.

However, we will not allow these terrorists to change our way of life and we will stand in solidarity with the people of Paris, Brussels and across the world, to protect the Human Rights and freedoms that we value so much.

Councillors will be aware of the progress made in agreeing a draft Devolution Deal for the Sheffield City Region.

This includes:-

- A new National Institute for Infrastructure, built here in Doncaster;
- A share of £900m over the next 30 years to deliver important projects to create jobs, build houses and grow the economy. We will seek to deliver:-
  - A new Airport Railway Station and new road infrastructure in the North of the Borough; and

- Town Centre improvements and development at areas such as Waterfront and Marshgate
- Power to improve bus services and create an integrated transport system across the region; and
- The ability to make improvements in skills provision, so that local people can access the jobs and opportunities that are being created across the Borough.

Details of the proposal have been shared with Councillors and we will now be engaging with local businesses and members of the public.

We were clear that the deal also needed to be considered in line with the Comprehensive Spending Review and we will be analysing the Chancellors announcements yesterday.

The proposal will be brought back to Council for consideration in the New Year.

I am also delighted to announce that Doncaster Council was recently awarded a Silver Award at the Employer Recognition Scheme Awards 2015.

This was in relation to our successful work with Veterans.

This is a great success. I am sure Members will join with me in thanking and congratulating everyone involved in our work to support people who have dedicated themselves to the security of our country.”

Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services, made the following announcement:-

“I would like to inform Council of the 3 Awards that we have been nominated for in areas in Trading Services under the APSE Performance Awards; the Association of Public Service Excellence. We have been nominated for best performing Cleaning Services, best performing and most improved Schools Catering and for best performing in Bereavement Services. I think it is credit to our employees who work in those areas that we recognise this today, of what a wonderful job they are doing in those areas. The awards will be decided sometime next weekend and hopefully we will come out on top.

I would also like to inform you that St Leger Homes has also been recognised in that Ryan O’Sullivan who has been awarded; its already been decided, the apprentice of the year. This is the second consecutive time Ryan won this award and he is the first person who has ever done it in consecutive years. The award is for his skills in housing construction and mechanical and electrical skills. So I think it is only right that this Council recognises the efforts of the people involved in this journey.”

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation, made the following announcement:-

“I have two very short statements; one about the rolling out of Smart Lighting. There is a presentation immediately outside this Chamber. People will be able to ascertain where they fit into that programme. It is scheduled to change 33,000 lanterns in the

course of the next 18 months. The information is outside the Chamber as I said.

Regarding my second announcement, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is currently undertaking consultation about proposed changes to bus routes and it would be helpful if Elected Members stimulated as big a response as possible to that consultation.”

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture, made the following announcement:-

“I would like to take the opportunity to update Council about progress on the FARRRS link road and developments at the Airport. As Members will be aware, construction of the link road is now nearing completion and the road, which is due to open early in 2016, is already delivering economic benefits for Doncaster.

I am pleased to report that Flybe has announced it will soon be starting flights to eight new European destinations, including international hubs in Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam. It is expected that this will help to increase the number of airport passengers by almost half a million next year.

The link road will not only reduce travel time for passengers and make the airport much more accessible, but it is also bringing new jobs to Doncaster.

I’m therefore also pleased to be able to report to colleagues that the first steel work has gone up at the £400 million iPort logistics hub, which is accessed from the link road. The development will include 6 million square feet of warehouse space and its own rail freight terminal.

Overall, the link road is helping to bring hundreds of new homes and jobs to Doncaster. It is testament to the benefits that Doncaster Council can deliver for local people, working in partnership with the private sector.

I am sure Members will join me in welcoming these new developments and we look forward to seeing the road open in the New Year, and more jobs being created in Doncaster.”

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

“Very briefly Chair, Members will be aware that the Tour de Yorkshire Bike Race has selected Doncaster as being a host venue for the four day Tour de Yorkshire event over the May Bank Holiday next year. We don’t know whether we are a start or a finish. We have had the French organisers; the same organisers who organised ‘Le Grand Depart’, in the Borough over the last couple of days. So just to let Members know that the announcement as to what part exactly Doncaster will be playing will be announced on the 9th December, 2015. I have had a couple of enquiries from individual Members; so we will find out on the 9th and we will make sure you know in the New Year, whatever our position is in terms of understanding that route and how that would work. The Tour de Yorkshire will want to make sure that we have a whole programme of community engagement; encouraging lots of different volunteers and people who understand what will be happening. So we will tell you on the 9th what we know and you will expect to hear a lot more in the New Year about our role in that. Thank you.”

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

A. Question from Mr. T. Brown, 4 West Grove, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster, DN2 5NB to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Dear Mayor Jones,

Given the range of options at your disposal to implement cuts, why did you choose cuts for the most vulnerable first including:-

- Care homes for the elderly;
- People and children with learning disabilities;
- Reducing DMBC's Workforce to less than 1% Black/Asian;

And, do you agree that a Council with a moral compass would've provided vulnerable groups with respite from the cuts, by firstly addressing the 'rewards for failure culture' (referenced by recent inspections) and the 'fat cat salaries' within DMBC especially as you've just approved the recruitment of another £85,000+ Policy and Performance Officer when DMBC's budget and functions have shrunk?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr. Brown.

I know that you are an active citizen in Doncaster and I welcome your question today.

However, I do not accept the statement you have made and I am afraid that most of your points are incorrect.

May I first take this opportunity to clarify the Council's financial situation. Doncaster Council delivers local public services using a number of different funding streams, primarily Government grants, Council Tax, Business Rates, Fees and Charges, and Investments.

Up until the Conservatives came to power in 2010, by far the largest element of the Council budget was Government grants, particularly the Revenue Support Grant. This grant is allocated to Councils based on the level of need; it is generally higher in Northern, deprived areas and inner Cities. But the Tory Government has chosen to make deep, ideological and damaging cuts to it.

In 2010 the Council's total Government grant was £270 million every year. By May 2015, it had been cut to £148 million per year. And following the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review yesterday, we expect that by 2020, these grants will be just £85 million per year. That is a cut of £185 million over ten years.

But £185 million is not the real level of Conservative cuts to the people of Doncaster. At the same time, prices have gone up and so does the cost of delivering services. That means the real gap between our reduction in grant funding and the cost of delivering services is actually estimated to be £285 million.

Put simply, the Conservatives know that they are cutting funding disproportionately from people and areas like Doncaster, that are most in need. That isn't a coincidence. It is a choice made by the Chancellor. As people are now realising, we are most certainly not 'all in it together' under Conservative rule.

So far, Doncaster has managed the cuts in the way that does least damage to front line services. That is what local people would expect.

In truth, there were efficiencies to be achieved. Before I became Mayor, the Council was placed in Government Intervention and struggled to put itself back on track. Some services were poor and many were not as efficiently run as they should have been. However, a great deal of work has been done to address this and we have led the Council out of intervention early.

Savings have been and are being made:-

- in back office functions;
- in senior management costs;
- in Councillor costs;
- by making services more efficient;
- by disposing of assets;
- by investing to save through projects such as our Borough wide LED Streetlight Programme; and
- by working with local communities to maintain services whilst reducing costs, such as through our community run libraries.

Your assertion that we have chosen 'cuts for the most vulnerable first' is therefore simply untrue. The truth is that these options are coming to an end, but the Tory cuts continue.

Dealing with your specific points:-

There is no 'rewards for failure culture' at Doncaster Council.

This Council is not the same organisation it was when it was placed in Government Intervention. Very significant improvements have been made. That has happened under the current leadership and through the hard work of staff at all levels.

You have chosen to refer to fat cat salaries. Whilst that may be a catchy sound-bite, it does not reflect the reality of the work being done by this Council to increase efficiencies at all levels.

The Council has actually reduced the number of senior management posts by 33% since 2011. The senior management salary bill has been reduced by more than £2.6 million.

You have chosen to focus on the post of Assistant Director of Policy, Performance & Review. This Council has not always been good at policy making, despite the vital nature of this work. It is essential that we have good quality data and information, manage performance effectively and work well in partnership with other public services and the community. It is appropriate that such an essential team is led at the right level by a dedicated Assistant Director.

What your point does not recognise is that the redesign of this team will actually achieve total savings of £923,000; another real example of efficiencies being delivered.

You claim that the Council has cut its Black and Asian workforce to less than 1% of the DMBC workforce. In fact, I understand that 1.74% of Council staff identify themselves as being Black or Asian. This number is not reducing. Between 2011 and 2015, the figures have shown a very small increase, despite the fact that the Council workforce as a whole, has reduced. 2.24% of DMBC staff identify themselves as being from the BME community. This figure could be higher, but it is also important to remember that staff numbers within the Council are reducing and staff at risk of redundancy, have a right to redeployment opportunities.

I completely refute any inference that the Council is setting out to reduce the number of BME employees within the Council. This is categorically not the case.

In respect of social care, the Council did not choose to cut Care Homes for the elderly. Following a consultation process, the seven Care Homes formerly run by the Council, were transferred to a new provider on 1st September. The new provider, Runwood Homes, is planning to invest millions in its care facilities in Doncaster; whilst residents, families and staff are providing really positive feedback regarding the ongoing care and support their loved ones receive.

The homes remain open, they will be physically improved and the transfer will save the taxpayer almost £2 million per year. Notwithstanding that, we must also address some vital social care issues. People should be able to remain independent and continue to live in their own homes as long as possible, with support where necessary.

At the moment, too many people go into residential care in Doncaster when better alternatives could be available. Our superb new Extra Care Housing Scheme at Edlington is a great example of new, modern facilities that are helping people to live in their own home for longer.

The growth in Extra Care schemes is a major drive in the modernisation agenda, building on the current schemes located within Doncaster with new schemes planned in Thorne, Askern and Rossington.

People also aspire to have their care needs met in a way that allows them to take part in normal daily activities, as part of the community. They want greater independence with increased control over how they live their lives. The need to deliver increased levels of personalisation, including for people with learning disabilities, is exactly why the Council must transform and modernise adult social care services.

Under my leadership, we are getting into the real issues. We will ensure that services for the elderly and vulnerable improve, and are fit for the future.

However, again I must be clear. The disproportionate Conservative Government cuts are hitting social care in the poorest areas hardest.

According to research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, between 2010 and 2015, social care spending fell by £65 per head in the most deprived communities, but amazingly has actually risen by £28 per head in the least deprived, most affluent areas.

To conclude, the reality is that Doncaster Council and Local Government in the UK, is facing the steepest and harshest budget cuts in generations. These Tory cuts have been targeted disproportionately at the most deprived areas and those most in need.

In Doncaster, we are dealing with them sensibly and effectively. We have protected people wherever possible, but we cannot hide the reality of the Government's austerity measures. In the coming years, they will impact front line services and they will change the face of the Council.

My Cabinet colleagues and I remain committed to protecting services to our most vulnerable citizens. But we cannot make more money magically appear. We must live within the resources we have.

We will therefore continue to take difficult decisions designed to protect the needy and drive the local economy forward to create jobs and growth.

We will continue to modernise our services so that we can provide the finest services possible within our budget constraints.

And we will work hard to deliver the best possible outcomes for people in Doncaster.

Thank you for your question Mr. Brown."

53 Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - Licensing Act 2003

The Council considered a report, presented by Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment, which requested Elected Members to consider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 (Licensing Act 2003) following its quinquennial review.



It was reported that Doncaster Council as the Licensing Authority, was required under the 2003 Act to produce a Statement of Policy and review the Policy every 5 years. Following statutory consultation, the Policy was required to be approved by the Council. The Policy was a statement of principles that set out how the Licensing Authority would make decisions on opposed applications. The 4 licensing objectives which were the basis of all licensing decisions were:-

- i. Prevention of crime and disorder;
- ii. Public safety;
- iii. Prevention of public nuisance; and
- iv. Protection of children from harm.

It was noted that the re-issued guidance under Section 182 of the Act, had been compared with the Council's existing policy statement and amendments had been made to reflect the new statutory guidance and other changes. The changes had now been incorporated into the draft policy statement to create a policy document that was functional and manageable by taking the opportunity to remove non-policy information and guidance. It was also intended to create a separate 'Local Licensing Guidance' document to supplement this Policy, which would contain practical guidance for licence holders and assist local residents or other interested people, who may make a representation against an application.

Members attention was drawn to the key changes which had been made to the Policy; all of which were necessitated by legislative changes that had come about since the commencement of the previous Policy (January 2011).

It was also reported that the consultation had resulted in requests to retain and extend the existing area (Area 1 - Doncaster Town Centre) along with proposals to add 2 additional areas, namely part of Wheatley and Bawtry; the details of which were as follows:-

- the continuation of the existing Cumulative Impact Zone in Doncaster Town Centre (Bradford Row, Hall Gate, High Street, Priory Walk and Silver Street), with the inclusion of additional areas of Market Place and Cleveland Street, and that the policy should apply to all licensed premises;
- the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone for all licensed premises in a specified area of the Town Ward to include Nether Hall Road, Copley Road, Christ Church Road, Broxholme Lane and Highfield Road; and
- the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone in Bawtry for all licensed premises in the areas of Market Place, High Street, Swan Street, Church Street, Scot Lane, Wharf Street and Grasswood Lane/Dower House Square, with the intention to review the adoption of this in 2 years' time.

A copy of the Cabinet's Decision Record from its meeting on 3rd November, 2015, had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the Policy and after consideration of the responses received during the consultation, and the resolutions by the Licensing Committee and Cabinet meetings held on 15th October, 2015 and 3rd November, 2015 respectively, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) the reviewed Statement of Policy 2016 (Licensing Act 2003) be approved and that the Policy be adopted with the inclusion of the following points:-
  - i. Agree to the continuation of the existing Cumulative Impact Zone in Doncaster Town Centre (Bradford Row, Hall Gate, High Street, Priory Walk and Silver Street), with the inclusion of additional areas of Market Place and Cleveland Street, and that the policy should apply to all licensed premises;
  - ii. Agree to the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone for all licensed premises in a specified area of the Town Ward to include Nether Hall Road, Copley Road, Christ Church Road, Broxholme Lane and Highfield Road; and
  - iii. Agree to the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone in Bawtry for all licensed premises in the areas of Market Place, High Street, Swan Street, Church Street, Scot Lane, Wharf Street and Grasswood Lane/Dower House Square, with the intention to review the adoption of this in 2 years' time.
- (2) it be noted that references to 'all licensed premises' refers to premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, and the provision of late night refreshment.

54 Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - Gambling Act 2005.

The Council considered a report, presented by Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment, which requested Elected Members to consider the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 (Gambling Act 2005) following its triennial review.

It was reported that Doncaster Council as the Licensing Authority, was required under the 2005 Act to produce a Statement of Policy and review the Policy every 3 years. Following statutory consultation, the Policy was required to be approved by the Council. Once approved, the policy must be advertised/publicised as prescribed, 4 weeks before it came into effect.

It was noted that the Policy was a statement of principles that set out how the Licensing Authority would make decisions on opposed applications. The 3 licensing objectives which were the basis of all licensing decisions were:-

- i. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
- ii. Ensuring that gambling was conducted in a fair and open way; and
- iii. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Members were informed that there was a basic requirement in the Act that Licensing Authorities should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling. Furthermore, the Act did not allow the Licensing Authority to consider the demand for Gambling and as such, was unable to limit the number and location of the premises other than within the scope of the 3 licensing objectives.

Members attention was drawn to the fact that whilst the Policy had been reviewed and revised where required, due to the constraints referred to within the report, the Policy in principle, was largely unchanged from the existing version. In producing the statement, consideration had been given to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the Guidance to Licensing Authorities and the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) issued by the Gambling Commission. Amendments had been made to the existing Policy to reflect new guidance and other administrative changes; the most significant change being the inclusion of the facility to develop a 'Local Area Profile' where operators were expected to have regard to when preparing risk assessments on their premises and when they made new licence applications.

A copy of the Cabinet's Decision Record from its meeting on 3rd November, 2015, had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the Policy and after consideration of the responses received during the consultation and the resolutions by the Licensing Committee and Cabinet meetings held on 15th October, 2015 and 3rd November, 2015 respectively, it was

RESOLVED that the reviewed Statement of Policy (Gambling Act 2005) be adopted to take effect from 31st January, 2016.

## 55 Revisions to the Council's Constitution

The Council considered a report presented by Councillor Phil Cole, the Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee, which outlined proposed revisions to the Council's Constitution in relation to the Council Procedure Rules (Section 1, Part 4 of the Constitution) and the Executive Procedure Rules (Section 4, Part 4 of the Constitution) which were considered at the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee (EDSC), meeting held on 24th November, 2015, together with a request made at the Council meeting in September 2015, that members of the public should be permitted to submit Motions at Council meetings.

Members were provided with a summary of the proposals as follows:-

- In relation to Council Procedure Rules 13.7 and 15.6, it was proposed that questions on notice be read out at Council meetings, instead of being 'taken as read'. This was in light of the decision to publish webcasts of Full Council meetings on the Council's website with effect from today's meeting, and was aimed at assisting those viewing the recordings to follow the proceedings. The EDSC supported this proposal.
- For the reasons outlined within paragraph 7 of the report, a number of proposed changes to the current public speaking arrangements at Cabinet meetings, as detailed within the Executive Procedure Rules, had been considered by the EDSC. These were aimed at ensuring that arrangements at Cabinet meetings were consistent with other processes currently used by the Council and should ensure the public received a more meaningful response to their questions. The EDSC supported this proposal.

In reference to the Mayor of Doncaster's referral of Mr. D. Wright's request that members of the public should be allowed to submit Motions to Full Council meetings in future, which arose from his question to the Mayor at the Council Meeting held on 24th September 2015, the EDSC unanimously agreed that it would not be appropriate to allow members of the public to submit Motions at Council Meetings and therefore, recommended that the submission of Council Motions was a function that should remain the responsibility of elected representatives. This was on the grounds that there were already numerous ways in which the public could raise issues in a public forum, which included Public 'Question Time' at Council and Cabinet meetings, engaging with the Mayor either by arranging one to one meetings or at the monthly 'Meet the Mayor' events, by email or in writing, making representations to Overview and Scrutiny, using the existing provisions in the Constitution to submit petitions or deputations to the Council and asking Local Ward Members or any Councillor to consider putting forward a Motion to Full Council.

It was also noted that research undertaken by Officers had found no evidence of Motions by the public being permitted by any other Local Authority. It was generally accepted that the submission of Motions fell solely within the gift of Elected Members as this enabled Council to regulate its own business to ensure that decision making was undertaken by Councillors representing the wider population or a specific Ward or area in the Borough, and not by individual members of the public. A Motion was an important part of the formal machinery for decision-making as voting. Therefore, on the assumption that only duly elected or co-opted Members should take part in decision-making, it would be a highly unusual step to allow persons who were not duly elected or co-opted, to be involved to this extent in the formal decision making process.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Council Procedure Rules 13.7 and 15.6 be revised, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report, to allow questions on notice to be read out at Council meetings;

- (2) Executive Procedure Rules, as set out in Section 4, Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, be amended by the addition of the following new Rules, which are detailed in Appendix A to the report:-
- Request questions/statements on notice, e.g. no later than 5.00 p.m. of the third working day before the day of the meeting (e.g. with Cabinet currently meeting on Tuesdays, the Cabinet agenda is published no later than 17.00 on Monday and questions must be received no later than 17.00 on Thursday);
  - Questions/statements should relate specifically to an item of business on the Cabinet agenda and be limited to a maximum of 100 words; and
  - One supplementary question without notice will be allowed, at the Chair's discretion, provided that this arises directly out of the original question/statement or reply, and this will be put and answered without discussion.
- (3) Motions by members of the public will not be permitted at Full Council meetings as the submission of Council Motions is a function that should remain the responsibility of elected representatives.

56 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Rachel Hodson and Seconded by Councillor Rachael Blake, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 16.2 and 18.9, Councillor Rachel Hodson withdrew her Motion on Notice.

57 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Jane Nightingale and Seconded by Councillor Pat Haith, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, written notice had been received prior to the commencement of the meeting, authorising the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, to Move the Motion in the absence of Councillor Jane Nightingale.

“Earlier this year, the Conservative Government announced that a compulsory Pay to Stay scheme would be introduced in England, forcing many low income social housing tenants to pay more rent for their homes and increasing the cost of living for thousands of families.

As well as making the current voluntary Pay to Stay scheme mandatory, the Government is setting new, lower, income thresholds, so that more tenants are forced to pay higher rent. Families in social housing in Doncaster with two people earning just £15,000 each, will see their household bills go up.

Housing Association landlords will be allowed to retain any additional income raised through the scheme to reinvest in housing stock. However, all additional income raised by Local Authorities through increased rents will be taken by the Exchequer 'to contribute to deficit reduction'.

This Council believes it is wrong for the Chancellor to introduce a 'Pay to Stay Tax' on hard working, low income families, in order to pay off the national debt created by wealthy bankers and financial institutions.

The Government should not be forcing this additional cost on to people with low incomes who rent properties, to pay for the global crisis created by people who helped to push up house prices faster than wages.

This Council therefore calls on the Chancellor to reverse his plans to introduce a 'Pay to Stay Tax' on Local Authority tenants, and withdraw Government policies, including Right to Buy, that will reduce the level of social housing in England."

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

During the Deputy Mayor's Right of Reply, Councillor Glyn Jones wished it to be placed on record that he did not have the statistics referred to by Councillor James Hart, but upon their publication by Central Government, the Deputy Mayor assured Members that they would receive a written response from the relevant Portfolio Holder.

A vote was taken on the Motion proposed by Councillor Jane Nightingale and Moved by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, which was declared as follows:-

For - 40

Against - 5

Abstentions - 0

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

RESOLVED that earlier this year, the Conservative Government announced that a compulsory Pay to Stay scheme would be introduced in England, forcing many low income social housing tenants to pay more rent for their homes and increasing the cost of living for thousands of families.

As well as making the current voluntary Pay to Stay scheme mandatory, the Government is setting new, lower, income thresholds, so that more tenants are forced to pay higher rent. Families in social housing in Doncaster with two people earning just £15,000 each, will see their household bills go up.

Housing Association landlords will be allowed to retain any additional income raised through the scheme to reinvest in housing stock. However, all additional income raised by Local Authorities through increased rents will be taken by the Exchequer 'to contribute to deficit reduction'.

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The Government should not be forcing this additional cost on to people with low incomes who rent properties, to pay for the global crisis created by people who helped to push up house prices faster than wages.

This Council therefore calls on the Chancellor to reverse his plans to introduce a 'Pay to Stay Tax' on Local Authority tenants, and withdraw Government policies, including Right to Buy, that will reduce the level of social housing in England.

58 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 Kevin Rogers asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"I was pleased that the Government confirmed its support for our National College for High Speed Rail in the Spending Review. However, the overall picture is not positive for places like Doncaster and the North.

As always with this sort of parliamentary set piece, the full story will become apparent in the coming weeks as the devil is in the detail.

At the moment, the estimates for the additional cuts Doncaster Council can expect to face remain the same. It makes for pretty grim reading.

In 2010, Doncaster Council's total Government grant was £270 million every year. By May 2015, it had been cut to £148 million per year and we expect that by 2020, these grants will be just £85 million per year.

That is a total of £185 million over ten years, but as everyone in this Chamber knows, it is not the real level of cuts. At the same time, prices have gone up and so does the cost of delivering services.

That means that the real gap between our reduction in grant funding and the cost of delivering services is actually more like £285 million. We are only about half way through these cuts.

Put simply, the Conservatives know that they are cutting funding disproportionately from people, and areas like Doncaster, that are most in need. That isn't a coincidence. It is a choice.

So far, Doncaster has managed the cuts in the way that does least damage to front line services. We've been trying to dull the pain, but it will likely be keenly felt soon.

The Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter, has warned that further Local Government funding cuts will make it impossible for Councils to limit the impact on core services.

He is right, but unfortunately this Tory Government is not listening.

Do you agree with me that:-

- It is great news that the National College for High Speed Rail is included in the Spending Review;
- But that the level and severity of cuts to Local Government announced in the Spending Review, will make for grim reading for communities across our Borough?"

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

"Firstly, I was delighted that the Government confirmed its support for the National College and I really must thank our Members of Parliament and all our other colleagues within South Yorkshire and beyond, for their support for our bid and seeking to get this. More so, I must thank Caroline Flint for actually raising this in the House of Parliament which I firmly believe gives support and shows what Doncaster really needs.

As far as the rest of the Comprehensive Spending Review is concerned, I agree, it is indeed grim reading and its going to be harder and harder for us to deliver any of the major things we have been doing in Doncaster, but we will actually ensure that as we present balanced budgets, they will be fairly presented. We will go forward to get our share of the pots with Devolution, if it is approved, so that we continue to grow, because that's what a good Council does.



We as a Labour Council, have actually borne these cuts and presented things that we have all found difficult, but we have done that in order to make sure that we bring about jobs and growth and improved apprenticeships. So, I actually concur with what the LGA Conservative Leader said, some Councils eventually will be falling over. What we have got to ensure is we are not that first one. We have got to ensure that we work together to bring jobs, growth and prosperity to our Borough.”

Q. Councillor Rachael Blake asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“My question refers to the fantastic developments that are happening in the Ward I represent; Rossington, Bawtry and Austerfield. Councillor Mordue did refer to them in terms of the Inland Port and FARRRS Link Road. I think that there are other developments that we can highlight in terms of the PGA European Tour that will be coming to Rossington which will not put just Rossington and Doncaster on the map nationally, but internationally which is good.

Obviously as a Councillor, our role is to ensure that residents benefit from these developments, and the Inland Port Councillor Mordue referred to, has with it a fantastic 106 Agreement which will mean that within the village of Rossington, a training academy (an I-Port Academy) will be developed which will enable local people to get the right skills and training opportunities so when the Inland Port opens, our people are ready and skilled to take on these roles.

There has been some concern Mayor Jones within the village in that the development; the 106 Agreement, was supposed to see something happening this year, therefore could you provide us with the reassurance that the 106 Agreement will still be implemented within the timescales that the residents are expecting?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“As you are aware, we need to wait for Section 106 monies to come in and I am pleased to announce that we have the first tranche of £200,000 in order to deliver the additional training required for the people. I have been informed that the I-Port Academy should be up and running by the end of January or early February next year and the employment coordinator in place. This is good news for the people of Rossington and surrounding areas because I believe the I-Port will grow jobs and actually bring about all the housing and everything else we need in that part of the Borough, so I am delighted to see the first tranche of money coming in. This is again about jobs, growth and housing so we are doing our bit in order to improve the prosperity of this Borough.”

Q. Councillor Neil Gethin asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Mayor Jones, will you join me in welcoming the setting up of a historical group in Doncaster called ‘The Levellers’. As you may be aware, Thomas Rainsborough was one of the main activists amongst the original Levellers who was unfortunately murdered in Doncaster. Before I ask my question, if I may, I would like to make a quote as to the reason why I have brought it to Council. Please excuse me as it is in old English:-

‘For really I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest he, and therefore truly Sir, I think it is clear that every man that is to live under a Government ought first by his own consent to put himself under that Government; and I do think that the poorest man in England is not bound in a strict sense to that Government that he hath not had a voice to put himself under.’

Hence the starting of his preference for one man, one vote.

In fact, some credit him as starting democracy as we have it today. Therefore, will you agree that a plaque may be placed in Doncaster Town Centre, commemorating Thomas Rainsborough and his link to Doncaster?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“I am not aware of Thomas Rainsborough; I hold my hand up, or of the Historical Society or The Levellers. However, I am happy to support people actually going into the History Societies and also if you comply with all the requirements that need to be done in whoever owns the property or whether planning is required. Of course we will support it because even if the person was murdered in Doncaster, it can be part of our Tourist Trail; let us show them the places. So I am delighted that it helps show Doncaster, but I would not want to see too many murder plaques being put up in Doncaster.”

Q. Councillor Chris McGuinness asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Given the Government continues to cut funding to Local Government as part of its acknowledged austerity programme, a definition of which is ‘when Governments reduce or eliminate services’. The fact that a week after announcing those cuts, which were further announced yesterday, it came to light that David Cameron has now written to his District Council complaining about cuts; is the Mayor surprised by this?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“I am surprised that David Cameron was very unaware of the cuts within the area he represents, given that we know the cuts are very harshly hitting the people of our Borough, so am I surprised that he is not aware; they are in the Parliamentary bubble and need to come to the Boroughs, like we have got, with unfair draconian cuts and see how they can face those.”

Q. Councillor Jane Cox asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Due to Doncaster having a long standing reputation as a Market Town, can I ask what we are doing to support the Market Stall holders who are here 52 weeks of the year?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“As you are aware, we have invested greatly in Doncaster Market. Over £1 million has been spent there and we will continue to do all we can to actually bring about greater growth of our market, but thank you for your question.”

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

“I am sure it’s a question of concern to all Members. In light of the heinous terror attack in Paris and elsewhere, what consultation has been undertaken by yourself, Cabinet Members or Officers with the Police and Security Services regarding safeguarding the residents of the Borough?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“The person who leads on all of this is our Chief Executive who is always in contact because the safety of our Borough is extremely important. There will be some things our Chief Executive can share with us all, and some others that she cannot. Therefore, I would suggest that I ask the Chief Executive to write to each Councillor to provide the information she is allowed to share. Thank you for your question.”

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

“Mayor, in view of the recent announcement about a reduction in the Police cuts, would you be able to arrange for Dr. Billings to give Members an update in the near future, on how he sees it affecting Doncaster?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“I think there has been some announcements that state the Government will maintain the cash sums going to the Police. However, I know that there are problems for the Borough and for South Yorkshire and therefore, I am quite happy to get Dr. Billings to come along and address Members after a Council Meeting, to update them when he has actually been able to undertake an assessment of what the Comprehensive Spending Review means. He needs time to look what the figures mean to South Yorkshire Police.”

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

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

C. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation

No questions were put to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation.

D. Questions to Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services

Q. Councillor James Hart asked Councillor Tony Corden:-

“Thank you for the information at the beginning during ‘Announcements’ regarding the Public Service Awards through APSE. I am a great believer in putting ourselves forward for Awards, but given that APSE is a membership organisation, could I ask you to provide us with information about APSE so we know how much these Awards are costing us?”

A. Councillor Tony Corden gave the following response:-

“I don’t have that information with me at this time, but I’m happy to write to you to give you that information.”

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

No questions were put to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

F. Questions to Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

In the absence of Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, the Vice-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.

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

Q. Councillor R. Allan Jones asked Councillor Chris McGuinness:-

“I have a leaflet in my hand about bin collections so I hope I am directing my question to the right person. So I presume that it has been sent to every household in the Borough which is a good thing so people know when to put their bins out to be collected. Unfortunately in Sprotbrough Library yesterday, there was a stall and four people from the Council; four Officers that were projecting what we should do, and at the time I was there, approximately two hours, I think there was one person out of that four that actually discussed those issues with the public. I believe that it is a staffing issue that somebody should have taken notice of.

We talk about saving money and doing the job right. Probably two people could have done that job, but four people were there from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. so please, just take note of that Councillor, because it should be sorted out?”

A. Councillor Chris McGuinness gave the following response:-

“I am happy to take that back and have a word with them to see what we are doing with staffing on other events.”

H. Questions to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture

No questions were put to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture.

I. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing

In the absence of Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing, the Vice-Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Nightingale should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after this meeting and that the Cabinet Member would respond accordingly.

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

No questions were put to Councillor John Mounsey, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

59 Approval of Councillor Absence

The Council considered a report which requested Elected Members to note the action taken by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority, in approving the request from Councillor Ted Kitchen for an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health until 22nd February, 2016.

It was reported that at its meeting on 27th November, 2014, Council granted the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to approve extended periods of absence for Members. Any request was to be submitted in writing to the Monitoring Officer prior to the expiration of the fifth month of absence, and if satisfied that the grounds for such a request was reasonable, such approvals are to be reported to the next available meeting of Council by the Monitoring Officer, for information.

Members noted that Councillor Ted Kitchen was unwell and had indicated that he was unlikely to be able to resume normal duties for some time and therefore, to avoid disqualification, the Monitoring Officer approved his absence for an extended period until the 22nd February, 2016.

RESOLVED that that in accordance Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the action taken under delegated authority by the Monitoring Officer, in approving an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health for Councillor Ted Kitchen until 22nd February, 2016, be noted.

60 To receive the Minutes of the following 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 September, 2015.
- B. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 14th September, 2015.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 21st September and 19th October, 2015 and Section 41 Briefing Notes for October and November, 2015.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 1st October, 2015.