

Public Document Pack

Would you please note that a Group Meeting will be held at 1.00 p.m. in the Civic Office

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, 24th November, 2016

TIME: 2.00 pm

**Jo Miller
Chief Executive**

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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Issued on: Wednesday, 16 November 2016

Senior Governance Officer
for this meeting:

David Taylor
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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 15th September, 2016. 1 - 18
5. To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.
6. Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13:-
None received for this meeting.

A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.

For Decision

7. Youth Justice Plan 2016/17. 19 - 62
8. Neighbourhood Planning - Adoption 'Making' of the Burghwallis and Tickhill Neighbourhood Plans. 63 - 160
9. Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - 6 Month Review of the Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees. 161 - 166
10. Council Appointments to Outside Bodies - Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee and South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. 167 - 170
11. To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Rachael Blake and Seconded by Councillor Pat Haith, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1:-

“Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our Borough.

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council notes that 79 pharmacies in the Borough offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care:-

- pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more. We already work closely with them.

- advice and support services are also available to care homes.
- local pharmacies are recognising and evidencing their role in improving the health of their local population.

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council is greatly concerned about Government imposed threats to pharmacies as a result of cuts in the budget of £170m nationally to take effect from 1st December 2016.

The actual amount of the cuts may be less now, but being taken over a shorter time period so percentage-wise will have a greater impact – equivalent to around £25k/annum per pharmacy, and also announced is a further 7% cut next financial year on top of this.

Service cuts in pharmacies put more residents at risk as well as putting pressure on GPs and on hospital services and therefore increasing NHS costs. A fully funded community pharmacy service is cost effective and is in the interest of patients and carers.

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.”

12. To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor John Mounsey and Seconded by Councillor Nigel Ball, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1:-

“This Council condemns the Home Secretary’s rejection on 31st October 2016 in Parliament of an Orgreave Inquiry as a grave injustice.

This Council is appalled by the decision not to hold an inquiry into the policing of picket lines at the Orgreave coking plant 18th June 1984 Miners’ Strike. With this ruling, the Home Secretary has shown great contempt for the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, many former miners, their families and communities who for more than 32 years have waited for the truth and who have displayed huge courage and tenacity in trying to hold the authorities to account. Fighting for those locally who worked at Askern, Barnburgh, Bentley, Brodsworth, Cadeby and Denaby, Hatfield, Markham Main, Rossington and Yorkshire Main.

This Council observes that even the Independent Police Complaints Commission said in their redacted report released June 2015 "that there was ‘evidence of excessive violence by police officers, a false narrative from police exaggerating violence by miners, perjury by officers giving evidence to prosecute the arrested men, and an apparent cover-up of that perjury by senior officers’.

This Council is astonished that in the light of such statements the Home Secretary concludes that there are few lessons to be learned by the current police forces from any review of these events, that no one died, there was no miscarriage of justice, no convictions and therefore there will be no inquiry.

This Council notes that 95 miners were arrested and charged with riot offences, including 3 miners from Brodsworth Colliery, but all were later acquitted amid claims that South Yorkshire Police had fabricated evidence. There were also widespread examples of pickets being beaten unconscious by police officers. That miners suffered such treatment simply for exercising their right to protest against the threat to their jobs, their industry and communities.

It is shameful that as yet, no-one has to answer for the events of that day. Monday 31st October has been a bad day for justice. We do however salute the decision of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign to continue with its fight for transparency and a full public inquiry and we will do everything we can to help them.

This Council will write to the Home Secretary asking that she takes into account the opinion of this Council, accepts that there is wide spread public concern about the events at Orgreave and calls on her to order an inquiry into them.”

13. To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Bill Mordue and Seconded by Councillor Linda Curran, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1:-

“Doncaster Council views with concern the injustice whereby the Treasury receives 50% of surpluses from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, accumulating over £8 billion to date. This is taken from people and communities least able to afford it, particularly across Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, a former coal mining area with many ex miners. The money taken is out of proportion to the risk covered, and calls for independent scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee to address this unfair arrangement.”
14. Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3:-
 - (a) From Councillor Clive Stone to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“For past 18 months, Rossington has been blighted by a huge increase in waste processing, and an increase in heavy good vehicles, with no regard to the community.

Despite having an alternative route, Vehicles are travelling through the heart of Rossington past 3 junior schools.

DMBC Planning are looking at granting retrospective planning permission for this lorry park which has been used since August of last year with NO planning permission at all !! to continue as a staging post for HGVs for another 18 months!

The site is NOT fit for purpose and the access is sited on a blind bend, dangerous for pedestrians and motorists.

Can we reassure residents that their concerns are being heard and we review and consider all of the objections seriously?"

- (b) From Councillor John Cooke to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Our fresh produce market are a jewel in the crown of Doncaster, yet many stall holders are unhappy with the rents, and charges applied by this Council and many are now considering their future, which is extremely worrying with so many businesses moving out of the town centre.

With the advent of Christmas would the council please consider these long standing stall holders and look at reducing their charges before they start voting with their feet, along with lifting parking charges on market days to encourage people to come in to the town and benefit from this fantastic award winning market of ours.

I am sure all councillors would support our local market and promote this most valuable of assets?"

For Information

15. To receive the Minutes of the following Joint Authorities:- 171 - 232
- A. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 9th June and 8th July, 2016.
 - B. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 12th September, 2016.
 - C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 19th September, 2016 and Section 41 Briefing Notes for September, October and November, 2016.
 - D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 6th October, 2016.

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Agenda Item 4

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held at the CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2016, at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor David Nevett
Vice-Chair - Councillor George Derx
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Elsie Butler, Bev Chapman, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Tony Corden, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Jessie Credland, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, Pat Haith, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Eva Hughes, Glyn Jones, Richard A Jones, Ros Jones, Majid Khan, Ted Kitchen, Pat Knight, Sue Knowles, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John McHale, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, Jane Nightingale, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Andrea Robinson, Kevin Rodgers, Craig Sahman, Dave Shaw, Alan Smith, Clive Stone, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood and Paul Wray.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, James Hart, Sandra Holland, Kenneth Keegan and Jane Kidd

30 Recent Death of Councillor Alan Jones, Ward Member for Norton and Askern

Prior to the commencement of formal business, Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and remembrance in relation to the death of Councillor Alan Jones, Ward Member for Norton and Askern on 16th August, who had passed away after a short illness.

Members noted that Councillor Jones had been an Askern Spa Ward Member from May 2011 to 2015, and more recently, a Ward Member for Norton and Askern. During his time as a Councillor, he had sat on the Planning Committee since his election in 2011, and had served on all four Overview and Scrutiny Panels as well as the Audit Committee, and additionally represented the Council on the Scrutiny Panel for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

31 Declarations of Interest, if any

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor Craig Sahman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation Agenda Item No. 10, as his property was in close proximity to the revised proposed route of the HS2 project.

32 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2016

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

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

“Brodsworth Hall and Gardens has won a Gold medal at the recent Britain in Bloom with the Royal Horticultural Society for the Yorkshire area at the York award ceremony. Brodsworth won in the Category 8E Country House, Estates, Parks and Gardens.

I would also like to offer our congratulations to Doncaster’s Jo Butterfield, who won the gold medal in the F51 Club throwing at the Rio Para Olympic Games with a world record throw of 22.81m. Well done Jo.

I would also like to announce that Doncaster Council has been selected for a Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. It demonstrated how Doncaster supports and advocates the employment of veterans. This is a huge honour as few authorities have received this accolade.”

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

“I would like to place on record my thanks and gratitude to people for their kind words and support over the recent difficult weeks.”

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Equalities made the following announcement:-

“Members will recall that we’ve previously agreed in this Chamber to a Sheffield City Region Devolution deal that would bring new powers to the Combined Authority, provided it was headed by an Elected Mayor. The deal would see an extra £30million per year for 30 years placed in the Combined Authority’s hands, for economic growth in the City Region as part of a wider Devolution deal, with new powers and funding totalling £1.3billion. This Chamber unanimously signed up to that proposal on the basis that Devolution did require an Elected Mayor and could not take place without one. Since that deal was signed, lots of things have happened, including the Brexit vote and a new Prime Minister with a new Government. There is significant uncertainty around Devolution and the position of the Elected Mayors, which has raged all over the summer.

I’ve represented the Council twice recently at the Combined Authority, as consultation has taken place across the region about the devolution of powers and funding. The consultation showed that local residents and businesses were supportive of devolving powers to the City Region and to Bassetlaw and Chesterfield joining as full constituent members. At present, City Region Mayoral elections are scheduled to go ahead next year, although the actual powers of the Mayor are not yet formalised. These must be finalised within the next six weeks and placed into statutory orders, if the existing timetable is to be met.

On Monday, the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority met and agreed to submit responses to the public consultation to the Secretary of State, marking the next step in the Devolution journey. However, in view of the Government's uncertainty over Elected Mayors, slower than expected progress has been made in moving the deal forward, as the Government has bedded in, and in light of legal action from Derbyshire County Council, who object to Chesterfield joining. I must therefore advise the Council that a City Region Elected Mayor is not yet a done deal.

We need a conversation with Government as to whether a deal can be done without a Mayor, which is our preferred option, and Doncaster won't give its final go ahead until we are sure the Devolution deal continues to be the best outcome for our residents, with no other options available. With all that in mind, it's hard to see how we can resolve all these matters in the next month or so. In my view, that almost certainly means May next year presents a highly improbable timescale for City Region Mayoral elections. We remain committed to Devolution, but we must get this right. We shouldn't, and we won't rush this at any cost.

Whilst Full Council has endorsed the deal and devolved future matters to Mayor Ros Jones and the Council's Chief Executive to progress, before finally signing any order on the Council's behalf, the Mayor will wish to discuss this at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and at a session to which all Members would be invited in advance of the final decision."

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, made the following announcement:-

"The GCSE and A Level figures I am going to announce are all provisional and will be verified by Government sometime in October.

All the figures are based on data received from Schools; all measures collected this year have improved in the last 12 months at GCSE Level. The percentage of 5 GCSE passes at A* – C grades, including English and Maths, is now 56%, a 6% increase on last year, and very close to the national average for the first time.

A*–C English: up by 7% (63% last year to 70% this year).

A*–C Maths: up by 4% (63% last year to 67% this year) which is excellent.

Provisional results for A level pass rate based on the results we have received from Schools show 99.4% of pupils gained at least 1 A level pass and the proportion of A* and A grades has increased this year to 22% from 19% last year, although we can't really compare this year's A level grades with previous years as they are now calculated on a different scale.

Our Schools are improving, as 68% of the 106 Schools inspected in Doncaster are now judged as Good or Outstanding; this is an increase overall of 11% since the Mayor came into office in 2013. Currently, 73% of Primary Schools are now judged as Good or Outstanding and an increase of 14% over the same period of office.

In the last quarter, Doncaster Children's Services Trust and some Council Services have been subject to 2 external scrutiny exercises:-

- The Local Government Association (LGA) in July reviewed how the Trust is keeping children safe and progress made following its Ofsted inspection last October, and a 2 day monitoring visit from OFSTED in August;
- Both reports reflect confidence in the improvement and significant progress made to improve services for children and young people and found no evidence of children being left at risk of significant harm.

Also, regarding the Inspection of Children Homes, all our Children's Homes in Doncaster run by Doncaster Children's Services Trust have been graded either Good or Outstanding by OFSTED between November 2015 and August 2016; this is excellent news for the whole of Doncaster.

Tickhill Square, Denaby (November 2015) - Good
 Marston Grove, Thorne (May 2016) - Outstanding
 Cromwell Drive, Sprotborough (August 2016) - Good
 Oakland's, Hatfield (May 2016) - Good
 Pinewood, *Armthorpe (no longer in use but was good)

Children, parents, teachers and schools in Doncaster, have made a massive effort this year to show that we are as good as any other cities across England and we should be proud of the results and what our young people have accomplished. With continued improvement, we are preparing our children to take advantage of all the new developments and opportunities across Doncaster that will provide jobs and growth, and a sustainable future for Doncaster.”

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

“I thought I would mention the new X4 Bus Route. The opening of the Great Yorkshire Way has created a direct link from the motorway network to the Airport and the introduction of this bus greatly enhances the offer of the Airport, making it more accessible to the Doncaster region. The bus runs every 30 minutes, starting at 5am until just before midnight. This means that the Airport has the opportunity to market itself much wider and attract customers who can travel to Doncaster by train and still get home.

I would also like to say well done and offer my congratulations to Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT), who were awarded the Winners Title of 'Best Service Team in Sports, Leisure and Culture' at the Annual National Association Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards. The APSE Awards recognise Local Authority and partner contracts through assessment of a range of targets such as financial performance, innovation and business planning. As the organisation delivering DMBC's Leisure Services, DCLT have shown how far we have come as a partnership. So, may I say again, well done and thanks for all your hard work.”

Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing, made the following announcement:-

“On Tuesday of this week, I had the opportunity to attend the Tenant's Choice Awards at St Leger Homes.

The Community Champion was awarded to Samantha Siddall of Edlington Community Organisation.

The Young Person of the Year was awarded to Linzi Williams who has been working at The Foyer.

The Community Group of the Year went to ECO, Edlington Community Organisation.

The Good Neighbour Award was dedicated to Tom Haslam from Stainforth, who counts himself as just a normal neighbour, helping out where he can. I'd also like to mention from the Good Neighbour Awards, Chaz Prouten, who is an active member in the Conisborough area, who has also been nominated in the National Neighbour Awards later this year.

Everyone who attended the awards were Community Champions and it was pleasing to meet so many who work tirelessly helping others and their communities."

34 Order of Business

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Chair of Council, Councillor David Nevett, proposed the variation of the order of business to consider Agenda Item 10 immediately after Agenda Item 6, due to the level of public interest in the issue.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the order of business be varied by considering Agenda Item 10 immediately after Agenda Item 6.

35 Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13

(A) Question from Mr. A. Foley, 15 Don View, Mexborough, S64 0JE, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Will DMBC consider a point where financial benefits to the Borough outweigh the negative impact of HS2 Ltd's revised route, if so, what does DMBC consider a fair price for the sacrificing of approximately 250 homes and businesses, years of disruption to an arterial route through the Dearne Valley and the destruction of the environment in Old Denaby, Mexborough and Barnburgh?"

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

"Thank you for your question Mr Foley.

My position is that the damage to our area, particularly the devastating impact on the Shimmer estate and its residents, is entirely unacceptable. I will not support this proposal under any circumstances. What makes the situation even more astonishing is that we are being asked to accept this enormous damage and at the same time gain less economic benefit.

I believe that an appropriate proposal for HS2 in our region could deliver economic growth, create jobs and help improve opportunities, whilst vastly reducing the impact on local residents and communities.

This proposal does not achieve that aim. Instead, it will:-

Destroy much needed brand new and high quality houses, forcing people out of their homes;

Compromise potential new housing sites, limiting our ability to drive forward regeneration in the area;

Cut the number of trains serving the Sheffield City Region from five per hour to only 'up to 2 per hour';

Increase journey time to the region from 68 minutes to 83 minutes (up to 22%); and

Cut all services to Birmingham and Leeds.

Regrettably, I am not confident that HS2 Ltd is focused on maximising economic benefits to our region, or minimising the impact on residents. It is clear to me that these new plans were put forward simply to drive forward a project in difficulty and save £1bn from the cost pressures it faces. That is being done at the expense of our region. It is unacceptable and we will oppose the proposals.”

- (B) Question from Mr. P. Douglas, 72 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“When was Doncaster Council first aware of the route change (as announced by HS2 - David Higgins on 7th July) that meant approx 250 homes would need to be demolished within the Doncaster boundaries?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Douglas.

The Council and colleagues across the region have been in contact with HS2 for a number of years, primarily regarding the location for the station in our region, which has been the subject of much discussion.

The longstanding recommendation from HS2 Ltd was that the station should be located at Meadowhall, in order to deliver economic benefits and connectivity throughout South Yorkshire. Doncaster Council first became aware that a change to the recommended station location was likely to be announced at meetings on 21st June and 27th June this year. The Council also became aware that this was also likely to influence the proposed eastern route of the line, impacting the west of the Doncaster borough. However, very limited information was provided. The Council was not given detailed maps of the proposed route, advanced copies of the associated reports or full information about the properties and businesses that may be affected.

Clearly at that stage, Doncaster Council was not in a position to make any public comment on any prospective announcement by HS2 Ltd, or fully understand the impact that it may have. However, in the following days I did take the opportunity to speak to the then Secretary of State for Transport to

raise my objections to potential changes to the existing route. At the same time, we briefed local Councillors on what we did know.

On 7th July, a formal announcement was made and the Council gained access to the full set of documents and the detailed route proposal.”

- (C) Question from Mrs. R. Ridler, 74 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“How is DMBC working to stop HS2 affecting the Doncaster area, what assistance will it give local residents if the route is approved in November, or are you just focused on getting a Parkway Station in the Borough?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mrs. Ridler.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate that I object to the new proposals for HS2 in our region and I hope that the Council will support the Motion proposed by myself and Cllr Andy Pickering. Our primary focus is challenging these new plans, which Sir David Higgins himself had previously rejected as the wrong solution.

I have already raised my objections with the Government and HS2 Ltd. I am working closely with local MPs and other colleagues to challenge the proposals. The Deputy Mayor and I worked with colleagues in the region to change the recommended position of the Local Enterprise Partnership, which was being asked to support the proposals. I am pleased that it rejected this recommendation, recognised the damage to local communities and acknowledged that the proposal delivered a poorer service to the region.

We will be making further submissions to HS2 Ltd and the Government, and I will advocate on behalf of residents. I would also encourage residents to make their views, and the reasons for them, clearly known to Government and HS2, including through a petition. If the Secretary of State decides that these punitive new proposals should proceed, then we will press hard for proper compensation from HS2 Ltd. Any residents who are directly affected should end up ‘better or no worse off’ as a result of the plans.

It is interesting to note that whilst delivery of a Parkway Station was widely reported, Sir David Higgins has at this stage only recommended that HS2 ‘should undertake a study to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the potential for a Parkway Station on the M18/Eastern leg which could serve the South Yorkshire area as a whole’. I am not yet convinced that a compelling economic case for a Parkway Station in South Yorkshire will be made, and there is clearly a risk that any Parkway Station proposal will never be delivered. I certainly will not trade my support for people in Mexborough and the surrounding area for a Parkway Station in the region.

Connectivity within our region is certainly an issue. Doncaster currently has excellent links to London through the East Coast Mainline, and growth around the region’s airport, yet at the present time you can’t even get a train from Barnsley to Doncaster or Rotherham. In fact, it takes around an hour to travel just 14 miles between the centres of Barnsley and Doncaster, limiting

business interaction and hindering access to employment for residents in both towns.

If other options to serve the economic interests of South Yorkshire as a whole are to be investigated as part of this process, then that review should not focus narrowly on a Parkway Station in the South Yorkshire countryside.”

- (D) Question from Mr. M. Huddleston, 42 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Firstly, I would like to say that we should be pushing to halt the HS2 route as we all agree that it is a complete and utter waste of public money. But we all know that there is a possibility that this will go ahead. So, as a resident at the Shimmer Estate, I would like to know if the Council has the same powers as Sheffield Council in turning down the new proposed route through Mexborough. Do they have the power to put forward alternative routes that miss out our estate or any other residential housing within the area?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Huddleston.

Unfortunately Doncaster Council does not have the power to turn down the proposed new route for HS2. However, I have made clear my objections to HS2 Ltd and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Sheffield Council does not have these decision making powers either. It is true that Sheffield have a long held view that the HS2 station for our region should be in the City Centre. However, Sheffield’s preference was for a new station at Victoria in order to drive regeneration and job creation in the City Centre, and they have been not been successful in achieving that.

I know that Sheffield welcomes the new proposal for its City Centre station, but it is also true that this was not the first choice of anyone in South Yorkshire. Under these plans the region’s HS2 service is dramatically reduced. HS2 Ltd wants to save £1bn and it is proposing doing so at the expense of residents and businesses in our region, who are being asked to accept a second class service.

In terms of alternative routes, I have already requested that HS2 Ltd consider potential alternative routes that would reduce the negative impact on local residents and communities. This region has been let down and suffered as a result of national policies before. The Government should make very clear to HS2 Ltd that it has no intention of letting down the people, businesses and communities of Doncaster and other parts of South Yorkshire again, by roundly rejecting these poorly considered proposals, which appear to have been developed in haste and based on incomplete information.

The Public Accounts Committee report published yesterday makes clear that many important questions remain unanswered.

We will see what decision the Secretary of State makes in the coming weeks, but I would like to assure residents that, if the proposal advances to the next

stage, it will not be the end of the matter. We are in this for the long haul and will support our communities all the way."

- (E) Question from Mr. D. Goddard, 16 Benita Avenue, Mexborough, S64 0NB, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Where exactly does Doncaster Council stand with regard to HS2. Does it:-

- a) support all those affected by the route change as announced on 7th July 2016;
- b) want an additional benefit to the region despite all those constituents affected and blighted;
- c) oppose HS2 as not required as the capacity and speed can be achieved with no demolitions within the councils boundaries;
- d) other - (if other please detail)?"

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

"Thank you for your question Mr. Goddard.

I have previously been supportive of the HS2 project. The Government and HS2 Ltd have set out what they believe is the national challenge that lies ahead, particularly in terms of transport capacity, connectivity and economic growth. Successive Governments have clearly stated that HS2 is part of their solution. It also had support from towns and cities that are set to benefit from the project.

Our view has always been that, if the project does go ahead, then wherever possible, we should get the best deal for Doncaster and its residents. Through this approach, we have been successful in securing our town as one of the sites for the new National College for High Speed Rail. This is vitally important in helping to address some of our own key issues, bringing high level skills provision and well paid jobs to the Borough, benefiting local people and businesses.

However, as costs appear to spiral, questions are increasingly being raised about the overall value of the project. Choosing to cut escalating costs by reducing long term economic benefits makes no sense. If the project is of national importance, then it must be done properly and this proposed change for HS2 in our region is unacceptable in my view.

I remain broadly supportive of the overall project, but not at any cost. Some people are now talking about the prospect of the budget rising to even more eye watering figures. If that is true, it is not necessarily how I would choose to spend tens of billions of pounds to deal with national infrastructure needs and rebalance the nation's economy.

I do fear that HS2 is rapidly becoming a 'them and us' project, which will primarily benefit London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. It is increasingly looking like it will do little for millions of people who live outside

these major cities. In the recent Referendum, many of these people expressed their clear frustration at the way they, and their towns, were being left behind by national politicians and civil servants.

If this proposal goes ahead, people in South Yorkshire will justifiably feel that the Government has taken absolutely no notice of them.

I want a better route, which does not destroy homes, devastate communities and deliver fewer economic benefits for our region. It does not have to be this way and alternatives must be worked up.”

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

“If the new route was not the best route, was the original route better?”

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

“Sir David Higgins said the old route was the best route for the City Region. In ‘Rebalancing Britain’ published in October 2014, he expressly stated that the Meadowhall route was the best route.”

- (F) Question from Mrs. S. Douglas, 72 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“What practical help can be offered by the Council for those whose blighted homes are to be demolished and also those whose homes are permanently blighted but not to be demolished. For example, could there be a reduction in council taxes for the blighted properties, interest free loans for those in need of monetary assistance, assurances that people whose homes are to be demolished will be able to buy a new home of the same standard including flooring etc and alternative accommodation offered to those in rental properties?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mrs Douglas.

If the Secretary of State decides that these punitive new proposals should proceed, then we will press hard for proper compensation from HS2 Ltd. Any residents who are directly affected should end up ‘better or no worse off’ as a result of these plans. This means as a bare minimum, the ability to buy or move to like-for-like replacement homes without being made financially worse off and we are collecting evidence to support residents if this is required. Individual circumstances should be catered for, for example relating to new build properties and the investment that people have made in their new homes.

Proper measures should also be put in place to mitigate noise, environmental damage and visual intrusion. I will also be happy to consider proposals put forward by local residents and seek to advocate on their behalf.

HS2 Ltd and the Government must do the right thing by local people and businesses. I will work therefore with residents and Elected Members to hold them to account. However, I do not think we should let HS2 Ltd and the Government off the hook by indicating that a good compensation package is good enough. It is absolutely not good enough and we will fight this proposal to the end.

It is unfortunate that HS2 Ltd have chosen to put the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State in a very difficult position. If the Prime Minister is serious about her promise that the Government will be driven by the interests of ordinary people, then she must act on issues like this. Theresa May pledged that when her Government takes the big calls, it would think of working class families, like residents in Mexborough, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley, not the privileged few. She said that when it comes to opportunity, they won't entrench the position of those who already have advantage. That means turning her back on the second class service being offered to hundreds of thousands of residents and businesses across South Yorkshire.

It is a second class service that even Sir David Higgins, the man behind the proposal, thought was a bad idea and will not deliver the outcomes required."

Members noted that the responses provided by the Mayor of Doncaster would be made available on the Council's Web-site.

- 36 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones and Seconded by Councillor Andy Pickering, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, and Seconded by Councillor Andy Pickering:-

"This Council objects to the new proposals for HS2 in the Sheffield City Region, which were announced on 7th July.

When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas.

This proposal is bad for local residents, communities, Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region. Doncaster Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State to reject the recommendation."

An amendment to the Motion was Moved by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, in that the second paragraph of the Motion be amended to read as follows:-

"When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough and the Wards it affects, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas."

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

A vote was taken on the Motion which was declared as follows:-

For – 48

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

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

RESOLVED that Council objects to the new proposals for HS2 in the Sheffield City Region, which were announced on 7th July.

When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough and the Wards it affects, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas.

This proposal is bad for local residents, communities, Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region. Doncaster Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State to reject the recommendation.

37 Adjournment of Meeting

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 32.1, the meeting stand adjourned at 7.10 p.m. to be reconvened, on this day, at 7.15 p.m.

38 Reconvening of Meeting

The meeting reconvened at 7.15 p.m.

39 Core Annual 'Define & Deliver' Cycle

The Council considered a report, presented by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, which proposed an improved core annual 'define & deliver' cycle which more clearly linked together the key annual processes for defining and delivering improved outcomes for residents.

It was reported that Doncaster Council had come a long way in the last three years by improving governance arrangements, coming out of Government intervention early and delivering a three year budget to effectively manage the national austerity measures. Doncaster was now one of the most improved Councils in the country, as recognised by the Local Government Chronicle in 2015.

In expressing her appreciation to everyone including Councillors, Officers and partners who had helped to make that happen, the Mayor stated that further improvements

could always be made to continue to drive the Council forward. The Mayor therefore recommended an improved annual Council approach for linking knowledge about the needs of residents to priority setting and in turn action that impacts on quality of life for local people.

Members were informed that the Council had already embarked upon a modernisation programme and was beginning to deliver services in innovative ways. Looking to the next four years, the Council's purpose remained the same; to ensure that communities thrived, create the right climate for good growth and deliver modern value for money services with a strong sense of partnership. Continuing to improve governance was essential to achieving this.

It was also reported that each year the Council updated its priorities and agreed a budget to deliver them, the timetable of which was planned well in advance. However, the effectiveness of this process would be improved by:-

- An annual State of the Borough assessment and engagement which would provide an up to date understanding of how the Borough was changing and the needs of residents;
- Improvements to the service planning and staff performance review processes to ensure that the priorities agreed by Council were translated into effective action earlier;
- Better integrating the assessment of Strategic Risks in the priorities and budget setting process; and
- Consolidating the previous year's corporate quarterly monitoring reports into an Annual Report to show the Council's contribution to delivery of Borough outcomes.

Annex 1 to the report, proposed a high-level annual timetable for completing these interlined processes within a 4 year Strategic Planning horizon, which aimed to ensure that the efforts of the Council were focussed on the improvements that mattered most to residents and the long-term success of Doncaster.

The Mayor was delighted that the proposal had already been supported through the cross-party Overview and Scrutiny process and thanked Elected Members for their involvement.

RESOLVED that

- (1) an annual timetable be established for completing the key processes of a 'define & deliver' cycle, as a key building block of good governance;
- (2) the annual timetable be captured on the Council's Forward Plans (including the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the rolling agendas);
- (3) the Constitution be amended to include within Article 3.01 – Functions of Full Council: 'to receive State of the Borough assessment each year to inform the budget and policy setting process';

- (4) Overview and Scrutiny support the State of the Borough assessment by considering undertaking reviews into thematic areas where there are gaps in the Council's knowledge; and
- (5) an Annual Report on the Council's contribution to delivering Borough-wide outcomes be made available to Full Council by the end of August each year, which will draw upon the previous year's corporate quarterly monitoring reports.

40 Appointment of Section 151 Officer

The Council considered a report presented by the Chief Executive, Jo Miller, which sought approval to appoint Stephen James Mawson as Doncaster Council's Section 151 Officer, with effect from 1st October, 2016.

It was noted that the position of S151 Officer was currently held by Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services. However, in line with the Council's Flexible Working Policy, Simon Wiles was reducing his working week to 4 days and as a result, considered it appropriate to relinquish the role of S151 Officer.

Steve Mawson currently held the role of Deputy Section 151 Officer and held the required qualification of a CIPFA Qualified Accountant. Faye Tyas would take on the role of Deputy Section 151 Officer, supporting and covering for Steve Mawson in his absence.

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) Stephen James Mawson be appointed as Doncaster Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 1st October, 2016, until further determination; with effect from 1st October 2016, Stephen James Mawson's title will become 'Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director - Finance'; and
- (2) the Monitoring Officer update the Constitution where necessary, to reflect the changes to Officer designations outlined within the report.

41 Appointment of Conservative Councillor Representative to Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's Transport Committee

The Council considered a report which sought the appointment of a Conservative Councillor, in accordance with the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's (SCRCA) political balance requirements, as Doncaster Council's representative on the SCRCA's Transport Committee, following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox from this body.

It was reported that at the meeting of Full Council on 7th March 2013, it was agreed that Doncaster Council would join the SCRCA, which became a legal entity on 1st April, 2014. Since that time, the Council had appointed Member representatives to the SCRCA's Overview and Scrutiny, Transport and Audit Committees.

Members noted that the membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee was subject

to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts. Currently, this equated to Doncaster Council being entitled to nominate 3 representatives (voting members) on this body, i.e. 2 x Labour and 1 x Conservative. Following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox, the Council was asked to appoint a replacement Member representative from the Conservative Group, to join the remaining two representatives; Councillors Joe Blackham and Bill Mordue.

RESOLVED that Councillor R. Allan Jones be appointed as the Conservative representative on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's Transport.

42 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 Jonathan Wood asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Today is a historic day for Doncaster; we have come together and done things the right way and I would like to congratulate the Mayor on receiving a unanimous vote for the Motion.

I have spoken to you out of the meeting about the HS2 and its detrimental effect on the affected Wards in the Borough.

I would like to bring to your attention a Petition against the HS2, and ask that everyone signs this E-Petition. If you search for this petition on the internet, by googling ‘Yorkshire Against HS2 Provision’ (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/162601>), it will bring you to the link to access the petition and sign your name.

If we get 100,000 signatures against this petition, it will be debated in Parliament. This Petition has come out of Wakefield and Rotherham but it needs support from our Council. Additionally, there are groups working very hard together in Sprotbrough and the rural villages to fight this proposal, and have produced a pre-written letter against the HS2 that I would ask you to send out in your name on our behalf, one to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, and one to Chris Grayling. We need to choke this off before it goes out to consultation.

Please will you support us?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“Subject to reading what you’re asking me to support; yes. If it says what you have summed it up to say, then yes, I will sign the E-Petition, and I am happy for you to pass on your letter to the Communications Team who will look at that with me.”

Q. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Jonathan Wood asked the following supplementary question:-

“I wouldn’t expect anything more at this point; this is about getting the people participating. There are 55 Members of this house, they need to get on line and read the petition?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“I will read it. I meant everything I said today. I proposed and endorsed the Motion, your answer is there, but I will never agree to signing anything without reading it first.”

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

Q. Councillor Sean Gibbons asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“There is to be a public meeting held in Mexborough on the 29th September in opposition to the HS2. Would the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor, Members of Cabinet or any Senior Officers support us at the meeting on the night?”

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

“Subject to my availability, as I don’t have my diary with me at the moment to check, but subject to that, I don’t see why that can’t happen.”

Q. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Sean Gibbons asked the following supplementary question:-

“Thank you for that Councillor Jones. There have already been a number of meetings on the HS2, some of which have been more successful than others, and without going into detail as to what happened at the 1st August meeting to look at the issues, it’s imperative that we have the right venue and are provided with the right information.”

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

“Absolutely and I hope the dialogue continues. I will meet with Members next week as it is important that we speak as one voice.”

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

In the absence of Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Blackham should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after this meeting and that the Cabinet Member would respond accordingly.

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

No questions were put to Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services.

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

No questions were put to Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing.

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

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

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

No questions were put to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing.

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

Q. Councillor Jonathan Wood asked Councillor John Mounsey:-

“We have heard a great deal of debate about HS2. I do not remember any issue that has galvanised as much support and discussions from so many politicians and members of the public as this one.

I am not going to ask you exactly what you are doing, but what can we expect in respect of the commitment from Overview and Scrutiny to put this into Committees, whether it be to produce the bodies of evidence that will be required to support the case that there is no economic benefits to the current route being proposed, the damage to the environment and all the rest of it; it is up to you to choose which Committees and when, but I think it might be important for us to try and get a commitment to at least pursue something that we build this bank of evidence that will be required when it

goes to formal public consultation, so people can respond in an appropriate manner?”

A. Councillor John Mounsey gave the following response:-

“Take it as given Councillor Wood; thank you for your question. In conjunction with the Mayor, Cabinet and all 55 Members who voted for this tonight, there is no other way we can do it and we will look at these proposals through Overview and Scrutiny in conjunction with the Mayor and Cabinet.”

43 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 4th March, 2016;
- B. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 9th May, 20th June, 27th June and 1st August, 2016;
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 27th June (Annual), 27th June, (Ordinary), and 25th July, 2016 and Section 41 Briefing Notes for June and July, 2016; and
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 26th May, 9th June (Annual), 9th June (Ordinary) and 30th June, 2016.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

To the Chair and Members of the Council

Youth Justice Plan 2016/17

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Nuala Fennelley Chris McGuinness	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present a new statutory, strategic Youth Offending Service Plan (YOSP) for 2016-2017 for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster where responsibility for the discharge of the Plan lies. The YOSP is due for review and submission to the Board annually.

The Plan sets out the resourcing and value for money, challenges to future provision, structure and governance, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery for the service. In relation to these, actions and timescales are set to develop the service and ensure the best service for the children and young people of Doncaster

For the first time we have produced a Young People's Youth Justice Plan which complements the Corporate Youth Justice Plan and is designed to be accessible and understandable for our young people and families. The Young People's Youth Justice Plan has been identified by the Youth Justice Board as a national example of good practice

I am pleased to report that following last year's HMIP Full Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Services that a range of strategic and operational changes have been implemented. These have contributed to strong performance by the YOS in 2015/16. Including a reduction in the custody rate to its lowest ever for Doncaster, despite being a national outlier for many years in this area

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not an exempt report

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Youth Justice Plan is approved

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The citizens of Doncaster will be protected from offending, re-offending and the fear of crime. The successful implementation of the Youth Justice Plan will contribute to an overall reduction in offending and will, through the delivery of a revised prevention offer, reduce the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.

This has significant and far reaching positive consequences in terms of raising aspirations with young people and their families, making communities safer and more inclusive. Crucially, the targeted work of team EPIC will assist those communities experiencing anti-social behaviour, by intervening earlier with young people, deploying whole family approach to support the priorities of DMBC's Stronger Families programme

BACKGROUND

5. This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of youth justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £1,934,548 in 2015-16 of which £814,025 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council as part of its contractual arrangements with Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set the statutory functions for Youth Offending Teams. The relevant provisions dealing with the youth justice system are set out in Part III of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("the 1998 Act"). Section 37(1) of the 1998 Act provides that it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons.

Section 38 places a duty on local authorities, acting in co-operation with the agencies listed below to secure that, to such extent as is appropriate for their area, all "youth justice services" are available there. Those agencies are:

- Chief officer of police or police authority, any part of whose police area lies within the local authority's area
- The Secretary of State in relation to his functions under sections 2 and 3 of the Offender Management Act 2007
- Every provider of probation services that is required by arrangements under section 3(2) of the Offender Management Act 2007 to carry out the duty under this subsection in relation to the local authority
- Every local probation board, Strategic Health Authority, Local Health Board or Primary Care Trust, any part of whose area lies within that area.

Section 40 of the 1998 act sets out the duty of each local authority to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded and their functions and composition. Youth offending teams must co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the authority's area that need them and carry out the functions of the youth offending service plan.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

6.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Reducing first time entrants into the youth justice system, significantly reduces the financial burden on other statutory services, and therefore protects against services being overwhelmed and placed under budgetary pressure, when earlier intervention could have been undertaken successfully. Creating an aspirational culture amongst young people involved in anti-social behaviour and offending will lead to greater engagement with education, training and employment opportunities.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Doncaster YOS is committed to ensuring that all young people receive a full health assessment from the seconded Project 3 practitioner and will ensure any attendant issues addressed. In addition, young people will have access to a speech, language and communication therapist, systemic family psychotherapist and trainee forensic psychologist. In addition, as part of a re-framed prevention offer, Doncaster YOS will engage young people on the cusp of offending and Anti-Social Behaviour, through Team EPIC in a range of diversionary activities which will include positive physical activities.</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>A successful implementation of the youth justice plan will divert young people on the cusp of offending, but crucially will also prevent recidivism in those who do offend. A reduction in offending will lead to safe communities, in which its young citizens are more invested and consequently are actively engaged in the development of those communities.</p>

	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The youth justice plan will support families who have presenting issues, through the YOS commitment and ongoing contribution to the Stronger Families initiative. The outcome of which will be more families turned around in phase two of the programme and a culture which enables families to reach their full potential.</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS has always strived to deliver value for money, by tracking best national practice and amending service provision to meet these needs.</p> <p>All posts are reviewed when they become vacant to assess the need for this post or provision in the future.</p> <p>In 2016 the YOS will continue its campaign of recruiting graduate volunteers to supplement the full time staffing resource and we have established a strategic relationship with Nottingham University to supply Trainee Forensic Psychologists on a voluntary basis. Consequently we have increased the offer, in an ongoing climate of reduction at no additional cost.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS is monitored and challenged by the Management Board, which is comprised of representatives from all partnership agencies.</p> <p>In addition, Doncaster YOS is subject to monitoring from the Youth Justice Board in terms of quarterly data monitoring on key performance indicators.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

7. The risk factors are outlined in the YOS service plan itself. The most pertinent risks are in relation to policy change, partnerships and financial contributions to YOS for 2016/17. The plan itself has been written to minimise risk to delivery and links to other strategic plans for Doncaster help to achieve this.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council, after consultation with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement each year a Youth Offending Service Plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded.

On 27.06.16, the “Charlie Taylor” review of youth justice practice is published. It is expected that this will significantly alter the statutory framework of the youth justice landscape in the medium to long term, although at the time of writing, the scope of these changes is not known.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct financial implications for DMBC. Doncaster YOS is a multi-agency organisation funded by a range of partners including DMBC (Details contained in the Youth Justice Plan). However, the funds are allocated as part of the contract between DCS Trust and DMBC. No additional funds are requested

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

10. Decision makers must consider the Council’s duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a ‘protected characteristic’ and those who do not share that protected characteristic.

Doncaster Youth Offending Service is a statutory service, which administers the delivery of Court Orders to all young people throughout the borough. Doncaster Youth Offending Service is governed by the National Standards for Youth Justice Practice which guarantees the consistency of the service offered to both those who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share a “protected characteristic”. Consequently, there are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

However, any activities arising from the management of strategic risks will need to be the subject of separate ‘due regard’ assessments.

Copy of the YOS Due Regard Statement is available upon request

CONSULTATION

11. This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

Procurement		Crime & Disorder	X
Human Resources		Human Rights & Equalities	
Buildings, Land and Occupiers		Environment & Sustainability	
ICT		Capital Programme	

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Targeted Youth Support Service
Doncaster Youth Offending Service
Youth Justice Plan 2016/17



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1. Who we are and what we do

Doncaster Youth Offending Service (YOS) is part of Doncaster Children's Services Trust Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS).

TYS is comprised of the Youth Offending Service, the Care Leaving Service (18 plus) and the newly created prevention service, Team EPIC (Encouraging Potential Inspiring Change). The service is committed to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, specifically to help them lead happy, safe and aspirational lives.

Youth Offending Teams were formed in England and Wales in April 2000 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, providing a multi-agency approach to preventing offending by children and young people. Doncaster Youth Offending Service consists of professionals from a range of disciplines including health, probation, youth justice, social work, education, housing, information advice and guidance, substance misuse and systemic family therapists.

The YOS plays an important role in helping children and their families, who have entered the criminal justice system, in making positive life choices, addressing presenting needs and keeping them safe from harm. The YOS is also committed to protecting the public from young people who may pose a risk of causing serious harm to the public, and dispatches these responsibilities through robust risk management processes including engagement with national forums such as MAPPA (Multi-agency public protection arrangements).

Team EPIC is a newly created prevention service, designed to divert first time entrants into the youth justice system using a robust triage model to intervene at the point of a young person being charged, where it is safe and proportionate to do so. Team EPIC will deliver a number of programmes based on building emotional resilience and consequence awareness, whilst encouraging young people to engage in programmes and interventions designed to increase aspiration and opportunity.

Young people referred to the service are assessed using the nationally recognised ASSET Plus assessment framework, which deploys a "strengths based", predictive methodology to understand the issues young people face in relation to their offending, to help practitioners formulate an intervention plan to address any presenting needs and to build on the strengths already displayed by young people.

The YOS also undertakes specialist work in the areas of young people who present sexually harmful behaviours and also with young people who may benefit from restorative justice interventions with our commissioned partners, The Junction and REMEDI.

Doncaster YOS is committed to the use of whole family approaches to achieve sustained change to familial cultures which supports better outcomes for children and young people. Therefore we work closely with DMBC's Stronger Families programme (Local response to the government's troubled families initiative) using systemic approaches to strengthen families and improve communities.

The operational work of Doncaster Youth Offending Service is overseen by its strategic Management Board which is composed of senior managers and leaders from partner organisations who have the operational and strategic expertise to challenge and develop the offer from Doncaster YOS.

The Management Board composition is as follows:-

Mark Douglas (Chair)	Chief Operating Officer
Lee Golze (Vice-Chair)	Head of Commissioning Clinical Commissioning Group
Andy Hood	Head Of Service Targeted Youth Support
Andy Maddison	Senior Public Health officer
Riana Nelson	Assistant Director Learning and Opportunities DMBC
Claire Scott	Stronger Communities and Families Manager - DMBC
Neil Thomas	Superintendent - South Yorkshire Police
Richard Cherry	Chief Clerk to the Justices
Grant Lockett	Head of Access to Homes – St Leger Homes
Doug Maille	Operational Manager NPS
Cllr Nuala Fennelly	Lead Member for Children
Cllr Chris McGuinness	Lead Member for Crime

The Head of Service is directly managed by the chair of the Management Board ensuring a clear line of sight to the operational practice.

The YOS strategic Management Board also feeds into the following local strategic boards:-

- Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership Board
- Strategic Education Attendance Board
- Children Young People and Families Board
- Stronger Families Executive Steering Board

2. Overview

In 2015/16, as part of Doncaster Children's Services Trust re-structure, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) became part of the newly created Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS), encompassing care leaving services, prevention services and the youth offending service. The restructure allows for a more seamless transition between services of young people who need support and the shared resource and expertise within the service now allow for a greater offer to young people and families in need of help.

The YOS was subject to a Full Joint Inspection in June and July 2015. The outcome of which was unfavourable in a number of areas, most crucially in terms of the senior governance and oversight by the YOS Management Board.

Since the end of the inspection Doncaster YOS has been working to a comprehensive improvement plan overseen by the Youth Justice Board, which has affected all areas of strategic and operational practice.

Some of the key developments which have been instigated include:-

- Revised membership of YOS Management Board of people with appropriate seniority who can challenge operational practice and strategic decision making.
- Revised data offer and performance information available to the Board.
- Implementation of YJB re-offending toolkit, allowing live data monitoring and reporting for first time in Doncaster.
- Police Seconded operating in line with Association of Chief Police Officer guidance (ACPO) guidance.
- Embedded police IT systems within the YOS to aid more dynamic intelligence sharing on high risk cases.
- New safeguarding and risk management policies and procedures.
- Revised engagement and compliance procedure, capturing non-compliance earlier.
- Implementation of new Risk Panel to ratify assessment decisions.
- Training programme focussed on outcome based risk and vulnerability planning.
- Improved planning processes, planning now done "With" and "Not to" children and families.
- New child friendly planning tool introduced.
- New QA framework, incorporating external auditors.
- Regional work undertaken with regard to the out of court disposal scrutiny panel.
- Ongoing improvement support from YJB in terms of Board functioning and practice.
- The TYS reach increased through creation of new prevention service, Team EPIC.
- Voice of the child better represented through the body of the casework, better practitioner understanding of how to capture this.
- Improved CAMHS provision.
- Use of whole family approaches and systemic family psychotherapy.
- Continued reduction in custody rate.

The last year was also notable for the instruction of ASSET Plus which represents the most significant change to Youth Justice Assessment methodology since the creation of the ASSET framework ten years ago.

In terms of funding, the YOS received substantial reductions to the Core Grant supplied by the Youth Justice Board in the forms of 10.7% in year cut, coupled with a further reduction from the 2016/17 budget of £136,888.

Further challenges exist with the publication of the Charlie Taylor Review in youth justice practice in late summer or autumn of 2016. The interim report indicates significant changes to how the youth justice system will be funded and what it will deliver, particularly in terms of how the custodial estate functions. Consequently it is possible that the Youth Justice Plan may need reviewing and amending in year dependent on the recommendations and the timescales for implementation arising from the reviews findings.

However, despite being a challenging year for the Youth Offending Service, 2015/16 saw Doncaster YOS achieve its best custody performance in its history and a reduction in first time entrants, as well as the creation of a new prevention service, Team EPIC, who will work to reduce first time entrants into the youth justice system and through a triage system reduce the number of young people subject to any substantive police outcome at the point of charge, in line with exemplar models deployed elsewhere.

3. Performance against last year's plan

In last year's plan a number of key performance indicators were set to demonstrate the YOS's progress against its strategic and operational goals. The following section will highlight our progress in these key areas and provide narratives to why targets were achieved or, in cases where they were not achieved, explanation will be provided as to the remedial action taken.

Reducing the use of custody

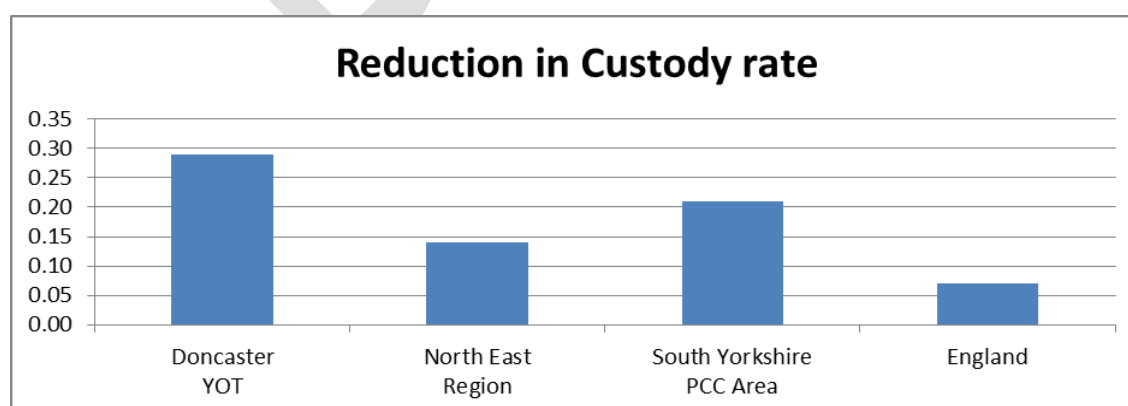
The YOS set itself an aspirational target of reducing the numbers of young people going to custody to 0.42 per 1000 of the 10-17 population. Such a target would represent Doncaster's stronger custody performance in its history after being a historical outlier in this area.

I am pleased to report that Doncaster's final performance was a custody rate of 0.40 per 1000 of the 10 to 17 population.

In real terms, this represents a reduction of custodial sentences from 2014/15 of 18 to 11 young people in 2015/16.

The following graph highlights Doncaster's comparative performance across both the region and England.

	Doncaster YOT	North East Region	South Yorkshire PCC Area	England
April 15 - March 16	0.40	0.36	0.31	0.37
April 14 - March 15	0.70	0.50	0.52	0.44
<i>Change from baseline</i>	0.29	0.14	0.21	0.07



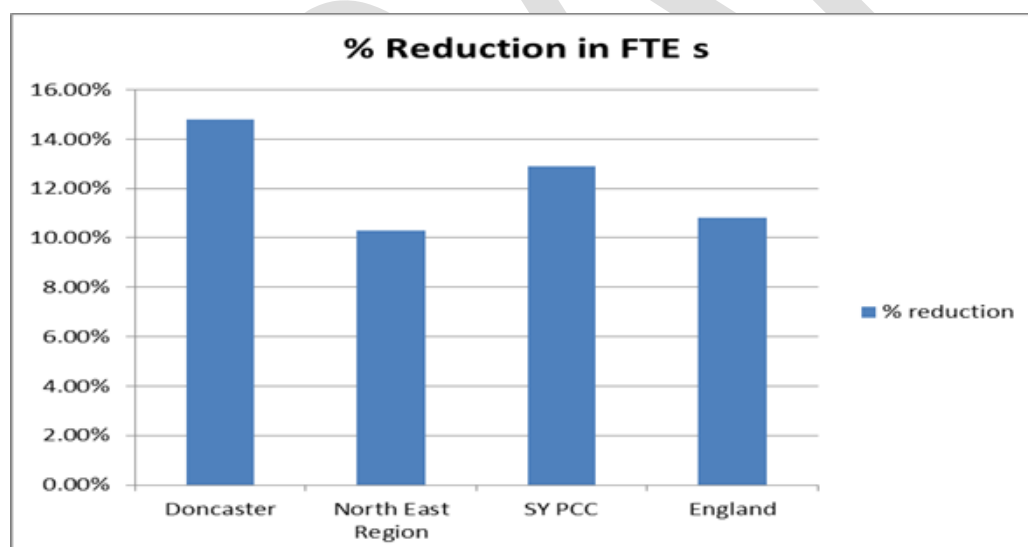
First Time Entrants

Doncaster YOS is committed to reducing the first time entrants into the youth justice system by 171 young people per 100,000 of the 10 to 17 population.

Regrettably this target has not been achieved. In 2014/15 Doncaster YOS recorded 670 young people per 100 000 of the 10-17 population. In 2015-16 Doncaster YOS recorded 571 young people per 100 000 of the 10-17 population representing a 14.8% improvement in performance, but still significantly below the expected target.

The following chart indicates Doncaster's performance against regional and national comparators.

Comparator	Jan 15 - Dec 15	Jan 14 - Dec14	% reduction
Doncaster	571	670	14.80%
North East Region	430	480	10.30%
SY PCC	512	588	12.90%
England	369	413	10.80%



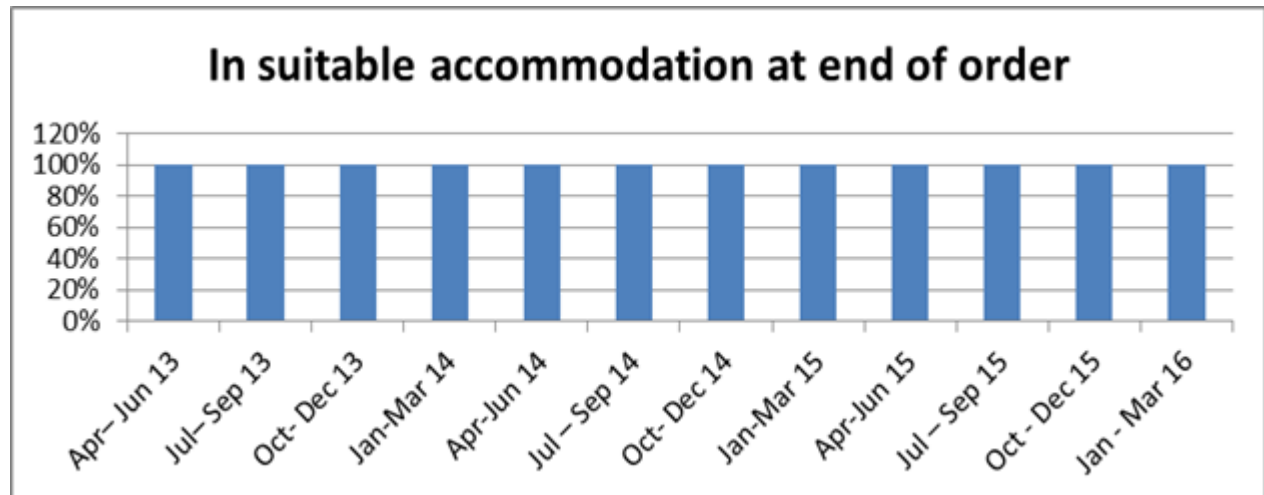
The following target was predicated on the operational deployment of Team EPIC unfortunately the creation of Team EPIC was delayed by financial pressures placed upon the YOS and the restructure of DCST services, which impacted on the number of staff re-deployed into Team EPIC.

Team EPIC became operational on 01/05/16 and next year's target to reduce First Time Entrants will be equally aspirational.

Young People who offend in suitable accommodation at the end of the order

I am pleased to report that for the second year running this figure remains at 100%.

	Apr- Jun 13	Jul- Sep 13	Oct- Dec 13	Jan-Mar 14	Apr-Jun 14	Jul - Sep 14	Oct- Dec 14	Jan-Mar 15	Apr-Jun 15	Jul - Sep 15	Oct- Dec 15	Jan - Mar 16
Total Number of Orders closed in the quarter	45	34	51	47	37	43	57	50	28	37	33	28



The Service continues to ensure that all young people are in suitable accommodation at the end of their order. (This measure does not include any pre-court disposals).

YOS have been successful in that we have good professional relationships with partner agencies such as YMCA who notify us when they have vacancies coming up; case managers are proactive in supporting young people to access this support by attending interviews with them.

The YOS are also represented at Homelessness Partnerships meetings which involve DMBC, St Leger Homes and charitable organisations, so that we are aware of changes to policy and procedure and can make wider links with specialist support. We also work closely with Social Care and offer family support to help improve the situation of young people so that where appropriate their placements at home or with wider family members can be maintained.

Engagement by Young people who offend in suitable education, training or employment

Again the YOS set a very aspirational target of 75% of all young people being in suitable ETE provision on the final day of their order.

This represents a particularly difficult target in terms of performance as, if a child is in ETE throughout 5 and 3 weeks of a 6 month order, but leaves their provision in their final week, the engagement cannot be counted.

I am therefore very pleased to inform that the final performance in this area was 87.4% of all young people representing an 18.6% improvement on the performance in 2014/15.

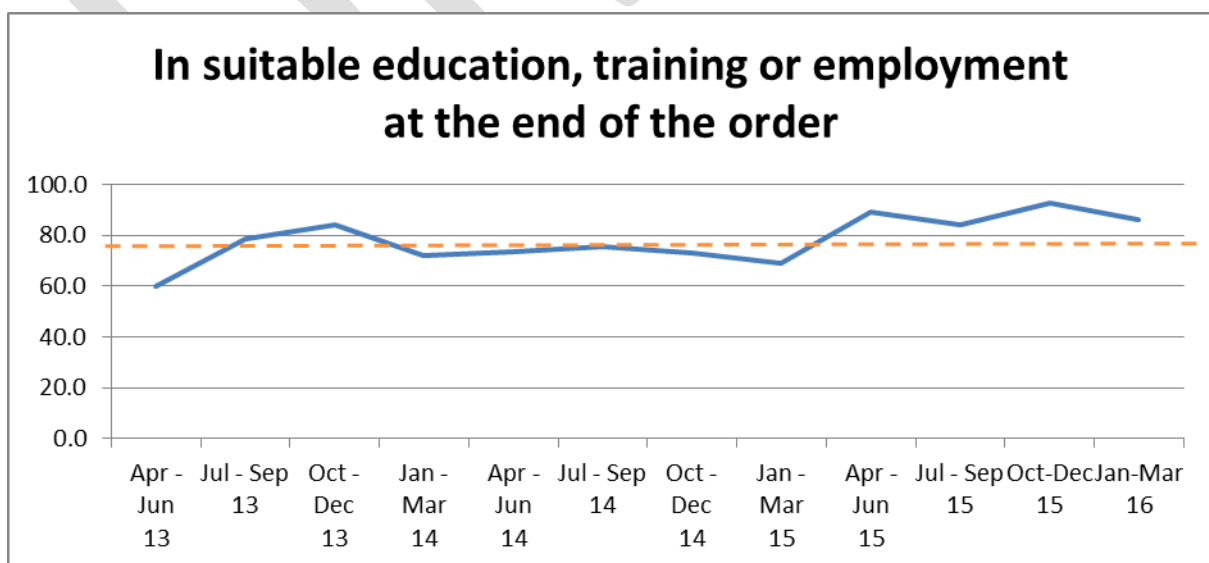
	Apr - Jun 13	Jul - Sep 13	Oct - Dec 13	Jan - Mar 14	Apr - Jun 14	Jul - Sep 14	Oct - Dec 14	Jan - Mar 15	Apr - Jun 15	Jul - Sep 15	Oct-Dec 15	Jan-Mar 16
In suitable education, training or employment at the end of the order	60.0	78.6	84.2	72.0	73.3	75.5	73.0	68.8	89.1	84.0	92.5	85.9

The Service has exceeded this target consistently throughout the year.

This was achieved by Case Managers checking the ETE status at the start of client's orders. This practice is now embedded and has resulted in appropriate referrals for support from the ETE specialists.

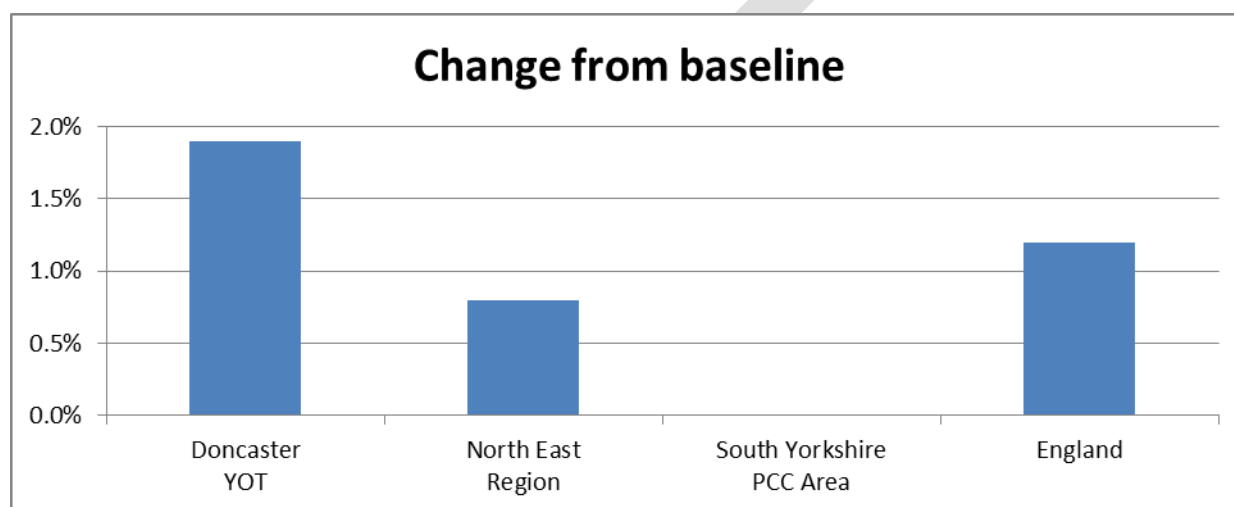
Strong links exist with local secondary schools and academies, Doncaster College and Wetherby Young Offenders Institution, with whom working protocols are in place, which are frequently reviewed. This is further supported by the maintenance of positive professional relationships. In order to advocate on behalf of some of our more challenging young people, the YOS Education Co-ordinator is a standing member of the secondary inclusion panel and the Head of Service sits on the strategic education board.

The ETE specialists work closely with the Case Managers, other Intervention Team specialists and the 18+ service to ensure a co-ordinated and holistic approach to supporting each client and help them overcome the challenges they face and engage in suitable ETE.



Reducing Re-offending

	Doncaster YOT	North East Region	South Yorkshire PCC Area	England
Binary Rate				
Jul 13 - Jun 14	36.50	39.00	35.20	37.70
Jul 12 - Jun 13	34.50	38.20	35.20	36.50
Change from baseline	1.9%	0.8%	0.0%	1.2%



Young people who receive a youth justice disposal, in the cohort period, are tracked for 12 months to see if they are proven to have re-offended. A re-offence is counted as receiving an out of court disposal or conviction in court. To allow for court proceedings to be completed there is a time lag in data being published.

It should be noted that in the past three years the cohort has become smaller year on year and those who have received community penalties are prolific offenders. There are a small number reoffending, but each of these are committing several offences throughout the counting period. Although this is also starting to show a reduction against the previous year.

4. **Strategic Objectives 2016**

The key priorities of the Youth Offending Service are reducing the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system through preventative work, reducing the number of young people re-offending and the number of offences they commit, reducing the use of custody and keeping young people and communities safe. The following sections will highlight the key work with the Youth Offending Service will undertake to achieve these aims.

(i) Prevention

Although the number of first time entrants has reduced by 14.8% in 2015/16, Doncaster remains above the national average in terms of young people entering the criminal justice system.

Preventing offending is integral to our shared vision of Doncaster becoming the best place to grow up in Yorkshire. Our approach to youth justice is based on responding to the context of needs. Doncaster Children's Services Trust and its partners are keen to ensure that Doncaster becomes and remains a positive place to live, a place where young people are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included.

We know that as far as possible children and young people should be kept out of the Criminal Justice System. Where offending does take place, assessments that highlight effective and timely interventions are needed to address that behavior and its causes.

We take a whole family and child-centered, preventative approach focused on the following outcomes:

Helping ensure communities are safe from crime and disorder

Improving life chances for children and young people involved in or at risk of offending

Enabling all children and young people to be confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible

Prevent first time entrants into the Youth Justice System

Families have a crucial role in supporting children and young people involved in offending, Team EPIC will work in partnership with families recognising that they are the experts to make and sustain

change in their lives. It is important that families are empowered to recognise their role in children's lives. Families also sometimes need support to help their children and young people move away from offending. Family interventions can play an important role in improving outcomes for children and young people.

Children should be helped to take responsibility for their decisions and actions in line with their stage of development and understanding. Most children and young people who offend will mature into responsible adults. The labeling of children's behaviour as 'criminal' can be harmful, as it has potential to stigmatise and reinforce negative self-image and behaviour.

Team EPIC does not work in isolation as children and young people may need help from parents, carers, teachers, professional services and other adults to build their personal resilience to become better and able to respond to demands of living in modern Britain.

Research shows that early intervention is central to preventing youth crime. The primary aim of the youth justice system is the prevention of youth offending (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The most cost-effective way to reduce youth crime in Doncaster is to prevent young people from getting into trouble in the first place. Preventing youth crime is conducive to reducing economic and social costs.

Not intervening in Youth issues until it is too late costs the taxpayer £17 billion a year according to research carried out by the charity Early Intervention Foundation (EIF).

Local Authorities bear the largest share of the cost at £6.5 billion followed by welfare system at £3.7 billion and the NHS at £3 billion. There are also high long-term costs to young people committing crime because we know that crime is associated with a range of poor economic and social outcomes. Preventing youth crime can therefore reduce these economic and social costs. We can achieve this by dealing with those problems that make it more likely young people will commit crime or anti-social behaviour.

£3,620: Estimated average cost of a first time entrant (under 18) to the criminal justice system in the first year following the offence.

£22,995: Estimated average cost of a first time entrant (under 18) to the criminal justice system, nine years following the offence

£113,000,000: Estimated savings if one in ten young offenders were diverted toward effective support

It is against this backdrop that Doncaster Children's Service Trust along with key partners, young people and families have co-designed our first **Youth Crime Prevention Strategy**, which will contribute to preventing children and young people in Doncaster from becoming involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Team EPIC will engage with young people through one to one work, involving activities, tasks and discussions to tackle the risk factors that have been identified from the assessment. Team EPIC will focus on encouraging the protective/positive factors in a young person's life, complimenting the trusts inclusion of the signs of safety framework. In defining the risk factors related to youth offending, the focus is on reducing criminality, and on factors in children and young people's lives that can, to some extent, be influenced by practical, community-based prevention programmes.

The risk factors for youth offending and substance abuse overlap to a very large degree with those for educational underachievement, young parenthood, and adolescent mental health problems. Action taken to address these risk factors (and to increase levels of protection) therefore helps to prevent a range of negative outcomes. Moreover, because these outcomes are closely related (anti-social behaviour is strongly correlated with heavy alcohol consumption, for example), this broad-based approach to prevention offers the greatest prospect of securing lasting reductions in offending.

The changing nature of young people in trouble needs a fresh approach and that approach in Doncaster will be delivered by Team EPIC. Our work is based on three key principles: **Early Intervention & Prevention, Positive Engagement and Restoration**. Preventing youth crime and keeping young people safe is a key priority of Team Doncaster. Not least because failure

to get timely help to children who are on the cusp of anti-social behaviour or offending has the potential to impede their chances of making healthy, safe and aspirational life choices.

By analysing patterns of risk and protection across our neighborhoods, we can identify local priorities and deliver a range of positive interventions, striving to engage young people who are at risk of offending behaviour by building on the strengths that young people and their families already have. Team EPIC will tackle antisocial behaviour, crime and offending behaviour through work with families, schools, and communities.

By deploying its approach, Team EPIC hope to achieve a **30% reduction** in first time entrants over a two year period. The target is a 15% reduction in 2016/17 and a further 15% in 2017/18.

Performance Indicator	Out Turn 2015/16	Target 2016/17
First Time Entrants (FTE) PNC rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population YJB data. The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system. This comprises young people who receive a Conditional Caution or a Sentence.	571	485

(ii) Reducing Re-offending

Reducing re-offending remains a key priority for the youth offending service. The cohort of young people involved in the youth justice system has reduced substantially both nationally and locally.

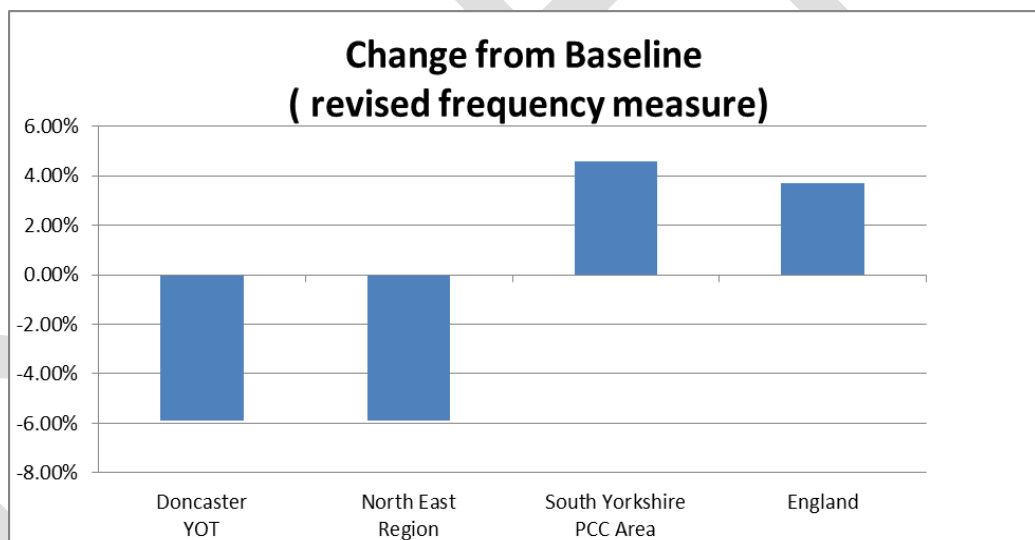
This has resulted in a more complex cohort of young people, with a broader range of needs than previously seen in the youth justice arena.

Although the YOS substantially reduced the custody rate in 2015/16 the binary re-offending rate increased to 36.5% from 34.5% (although it should be noted that only 9 months has been published at this time, although it is expected that the binary rate will remain the same or marginally reduce).

In January 2016 the MoJ introduced a new measure to replace

the previous frequency monitoring of re-offending. The focus has now shifted from reporting the average number of re-offences per offender, known as the 'frequency rate', to the average number of re-offences per re-offender. This provides a far more realistic picture in terms of the number of re-offences which young people are committing when subject to substantive outcomes. The following table highlights Doncaster's strong performance in terms of the number of re-offences committed by each young person who reoffends.

	Doncaster YOT	North East Region	South Yorkshire PCC Area	England
Reoffences per reoffender July 13-Jun 14 cohort	2.71	3.29	3.00	3.14
Reoffences per reoffender July 12-Jun 13 cohort	2.89	3.11	2.86	3.03
change from baseline	-5.90%	-5.90%	0.05	3.70%



However, the publication of binary data does not track current trends in terms of offending owing to the substantial delay in publication. However, Doncaster YOS have now adopted the YJB Reducing Re-offending Toolkit, which now tracks the cohort on a live basis.

In order to work effectively with this more challenging cohort, the YOS needs to adapt its intervention offer to improve outcomes for young people. Consequently the recruitment of the trainee forensic psychologist will support the re-evaluation of existing interventions and create new ones to respond to the challenges identified in the cohort

In addition, the recruitment of a speech and language therapist will assist the YOS in being able to re-framing the largely language based interventions that the YOS currently uses with young people. It is hoped that by revising these interventions and providing materials which are more meaningful to young people with speech, language and communication difficulties will greatly increase their efficacy thereby reducing the number of young people who go on to commit further offences.

However, it is recognised that a revised intervention offer alone will not be sufficient to achieve the aspirational targets set by the YOS for 2016/17. The development of more robust use of intelligence to predict thematic issues arising from the cohort and the subsequent operational changes to practice which are required to meet these needs will be pivotal to our success.

In 2015/16 the YOS introduced the YJB “Reducing Re-offending Toolkit” this has allowed for live tracking of the cohort for the first time. The initial usage of this has been predominately used to support the prevention work undertaken by Team EPIC. Whilst this remains a key part of our strategy to reduce the binary rate, it is important that live tracking of the cohort also impacts on young people subject to a post-court outcome. In September 2016, the YOS will employ a consultant, Mark Summers, who created the Re-offending Toolkit for the YJB and who will assist the YOS in developing the functionality and applications of live tracked data for young people subject to a post-court outcome.

Performance Indicator	Out Turn 2015/16	Target 2016/17
Proven re-offending rates for children and young people. This represents the percentage of young people who re-offended in the identified cohort	36.5% (after 9 months tracking)	33.5%

(iii) Reducing the use of custody

As previously indicated in this plan, Doncaster has been an historic outlier in terms of its use of custody over the past decade. In 2015/16 Doncaster recorded its best ever custody performance, outperforming the aspirational target we set ourselves.

This is in part owing to an overall reduction both nationally and locally in the size of the cohort, however, it should be noted that even taking the above into account Doncaster has significantly outperformed both regionally and nationally in this area.

Changes to operational practice and delivery including the implementation of risk ratification panels, revised risk management procedures, more effective use of engagement panels to intervene with non-compliance earlier and improved Quality Assurance work undertaken on pre-sentence reports have all significantly contributed to the reduction in young people going to custody.

The following chart outlines PSR congruence rates between YOS proposals and court outcomes. It is inevitable that in some cases the congruence rate will not concur between the assessment of the YOS and the sentencing guidance given to magistrates, however, it is hoped that the congruence rate will continue to rise as PSR quality continues to improve.

Pre-Sentence Reports prepared for Youth and Crown Court 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016									
Recommendation	Court Outcome								
	Absolute Discharge	Conditional Discharge	Deferred Sentence	Fine	Compensation Order	Referral Order	YRO	YRO + Requirements	DTO
Absolute Discharge	1					1			
Conditional Discharge		1							
Deferred Sentence									
Fine									
Compensation Order									
Referral Order						11	1		2
YRO			1				8		
YRO + Requirements								8	2
DTO									

It is acknowledged by the YOS management Team that the size of the Cohort will make improvements in this area difficult to achieve and a single custodial episode could substantially affect performance. However, it is our belief that avoiding custodial outcomes wherever possible are in the best interest of our young people and therefore we will strive to achieve the average rate for England of 0.37 per 1,000 of 10 -17 population in 2016/17.

Performance Indicator	Out Turn 2015/16	Target 2016/17
Use of custody rate per 1,000 of 10 -17 population	0.40	0.37

(iv) Keeping young people and communities safe

Keeping young people safe is not a role for the YOS in isolation. The work across the Team Doncaster partnership is crucial to ensuring safe outcomes for children, young people, families and their communities.

The YOS has a significant role to play in ensuring this. In 2015/16 following the HMIP inspection significant changes to the safeguarding and risk management policies of the YOS were implemented to ensure the safety and wellbeing of service users was a key priority of operational staff.

These changes included:-

- Police Seconded operating in line with Association of Chief Police Officer guidance (ACPO) guidance.
- Embedded police IT systems within the YOS to aid more dynamic intelligence sharing on high risk cases.
- New safeguarding and risk management policies and procedures.
- Revised engagement and compliance procedure, capturing non-compliance earlier.
- Implementation of new Risk Panel to ratify assessment decisions.
- Training programme focussed on outcome based risk and vulnerability planning.
- Improved planning processes, planning now done “With” and “Not to” children and families.
- New child friendly planning tool introduced as part of Asset Plus
- Voice of the child better represented through the body of the casework, better practitioner understanding of how to capture this
- Use of whole family approaches and systemic family psychotherapy.

This has resulted in service provision that responds more effectively to dynamic risk issues as they occur and allow us to play a significant role in the Team Doncaster response to keeping children safe.

However, there are some areas of practice which the YOS alone is responsible for when ensuring that safety and wellbeing of young people.

It is recognised that young people engaged in appropriate education, training or employment (ETE) are at a significantly lower risk of reoffending and being at risk of harm. I am pleased to report that in 2015/16 the number of young people engaged in appropriate ETE was 87.4% representing an 18.6% improvement on 2014/15. Further improvement in this area will be difficult to achieve however we remain aspirational and have set ourselves a target of 90% in 2016/17.

Another area which the YOS is responsible for is ensuring that all young people have suitable accommodation which meets their needs at the end of their order. I am pleased to report that for the third consecutive year this figure is 100% and we will once again aim for 100% in 2016/17. Our work with partners most notably St Leger Homes and the resettlement consortium have been pivotal in this performance.

Performance Indicator	Out Turn 2015/16	Target 2016/17
Percentage of children and young people known to the YOS receiving their statutory entitlement to education or training	87.4%	90%
Percentage of children and young people known to the YOS in suitable accommodation	100%	100%

Prevent and Channel

As with all areas Doncaster is committed to preventing radicalisation of young people which could result in offending and re-offending

Radicalisation issues in Doncaster are not currently prevalent and the issues which do exist have so far tended to be focussed on far right groups and have mainly involved adults.

To ensure that practitioners within YOS are well sighted on radicalisation issues and the signs to be aware of when undertaking assessments, all operational staff have completed mandatory e-learning models in “ Prevent and Channel”

Operational managers have undertaken Wrap 3 training.

Wrap 3 is the standard, Home Office-approved training for practitioners in relation to identifying and preventing radicalisation and extremism and is a key part of the Government's prevent agenda

The training will be delivered by South Yorkshire Police and includes presentations, videos and group discussion

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5. What do our young people say about us

Every Year children and young people are asked to take part in an online survey carried out by HMIP to express their feelings about the service they receive at the YOS.

These are some of the responses our children and young people gave about us in 2015-16

Statement/Question	%
The YOT staff explained to me what would happen, when I first came to the YOT.	
Yes, they explained things enough	95%
No, they didn't explain things enough	5%
I don't know / I can't remember	-
I have agreed to a Referral Order Contract (if you have one, it would have been agreed at a panel meeting. It explains what work will be done to help you stop offending and pay back for the harm you may have caused).	
Yes, I agreed to a referral order	100%
No, I haven't agreed to a referral order	0%
I don't know what one is	-
I had enough say in what went into my Referral Order Contract (that means you were asked what needed to go into the contract, your views were listened to, and the things you needed went into the contract).	
Yes, I have had enough say in what went into my Referral Order Contract	83%
No, I haven't had enough say in what went into my Referral Order Contract	17%
I don't know what one is	-
I understand what my Referral Order Contract requires me to do, to help me stop offending.	
Yes, I understand it fully	83%
Yes, but I only understand it partly	8%
No, I don't really understand	8%
I have agreed to a supervision, or sentence, plan (if you have one, it explains what work will be done to help you stop offending).	
Yes, I agreed to a supervision plan	75%
No, I haven't agreed to a supervision plan	0%
I don't know what one is	25%
I had enough say in what went into my supervision, or sentence plan (that means you were asked what needed to go into the plan, your views were listened to, and the things you needed went into the plan).	
Yes, I had enough say	80%

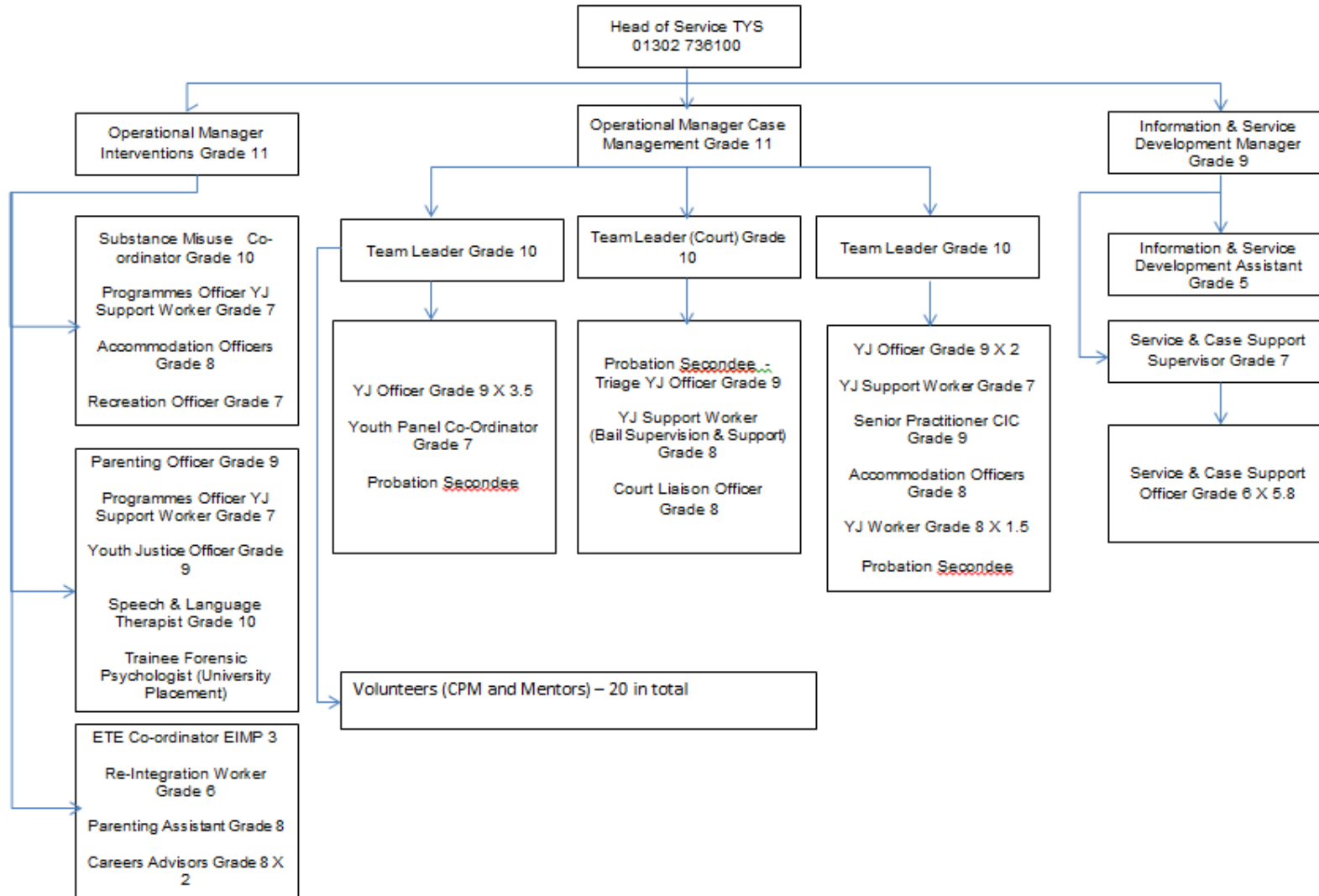
Statement/Question	%
No, I didn't have enough say	20%
I don't know	-
The reasons I have had to come to the YOT are (tick all that apply).	
Because I broke the law	96%
Because I lost my temper	15%
Because I hit or hurt someone else	31%
Because I had illegal drugs	12%
Because I was drunk	8%
Because I don't work	0%
Because I damaged something	15%
Because I took something that belonged to someone else	27%
Because I was driving a car or motorbike badly	4%
Other	19%
I'd prefer not to say	0%
Someone at the YOT asked me to explain why I thought I had offended.	
Yes, they asked me to explain why I had offended	100%
No, they never asked me to explain why I had offended	0%
I'm not sure / I can't remember	-
Someone at the YOT asked me to explain what I thought would help me to stop offending.	
Yes, they asked me to explain	95%
No, they never asked me to explain what would help me to stop offending	5%
I'm not sure / I can't remember	-
The YOT took my views seriously.	
Yes, they always took my views seriously	72%
Yes, they took my views seriously most of the time	16%
No, they rarely or never took my views seriously	4%
No, because they didn't me ask what I thought	0%
I'm not sure / I can't remember	8%
The YOT helped me to feel safer.	
Yes, they helped me	100%
No, they didn't help me	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-

Statement/Question	%
Things have got better for me, at school, at college, or in getting a job.	
Yes, things have got better	73%
No, things haven't got any better	27%
I needed help to cut down my drugs use.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
Things have got better for me about my use of drugs.	
Yes, things have got better	89%
No, things haven't got any better	11%
I needed help with where I live.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
I needed help with my relationships or things about my family.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
I needed help to feel less stressed.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
I needed help to feel happier about what I think of myself, or what others think of me.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
I needed help to be able to make better decisions.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%
I didn't want any help/I didn't need any help	-
I needed help to understand how to stop offending.	
Yes, and I got the help I needed	100%
Yes, but I didn't get enough help	0%

Statement/Question	%
No, I didn't want any help	-
I have been treated fairly by the people who worked with me.	
Yes, all the time	100%
Yes, most of the time	0%
No, not really	0%
No, not at all	0%
I think the service given to me by the YOT has been...	
Very Good	76%
Good most of the time, but not all the time	24%
Not very good	0%
Poor	0%

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6. Resources and Value for Money



Budgets and Variance 2015/16 to 2016/17

<u>Source</u>	<u>Cash (£)</u>	<u>Kind (£)</u>	<u>Total (£)</u> <u>2015/16</u>	<u>Notification</u> <u>of budget</u> <u>(£) 2016/17</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>from</u> <u>2015/16</u> <u>(£)</u>
YJB	717,520	-	717,520	580,632	-136,888
DCS Trust	814,025	-	814,025	814,025	-
Probation (Inc. 3 Probation staff)	63,732	110,972	174,704	109,218	-65,486
PCC cash contribution	160,000	-	160,000	152,000	-8,000
Health (Inc. seconded Speech & Language therapist and CAMHS)	57,348	67,832	125,180	125,180	-
Police (seconded Police Officers)	-	132,126	132,126	132,126	-
JACs		21,367	21,367	21,367	-
Totals	1,812,625	332,297	2,144,922	1,934,548	-210,374

As with all Youth Offending Services, Doncaster has experienced significant cuts in the Core Youth Justice Grant as part of the package of savings which the Ministry of Justice has been required to make. In addition the National Probation Service (NPS) has reduced its contribution in line with a national review into how it finds youth justice provision. Fortunately South Yorkshire Police, the clinical commissioning Group (CCG) and Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) were able to maintain their contributions at 2015/16 levels.

In real terms this means the YOS received cash and in kind reduction of 10.8%, which is broadly in line with the budget reduction received in 2015/16.

The cuts received so far, may be further impacted by the publication of the Charlie Taylor Review into the youth justice system. The outcome of the review is not yet known, but it is expected that it will mean significant changes to how youth justice provision is delivered.

Despite the climate of uncertainty Doncaster YOS is committed to always reviewing its provision and ensuring that young people and families' receive the support they need to lead healthy, safe and aspirational lives.

To that end Doncaster YOS has entered into a strategic partnership with Nottingham University which will see Trainee Forensic Psychologists deployed on a six month placement as part of their PHD. Such provision will allow the YOS and other services within Targeted Youth Support to access clinical expertise to support the existing assessment offer, which has the potential for the service to better understand the needs of complex young people and tailor interventions more effectively to meet these needs.

In addition, the Trainee Forensic Psychologist will lead on the review and development of our existing intervention programmes, to ensure that they are suitable for the needs currently presenting within the cohort, particularly attention will

be paid to developing specific interventions for young females, young people with borderline personality disorders and those with a diagnosis of conduct disorder.

In addition the YOS will seek to second our substance misuse officer to Project 3 in order that they can receive the specialised training in working with young people who have substance misuse issues and more general training in addressing universal health issues, including non-invasive STI screening, urine screening and assess general health needs and deficits.

This will allow the YOS to remove the general health nurse post from the existing structure and replace the post with a part time speech and language therapist.

It is nationally recognised that more than 60% of young offenders have speech, language and communication needs. It is therefore safe to assume that any young person being supported by the Youth Offending Service has communication needs until proven otherwise. The impact this has includes:-

- Many young people have difficulty understanding vocabulary commonly used in the justice system and in courts, such as the words “remorse”, “victim” and “breach”.
- Offender treatment programmes are largely verbally mediated. Evidence shows that around 40% of offenders find it difficult or are unable to access and benefit from verbally mediated interventions such as anger management and drug rehabilitation courses.

Consequently the recruitment of a speech and language therapist, coupled with training operational staff in ELKLAN, a method of assessing and understanding speech, language and communication skills will allow the YOS to work more effectively with a range of young people involved in the youth justice system.

Because of the method of recruiting to these two posts, the YOS will make a marginal saving on the existing cost profile, but will substantially increase the quality of the assessments and interventions available to children young people and families.

In addition, the YOS has entered into regional commissioning arrangements for the provision provided by REMEDI, in terms of restorative justice, victim work and reparation. As well as the provision provided by The Junction, in terms of specialist interventions for young people presenting sexually harmful behaviours. This has saved the YOS in excess of £25,000 without reducing the intervention offer to children, young people and their families.

The Management Board can be assured that the YOS will continue to seek opportunities to develop its service provision to mirror those deployed in exemplar services, but with a creative approach to sourcing and funding these provisions, which we believe demonstrates strong financial governance in a climate of fiscal uncertainty.

Grant Funded Activities

The core YOS grant from the YJB along with the funding from other partners is used for all direct delivery activities, the largest proportion of which is allocated to fund the staffing establishment, however it should be recognised that the majority of

contribution from partners in this respect is an “In Kind” resource in terms of the provision of staff as listed in the table above.

In addition part of the YJB Core Grant is used to fund restorative justice provision and an appropriate adult scheme, which is commissioned on a regional basis with the providers REMEDI and SOVA respectively.

Doncaster YOS continues to offer a Junior Attendance Centre, which currently uses staff TUPE'd to DCS Trust as part of the original contractual arrangements. Over the next 12 months these staff will be replaced by staff from the core YOS establishment as this provision becomes more closely aligned with core delivery.

The table below illustrates the breakdown of the Core YOS grant usage:-

Organisation	£
SOVA	21,568.75
REMEDI	90,250.00
Youth Justice Board	468,813.25

7. Young People's Youth Justice Plan

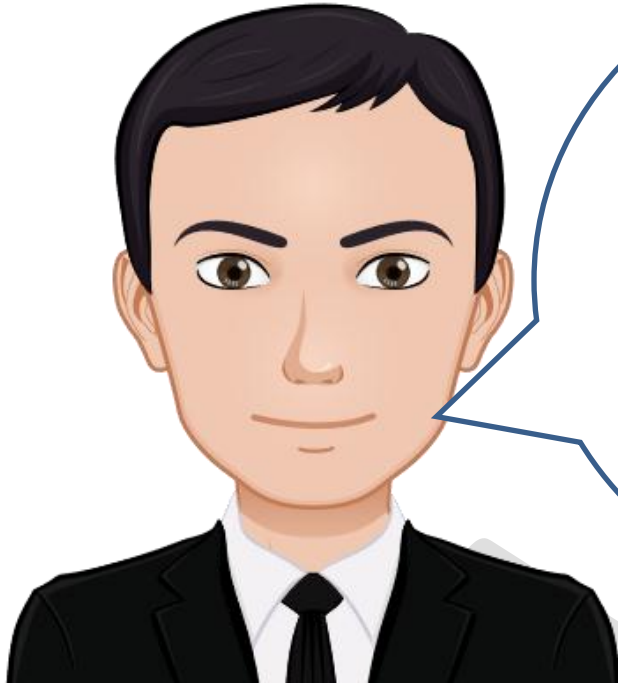


Targeted Youth Support Service
Doncaster Youth Offending Service
Young People's Youth Justice Plan 2016/17

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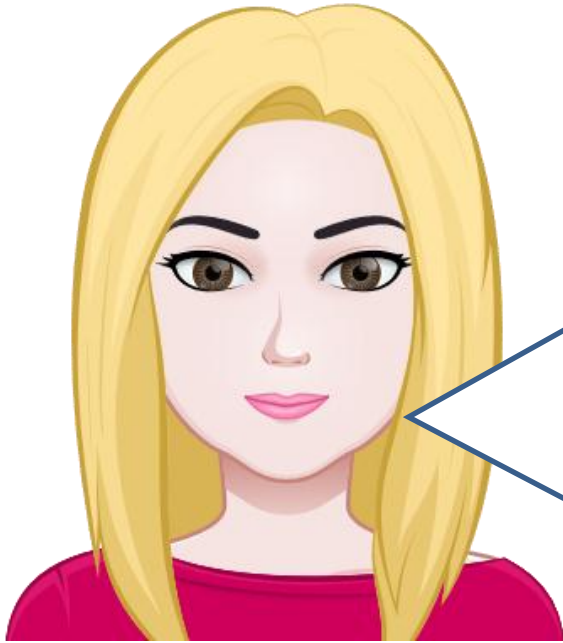
Meet the team



Hi, I'm Mark Douglas. I'm chair of the YOS Management Board. That's a group of people that keeps track of what is happening in YOS and makes sure that Andy and his team do what they say they are going to do. It's important that what you think and feel about the YOS helps shape the service in future, so if you think we can do things better then let Andy know and I'll make sure the Board thinks about if it can be done.

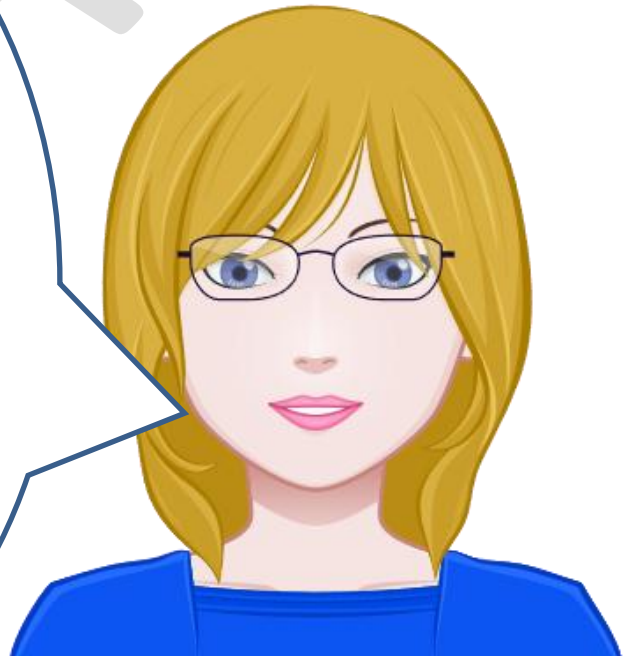
Hi, I'm Andy Hood. I'm the Head of Service, it's my job to make sure that the YOS has everything it needs to give you a good service. It's my job to write this plan. I manage Helen and Kathryn and make sure that you are getting all the help you need to stay out of trouble and lead a happy and healthy lifestyle. If you think we can do anything better at YOS you need to let me know and I'll look into it. If we can do it, then we will; if we can't then I'll let you know the reasons why.

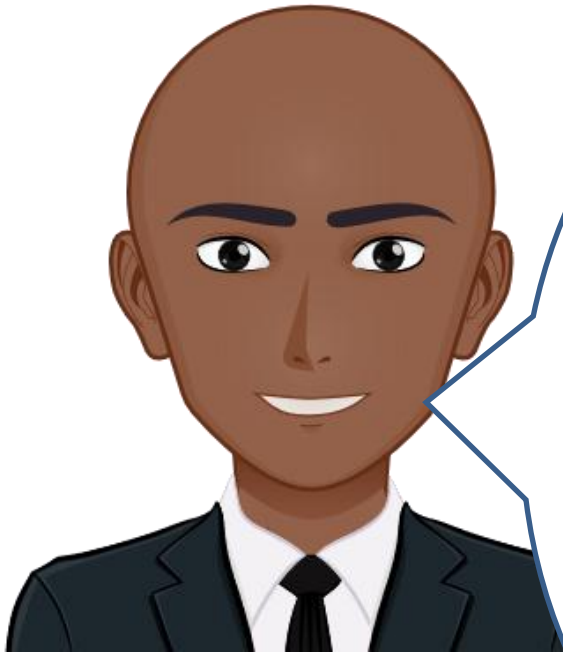




Hi, I'm Kathryn West. I'm the Operational Manager of the Court and Case Management Team. It's my job to make sure you are safe and that you don't harm yourself or anyone else. I manage the Youth Justice Officers who work with you on a day to day basis and who write your Pre-Sentence Reports and do your assessments. It's my job to make sure these are of a good quality and help you to make plans that will keep you out of trouble. If you are not happy with something that is happening on your order then you need to let me know and I will look into it and let you know if there is anything we can do better.

My name is Helen Jones and I'm the manager of the Interventions Team; what I do is manage a group of people who can help you with a whole range of stuff so if you are on a Court Order or YCC you might have help from; a careers advisor, support to attend school, substance misuse worker or support with feeling low, or if you feel like harming yourself. You might also want to meet with a family worker who helps you and your mum, dad or carer to get along better. You might also be asked to attend a group programme to look at the way you deal with situations and how different people are affected by crime. Together we make up the Interventions team and we will work with you and your YOS worker to help you improve things in your life so that you don't get into any more trouble and are happy and healthy.





My name is Marcus Isman-Egal, I'm the programme lead for Team EPIC. As a team we bring creative learning to life! And it all starts with a Yes. My team can help you with lots of different stuff and can get you involved you in things like sports, music, dance, media, the world of work, enterprise, volunteering and helping you stay focussed on the things that are important to you.

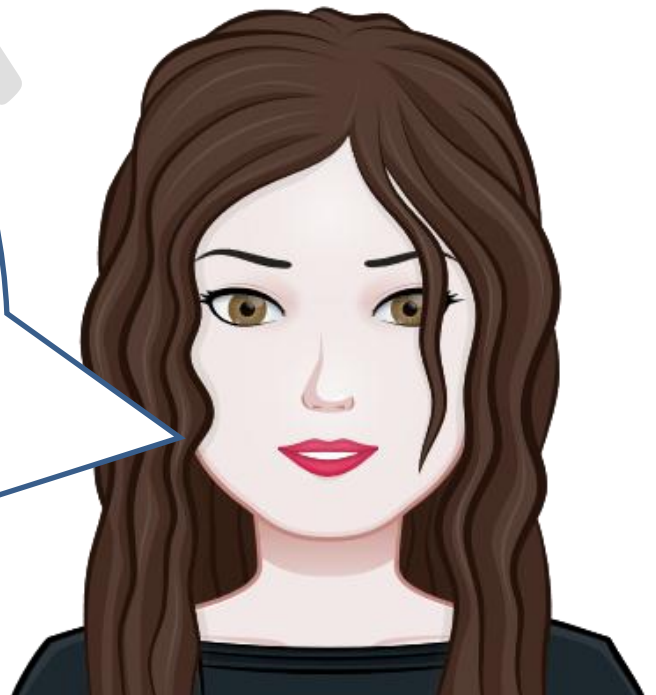
If you have got in trouble with the Police for the first time, or you feel like you might, then we are the team that will help you get back on track.

As they say a belly laugh a day keeps the doctor away, we're a fun bunch and enjoy creating positive learning opportunities that can help you move away from things that might be causing you to get into trouble and help you unlock your true potential.

My name is Jean Clarke, and I am a Systemic Family Psychotherapist which simply means a person who talks to families about their thoughts and feelings. Talking together with your family or on your own can help you manage and cope with:-

- Feelings and thoughts that you don't understand and are difficult to handle.
- Feeling physically unwell or low.
- Difficult experiences.
- Being able to talk to you and your family about difficult situations or arguments between you and your parents.

We also work with you and your family to keep you safe and out of harm.





Hi I am Rachel Ely Hiscock one of three police officers work at the YOS. Our police officers do not wear their uniforms (most of the time) to help build positive relationships with you so that you are not put off by our uniform and see us as people who are here to help you.

It's our job to protect you from becoming victims of crime, safeguarding you against people who might want to cause you harm and help you to achieve positive outcomes. We will offer you positive encouragement but also explain consequences of your behaviour and what further offending might mean for you. Sometimes we might have to pass information you may give us to our police colleagues to protect you and your family in the community.

What is the YOS and what does it do?

The YOS is a multi-agency team of professionals. That means that people from different areas of work come together to try and help you to stay out of trouble and lead happy, healthy positive lives. Some of the people who work here are social workers, probation officers, police officers and there are lots of others from different areas of work, all here to help you.

We work with young people who have got in trouble for the first time, through Team EPIC




(remember Marcus , he's the manager of that team) we also work with young people have got in trouble more than once and have got a Court Order. We also work with young people who have either done something very serious or have got into trouble several times



and have ended up going to custody (remember Kathryn , she's the manager of that team). Although we try everything we can to make sure that doesn't happen to you,


Kathryn's  team will write reports to the Court about why you got in trouble and what


help you might need to get back on track. Kathryn's  team are helped by doing assessments about you, your family and your needs. These assessments are called ASSET Plus and you can ask to see yours anytime you want.


We know that everyone needs a bit of help sometimes, including you. We can help with lots of different things in your life; this might be help at school or finding a job, help at home if things aren't going well for you, helping you find somewhere safe to live if you need it and help with stopping using drugs or alcohol. We have a team of people of can work with you to

make these things in your life better (remember Helen  , she's the manager of this team).

Every year the YOS has to produce a plan to say what it's going to do to help young people. This is the first year though, that we have produced a plan for you. We think you should know what we are trying to do and why we are trying to do it.

This plan is written by Andy (remember Andy  , he's the Head of Service) its Andy's job to look at what happened last year and to make plans for this year to make sure that you all have everything you need to stay out of trouble and lead safe, happy lives. For example last year lots more young people in Doncaster got in trouble for the police for the first time

than they had before. This means that Mark (remember Mark  , he's the chair of the

management board) looked at what was happening and told Andy  he needed to do something to make sure this didn't happen again. So we created Team EPIC, who will work with you if you have got in trouble for the first time making sure there would be lots of people who could help you back on track and have some fun doing it as well.

So that's what the YOS does. It helps you with lots of different things, and hopefully stops you getting into trouble with the police again.

What are trying to do this year?

There are things that the YOS has to report on to the government; these are called performance indicators. What that means, is it is a measure of how well we are doing in different areas to help you to stay out of trouble.

The most important of these are:-

First time Entrants - All this means is the number of young people who get in trouble for the first time. It's important that we stop as many young people as possible getting into trouble and if you get into trouble it's our job to make sure that this doesn't happen again. That's why we created Team EPIC.

In the last two years more young people have got into trouble for the first time in Doncaster than in other places.

If you get into trouble now, Team EPIC will help you get back on track. You might have to do some programmes to help you understand the consequences of what you have done for you and your family, but also there will be lots of fun stuff for you to do including sports, dance, music and meeting other young people interested in the same things as you.

This year we want 15% less young people getting into trouble than there were last year and a further 15% next year. What that means is if 20 young people got in trouble last year, this year we hope that number of young people will only be 17.

If you get the chance to go onto Team EPIC, we think they will help you with whatever you need to get back on track and that you will have some fun whilst you are doing it. If you think things can be done better in Team EPIC then let



Marcus know. What you think is important to us and makes us better at helping you.

Reducing Re-Offending - All this means is bringing down the number of young people who commit another offence after getting a court order or becoming part of Team EPIC.

We do quite well in Doncaster in helping you not to get in trouble again after you start working with us. However, last year the number of you getting into trouble for a second time went up by nearly 2%. That looks like a small number, but it's quite a lot in youth justice terms.

This is a worry for us and this year we will try to bring that number down by 3%. If you stick to your order you can really help us bring this number down even more.

We know that quite a few of you have trouble with speech, language and understanding things. We know it's hard when you don't understand something and sometimes you don't want to ask because you don't want to feel different from other young people. Sometimes this means you stop coming to the YOS or you don't ask for the help you need. To try and make this better we are going to employ a speech and language therapist to help you. This is a person who is good at explaining things in different ways so that you understand and it makes sense to you. We think this will help some of you do better on your orders and stop you getting into more trouble in the future.

We also know that sometimes the help we offer needs to change to meet your needs. Some of our programmes to help you, like the Core Thinking Skills Programme, have been around for quite a while. We think that these programmes need to be looked at again, so we are employing a trainee forensic psychologist to help us. This is a person who is good at looking at different problems and coming up with good ideas to make things better. They are also good at talking to young people who might be confused about some of the things they are thinking or feeling and helping to make sense of their ideas. This person is called Jodie, and Jodie will look at our programmes and see what needs to change. Jodie will talk to you about what you think about the programmes and make changes based, in part, on what you say.

We want to know what you think about the help you get from YOS so if you have any



ideas about how we can do things better then speak to Kathryn .

Reducing the use of custody- All this means is bringing down the number of you that end up getting a custodial sentence. In Doncaster we used to have a lot of young people going to custody, more than in lots of other places. Last year we did our best to change this and the number of young people going to custody was the lowest it's ever been.

We don't think going to custody is good for young people, but sometimes you might do something so serious that the Court decides that you have to.

We will try everything we can to stop this happening. That might mean you getting an Intensive, Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) order that means you have to come here every day and do lots of different things, like going to school or training, going on programmes and engaging in activities. We promise that if this happens to you we'll try and make sure that everything you do is helping you and that you feel it means something.

What is important is that you keep coming to appointments, because if you don't, you might get sent back to Court and sometimes this can also mean going to custody.

We are now close to the national average for the number of young people going to custody. This means that if you live in Doncaster your risk of getting a custodial sentence is nearly the same as if you lived anywhere else in the country. We think we can do better and some of the things we mentioned earlier like employing the speech and language therapist and Jodie, the trainee forensic psychologist, will also help some of you not to get in trouble again and bring down the chances of this happening to you. Next year, it's our aim to be in line with the national average or, hopefully, even better.

Keeping young people and Communities Safe - This is the easiest one to explain, it's our job to make sure you are safe. Sometimes there are people who might try and harm you, sometimes you might feel like or, even actually, harm yourself and sometimes the things you do might harm others.

To stop somebody harming you we have police officers who work here, who will help protect you and your family if somebody threatens you or tries to harm you




(remember Rachel , she's one of our police officers). You can ask to see one of our police officers anytime you want.

Sometimes our police officers might have to share information about you if you are doing things that might harm you or someone else.

Sometimes if you are harming others your case manager will have risk management meetings, these happen to look at what additionally support you might need from Helen's team to stop you doing these things in future. We think that if you are harming other people then you are probably not very happy and there are things about yourself you will want to change and we will help you to make those changes.

Sometimes these things are about what is happening in your family. Our systemic

family psychotherapist (that's Jean  , remember her) will help you say things to

your family that you might have found hard to say in the past. Jean  will help you understand your thoughts and feelings about your family and will help you, or mum, your dad or your carer to get along better and hopefully make things better for you at home.

Lastly we think that you will be safest and happiest if you are doing education or training or are a job that you're really enjoy. We know that sometimes you might not have had a great experience of these things in the past. Last year we helped 87.4% young people get into something they enjoyed. That's a lot, but we think we can do better this year and we aiming to get 90% into education, training or employment that you want to do.

What that means is that for every 10 of you, we hope that we get 9 of you into something you enjoy. You might ask why not 10? and you would be right, but we know sometimes that for a lot of different reason you might not be ready to go into formal education, training or employment, but we will help you with different courses to makes sure than when you do feel ready you have all the skills you need to be whatever you want to be.

So that's the plan; I hope it makes sense and you know what we are doing and why we are doing it, but if you are not sure just ask to see me when you come to YOS and I'll explain it to you. If I'm not here, then your case manager will make an appointment for you to see me when you are next here. Thanks for reading this and if you think there is anything that we can do better, then just let me know.

Andy Hood 

Head of Targeted Youth Support Services

03.06.16

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – Adoption ‘Making’ of the Burghwallis and Tickhill Neighbourhood Plans

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Joe Blackham	Tickhill and Wadworth Norton and Askern	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Localism Act (2011). It gave Town/Parish Councils and communities the power to write their own plans and take more control of planning for their areas.
2. Tickhill Town Council and Burghwallis Parish Council have produced Neighbourhood Plans for their parish areas, which have subsequently undergone successful examinations and referendums.
3. In accordance with Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to ‘make’ (adopt it as part of the Development Plan) a Neighbourhood Plan following a successful referendum. The recently amended Neighbourhood Planning Regulations also now require Local Authorities to ‘make’ (adopt) a Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of the date of the referendum. This target can be achieved for the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan, which is the second plan in Doncaster to go through a referendum (Tickhill was the first) but the first since the new regulations came in to force on the 1st October 2016.
4. The Development Plan for the borough is a Full Council function so the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plans as part of the Development Plan has to be agreed by Full Council.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that members of Full Council:
 - Formally adopt the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan and the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan for the borough.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. Neighbourhood Plans are a key component of the Government's Localism agenda and allow local communities to influence and take more control of decisions around planning in their areas. Producing a Neighbourhood Plan has advantages over other kinds of plans because it enables communities to take a lead in their own neighbourhoods in producing part of the statutory development plan for the area. Where there is a Parish/ Town Council that is the qualifying body for producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish/ Town Council may choose to put together a steering or working group of community representatives to assist with the process. Plans must be consulted on with the community before being independently examined. Ultimately the decision to endorse the plan is via referendum of the community within the plan's area.

BACKGROUND

8. The Localism Act (2011) allowed for local communities to prepare plans and strategies for development in their area called Neighbourhood Plans. The Plans must go through a number of stages as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) before they can be adopted (called made in the legislation) and Doncaster Council has a statutory duty to advise and assist during the preparation of a Plan, as well as fulfil certain requirements along the way in order to comply with the Regulations. There are currently 8 Neighbourhood Plans being prepared in the borough with Tickhill and Burghwallis now having reached the final stage of the process, adoption (being 'made').

9. Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan and sits alongside the adopted Doncaster Core Strategy 2012 and the emerging Local Plan. Any planning applications submitted in the Tickhill or Burghwallis parishes must be determined in accordance with both the Core Strategy and the appropriate Neighbourhood Plan.

10. There are a number of legally prescribed stages that need to be undertaken in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan:

- designation of the area (in both the case of Tickhill and Burghwallis the designated area is the parish boundary);
- publication of the draft Plan;
- submission of the Plan to the Local Planning Authority;
- examination by an independent examiner; and
- referendum

Where a Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a successful referendum (where more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan), and the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that EU and human rights obligations have been met, it is a requirement to 'make' the Plan and adopt it as part of the Development Plan. The referendum results for both Neighbourhood Plans are set out below. Both were successful at referendum.

11. **Tickhill:** The question asked in the referendum was, "Do you want Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Tickhill to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
The number of votes cast in favour of a 'Yes' – 1008
The number of votes cast in favour of a 'No' – 151
Votes cast - 1159

Percentage of Votes cast in favour of a 'Yes' – 87%
Electorate - 4359
Turnout – 26.59%

The Plan is available at Appendix A.

12. Burghwallis: The question asked in the referendum was, "Do you want Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Burghwallis to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

The number of votes cast in favour of a 'Yes' – 76
The number of votes cast in favour of a 'No' – 11
Votes Cast 87
Percentage of Votes cast in favour of a 'Yes' – 87%
Electorate – 245
Turnout – 35.51%

The Plan is available at Appendix B.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

13. It is considered that there is only one realistic option available, which is option A:

Option A (recommended):

- Adopt the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan and the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan for the borough.

Option B (not recommended):

- Do not adopt the Tickhill and Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plans.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

14. In accordance with Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council is required to 'make' a Neighbourhood Plans following a successful referendum and providing the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is satisfied that EU and human rights obligations (the basic conditions) have been met.

15. Both Neighbourhood Plans were successful at referendum and in the opinion of the LPA have met the basic conditions, so in accordance with the Act the Plans should now be adopted as part of the Development Plan for Doncaster.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

16. Neighbourhood Plans have been identified as potentially impacting on the Council's following key outcomes:

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Positive. Gives Town/Parish Councils and local residents another means to influence the development of where they live.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>n/a</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Positive. Neighbourhood Plans can focus on the individual characteristics of their local area.</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>n/a</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Positive. Neighbourhood Plans provide the opportunity to work with Town/Parish councils and local communities to help them influence and take more ownership of local decisions around Planning and development.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

17. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has a duty to support Parish/Town Councils in the development of Neighbourhood Plans and to oversee the process (including the referendum) making sure the Plans meet the require legal tests and EU obligations (called the basic conditions). In the opinion of

the LPA the Tickhill and Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plans have met the basic conditions and have been successful at referendum, as such the Council will be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 if the Plans are not adopted. As the legislation concerning the recommendation is quite explicit there is no way of mitigating this risk.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. As detailed within the report, the Council is required to 'make' a Neighbourhood Plan following a successful referendum and providing the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is satisfied that EU and human rights obligations (the basic conditions) have been met. The Council is satisfied that the latter have been met. Following the "making" of the plan the Council has to comply with publicity requirements. The Plan is open to challenge by Judicial Review and anyone aggrieved by the Plan would need to make an application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the decision making date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no direct financial implications associated with the formal adoption of the Tickhill and Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plans.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

20. None identified

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

21. None identified

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

22. Planning applications for new developments in Tickhill and Burghwallis parishes will be determined in accordance with the policies in the appropriate Neighbourhood Plan that have been developed in consultation with the local communities. The plans have subsequently been examined by independent examiners and modified in accordance with their recommendations to ensure that meet all the required legal tests.

CONSULTATION

23. All Neighbourhood Plans are subject to consultation at various stages of their preparation, for example the boundary is consulted on at a very early stage and the draft plan is subject to formal consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks before being submitted to Doncaster Council who is also then required to carry out its own consultation on the plan before it can be submitted to examination stage allowing ample opportunity therefore for input and influence from any interested stakeholder as well as our statutory consultees.

24. The Neighbourhood Plan is examined by an independent Examiner and must be accompanied by a Consultation Statement demonstrating that the legal requirements of consultation have been met. Ultimately the Neighbourhood Plan is voted for by the local community at a referendum hence the importance that the community are engaged with the plan from an early stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. The following links provide further background information in respect to the Tickhill and Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plans, the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and the National Planning Practice Guidance.

Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/tickhill-neighbourhood-development-plan>

Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/burghwallis-neighbourhood-development-plan>

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>

Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/20/contents/made>

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/873/pdfs/uksi_20160873_en.pdf

National Planning Practice Guidance: Neighbourhood Plans

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/>

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Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan 2013 - 2028

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Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan

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Acknowledgements

Tickhill Town Council would like to thank all those involved in the process of formulating the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan.

Particular thanks go to John Hoare (Chair), Rosemary Chappell (Secretary) and all members of the Steering Group who have worked tirelessly on the project. Jane Stimpson, Planning Policy Manager (Built Environment) DMBC, the statutory bodies and individual groups and organisations have all had an invaluable input and their help is appreciated.

Most importantly, the Town Council would like to acknowledge the interest taken by all local residents and businesses and their cooperation in formulating the policies contained in the Plan.

Thanks also go to Martin Crapper of RMA Partnership, 10 St Mary's Court, Tickhill for his assistance, advice and time, freely given, in putting the final document together.

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Tickhill's ancient Buttercross – town centre junction of Sunderland Street and Market Place

PREFACE

Early in 2012, a small group of interested persons from Tickhill Town Council and Tickhill Residents' Association attended an informative session about the new Neighbourhood Development Plans. This provoked sufficient interest for the Town Council to call meetings which led to the decision to form a Steering Group to manage the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The Town Council took the formal decision in June 2012, registering its intention to move to a Neighbourhood Plan with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Steering Group recognised from the outset that thorough public consultation was essential; the Neighbourhood Plan must be owned by the community. We are fortunate that Tickhill has a free magazine, *Tickhill Today*, which is delivered to every household. The editor offered her willing cooperation. Initially, we prepared an A5 Questionnaire which was delivered with every magazine in July 2012. This described the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and invited residents to comment on three things:

- the strengths and positive features of Tickhill – things that they valued and would like to keep
- the negative features of Tickhill – things that they didn't like and would like to get rid of, or improve
- the things that Tickhill didn't have but which they would like

There was also space for residents to make further comments if they wished. The reaction was overwhelmingly positive. The public appreciate the large number of local organisations and annual events. They are happy with the town being broadly the size it is, with its environment and with the protection of the Green Belt. Local shops are valued.

From this exercise we had sufficient evidence to agree on a number of working groups who eventually looked at (1) Town Centre and Parking, (2) Traffic and Road Safety, (3) Communal Facilities, including the provision for young people, (4) Design and Housing, (5) Heritage, (6) Environment and (7) Flooding and Drainage. Statistical evidence was not necessarily available – we took, for example, our own traffic counts at the Market Place and Stripe Road crossroads, while no housing needs figures were available as these are only recorded for the borough as a whole.

A Village Plan had been produced about a decade earlier which gave us a start on the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. The draft of the latter was tested on various members of the community and amended where necessary.

Over the following months, the Steering Group continued to use *Tickhill Today* for monthly reports up to the point where a Draft Neighbourhood Plan was ready for the lengthy formal process of submission on the Town Council and Borough Council's websites. At this point, this was some time off. For now, once the working groups had reached the stage of an initial report of issues and possible policies and solutions, a major public exhibition was held

over two days at the end of February and the beginning of March in 2013. This yielded many useful comments from members of the public. We attended the Tickhill Gala in July 2013 where we used another A5 sheet for people to comment on issues where we felt that we needed further confirmation of public concerns and opinions. In the meantime, a lengthy list of local organisations had been written to, sending them material and inviting them to put forward ideas for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group also contacted and met with Tickhill Business Association and Tickhill Together. Both primary schools in the town were visited and the older children were given the opportunity to air their ideas. Teenagers, in the form of the local scout group, were also asked to comment and make their comments known. During the summer, personal visits were made to businesses in the town centre to gauge their views about possible content for the plan. All this information was collated and incorporated in the plan where appropriate.

By the summer of 2013 we had received helpful contributions from a number of statutory agencies, such as English Heritage, and valuable assistance from planning officers at Doncaster Council. We had contacted the Borough Council which had determined that we did not require a Sustainability Appraisal. Then, having finalised the draft Neighbourhood Plan, completed the Statement of Conformity and the Consultation Document (up to this date) we were able to put all the documentation on the Town Council's website for the first stage of the formal process which lasted from 6th August to 17th September 2013. Following this, there were a few additional representations to absorb before passing the Draft Plan to the Borough Council in autumn 2013 for publication on their website.

Thus we were expecting in early 2014 to be ready to submit the Neighbourhood Plan for the required external moderation by an Independent Examiner. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government, who had given very little advice about the format of Neighbourhood Plans, stated that, while they recognised that communities would wish to promote a wide variety of aspirations and concerns through such plans, policies which came within the remit of planning permissions should be clearly distinguished from the rest. We were advised to withdraw the Draft Plan and respond to this advice. Consequently, we rearranged the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan into the form it now takes: Section One 'Land Use Planning Policies' and Section 2 'Accompanying Policies and Proposals'. The Plan was reprinted with this layout and was ready for publication in May 2014 prior to being sent to the Independent Examiner in the autumn of 2014.

Although the effect of this change of direction was to lose nearly a year, the Steering Group considers that, having made these changes and having subsequently adopted certain modifications recommended by the Independent Examiner, we have a stronger and clearer statement of intention as a result. We believe that the Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan offers a vision and proposals which will help to achieve those issues and objectives which were clearly expressed to the Steering Group throughout the consultation exercise.

Land Use Planning Policies

TICKHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

VISION:

Tickhill aims to develop its essential character as a small historic market town, with outstanding community spirit and a wide range of successful businesses and organisations. Residents will benefit from enhanced facilities while visitors will be encouraged to enjoy Tickhill's history and its shopping and leisure opportunities. The town will continue to offer a high quality of life supported by the wish to sustain economic growth and environmental improvement.

OBJECTIVES:

- to conserve and enhance the character of the town, in particular with regard to its amenities and services, the built environment, open spaces and the surrounding Green Belt.
- to sustain and promote local shops, businesses and the provision of services.
- to encourage opportunities for local employment which help sustain the local economy
- to encourage residents and visitors to share in the history, environment and shopping opportunities of the town.
- to promote and protect Tickhill's historic and architectural features, listed buildings and the Conservation Area.
- to support the development of affordable housing and high quality infill by advocating the use of sympathetic local materials in their construction.
- to identify unsatisfactory or vulnerable areas and services, including transport, where improvement would be beneficial and to suggest how this can be achieved.
- to develop new facilities for all ages of the population, particularly young people, to encourage and promote healthy and crime free lifestyles.
- to protect the surrounding countryside, support local farmers and promote local produce.
- to secure a safe environment for all, particularly with respect to road safety and flooding issues.
- to create an environment where all residents, workers and visitors feel valued and wish to contribute towards an inclusive and vibrant community.

TICKHILL – THE PLACE

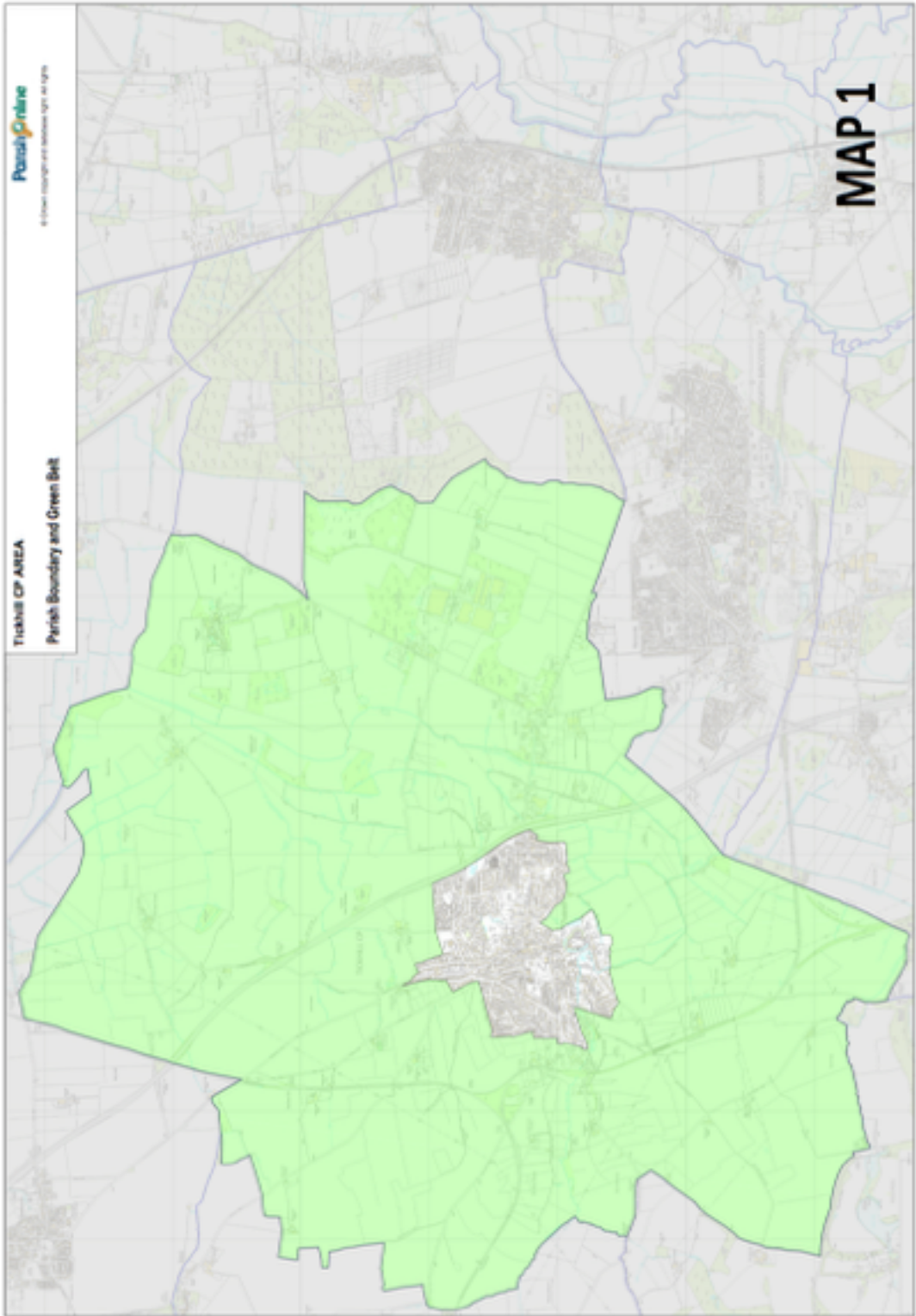
The town of Tickhill lies within the parish of St Mary's, approximately eight miles south of Doncaster in South Yorkshire (reference Map 1 - Parish Boundary and Green Belt). It is a vibrant, prosperous community with a population of 5,228 (2011 Census) consisting of 2,398 households. Approximately 16% of its population is aged under eighteen whilst a large percentage (37%) is over sixty. The town, therefore, is home to all age groups with a large economically active sector but also a significant ageing population.

The built up area of Tickhill is fairly compact and is found more or less in the centre of the parish, surrounded by open countryside. It is this insularity which gives Tickhill an identity all of its own and which has helped develop a thriving community spirit.

Tickhill owes its origins to the establishment of a castle after the Norman conquest, sited to control a major route to the north. The historic market town, which grew up originally around the castle and later around the 900 year old Grade I listed St Mary's Church, now forms the Conservation Area at the centre of present-day Tickhill. The population remained small until after the Second World War. During the period 1960-1990 a large volume of new housing raised the population from 2582 to 5572 (1991 Census) as the town became a dormitory settlement for nearby large towns and cities. In recent years, the population has declined slightly.

The parish is relatively large at 2,780 hectares, with most of it being Green Belt farmland. It formerly claimed to be the smallest Urban District in the country within the ancient West Riding of Yorkshire. It was absorbed into the newly-created Doncaster Metropolitan Borough in the local government reorganisation of 1974. A Town Council was then established in Tickhill to look after parochial issues and continues to do so today.

Tickhill remains a popular place in which to live, with a good variety of local shops, a wide range of social activities and a flourishing community life. Its position at the junction of the A60 (a north-south route) and the A631 (east-west) is significant, allowing easy access to and from the surrounding district for residents and visitors alike.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – WHY?

There has long been a wish within Tickhill for the townsfolk to have more control over the town’s affairs. With the passage of the Localism Act 2011, the Town Council decided to investigate the opportunities presented by a new Neighbourhood Plan. For a relatively small and geographically self-contained community, situated on the outskirts of a metropolitan authority of around 300,000 inhabitants, a Neighbourhood Plan for Tickhill has obvious attractions. These include the desire to preserve and enhance the attractiveness of the historic town, to promote its businesses, to protect it from unwelcome forms of change and to improve community facilities. A particular problem is the major east-west traffic route between the M18 and Lincolnshire which contributes mainly congestion and air and noise pollution to the town.

Tickhill Town Council, through the Neighbourhood Plan, aims to promote the economic well-being and quality of life of all residents, setting out policies and proposals across the range of aspirations and ideas raised during the public consultation exercise. The Council recognizes that different mechanisms are required to deliver these objectives. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan is divided into two sections – land use policies which will be delivered through the mechanism of the planning system, and an annex of accompanying policies which will require negotiation and cooperation with other authorities, agencies and organizations if they are to be implemented.



*Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan
Second Consultation
Tickhill Gala – July 6th 2013*

Recreation ground, Tithes Lane



TOWN CENTRE

The Neighbourhood Plan will work to improve the area around the Market Place and associated streets for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors. Residents have made it abundantly clear that they appreciate the variety of types of shops and the other uses in the town centre and that the current balance between uses is appropriate. The following policies seek to preserve and promote the vibrancy of the town centre.

The Market Place, with the 18th century Buttercross at its centre, is at the T junction of main roads and consequently experiences constant traffic. Along its western side is an important range of shops, offices and cafés which extend continuously for some distance to the south on both sides of Castlegate and for a short distance east along Sunderland Street and on one side only north along Northgate. The location has the advantage of prominence, but the disadvantage of vehicular traffic. In the public consultation exercise, appreciation of the range and quality of local shops was tempered by concerns about the unsatisfactory conditions for pedestrians.

Improvements to pedestrian and cycle links are important to Tickhill so that people are encouraged to leave their cars at home. The town is relatively flat and nucleated, with most dwellings within easy reach of the centre.

Map 2 (The Core Business Area) delineates the area which is here described as the town centre, and which contains the majority of local businesses. This supersedes the 'Commercial Policy Area' in the former Doncaster Unitary Development Plan (DUDP). It contains all properties in Market Place and along Northgate, Sunderland Street and Castlegate as far as there are businesses fronting the street. A survey in October 2013 demonstrated that approximately 60% of properties within this area fall within Land Use Class A1; the public consultation exercise demonstrated a wish to maintain this variety of uses in order to preserve the vibrancy of the town centre.



Market Place, town centre

Tickhill CP

Town Centre Core Business Area

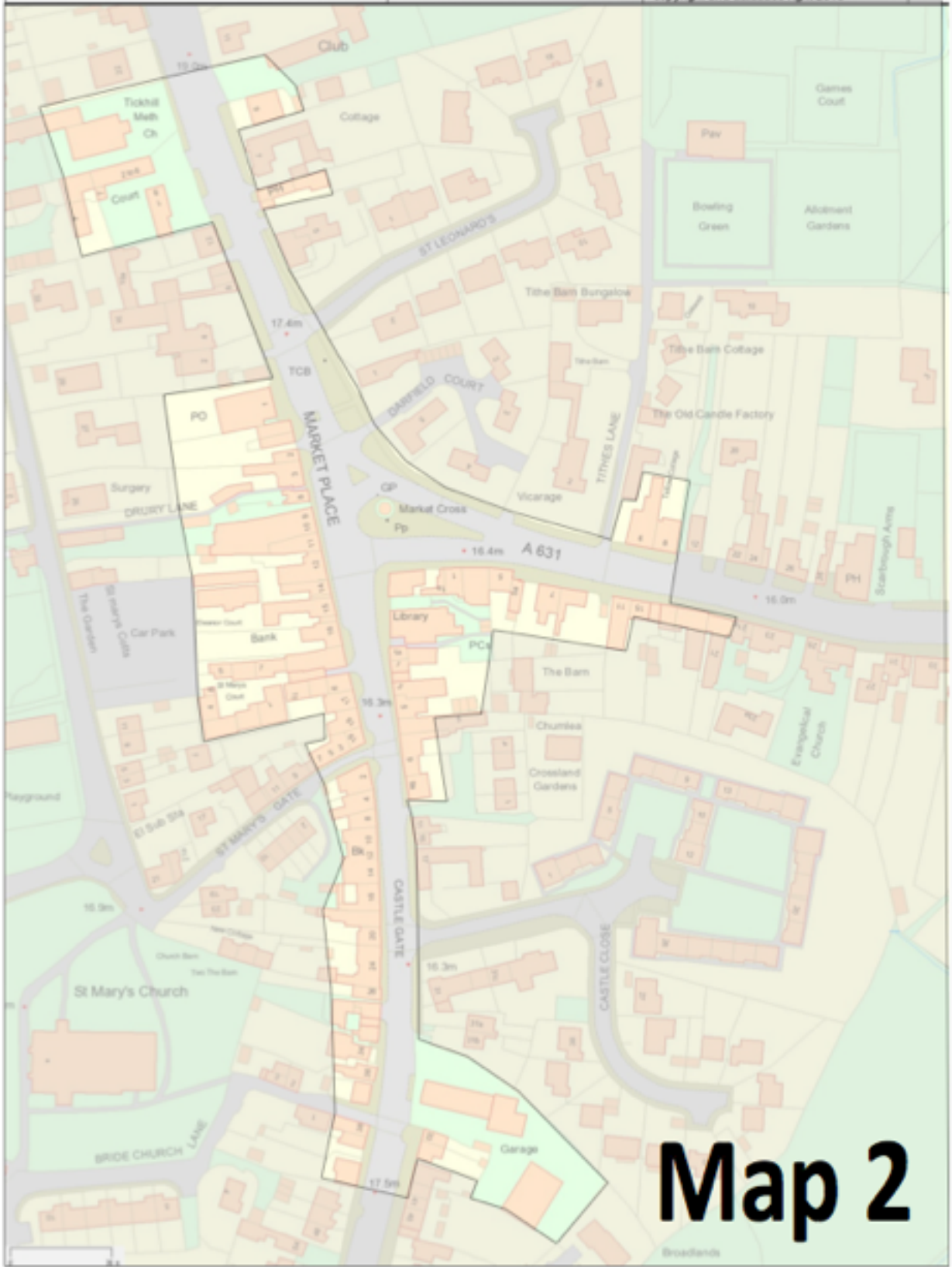
Date: 21-11-2013

Scale: 1:1800

Map Centre - easting / northing:
459310 / 393256



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Map 2

Policy TC1 Quality of the environment.

Planning applications for development in the Core Business Area of the town centre will be required to demonstrate through the design and access statement that they will both enhance the character and appearance of the area and improve the public realm. Such improvements should seek to better the safety and convenience of pedestrians over car borne traffic.

The public consultation exercise indicated the problems in the centre of Tickhill but suggested no clear solutions. The annex proposes certain policies with regard to traffic but any opportunity presented by a planning application which leads to such improvements as widened pavements and/or slower traffic will be welcomed.

Policy TC2 Town centre uses.

The Core Business Area (shown on Map 2) is the main shopping area of the town centre. In order to maintain the shopping function of the retail frontages within this area, it is important that the concentration of A1 (Retail) uses is protected and enhanced. Proposals that seek to dilute that concentration will not generally be supported and the introduction of non-retail uses (Classes A2, A3, A4, A5 and Sui Generis) will be restricted to a maximum of 40% of the sum total of the retail frontages unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) there is no demand for retail use,
- b) the proposal will protect and/or enhance the vitality and viability of the street, and
- c) the proposal will have an attractive shop front which contributes positively to the appearance of the street.

The vibrancy of the town centre is in no small measure due to the variety of current uses; this is clearly appreciated by the public, and is evidenced by comment in the public consultation exercise. The aim of the policy is to ensure that the Core Business Area does not have the predominantly shopping character eroded by non-retail developments. The percentage figures are derived from a detailed survey which indicated that approximately 60% of properties currently fall within Class A1.

Policy TC3 Upper floors above shops and businesses within the town centre as defined on Map 2.

Residential use of accommodation on the upper floors of town centre businesses will be supported provided that such accommodation is not currently in employment use and that the residential use does not adversely affect the viability of any ground floor commercial use.

This policy aims to secure that as much as possible of the town centre accommodation is used, both in order to meet housing need and in the interests of security.

Policy TC4 Residential accommodation in the town centre as defined on Map 2.

Residential accommodation within the town centre should be retained, unless an employment retail use is proposed which would enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre.

The diversity of uses in Tickhill town centre, including residential, is part of its character which the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to conserve.

Policy TC5 Security of business premises.

Measures which will provide greater security for commercial property in the town centre will be supported, provided that they respect the character of the Conservation Area.

(1) Where roller shutters are being installed to a traditional shop front, features of architectural or historic interest should always be preserved, particularly in the case of listed buildings. Wherever possible, roller shutters should be incorporated within the façade, rather than simply being fastened to its surface, and shutters should always be perforated and coloured to match or complement the shop front.

(2) Security cameras should be small and fixed in a discreet location.

The business sector has commented in the course of the public consultation that the town centre, several miles away from the nearest law enforcement base, has been targeted by thieves. Break-ins have resulted in criminal damage and losses, with a resultant increase in costs, including insurance. This is to the detriment of the viability of the town centre and therefore of the whole community. The Neighbourhood Plan will support measures to increase the security of all premises in the town centre, achievable through planning applications and cooperation between the South Yorkshire Police, Borough and Town Councils and the business community.

Policy TC6 Site of former public toilets.

In any future development of this site, the limestone perimeter walls should be restored in situ and any new structure be in keeping with the adjacent buildings and the character of the Conservation Area. (Cross reference to Policy DE3 – Protection of limestone walls.)



The derelict public toilets on this site are too expensive to restore and inappropriately sited in that they are out of public view and liable to vandalism and misuse. This small site should be sensitively redeveloped.

← *Entrance to site of derelict toilets, Market Place (library to the right)*

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Traffic speed, through traffic, road safety and car parking featured strongly in the concerns expressed in the public consultation exercise. The public expressed a clear wish to see a reduction in through traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, free but controlled parking, greater pedestrian safety, especially on the main roads, improved public transport and increased opportunities for walking and cycling. While many of the aspirations and resulting proposals fall outside the remit of land use planning, the Neighbourhood Plan aims to influence planning applications wherever appropriate to promote these objectives.

Policy HT1 Safety and traffic improvements.

The Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals which have the effect of any of the following:

- (1) promoting walking, cycling (including enhancing the local public rights of way network) and the use of public transport (including enhanced provision for those with limited mobility)
- (2) promoting road safety by physical means, such as the widening of pavements
- (3) alleviating traffic problems in the town centre when road improvements affecting the parish are implemented
- (4) contributing to an increase in short-term parking opportunities to support town centre trade



Congestion – Market Place

DESIGN (New and existing buildings)

The Neighbourhood Plan will support appropriate infill residential development of high quality within the existing development limits of the town. At the same time it will seek to support the character of Tickhill by ensuring that the traditional mix of building materials is maintained and that alterations and new building are in keeping with that character. It will do this by supporting proposals which incorporate sustainable features and construction measures where they will not have a negative impact upon character.

Tickhill has managed to retain much of its vernacular style in layout, form and materials. The centre around the Buttercross has a vibrant array of local shops and amenities with generally wide streets and a variety of stone and brick buildings, many in part dating from as far back as the 15th century. There is a predominance of stone walls, the majority being of limestone. One of the charms of Tickhill is the non-uniform roof lines, pantiles and slate roofs, and ancient buildings being reused while retaining their external appearance. These include former agricultural buildings, smithy, candle factory, watermill and tithe barn. All of these make for the distinctiveness of the town. Along the main east-west road there are a number of large houses with generous curtilages traditionally giving green space between buildings, but much of this has been lost in recent years.

The public consultation exercise raised concerns that the quality and diversity of building form in Tickhill should not be lost. People were of the opinion that good design, however defined, was essential in any new build and that, where appropriate, such buildings should be wholly or partially of limestone or of good quality stone appearance. Likewise, any extensions should be in keeping with the materials of the main structure unless, exceptionally, the aim is to differentiate clearly between the original listed building and the new addition.

Reference should also be made to Policy F1 (Building Development) in the section 'Flooding and Drainage' to ensure that future development proposals do not exacerbate existing flooding problems.

Policy DE1 New building.

New development should be designed to fit into the character of Tickhill, with proposals demonstrating a thorough understanding of local character as part of the design process.

This should be demonstrated in the Design and Access Statements or heritage statements submitted in support of planning applications. Any proposal should also reflect the most up to date design guidance adopted by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Doncaster Council is developing a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan which will assist in identifying the features which contribute to the distinctive character of Tickhill.

Policy DE2 Building in large gardens.

Proposals to build in the large gardens of houses along the main roads (ie Sunderland Street, Northgate, Doncaster Road, Castlegate, Westgate and Rotherham Road) will be strongly resisted so as to maintain traditional open green gaps in the street scene.

The Neighbourhood Plan will work with the appropriate planning authorities to refuse houses in large gardens that destroy the open green aspect, or are out of character and size with the proposed new curtilage.

Policy DE3 Protection of limestone walls.

Any planning application for development (whether within or outside the Tickhill Conservation Area) will be expected to provide for the retention and repair of existing limestone walls, and their removal will be resisted.

Maps showing existing limestone walls, which can be seen from the public realm, are held by Tickhill and District Local History Society. The public consultation exercise revealed concerns that stones were being removed from old walls or such walls were being lost. Comments were made that, as these walls are such a distinctive feature of Tickhill, they should not be lowered or altered. Policies which support these public objectives will be supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.



Limestone walls, Northgate, looking towards town centre

Policy DE4 Sustainability in building.

Proposals that achieve more sustainable buildings will be supported, provided that the sustainability measures will not have a negative impact upon the character of the area.

In order to adapt to changing climate and to demonstrate effective use of energy, water and materials, whilst serving the needs of all generations, all new homes are expected to achieve at least Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Any non-residential buildings will be expected to aim for BREEAM standards of 'very good' or 'excellent'. All new developments must secure at least 10% of their total regulated energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources. The public consultation exercise demonstrated general support for promoting the use of renewable energy. However, there was concern that this should not detract from the external appearance of listed buildings in particular, as where photovoltaic units fail to blend with the existing roof. Support will be given to solar panels which match roofs in colour and style, in the expectation that such developments will come onto the market during the life of the Neighbourhood Plan. In areas with a medium – high probability of flooding (Flood Zones 2 and 3) or at identified risk from surface water flooding, the inclusion of flood resilience measures into both new and existing buildings will be encouraged, such as raising floor levels above ground level and wiring buildings down from the ceiling with sockets well above floor level. (Cross reference to Policy F1 – Building development.)

Policy DE5 Accessibility and adaptations.

Where planning permission is required (including change of use), applicants will be expected to comply with practical guidance produced by the Secretary of State as to how the requirements of the building regulations and equalities legislation should be met in relation to achieving access for all.

The public consultation exercise showed support for buildings being capable of adaptation to suit changing needs without major internal alterations, e.g. doorways wide enough to allow wheelchair movement. Application of the provisions of the 2010 Disability and Equalities Acts and subsequent legislation and regulations, as opportunity arises, will ensure better accessibility for those with disabilities or limited mobility. This covers such issues as access and egress, sanitary arrangements and door and staircase width. Businesses are encouraged to look for ways to improve accessibility for all. In the case of listed buildings or other buildings of historic significance, alterations will be such as do not harm the character of the building. Applicants for planning permission are encouraged to seek specialist advice on access requirements.

Policy DE6 Extensions and alterations.

Proposals for extensions and alterations will be supported provided that they complement and enhance the main building and its setting, and are proportionate to it in scale and size.

Alterations to historic buildings in the Conservation Area and on listed buildings should be in keeping with the vernacular style and, if at present not in keeping, be remedied when the opportunity arises. There was concern expressed during the consultation exercise that some past planning permissions had resulted in façades out of keeping with the buildings. Proposals should also reflect the most up to date guidance adopted by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to residential extensions and domestic alterations.



Block paved drive, Northgate

HOUSING (New housing)

The Neighbourhood Plan will support appropriate infill residential development of high quality within the existing development limits of the town. At the same time it will seek to support the character of Tickhill by ensuring that the traditional mix of building materials is maintained and that alterations and new building are in keeping with that character. It will support proposals which incorporate sustainable features and construction measures where they will not have a negative impact upon character.

The Core Strategy of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council makes no requirement for the allocation of land for additional houses within Tickhill; it states that “only quality infill within existing settlement boundaries” will be permitted. This accords with the responses in the public consultation exercise which indicated a satisfaction with Tickhill’s present size.

The public consultation exercise raised concerns that the quality and diversity of building form in Tickhill should not be lost. People were of the opinion that good design, however defined, was essential in any new build and that, where appropriate, such buildings should be wholly or partially of limestone or of good quality stone appearance or of appropriate brick.

Other housing issues were also raised by the public. Their responses indicated concern that recent infill has been of very large houses rather than of properties suitable for local families. There are, unfortunately, no specific figures indicating local need. There was also concern expressed at the extent of building in large gardens and its effect in changing the character of the affected areas. The Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan will therefore seek to ensure that development of windfall sites accords with local needs, with sustainability principles and with the character of the surroundings.

Where any new building is proposed, reference should also be made to Policy DE1 (New Building) and to the chapter ‘Design (New and Existing Buildings)’.

The following policies are specific to the different character areas of the town:

Conservation Area: Northgate/Doncaster Road, Market Place, Castlegate, Westgate, St. Mary’s Church and environs.

This is a busy area, in parts heavily congested, characterized by properties fronting onto the pavement, whether commercial or residential. There are a few larger properties further away from the town centre, some with front gardens. Buildings tend to be of red brick, some rendered, but with older buildings often of stone. Roofing materials are of clay pantiles or slate.

Policy H1 Conservation Area: Northgate/Doncaster Road, Market Place, Castlegate, Westgate, St. Mary’s Church and environs. (Refer to Map 5, Area H1)

New housing should satisfy the following characteristics:

- 1. be constructed of stone or brick in keeping with adjacent existing properties
- 2. have a roof of red clay pantiles or natural slate
- 3. form a coherent building line with adjacent existing properties
- 4. retain existing limestone boundary walls; any new boundary treatment should complement the historic character of the area
- 5. be in a terrace, semi-detached or detached
- 6. provide adequate storage space for refuse and recycling bins provided by the local authority
- 7. be of a size, scale and height appropriate to its location and the size of the plot

Conservation Area: Sunderland Street.

This is a broad, long road, much of it tree-lined. Close to the town centre, properties front onto the pavement. Further out larger, mostly detached properties predominate, frequently with the limestone walls characteristic of Tickhill. Older properties display red brick, render or stone construction. Properties constructed within the past 60 years are in part built of a brown brick out of keeping with the area. Any new boundary treatment should complement the historic character of the street.



← *Brick new build*

Stone new build →

Sunderland Street



Policy H2 Conservation Area: Sunderland Street. (Refer to Map 5, Area H2)

New housing should satisfy the following characteristics:

- 1. be constructed of stone or brick in keeping with existing adjoining properties
- 2. have a roof of clay pantiles or slate
- 3. be no higher than adjacent dwellings
- 4. retain existing limestone boundary walls; any new boundary treatment should complement the historical character of the area
- 5. preserve green character through retention of existing trees
- 6. provide adequate storage space for refuse and recycling bins provided by the local authority
- 7. be of a size, scale and height appropriate to its location and the size of the plot

Conservation Area: The Castle, Mill Dam and Lindrick.

This is a green, open area, tranquil in comparison with the denser urban areas of Tickhill. Older buildings are predominately stone or rendered, with clay pantile roofs most common. Limestone boundary walls are again prominent. Any new boundary treatment should complement the historic character of the street. Parts of this area lie within Flood Zones 2 and 3 and any proposed development will be required to demonstrate that the flood risk sequential test and exception test (where appropriate) have been passed and a site-specific flood risk assessment has been submitted with the planning application.

Policy H3 Conservation Area: The Castle, Mill Dam and Lindrick. (Refer to Map 5, Area H3)

New housing should satisfy the following characteristics:

1. be constructed of stone or brick in keeping with existing adjoining properties
2. have a roof of clay pantiles or slate
3. retain existing limestone boundary walls; any new boundary treatment should complement the historical character of the area
4. align and set back with existing buildings to form a coherent building line,
5. preserve green character through the retention of existing trees, front gardens and hedgerows or enhance through new planting where appropriate.
6. provide adequate storage space for refuse and recycling bins provided by the local authority
7. be of a size, scale and height appropriate to its location and the size of the plot

Remainder of Tickhill.

With few exceptions, the development of Tickhill outside the Conservation Area consists of 2-4 bedroom houses and bungalows constructed since the Second World War. Most are built of brick with tiled roofs.

Policy H4 Remainder of Tickhill. (Refer to Map 5 - inside existing built up limits but outside the areas delineated as H1, H2 and H3 above.)

New housing development should satisfy the following characteristics:

1. be constructed of materials in keeping with its immediate environs
2. have a front garden and boundary treatment which respects the surrounding street scene
3. retain existing limestone boundary walls; any new treatment should complement the historical character of the area
4. retain existing trees
5. provide adequate storage space for refuse and recycling bins provided by the local authority
6. be of a size, scale and height appropriate to its location and the size of the plot

Conservation Area, Westgate



SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY LIFE

The Neighbourhood Plan will work to support ongoing community initiatives and to develop facilities within the town which will benefit all age groups in the community and also visitors to Tickhill.

In this context it is important both to protect existing local employment and facilities and to seek opportunities for their enhancement and for additional provision.

The consultation exercise, which included meetings with groups of young people, demonstrated appreciation of the impressive diversity of organisations and facilities on offer in Tickhill, it also pointed to areas of deficiency and to ways in which existing facilities could be improved.

Policy CL1 Local employment. (Refer to Map 3 Open Spaces and Employment Sites)

Employment sites in Tickhill will be supported and protected from alternative uses, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no demand for employment use and/or the existing business use is not viable, and proposals for alternative uses comply with higher tier development plan policy.

Outside the town centre, there is a small industrial estate (Apy Hill) and a few small to medium size enterprises. It is important for the sustainability of the community that as many people should be in local employment as possible, so the Neighbourhood Plan will support the retention of these sites and jobs. Home working, which causes no nuisance to neighbours, will be supported.

Policy CL2 Allotments.

Existing allotment sites, as defined on Map 3 (Open Spaces and Employment Sites), will be protected and proposals for additional sites supported.

Requests for additional allotments were made during the consultation exercise. The waiting list for the Borough Council's allotments in Tickhill (12 plots) stands at 28 (June 2015). Tickhill Institute currently has 17 allotment plots. The Town Council is pursuing the possibility of an additional site for allotments, which will be brought forward either through a planning application or a future Neighbourhood Plan review.

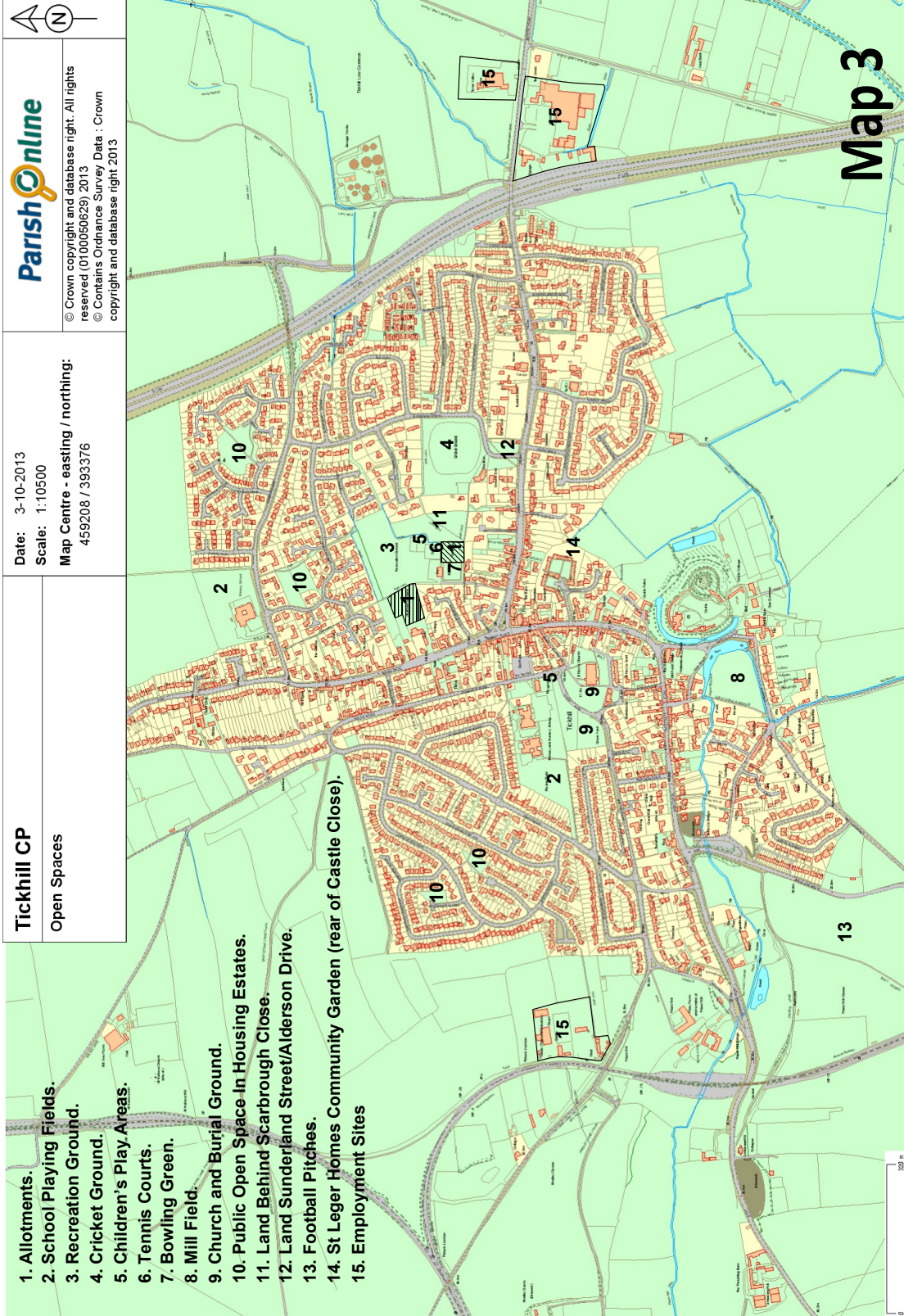
Policy CL3 Open spaces.

Existing green spaces within the urban area, including all sports grounds, playing fields and children’s play spaces as defined on Map 3, will be protected from development (unless there are exceptional or other circumstances in accordance with higher tier development policies) and proposals to enhance them will be supported.

Green spaces are identified on the attached plan (reference Map 3 Open Spaces and Employment Sites) and their preservation and enhancement will be supported by the Neighbourhood Plan, along with the contribution of friends’ groups, for example Friends of the Mill Dam. The public consultation exercise suggested strong support for additional tree planting. The Neighbourhood Plan will promote this.



St Mary's Road play area



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Tickhill CP
 Open Spaces

1. Allotments.
2. School Playing Fields.
3. Recreation Ground.
4. Cricket Ground.
5. Children's Play Areas.
6. Tennis Courts.
7. Bowling Green.
8. Mill Field.
9. Church and Burial Ground.
10. Public Open Space In Housing Estates.
11. Land Behind Scarbrough Close.
12. Land Sunderland Street/Alderson Drive.
13. Football Pitches.
14. St Leger Homes Community Garden (rear of Castle Close).
15. Employment Sites

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to conserve and enhance the environment of the town and to support the boundaries of the Green Belt as designated. It aims to ensure sustainable use of Tickhill's countryside (reference Map 1 – Parish Boundary and Green Belt and Map 4 – Countryside). It is also necessary to respond to the challenges presented by climate change.

In recognising both opportunities and threats, policies are presented which are consistent with DMBC's Core Strategy, in particular CS16 'Valuing our natural environment' and CS17 'Providing green infrastructures'.

The parish of Tickhill lies within the Doncaster Green Belt which surrounds the built-up area of the town. In the public consultation exercise there was strong support for the Green Belt and opposition to any encroachment upon it. Proposals within the Green Belt will also need to meet national Green Belt policy and Green Belt policies in higher tier development plan documents such as the Doncaster Core Strategy and the saved Doncaster Unitary Development Plan which remain in force. The countryside surrounding Tickhill is largely farmed, with a limited amount of land dedicated to recreational pursuits, such as horse-riding and football. There are two areas of young woodland with public access, one publicly owned. The land is generally fairly flat, with watercourses draining into the River Torne, flowing east towards the Trent.

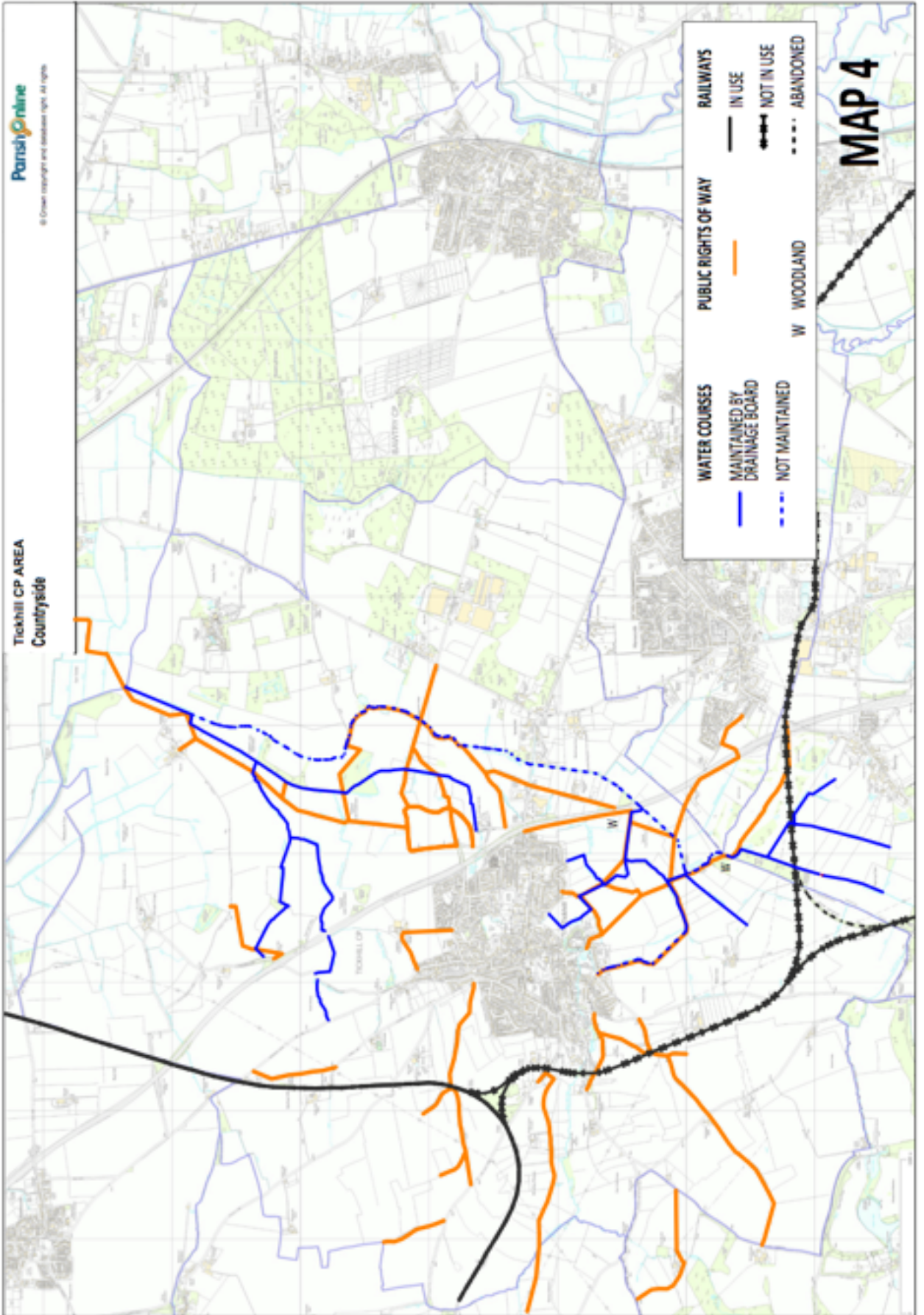
The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to promote the prosperity of Tickhill's farming community, while looking for opportunities to benefit wildlife and to increase use of the countryside for appropriate recreations.

Policy NE1 Energy economy.

Proposals to increase the use of renewable energy will be encouraged, provided that they do not detract from the general or historic environment. Reduction of unnecessary illumination will be sought.

There are already many solar panels and local wind turbines within Tickhill. The use of ancient mill sites for the local generation of electricity will be considered (see reference in Policy D5 'Flooding and Drainage' in Section Two – Accompanying Policies and Proposals). Where micro-generation requires planning permission, proposals will be judged on their impact on landscape, visual amenity, noise, safety, ecology and the conservation of the built environment. However, such developments must be in keeping with the visual aspect of the town, particularly in the Conservation Area. The reduction of night time illumination of commercial signage and of general illumination will be sought provided it does not significantly endanger

Tickhill CP AREA
Countryside



MAP 4

security. (Cross reference to Policy TC5 Security of business premises, and Policy DE4 Sustainability in building.)

Policy NE2 Recreation in the countryside.

New opportunities for outdoor recreation will be supported, provided that any necessary structures blend into the surrounding landscape in terms of scale, colour and materials, and that appropriate screening is planted.

Tickhill is sufficiently near to major centres of population for its countryside to be attractive for recreational use. Within the last decade fields have been taken out of agricultural use for such uses as a football club and a riding club. The Neighbourhood Plan will support these, provided that there is no detriment to the natural environment and wildlife, nor undue disturbance of the countryside and that they are appropriate to the purposes of the Green Belt.



The Green Belt surrounding Tickhill

Policy NE3 Tree planting.

Development which would result in harm to, or the loss of, mature trees will be resisted whereas proposals to increase tree planting and to maintain existing mature trees will be encouraged. If trees are to be lost as a result of development, they should as a last resort be compensated for on an alternative site.

The tree preservation orders for Tickhill have recently been partially updated and will be completed shortly. There is general approval of this. Considerable private tree planting has also been undertaken over the last twenty years which has enhanced both visual amenity and opportunities for wildlife. Meetings will be arranged with DMBC to discuss further enhancements and to examine how better arrangements can be achieved for the management of DMBC owned trees, which are not covered by tree preservation orders. An inventory of DMBC owned trees is to be prepared with the assistance of the Tickhill Countryside Group. That the Duchy of Lancaster has now agreed for their trees to be included in the Tree Preservation Order process will enable protection of valued trees at Tickhill Castle.

Policy NE4 Sites of local nature interest.

The identification, designation and management of local wildlife sites will be sought.

The land around Tickhill includes arable, pasture and woodland on varied geology and soils including Magnesian Limestone, sand, gravel and peat. The pH varies from alkaline to acid. Some of the farmland has been managed under the Stewardship Scheme and some attracts the higher level of environmental grant. Doncaster MBC has designated 'Local Sites' (formerly Sites of Scientific Interest). In the parish of Tickhill these are Friars Lane hedgerows, Apy Hill, Hindley and Stoney Lane hedgerows and Tickhill Castle. The Neighbourhood Plan, through the work of the Tickhill Countryside Group, will seek to identify and develop further suitable sites for designation. The two areas of accessible woodland will be managed for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of the community

Policy NE5 Farming.

Diversification of farming businesses, in order to ensure their sustainable future, will be supported provided that it does not create problems through additional vehicular traffic and provided that this can be achieved through the conversion of existing premises in accordance with Green Belt policies in higher tier development documents. Any construction should be in materials which match existing structures and screening should be planted where appropriate. The sale of local produce will be encouraged.

Farming has long been a staple activity in the parish. Its prosperity continues to be important, as the imperative to feed a growing population becomes more apparent. The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to support farmers wherever appropriate. (Note also Policy MP3 – Enterprises which promote the production and distribution of local produce in Section Two – Accompanying Policies and Proposals.)

Policy NE6 Mineral railways.

Where sections of the mineral railways running through the parish are permanently closed, proposals will be sought to turn the track bed into a multi-user trail.

Sections of the former South Yorkshire Junction Railway linked collieries in adjoining parishes to the national railway system. When sections of line become disused and the track is removed, the Neighbourhood Plan will take the opportunity to provide safe trails for walking, cycling and horse-riding and to provide essential links to achieve circular routes.

Policy NE7 Infrastructure in the countryside.

Where there is any new or extended infrastructure proposed by utilities, it is expected to be accompanied by a landscaping plan.

Such utilities as sewage works, masts and sub-stations are often sited outside the built up area of the town, but do not need to stand out in the countryside if appropriately sited and landscaped. Should any such proposal be made, it should be accompanied by an appropriate landscaping scheme and a management plan.

Policy NE8 Creation of wildlife corridors.

In association with any suitable planning applications, proposals will be sought which will restore or establish green infrastructure which will maintain or create wildlife corridors, including the planting of hedgerows.

With suitable management there are many opportunities to encourage the diversity of wildlife by establishing or preserving green corridors. Hedgerows form excellent corridors for wildlife; planting to fill gaps in existing hedges and to create new hedges will be sought and supported wherever suitable opportunities arise.

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to conserve and enhance Tickhill's historic environment for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations (reference Map 5 - Conservation Area and Building Character Areas). A Heritage Map of the same area can be viewed on DMBC's website at: http://doncaster.opus3.co.uk/ldf/maps/Heritage_Map#x=459219.1735482&y=393049.17601684&l=458523.31975729&r=459915.02733911&t=393827.05059679&b=392271.30143689&scale=5000&1332&1333&1334&1335).

The town has a rich history, dating back to its establishment shortly after the Norman conquest. Its motte and bailey castle protected an important route to the north. The large Conservation Area, established in 1970, extends along the main roads away from Market Place, as the historic town was largely restricted to these key arteries of Northgate, Sunderland Street, Castlegate and Westgate. There are 117 listed buildings in the parish, including the Grade I listed St Mary's Church and four Grade II* buildings, besides the Ancient Monument, Tickhill Castle. Historic areas and sites beyond the Conservation Area will also be protected, conserved and enhanced as appropriate.

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to support any proposals which will conserve and enhance Tickhill's historic heritage and encourage residents and visitors alike to be better informed about, and enjoy this heritage, and, in the process, support local businesses.

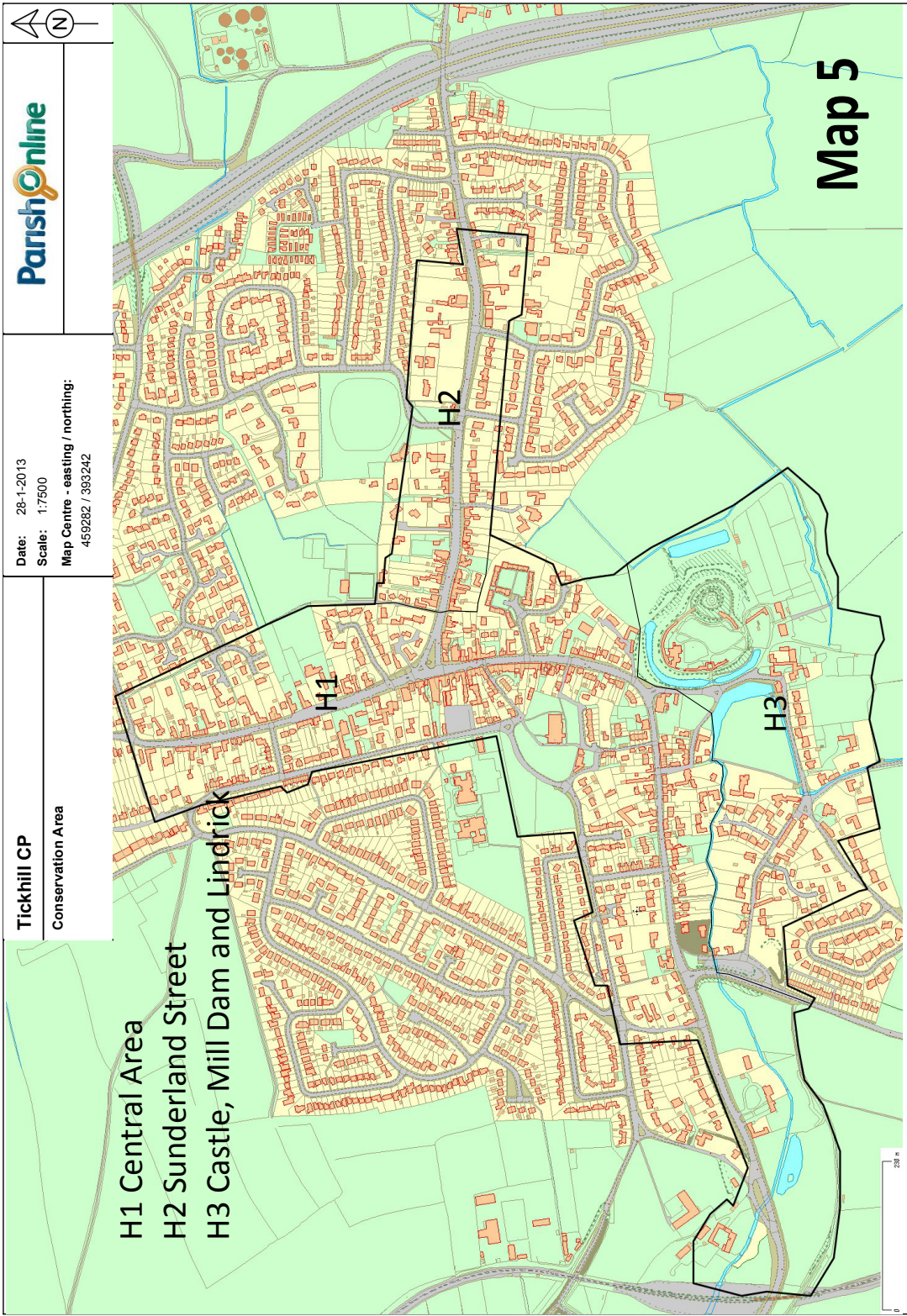
Policy HE1 Heritage assets.

Proposals to maintain, conserve and improve, where and when appropriate, Tickhill's heritage assets, including historic buildings and sites outside the Conservation Area, will be supported.

The public consultation exercise demonstrated concern for all local historic buildings. In particular, comments were made about past development of inappropriate façades to non-listed buildings which detract from the street scene. As time and opportunities arise, amendments to planning applications will be sought to improve the appearance of such buildings.

Parish Room, Tickhill – a Grade II listed building





ParishOnline

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Tickhill CP
 Conservation Area

H1 Central Area
 H2 Sunderland Street
 H3 Castle, Mill Dam and Lindrick

Map 5

FLOODING AND DRAINAGE

Tickhill has a problem with flooding, both through a lack of capacity in the Mill Stream to cope with sudden heavy rainfall and through the inadequacy of those street drains which predate the expansion of the town after 1960.

Tickhill was fortunate to escape a deluge during the wettest winter on record (2013-2014) but serious flooding had followed heavy rainfall in June 2007 and January 2008. According to figures collated by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, 57 properties in the town were flooded in June 2007. As the incidence of heavy, torrential downpours appears to be increasing, rapid run-off and flash-flooding become an ongoing risk. Flooding in Tickhill is generally attributable to two factors which affect different areas of the town. In many areas the problem is the lack of capacity in storm water drains. Properties along the course of the Mill Dyke, to the west of the Castle (which fall within an area of medium to high risk of flooding) are at risk through the overtopping of the watercourse after extreme rainfall events.

In the first public exhibition (February 28th/March 1st, 2013) and consultation exercise, residents were supportive and appreciative of the efforts being made to improve the control and movement of excessive water through Tickhill. Their observations indicated that the main problem areas had been identified and the proposed solutions were given positive backing.



Flooding in St Mary's Gate, June 2007

Policy F1 Building development.

Proposals for development should ensure that there is no increase in the rate of surface water run-off into the existing formal drainage system. Within identified flood risk areas prone to flooding through inadequate capacity of existing drainage infrastructure, a reduction of surface water run-off on brownfield sites will be required. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be used whenever possible.

The Neighbourhood Plan will encourage the use of permeable surfaces and 'green growing areas' which will act as natural soakaways. Planning applications which might lead to large roof areas and hard surfaced yards will be monitored carefully and appropriate suggestions, such as water harvesting, made. Sustainable drainage techniques should be used wherever possible. Where Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems are proposed, their future maintenance shall be agreed between the relevant parties before planning permission is granted. The inclusion of flood resilience measures into both new and existing buildings will be encouraged, such as raising floor levels above external ground levels and wiring buildings down from the ceiling with sockets well above floor level. (Cross reference to Policy DE4 – Sustainability in building.)



Flooding in Old Worksop Road, June 2007

Accompanying Policies and Proposals

MARKET PLACE (TOWN CENTRE)

The Market Place, with the 18th century Buttercross at its centre, is at the T junction of main roads and consequently experiences constant traffic. Along its western side is an important range of shops, offices and cafés which extend continuously for some distance to the south on both sides of Castlegate and for a short distance east along Sunderland Street and on one side only north along Northgate. The location has the advantage of prominence, but the disadvantage of vehicular traffic. In the public consultation exercise, appreciation of the range and quality of local shops was tempered by concerns about the unsatisfactory conditions for pedestrians. There is one light-controlled crossing in Castlegate but there is as much need to cross Northgate outside the Post Office where even a traffic island does little to discourage speeding drivers. The pavements are mostly narrow, especially on the western side of Market Place, where a mobility scooter or a child's buggy can force the pedestrian off the pavement just where people want to socialize. Manoeuvres in and out of parking spaces at the road junction are often dangerous, albeit at low speeds. The entrance to the Spar car park lacks visibility, with no indication of who has the right of way. Residents have made clear their wish to retain free parking for town centre shopping, suggesting that there should be more short-term, and less long-term, parking available.

Improvements to pedestrian and cycle links are important to Tickhill so that people are encouraged to leave their cars at home. The town is relatively flat and nucleated, with most dwellings within easy reach of the centre.

Map 2 (The Core Business Area) delineates the area which is here described as the town centre, and which contains the majority of local businesses.

Market Place looking north



Policy MP1 Traffic volume and speed.

As a means to enhance the quality of the Market Place area, its safety and convenience for pedestrians and the prosperity of its businesses, proposals will be supported which:

- reduce the volume of through traffic
- control the speed of vehicles passing through Market Place
- widen pavements where they are narrow
- give greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists

The public consultation exercise indicated the problems in the centre of Tickhill but suggested no clear solutions. The Neighbourhood Plan will support interim solutions which require all through traffic to slow down on its approach to the road junction and the construction of a continuous pavement on the western side of Market Place so that vehicles using the Spar car park give priority to pedestrians. Once the new road from the M18 (Junction 3) to the A638 is completed, more significant improvements may become possible. (Cross reference to Policy T1 – Strategic traffic.)

Policy MP2 Parking in Market Place and surroundings.

Proposals will be sought which increase opportunities for short-term parking in and near to the town centre and improve the efficiency of enforcement.

The public consultation exercise, backed up by the evidence of a survey, indicated concern that spaces in both the Town Council's car park and on-street close to Market Place were being occupied by long-stay users. There is also an absence of appropriate places for the parking of cycles in the immediate vicinity of Market Place. The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to maintain free short-term parking for customers of Tickhill's businesses and to encourage long-stay parking to move to alternative locations. Proposals will be discussed with the Highway Authority to restrict parking spaces close to the Buttercross to short-term use only in order to encourage shoppers, while negotiations continue to find alternative locations for employees to park their vehicles longer term. Current parking restrictions are not enforced effectively and, in consequence, they appear to be often ignored.

Policy MP3 Enterprises which promote the production and distribution of local produce.

The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to promote and encourage locally produced goods and products.

Shops in Tickhill already sell much locally-produced food, subject to current trading standards and environmental health regulations. This will be encouraged as it provides support for local farmers and contributes to the sustainability of the local economy.

TRANSPORT

The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that transport has an important role to play in contributing to the sustainable development of the town and to the health and prosperity of its citizens. The policies presented below reflect aspirations which can only be achieved through cooperation with the appropriate highway authorities.

Tickhill is located at the intersection of two historically important routes, west to east from Sheffield to Bawtry and Lincolnshire and north to south from Doncaster to Worksop and Nottingham. Currently the north-south route (A60) carries a significant volume of local traffic but less traffic than the east-west route which now links the M18 (Junction 1, close to the M1) across to Gainsborough and Lincolnshire. Surveys conducted during the production of the Neighbourhood Plan demonstrated this. It has long been the wish of the community to reduce through traffic which contributes very little to its prosperity but adds to congestion and air/noise pollution. The projected construction and opening of a new road from the M18 (Junction 3) to the A638 at Parrot’s Corner will provide an opportunity for the east-west through traffic to bypass Tickhill and the Neighbourhood Plan will seek to achieve this.

The public consultation exercise raised many issues of road safety. In particular there is a demand for more places where the main roads can be crossed with the aid of a traffic island or pedestrian crossings, for slower traffic speeds especially in the vicinity of the two primary schools and within residential estates, and for action to reduce the perceived danger and delays at the crossroads at Tickhill Spital (A631/B6463). Residents expressed a clear wish that parking should remain free of charge, and that it should be organised so as to favour short-term parking in the vicinity of the shops. With an ageing population, accessibility and mobility are important elements in transport policy.

Tickhill is generally well-suited to walking and cycling as the terrain is fairly flat with the occasional gentle slope. Improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists will be an objective of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Parking in Sunderland Street looking towards the town centre



Policy T1 Strategic traffic.

Proposals which will redirect through traffic away from Tickhill will be supported, including measures to divert through traffic from the A631 when the Finningley Link Road opens.

The construction of a link road (Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route) from the M18 (J3) to the A638 at Parrot's Corner will provide a more appropriate route from the M18 to Bawtry which avoids both the built-up areas of Tickhill and Maltby and many bends and road junctions. The Neighbourhood Plan will work with the appropriate Highway Authorities to reduce the status of the A631 to a B road between the M18 and Bawtry and to amend signage so as to divert traffic by the new route. The Town Council will liaise, as appropriate, with adjoining parish councils in the pursuit of this objective (reference Map 6 – Possible Downgrade of A631).

Policy T2 Residential traffic.

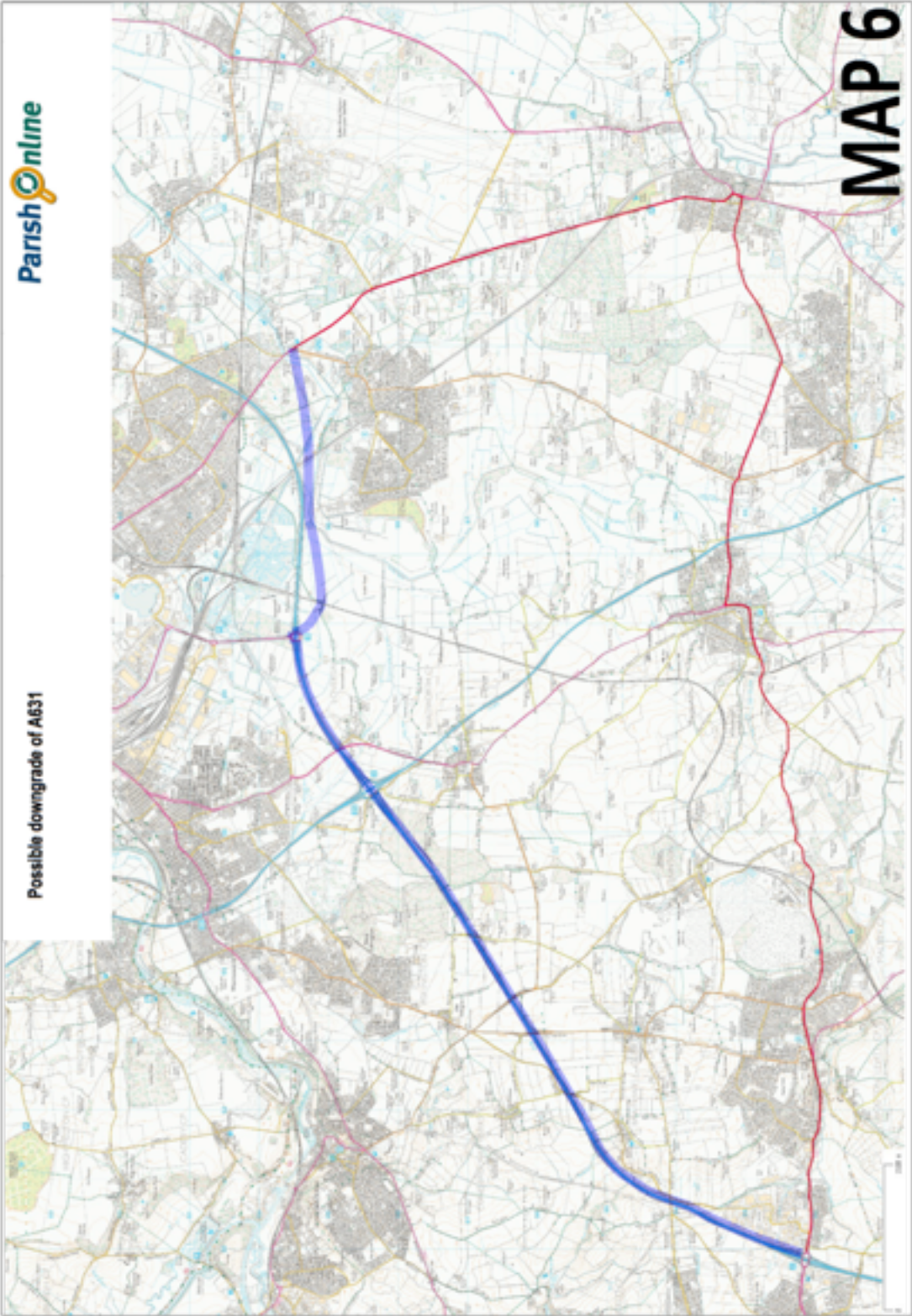
Proposals to mitigate the impact of traffic in residential streets by such means as the creation of 20 mph limits, and, in particular, proposals to increase children's safety close to the two primary schools will be supported.

Traffic Regulation Orders will be sought to deal with problems caused by traffic in residential streets. There are particular problems in the vicinity of the town's two primary schools. In Common Lane outside Estfeld School parking by parents frequently creates holdups; minor amendments to 'no waiting' restrictions will be sought to deal with this. Over the town as a whole requests by residents for slower traffic speeds to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists by means of reduced speed limits or traffic calming sympathetic to the character of the town will be supported. Residents do not want speed humps, both for the potential damage to vehicles, the noise created and additional air pollution due to vehicles braking and accelerating.

Policy T3 Pedestrian safety.

Proposals to create additional crossing points over main roads will be supported.

In the public consultation exercise, requests were made for traffic islands to make crossing safer and slow vehicles in Westgate, Northgate, Doncaster Road and Sunderland Street. Larger islands than in Tickhill, as can be observed in neighbouring authorities, have the double advantage of providing a safer refuge for prams and mobility scooters and of being more effective in narrowing the carriageway so that traffic is slowed down. There is one light-controlled crossing in Castlegate but there is as much need to cross Northgate outside the Post Office where even a traffic island does little to discourage speeding traffic. Negotiations will be opened with the Highway Authority to achieve improvements in appropriate locations. The design of any improvements will need to be sympathetic to the historic character of the town.



Policy T4 Accessibility for all.

Measures which improve travel convenience for those with limited mobility will be supported, including the provision of raised kerbs at all bus stops.

The Neighbourhood Plan will press the transport and highway authorities to ensure that all bus stops are provided with raised kerbs so that buses are fully accessible to all users. The current disabled parking spaces on street are only appropriate for passengers; alternative sites will be sought. Access to local shops and businesses is difficult for people with mobility problems; this is exacerbated by the narrowness of pavements in Market Place.

Policy T5 Spital crossroads.

Proposals to alter the junction between A631 and B6463 in order to increase the safety of road users and reduce both delays and the resultant air pollution will be supported.

This cross roads is regarded by residents as particularly dangerous, although no fatal accidents have occurred in recent years. Traffic lights, a roundabout or other physical modifications have been proposed in the past. The Neighbourhood Plan will urge the Highway Authority to review the position again.

Policy T6 Public transport.

Improved bus services to adjoining settlements will be supported.

The public consultation exercise produced complaints about unreliable timekeeping on the existing service between Doncaster and Worksop via Tickhill and requests for services to other destinations, such as Maltby, Sheffield and Bawtry. The Town Council, through the Neighbourhood Plan, will exert pressure on the operator with regard to timekeeping and will work with both the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and the bus operators to improve the planning of public transport. Alternative destinations are a particular issue for young people wishing to enjoy recreational opportunities not available in Tickhill; opportunities to address this issue will be sought.

Policy T7 Grass verges. (Urban area)

Measures to protect highway grass verges within the urban area from damage by vehicles will be supported.

There is public concern that grass verges are being destroyed by parked vehicles. The installation of bollards or other obstacles of a suitable design at appropriate places will be supported. Consideration will be given to the frequency of grass cutting of roadside verges as a means also to enhance the natural environment.

Policy T8 Cycling

Proposals to create dedicated cycle routes and to improve facilities for the parking of cycles in the town centre will be supported.

Cycling is popular in the area and Doncaster borough has a number of dedicated cycle routes, including one from Rossington into Doncaster centre. However, opportunities for cycling from Tickhill for work and pleasure are limited by the perceived dangers on the main roads to Wadworth, Rossington and Bawtry. The Highway Authority will be encouraged and assisted to provide safe routes for cyclists from Tickhill. There is limited provision for cycle parking in the town centre. Proposals will be sought through the Town Council to increase this facility.

The need for a cycle path – Sunderland Street near town centre



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY LIFE

The Neighbourhood Plan will work to support ongoing community initiatives and to develop facilities within the town which will benefit all age groups in the community and also visitors to Tickhill.

Tickhill is fortunate to have a wide range of communal activities (reference Map 7 – Community Facilities). Thirty-one groups and societies advertise a contact number in *Tickhill Today*, a free monthly magazine, produced in the town, paid for by advertising and delivered free to every house. The clearly expressed aspiration to support and develop this rich community life is reflected in these proposals.

The public consultation exercise included specific meetings with members of the Scout and Guide Group and older pupils in the town's two primary schools. While all this demonstrated appreciation of the impressive diversity of organisations and facilities on offer in Tickhill, it also pointed to areas of deficiency and to ways in which existing facilities could be improved.

Policy L1 Recreation ground.

Proposals to upgrade the recreation ground through rectifying its drainage problems, thus increasing its suitability for different sports, will be supported.

The public consultation exercise highlighted the poor drainage which limits the use of the recreation ground and has led to cancellations of events in recent years. The Town Council is well aware of the problems and is taking forward proposals to tackle them.

Policy L2 Recreational opportunities for young people.

Proposals which increase recreational opportunities for young people and make them more accessible will be supported.

Young people suggested the need for certain improvements to existing facilities, the running of more community events and the difficulty of accessing facilities which cannot be provided in Tickhill, such as a major leisure centre. Improvements will be undertaken to the recreation ground and to the play area in St.Mary's Road; Section 106 funds for leisure facilities will be used for some of this improvement. Publicity will be given to the junior sections of, for example, the local football, tennis and cricket clubs. Other aspects of the issues raised by young people will be explored by the Town Council with a view to implementation in the future.



Policy L3 Public toilets.

Proposals to advertise the existing availability of public toilets and to increase both the hours and the locations where public toilets can be provided will be supported.

The lack of public toilets, following the closure of those behind the public library, was mentioned by the business community and many individuals during the public consultation. However, both the location and the condition of the closed toilets make them unsuitable for renovation. In the meantime toilets are available in the public library, its opening hours have increased and the facility is now advertised. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will continue to look for additional facilities so that longer hours of availability can be provided.

Policy L4 Community market garden.

Proposals to protect and develop community market gardens will be supported.

This interesting initiative arose during the public consultation exercise. A potential site for community market gardening has been identified off Castle Close and activity has already begun.

Policy L5 Meeting place.

Proposals to construct or achieve a suitable venue for large communal activities will be supported.

Tickhill is fortunate to have a large number of venues capable of hosting events and organisations such as the Methodist Church, St. Mary's Church, the Institute, the Parish Room, the Pavilion, the Scout and Guide HQ and the two primary school halls. However, all have disadvantages, whether in terms of fixed or unsuitable furniture or size or restrictions on use. The public consultation exercise revealed an underlying wish for a building which could function more effectively like a community centre and suit everything from a concert to a wedding reception. The Neighbourhood Plan will support proposals which would either achieve that objective within existing premises or create something new.

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to conserve and enhance Tickhill's historic environment for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations (reference Map 5 - Conservation Area and Building Character Areas). A Heritage Map of the same area can be found on DMBC's website at: http://doncaster.opus3.co.uk/ldf/maps/Heritage_Map#x=459219.1735482&y=393049.17601684&l=458523.31975729&r=459915.02733911&t=393827.05059679&b=392271.30143689&scale=5000&1332&1333&1334&1335.

The public consultation exercise reflected local enthusiasm for Tickhill's history. In particular it demonstrated the strong wish for frequent access to the castle, currently very rarely open to the public. Thus the jewel in the local crown and potentially a major attraction for visitors (and therefore a benefit to the local economy) is effectively inaccessible. Consultation also demonstrated support for the continued protection of the Conservation Area and concern that its character is maintained. The large membership of the Tickhill and District Local History Society is testament to this. The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to promote measures which will encourage residents and visitors alike to be informed about, and enjoy Tickhill's heritage, and, in the process, support local businesses.

Policy HIS 1 Tickhill Castle.

Proposals which will allow frequent public access to this ancient monument will be strongly pursued and supported.



Tickhill Castle

The redrafting of the lease by the Duchy of Lancaster as owners, will be pursued through whatever means possible, to enable the monument to be opened on a frequent basis to members of the public. Proposals to repair and proactively manage and maintain the fabric of Tickhill Castle will be encouraged and the advice of English Heritage sought to ensure that appropriate approaches are adopted. (Reference booklet 'The Tickhill Castle Problem' by Philip Mottram, Sept. 2012 held by Tickhill and District Local History Society.) The public consultation exercise produced the strongest support for this policy, due to the present lack of access.

Policy HIS 2 Awareness of heritage.

Proposals to increase awareness of Tickhill's heritage will be supported.

The public consultation exercise produced strong support for this. Suggestions included production of leaflets, maps, signage boards and a history trail for residents and visitors to appreciate Tickhill's long history. The cooperation of the local Tickhill and District Local History Society will be sought to further this policy.

COUNTRYSIDE

The Neighbourhood Plan will aim to achieve the enhancement of the local countryside and to increase opportunities for appropriate recreational activities to be widely enjoyed.

Policy C1 Opportunities for walking, cycling and horse-riding.

The network of ancient lanes and paths surrounding Tickhill will be maintained and improved and their recreational use encouraged.

There are many ancient lanes and paths surrounding Tickhill but not all lanes are properly designated; some have been lost and some are poorly maintained. There is a lack of bridle paths and circular routes, limiting the opportunities for horse riders who make use of several recently established stables. There is a very limited scope for cycling off-road. Work with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to improve the network and increase opportunities for recreation will be continued. Publicity will be given to this work and to activities such as public walks.

Policy C2 Wildlife corridors.

Proposals will be sought which will establish green infrastructure in the form of wildlife corridors, including the planting of hedgerows.

With suitable management there are many opportunities to encourage the diversity of wildlife by establishing or preserving green corridors. These include field margins, road verges, stream and river banks and the South Yorkshire Junction Railway, part of which through Tickhill has recently been closed. Hedgerows form excellent corridors for wildlife; planting to fill gaps in existing hedges and to create new hedges will be sought and supported. The cooperation of DMBC, landowners, the Highways Authority, the Environment Agency and the Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board will be sought to agree suitable management.

Policy C3 Highway verges.

Cooperation will be sought with the Highway Authority to improve the management of highway verges for nature.

Highway verges have become very significant places for flora and fauna to flourish. However, this requires a sensitive management regime which combines highway safety with opportunities for plant and animal life. Surveying local roads to access the opportunities for improved management and discussing its implementation with the appropriate Highway Authorities is proposed.

Policy C4 Quiet lanes.

Proposals will be made to promote the idea of ‘quiet lanes’ and to achieve their designation on suitable minor roads within the parish.

Quiet lanes are a Countryside Agency initiative, supported by the Department for Transport. Lanes with a low traffic flow are appropriate for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorised vehicles. The intention is to encourage a change in user behaviour without reliance on speed limits or traffic calming. Back lanes between Tickhill and Wadworth and Stainton and the accesses to Stancil and Wellingley are obvious candidates, given community support. Cooperation with Doncaster Council as the Highway Authority will be sought to achieve the designation of quiet lanes.



Stoney Lane, Tickhill

LITTER

During the public consultation, litter in all its manifestations and dog fouling were strongly expressed concerns of virtually all respondents. The Council will seek opportunities to work with appropriate authorities to tackle the problems.

Policy LIT 1 Dog fouling and litter.

Proposals which will reduce dog fouling and littering will be supported.

This is an area of widespread concern. There is general approval for both public education and prosecution of those causing problems. There is a need for more dog and litter bins and key sites have been identified such as Pinfold Lane and Sunderland St which, together with the emptying timetable and other possible initiatives, will be discussed with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

Policy LIT 2 Fly-tipping.

Proposals which will tackle the problem of fly-tipping will be supported.

Tickhill is surrounded by a network of lanes of generally Anglo-Saxon origin which provide an easily accessible amenity for walking, cycling or horse riding. However they are also vulnerable to fly tipping. A publicity initiative will be undertaken on where to report incidents, how to collect evidence to allow prosecution and how to ensure that only licensed carriers are used for the disposal of rubbish. In some instances barriers to restrict vehicular access will be considered.

DRAINAGE AND WATERCOURSES

Tickhill has a problem with flooding, both through a lack of capacity in the Mill Stream to cope with sudden heavy rainfall and through the inadequacy of those street drains which predate the expansion of the town after 1960.

The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to co-operate with the Risk Management Authorities (Doncaster MBC, the Environment Agency, Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board) in order to minimise the risk of flooding to the town's streets and properties.

Increased flooding is rated by Government scientists as the greatest threat posed to the UK by climate change. In 2012 alone the Environment Agency issued a record 1000 flood warnings and almost 8000 homes were flooded. Tickhill was fortunate to escape a deluge during the wettest winter on record (2013-2014) but serious flooding had followed heavy rainfall in June 2007 and January 2008. According to figures collated by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, 57 properties in the town were flooded in June 2007. As the incidence of heavy, torrential downpours appears to be increasing, rapid run-off and flash-flooding become an ongoing risk. "Flooding can now strike anywhere and it needs to be recognised as the No.1 national emergency happening." (Charles Tucker, Chairman of National Flood Forum 2010 - 2013.)

In the first public exhibition (February 28th/March 1st, 2013) and consultation exercise, residents were supportive and appreciative of the efforts being made to improve the control and movement of excessive water through Tickhill. Their observations indicated that the main problem areas had been identified and the proposed solutions were given positive backing. The Friends of Tickhill Mill Dam, a voluntary group which has been responsible for beneficial changes to the area, continues to play a major role in monitoring conditions and promoting improvements.



*Flooding in the Lindrick area of Tickhill,
June 2007*



Policy D1 Street drains.

Arrangements will be made to monitor the effectiveness of drains and to maintain effective communication and work in partnership with the Risk Management Authorities in order to improve the situation.

The Neighbourhood Plan has identified areas of concern where the policy will apply. In Wong Lane restoration work has improved the situation but regular monitoring is required during periods of heavy rainfall. The problems in St. Mary's Road require a new drain between the drive to the primary school and St. Mary's Gate. Pressure will be maintained upon Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and Severn Trent Water to complete this improvement. The junction between Worksop Road and Lindrick Lane continues to lead to significant inundation during periods of heavy rainfall. There are problems in the Dadsley Road area where open dykes have been replaced by pipework which needs more regular maintenance.

Policy D2 Rivers and water courses.

Proposals to improve maintenance of rivers and watercourses and their banks will be supported in line with the Water Framework Directive.

Both the Environment Agency and the Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board have responsibilities in the parish and cooperation with them will be developed so that local rivers and water courses are maintained properly.

Policy D3 Lindrick.

Proposals to protect Lindrick from flooding will be supported.

The possibility of constructing a low limestone wall with iron railings alongside the Mill Stream which would create a catchment and holding area for flood water in the Mill Field will be explored. With a continuation of the metal railings along the Mill Dam, the wall will also serve as a safety barrier against falling into the stream.

Policy D4 Tickhill Mill Dam.

Proposals to improve movement of water from the Mill Dam during periods of heavy rainfall will be supported.

Amongst the possibilities are the use of the old mill race, the construction of a new drain into the existing drain behind Mill Farm and regular clearance under the various bridges around the Mill Field and Mill Dam. The present monthly maintenance to the Mill Dam sluice gate,

vital to facilitating the removal of water from the Mill Dam particularly following heavy rain, is to be continued, thereby helping to prevent flooding.



Sluice gate Tickhill Mill Dam, Lindrick, prior to improvements

Policy D5 Water power.

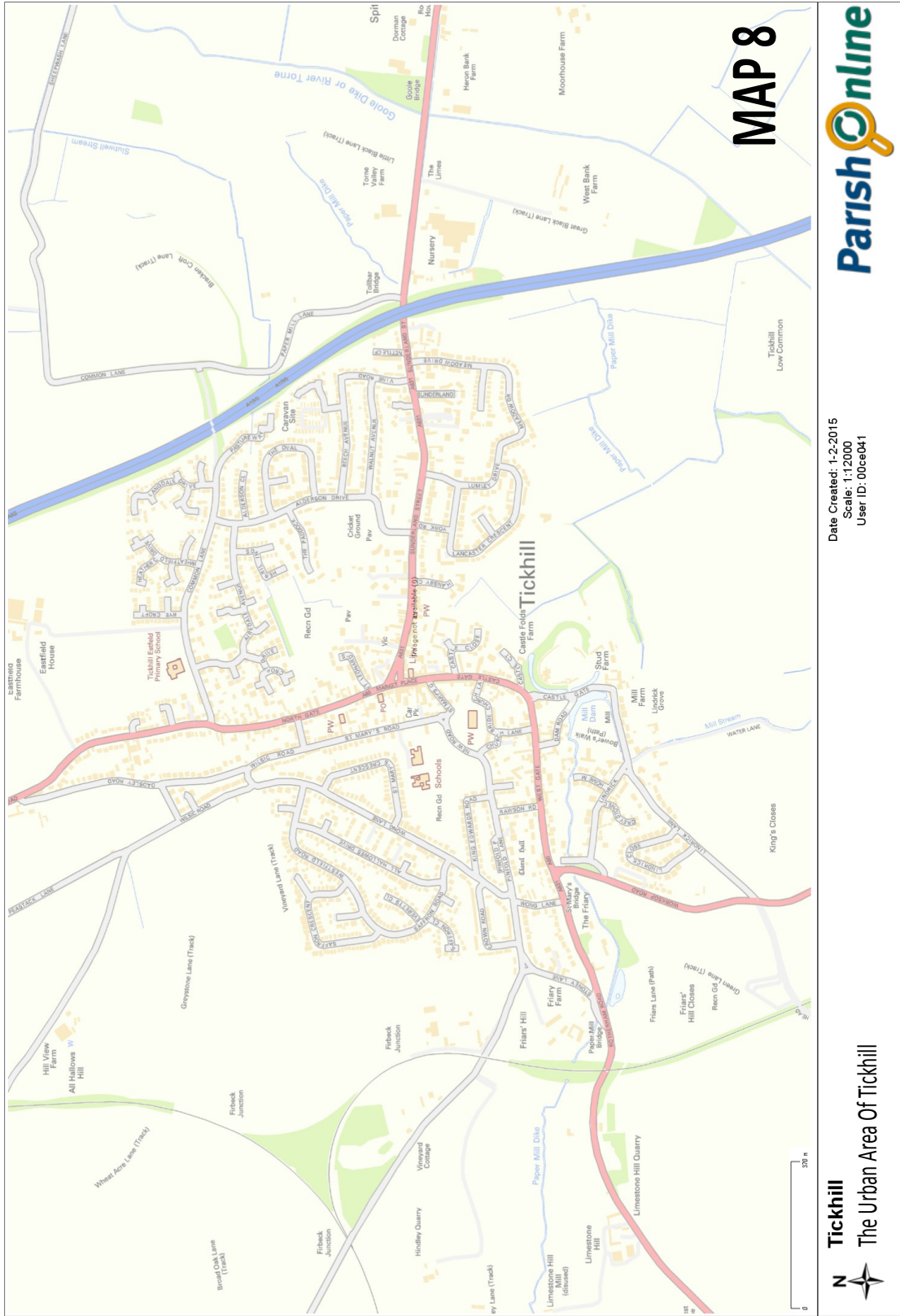
Proposals to use the Mill Stream for small-scale generation of hydro-electric power will be supported.

The suggestion has been brought forward that a small hydro-electric scheme might be feasible which could charge the batteries of the Sluice Gate on the Mill Dam. Similarly, the Wrigglesworth Mill leat could be adapted to provide power. (Cross reference to Policy NE1 Energy economy.) Such schemes may require a permit from the Environment Agency.

Policy D6 Land Management.

Encouragement will be given to land management techniques which help to reduce and/or manage flood risk and which protect the aquifer.

The major part of the parish sits on a principal aquifer. This is an area where water is abstracted from the ground for human consumption, so it is particularly sensitive to any polluting activities or discharges to ground. A risk assessment will be required with any planning application to ensure that sensitive waters are adequately protected.



BURGHWALLIS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2016 - 2028



Burghwallis Parish Council
Burghwallis,
Doncaster
Email: burghwallisplan@gmail.com

FOREWORD



We are very pleased to publish the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan. Its purpose is to set out policies to guide the development of Burghwallis over the next 12 years. It complements the The Core Strategy 2011 - 2028 produced by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) as well as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and informs developers of policies that they will need to consider when submitting development proposals. The Plan has a statutory basis and will influence future development throughout the Parish.

The Plan sets out twelve policies to help us achieve these objectives and will help with protecting habitats in an effective way.

Your vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan will help to protect, preserve and enhance the ancient Parish of Burghwallis.

Adrian Sowden

Chair Neighbourhood Plan
Working Group

Kathleen Walters

Chair Burghwallis Parish Council



A community working together to protect, preserve
and enhance the ancient Parish of Burghwallis

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Working Group would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their assistance in producing this Neighbourhood Plan:

Askern Town Council

Community Development Foundation

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

English Heritage

Natural England

Planning Aid England

The Burghwallis Pub

David Etchell

Erica Haddock

Jane Stimpson

Leslie Coupland

Melissa Massarella

Linda Trollope

Megan Wilmott

Mike Dando

Simon Sharp

Adrian Sowden *

Alistair Owens *

Brenda Grimes *

Jill Laming *

Kathleen Walters *

* Member of the Working Group

ABOUT BURGHWALLIS



NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Burghwallis is a relatively small village and a civil parish in the heart of rural South Yorkshire. The village is situated amongst mixed farmland and woodland on a slight rise roughly six miles north west of Doncaster and one mile from the A1. The Parish has a population of 268 residents over 18 years old and includes a village pub, a former convent St Anne’s, St Helen’s church, a children’s playing field, a war memorial, a village pump, a Poor’s Field and a pinfold site.

CHARACTER

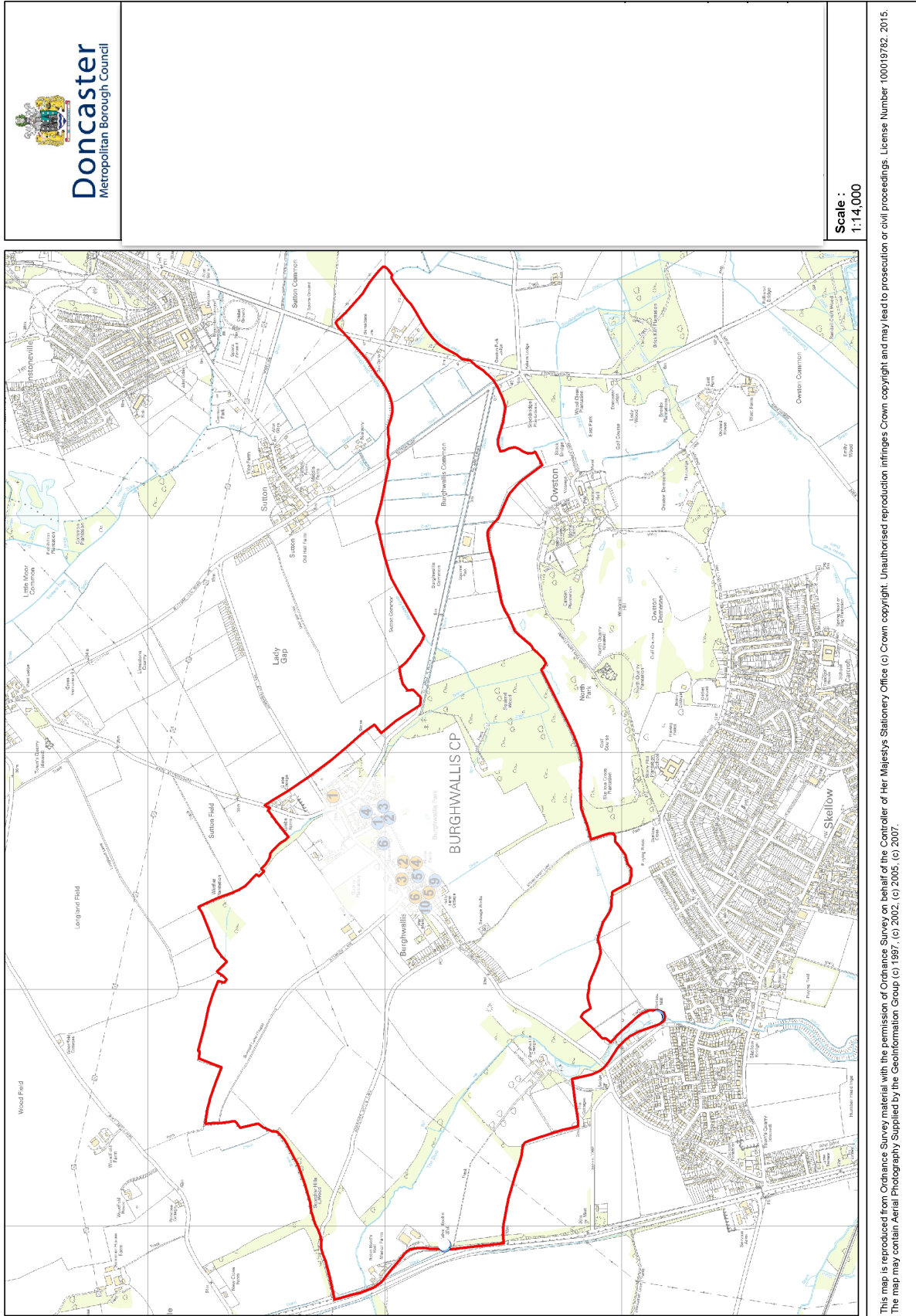
Burghwallis is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Burg. The first mention of Burghwallis is of Sir Richard le Waleys, presenting a new rector to the church in 1253. In contrast with most of the villages surrounding Doncaster, very little in the way of residential development took place in Burghwallis during the 19th and 20th centuries. Today the village is one of a handful in the area to have retained much of its original character and has a very peaceful, small-scale rural feel.

The natural historic environment makes Burghwallis an excellent place to live and work and it is a popular area for activities such as horse riding, cycling, and rambling with rural public footpaths across its many fields and woodlands.

Boundary sign at Scorcher Hills Lane



NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA MAP



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Introductory Meeting, February 2013 A flyer was used to raise awareness of the public meeting with copies dropped through every letter box in the Parish, including local landowners and businesses.

Questionnaire, November 2013 A questionnaire was used to determine the likes and dislikes of the residents of the Parish and the level of support for the Neighbourhood Plan. The public were asked what issues they would like to see addressed in the Plan and comment on what would improve the Parish.

Dedicated Email Address burghwallisplan@gmail.com

An email address was set up to enable members of the public and other stakeholders to leave their comments. A member of the Parish Council replied to requests for further information and incorporated all comments received.

Web Page www.burghwallis.org.uk Working Group minutes and supporting documentation are available on the Burghwallis Parish Council website.

Noticeboards A copy of the flyer was placed in Skellow Post Office, The Parish Council noticeboard (Grange Lane) and the Burghwallis pub.

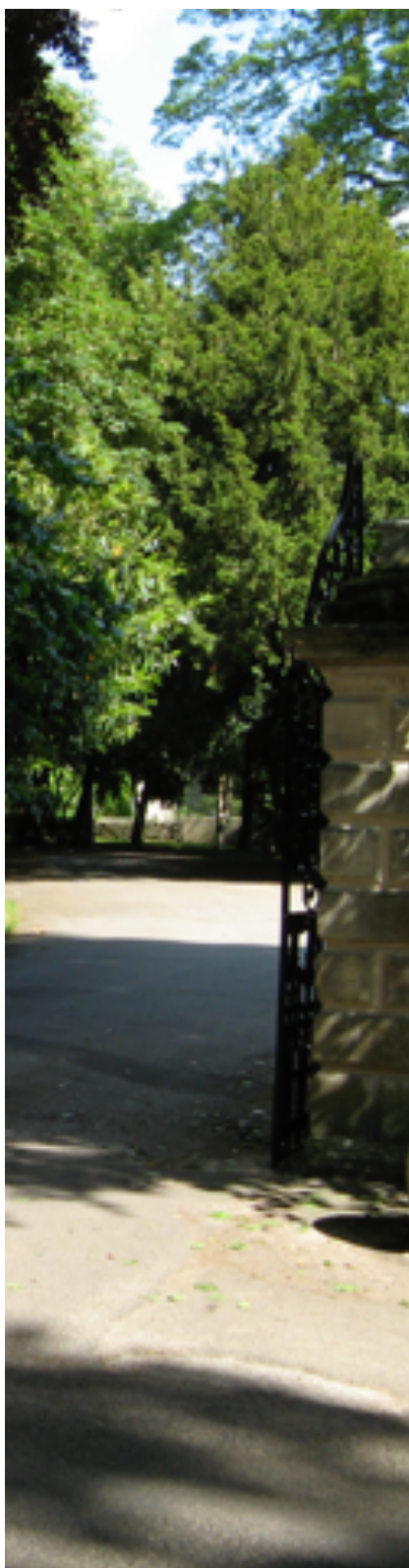
Public Meeting August 2014 A flyer and questionnaire were used to raise awareness of the public meeting with copies dropped through every letter box in the Parish, including landowners and businesses. The flyer was also posted to other stakeholders outside the Parish. The questionnaire was used to seek views and opinions on Draft Policy Intentions to help with finalising the Neighbourhood Plan.

Facebook www.facebook.com/burghwallisplan A Facebook account was set up to give the public an opportunity to share views on issues and future plans for Burghwallis. Any comments were recorded and acknowledged.

Facebook website landing page



DEVELOPING THE PLAN



This Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, made up of three Parish Councillors and two volunteers in association with stakeholders.

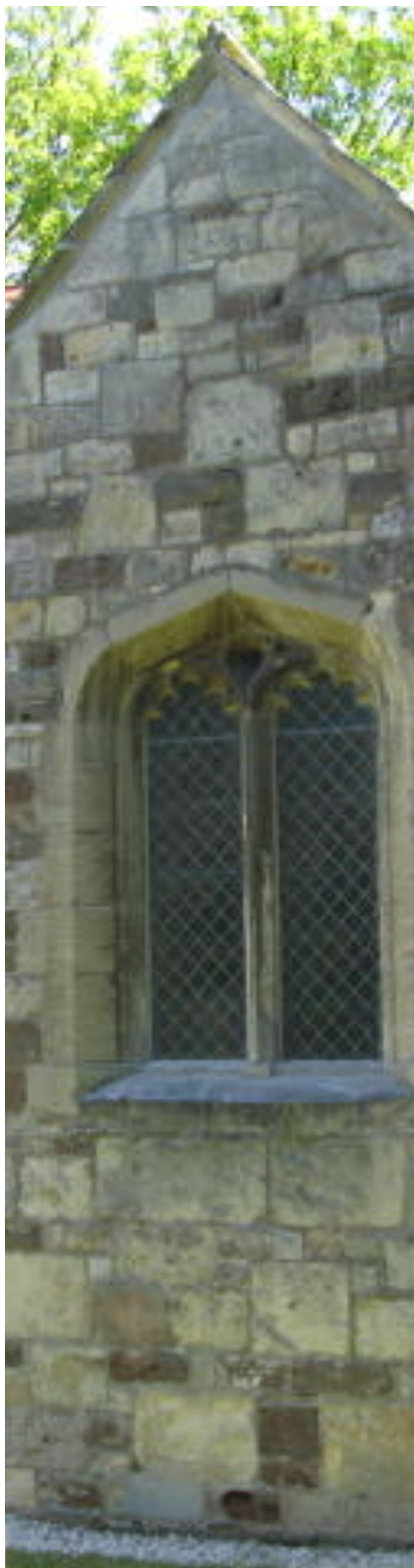
Work started in the spring of 2013 with a series of meetings guided by planning professionals from Planning Aid England and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. The Working Group considered how it would engage with local people and other stakeholders and set a number of objectives to raise awareness of the opportunity for the community to contribute to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The establishment of the first public survey, followed by a public consultation meeting in November 2013, and again in August 2014 provided overwhelming support for 'Policy Intentions' aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Burghwallis area.

Aerial photo of Grange Lane and Scorcher Hills Lane



BUILT HERITAGE



The map shown on page 10 (courtesy of DMBC) shows the current extent of the Burghwallis Conservation Area:

Burghwallis was designated a Conservation Area on 15 June 1978. The Conservation Area is made up of the old settlement clustered along Old Village Street to the West, Burghwallis Hall (now St. Anne's Rest Home), the church of St. Helen and associated buildings in the centre, and mainly suburban development set in spacious grounds to the East. The main road through the settlement appears to have been diverted north to the present Grange Lane with the historic development of the original hall.

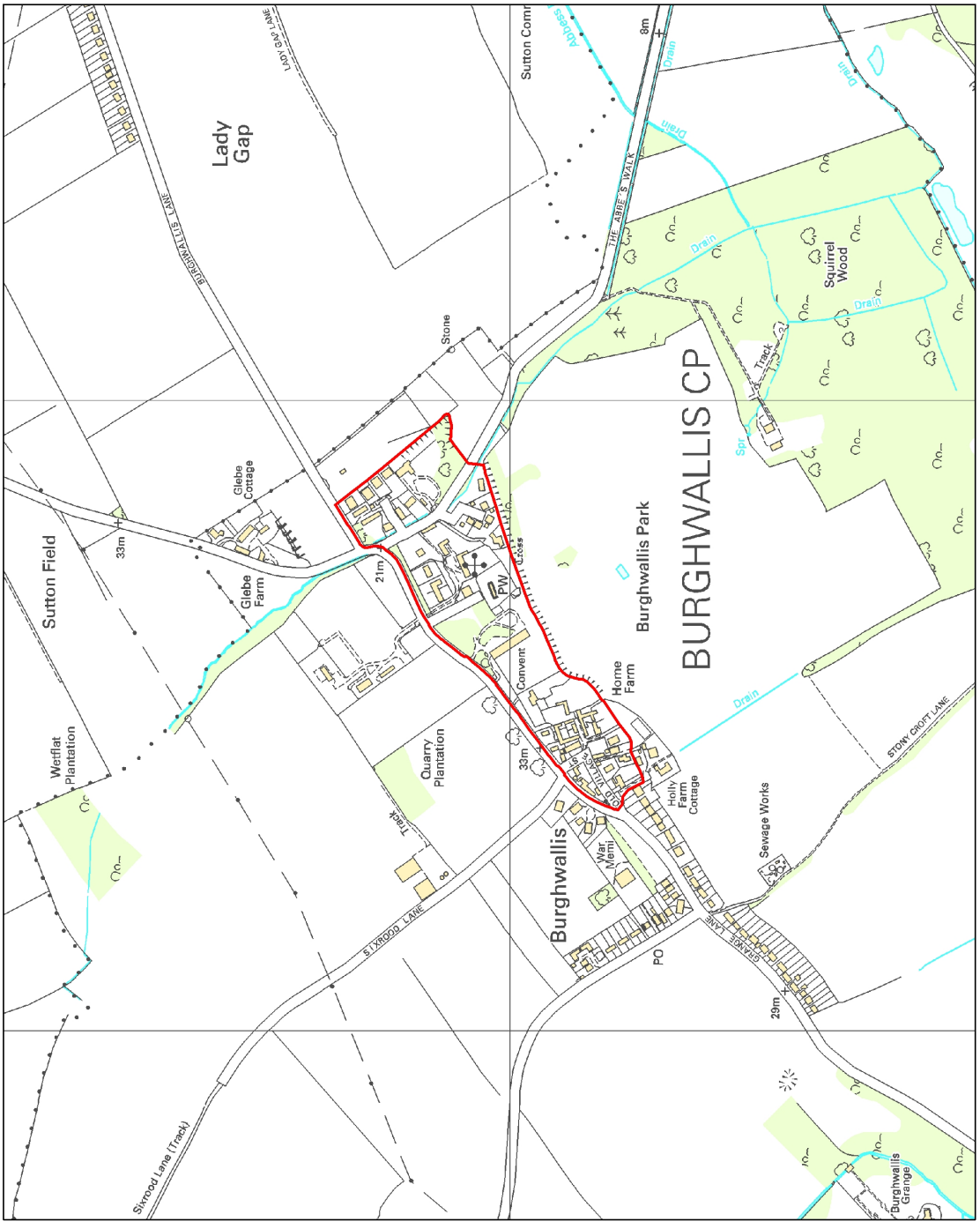
Limestone was the traditional material, which is rendered on some buildings. Principal roof materials are slate and clay pantiles. Limestone boundary walls are an important and extensive feature of the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area is well endowed with mature trees particularly to the central and eastern areas. Within the Conservation Area there are six listed structures; the cross within the churchyard, as well as being listed, is also a scheduled monument.

Church of St Helen, off Grange Lane





 Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Key:
Title: Burghwallis Conservation Area	
Completed By: Doncaster Council - Planning	
Date: 19 January 2015	
Scale: 1:6,000	



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BUILT HERITAGE



The historic character and links with its significant past is Burghwallis’s most important asset.

The historic character is mostly concentrated in the Conservation Area, the main structures of which form the central part of the village. A range of buildings and monuments provide a unique link to the past. Certain assets have statutory protection and are highly regarded as important to the local community.

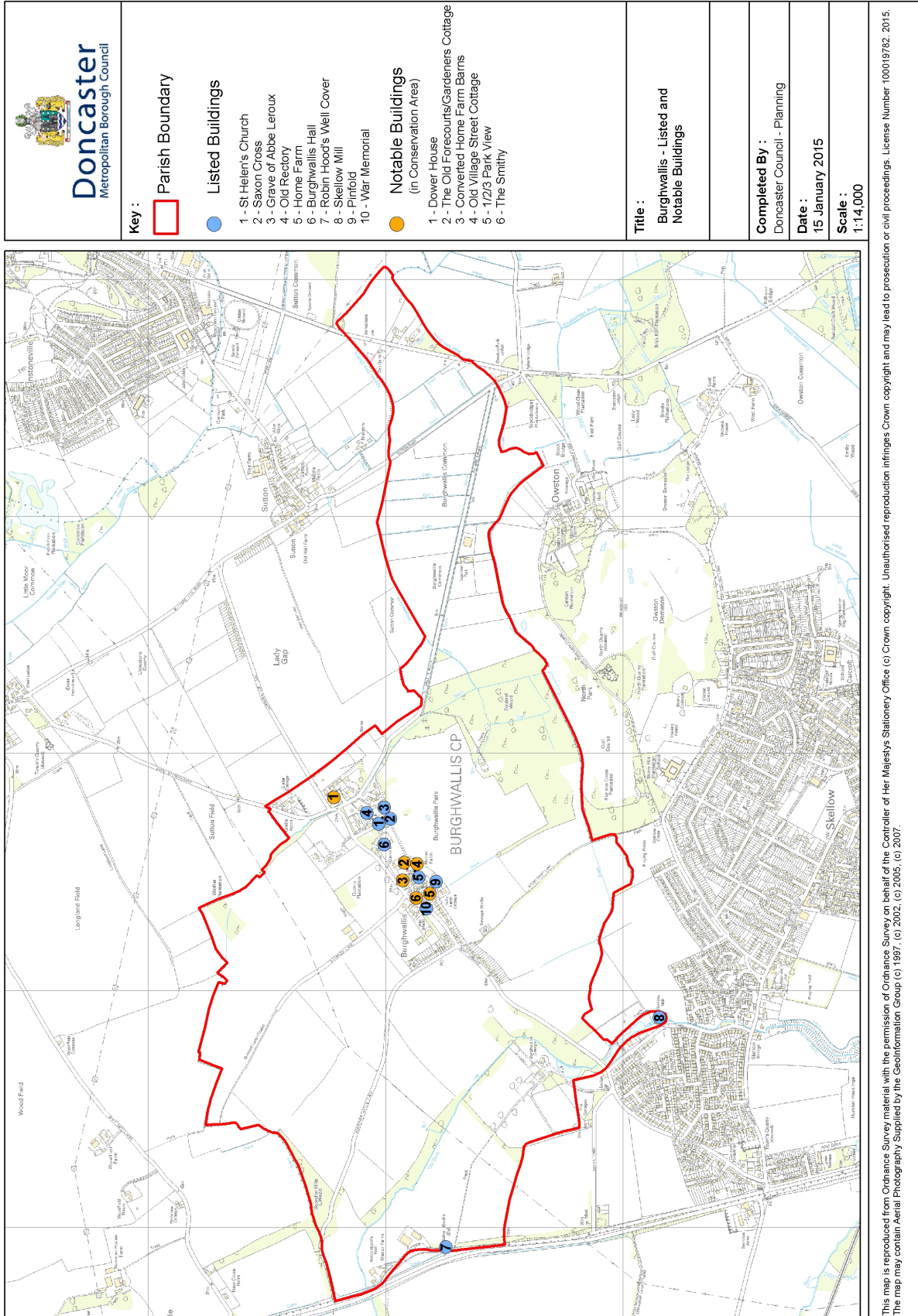
SCHEDULE OF LISTED BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS

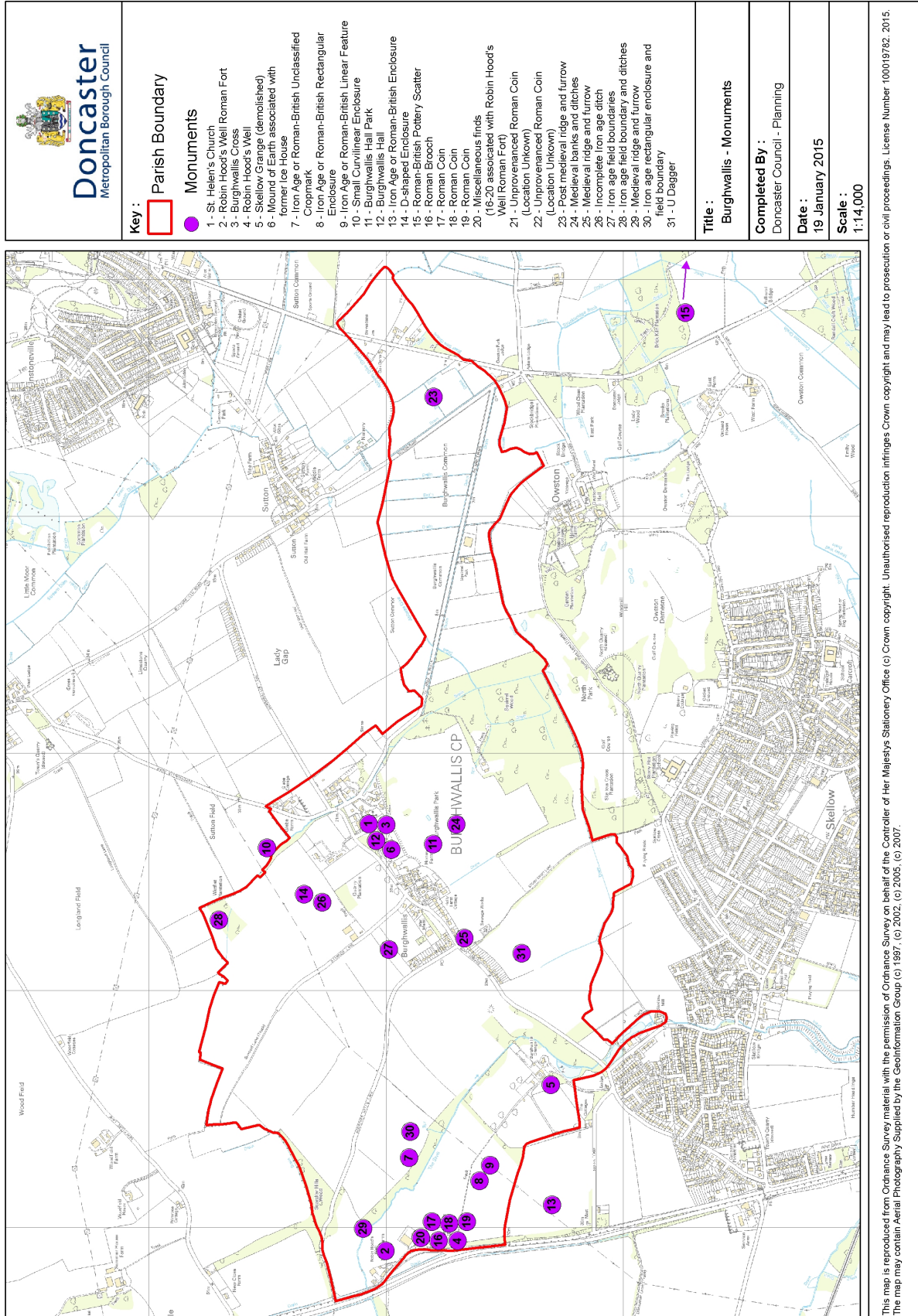
Description	Location	Listing
Dwellings	Old Rectory & St. Anthony’s, Grange Lane	Grade II
Farm House	Home Farm	Grade II
Church	Church of St. Helen, Grange Lane	Grade I
Cross (remains)	3m S of porch, Churchyard, Grange Lane	Grade II
Gravestone	2m S of priest’s door, Churchyard, Grange	Grade II
Hall (St Anne’s Hall)	Grange Lane	Grade II
The Pinfold	Well Lane	Grade II
Well Cover	Robin Hood’s Well, Great North Road	Grade II
The War Memorial	Grange Lane / Old Village Street	Grade II



Robin Hood’s Well, Great North Road

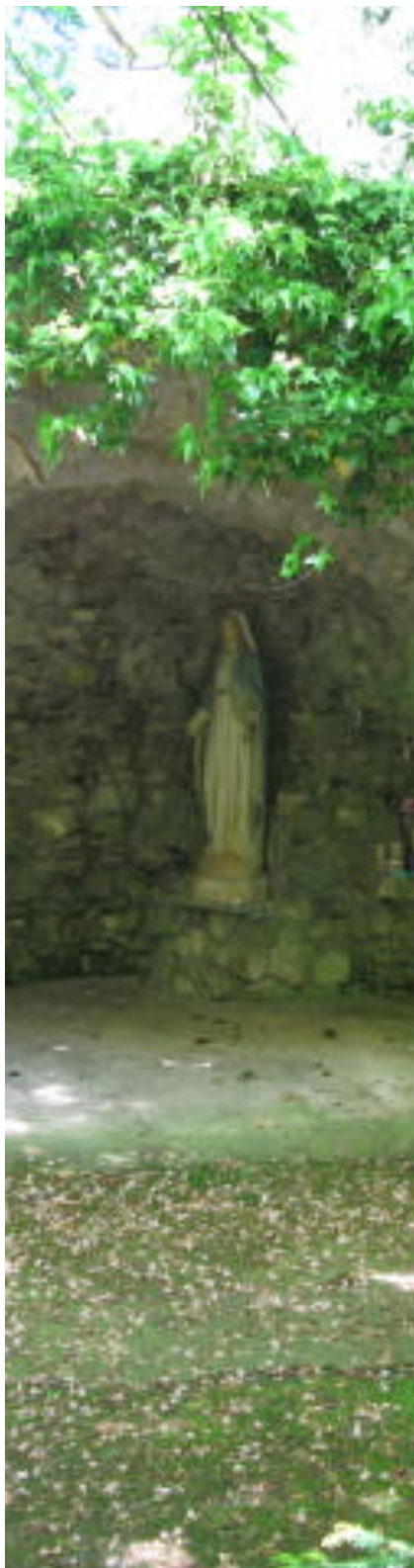
BURGHWALLIS LISTED AND NOTABLE BUILDINGS MAP





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BUILT HERITAGE



The Parish Council also aims to protect and enhance non-designated heritage assets. These are recognised as locally important assets and include:

Corner of Grange Lane and Old Village Street



Pump Lane



Off Burghwallis Lane heading towards Sutton

The Poor's Field was donated by the Anne family in 1649. The Poor's Field charity was set up to raise money from land rent to benefit the poor in the village and help parishioners going through hard times. Today, proceeds support a Christmas dinner for all pensioners in the parish.

BUILT HERITAGE



One mile northwest of the village is The Great North Road. This is of high archaeological significance as it originates from pre-Roman times and has been the main historic north-south thoroughfare of the country connecting the capitals of England and Scotland. Although The Great North Road is some distance from Burghwallis, this does not detract from the association of Burghwallis with ancient settlements in the vicinity. It is important to reduce the risk of encountering archaeological remains late in any development process that could involve unforeseen cost implications for development. Information relating to the Neighbourhood Areas' archaeology has been collated as part of the plan-making process. This is available from the Parish Council.

New developments should not impinge on places of local historic interest and through quality of design, they should maintain the integrity of built heritage assets and thereby ensure that they do not diminish the historic character of the area. This should extend to archaeological desk-based appraisal of the development area prior to a planning application being submitted.

Support will be given to proposals that enhance the village of Burghwallis, conserve or improve the historic character of the village, protect listed buildings, monuments, the Conservation Area, and assets of special interest.

The quality, character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the historic environment are important to local people. Following the public consultation a large percentage of respondents expressed an opinion for preserving the village character and local heritage.

POLICY BH1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS

The three sites listed below are identified as important local heritage assets. Any proposal affecting the significance of these assets and their setting should demonstrate that public benefits will outweigh any harm or loss to the asset.

- The War Memorial
- The Village Pump
- The Poor's Field

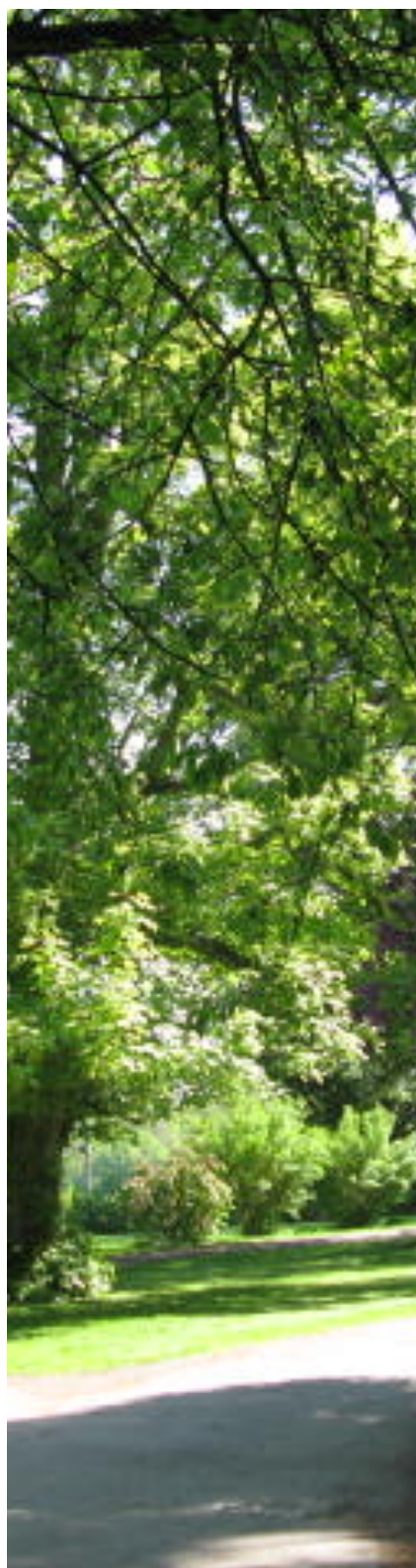
POLICY BH2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Where development proposals affect sites of local archaeological importance, an assessment must be provided and subject to the importance of the site, the archaeology should be preserved in situ or an adequate record made by an appropriate archaeological body.

COMMUNITY ACTION

The Parish Council will welcome discussions regarding the promotion of the Parish's built heritage assets and will be pleased to consider and where appropriate, support proposals for the sympathetic enhancement of built heritage assets.

GREEN ENVIRONMENT



The quality of the green environment and wildlife habitats is important to people that live, work and visit the area, adding greatly to the quality of their wellbeing. Gardens and trees are important elements in the existing built-up areas of the village. They provide diversity and richness to the landscape, as well as forming wildlife havens, corridors, and a rich source of food for insects, birds and wild animals. Development can result in irreversible changes to the green environment. This policy is to ensure the planning system limits the impact of future development on the environment.

Public consultation revealed that the majority of the respondents who expressed an opinion stated that the preservation of the character of the village is important. Policy will work to safeguard the benefit residents receive from their connection with a place of such natural beauty.

The Parish benefits from a number of existing green areas that enhance its value to residents and visitors. They comprise of both natural and man-made elements greatly supporting wildlife, but are at risk from development that can create irreversible changes. This policy is based on the feedback from the majority of respondents who wish to safeguard our green environment, in particular the following six principal areas at risk:

The Playing Field and Playground provides children with a safe open area to play and enjoy outside recreation. This area could be subject to aggressive acquisition, which could see its development for housing, especially due to its proximity to the pub field.

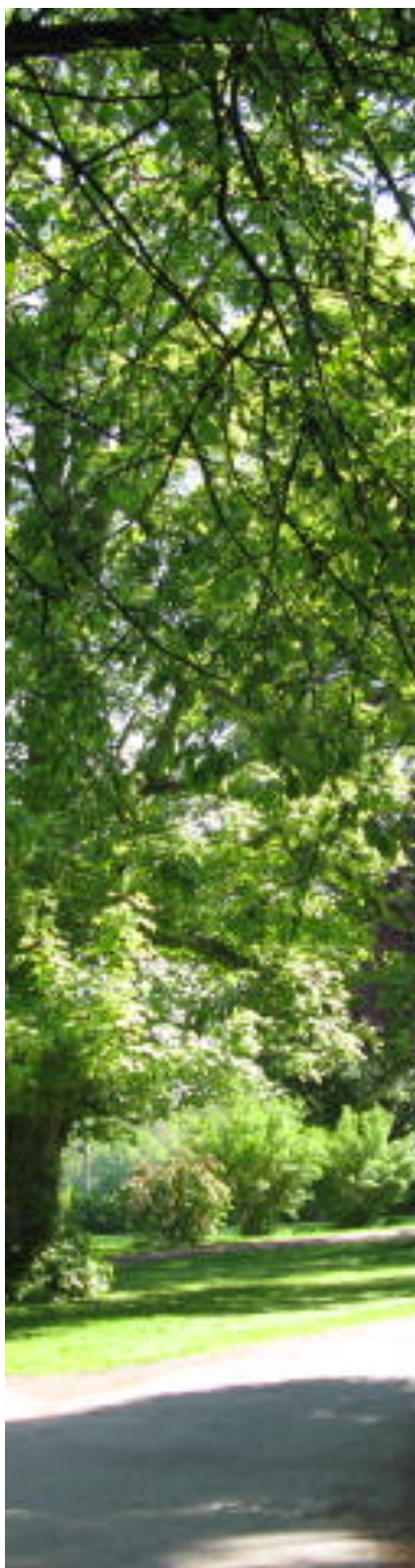
The Poor's Field which has historically provided a green open space for horticultural or animal husbandry, provides essential revenue to the Parish Council, could be at risk of development.

The Pub Field provides a key open space able to host outdoor events such as the village fete. The ownership of the freehold of the field is held by the public house and changes in commercial operation could see its sale and use for development.

Scorcher Hills Paddock lies on the northern boundary of the village. It provides an immediate open space enhancing the rural aspect of the village whilst providing a rich source of food for insects, birds and wild animals. It also lies adjacent to existing housing and could be at risk of development.

Stoney Croft Lane provides a bridle path link across fields to the neighbouring village of Skellow. A significant section of the path is bounded by ancient hedgerows that provide a natural canopy and some shelter to walkers and horse riders as well as a haven for wildlife. The surface requires routine maintenance by DMBC to ensure ease of access and facilities to prevent the illicit abuse from motorcycles.

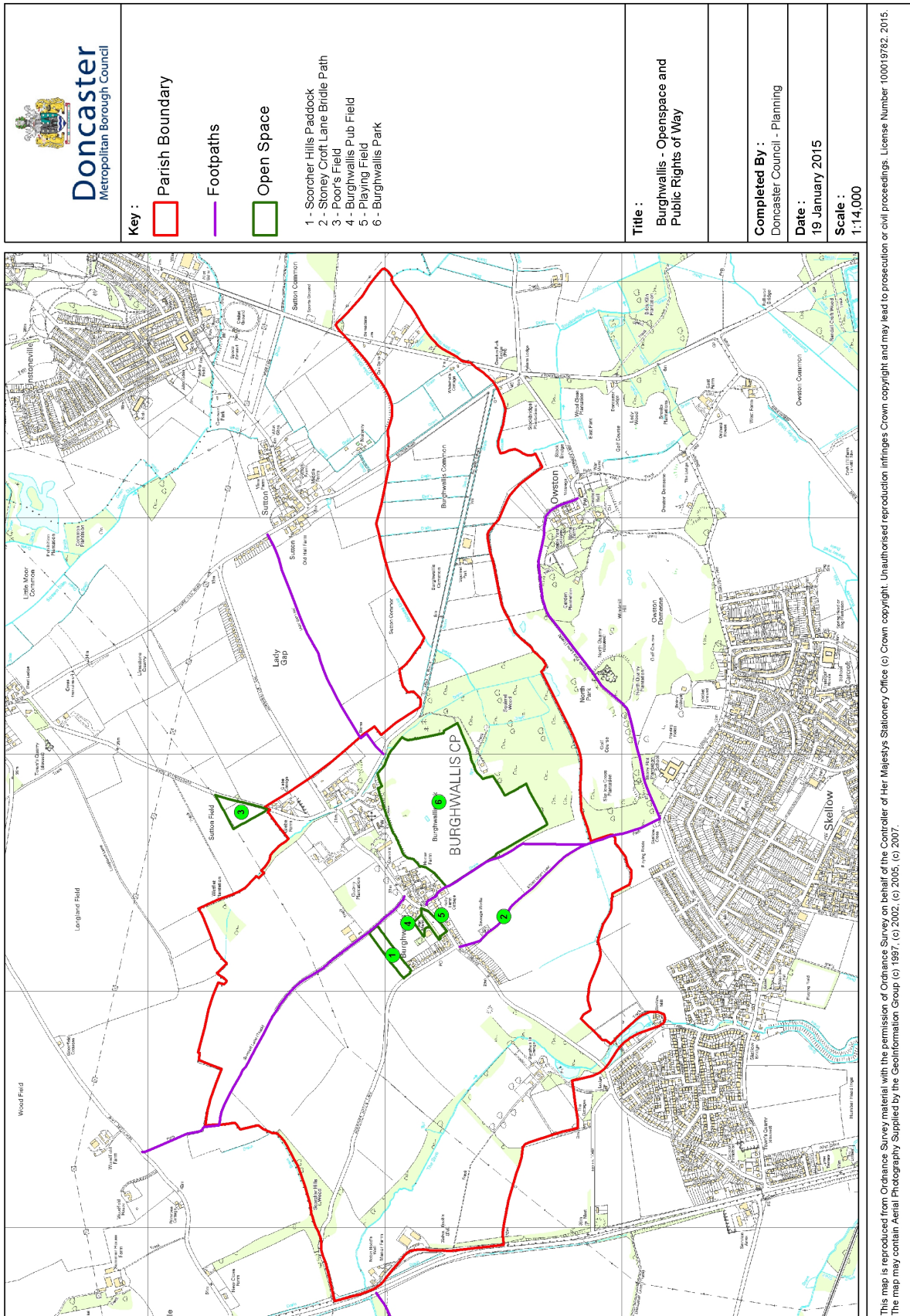
GREEN ENVIRONMENT



Squirrel Wood is set in over 70 acres of natural woodland. Squirrel Wood is situated within the Conservation Area to the east of the village below Burghwallis Park (Grid Reference SE 540114). The area has over 80 species of trees and is rich in wildlife, providing a safe habitat for flora and fauna of special interest. Squirrel Wood also serves as an excellent Scout Camp and supports many activities for all types of outdoor pursuits and even civil weddings.



www.squirrelwood.org.uk



GREEN ENVIRONMENT



POLICY GE1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The five sites below are designated as Local Green Space. The development of Local Green Space is ruled out other than in very special circumstances.

1. The Playing Field and Playground
2. The Poor's Field
3. The Pub Field
4. Scorcher Hills Paddock
5. The War Memorial

The Bridle Path at Stoney Croft lane will be protected from adverse development.

POLICY GE2: DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION

The conservation of Burghwallis' natural heritage assets will be supported.

1. Contribute wherever possible to the conservation, enhancement, management and promotion of Burghwallis' natural heritage assets;
2. In its construction phase, respect the quality of the natural environment, provide appropriate buffers around natural features and make good any consequential damage.

POLICY GE3: SURVIVAL OF IMPORTANT HABITATS AND SPECIES

Where developer contributions are appropriate, their use to conserve and enhance biodiversity will be supported. Measures will include:

1. Take ongoing action to avoid biodiversity losses
2. Restoration of areas damaged by development
3. Fund surveys to identify and record area of biodiversity value
4. Promote the understanding of the need to protect habitats and species
5. Work proactively with the DMBC planning department to protect habitats and species from inappropriate development

COMMUNITY ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Burghwallis is not a self-reliant community. Residents must travel to neighbouring towns or villages for schools, health centre, grocery shops, post offices, library, veterinary surgery, or other community services.

The Parish has very little infrastructure to satisfy the social needs of local people. The open space behind the village pub (the ‘pub field’) and playing field are the only outdoor spaces where the community can hold events, such as the village fete, and come together to build a sense of community. Equally, the village pub (‘The Burghwallis’) represents the only indoor resource for community gatherings, e.g. Parish Council/public meetings, the Christmas lunch plus numerous other social activities.

Maintaining a sense of community is important to local people. Any loss or decline of these community assets will undermine this aim and could result in an irrecoverable drop in community spirit. The continuance of key outdoor and indoor community activities can only be achieved by safeguarding public access to the relevant amenities. Improvements to existing provisions will be welcomed, and all efforts made to ensure that any such improvements do not have any negative impact on other amenities and residents by seeking community-led solutions using Parish Council resources and through local efforts.

The maintenance of an income stream, over and above the Parish precept, to support community activities and action is an important complementary strand to the actual retention of assets.

A. Village Pub (The Burghwallis) Car Park and Pub Field

The village pub has suffered a significant downturn in business resulting in the possibility of the premises being sold. Such an event would impact on opportunities for the community to continue with both indoor and outdoor public events and lead to cancellation of the well-supported village fete.

Additionally, the pub car park offers the only safe access for car borne visitors to the adjacent playing fields and play area via the gate from the car park to the field. Formalisation of an agreement for this continued practice would increase safety for field users and further strengthen the bond between the pub and its community.

The community has identified an aspiration for a village shop/post office. The village pub represents the only logical location for such a facility, but only subject to it not impacting adversely on the existing use and facilities offered by the pub.

BURGHWALLIS PUB



ASSET OF HIGH COMMUNITY VALUE

The Burghwallis Pub serves the community in many ways. The events which are highly important to the community include:

- Village Fete
- Civil Weddings
- Summer social events
- British Legion meetings
- Remembrance Day gathering/meeting point
- Luncheon Club – open invitation for people to socialise
- Parish Council Meetings
- Village Meetings – Council/Neighbourhood Plan/Events
- Neighbourhood Plan meetings
- Events Committee meetings
- Carol Concert
- Christmas events
- Poor’s Field Village Christmas dinner
- Commemorative events
- Snooker tournaments
- Quiz nights
- Over 60’s surgery - medical vaccinations
- Private functions: Parties/Dinners/Social clubs
- Funerals
- Christenings
- Official polling station for national and local government elections



Burghwallis Village Fete



COMMUNITY ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Playing Field and Playground

The Playing Field is the only space available for children in the Parish to play. This asset has attracted interest aimed at changing its use and could be vulnerable to development if not protected.

Roadside car parking for users of the playing field is very restricted and presents a safety hazard to field and road users alike. The current unofficial practice of allowing entry to the playing fields through a safe gate off the pub car park serves to address this issue. Formalisation of this arrangement, as discussed above would further reduce the risk to children getting in and out of vehicles on the main road.

The Poor's Field

The Poor's Field bequeathed to the Parish generates important rental income for the community. It is important this income is safeguarded for future generations.

POLICY CAI₁: DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Development proposals for the improvement of existing community services, of new community services and facilities to benefit local people will be supported.

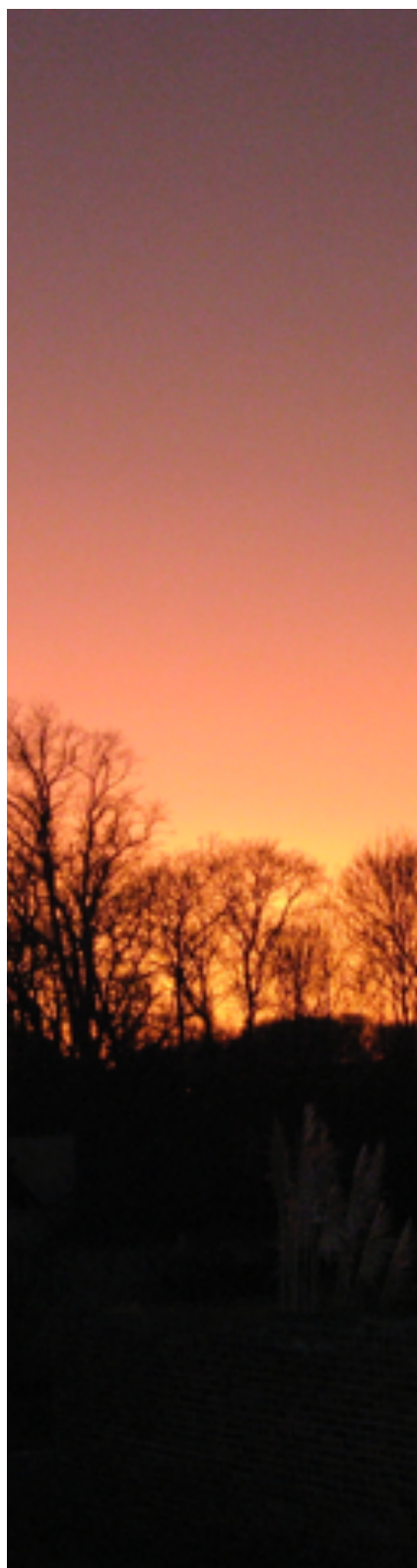
POLICY CAI₂: THE VILLAGE PUB, CAR PARK AND PUB FIELD

The safeguarding of the community use and benefits associated with the pub, car park and pub field will be supported. Any proposals for the redevelopment of the pub must demonstrate that it is no longer viable in its current use and that consideration has been given to safeguarding the community benefits associated with it.

POLICY CAI₃: DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Development proposals for a village shop and post office within the village pub will be welcomed, provided that such use does not adversely impact on existing commercial and community uses and facilities provided by the pub.

COMMUNITY ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



BROADBAND

Historically, there has been a failure to provide sufficient internet and mobile connectivity to Burghwallis, where local people require a modern, efficient and reliable telecommunications infrastructure for both private and commercial usage. The provision of an effective telecommunications system is an important aspect of sustainable development, particularly economic growth, which is supported by Government backed initiatives to provide good connectivity. The provision of fibre optic infrastructure is considered to be the most robust and ‘future proof’ method of delivering enhanced connectivity and therefore all new residential and economic development within the locality shall be encouraged to address this issue and facilitate improvements where viable.

This policy is intended to ensure that where developments are undertaken which have the ability to contribute towards the provision of an improved telecommunication infrastructure, opportunities are maximised to benefit the local community where possible.

POLICY CA14: BROADBAND AND TELECOMS

1. The development of super fast broadband will be supported.
2. New residential and business space development should, where possible, provide super fast broadband.

Aerial photo of Grange Lane and Scorcher Hills Lane



DEVELOPMENT



Development in a Historical Setting

The special interest of Burghwallis rests with its Conservation Area, its historic character and its appearance as a small limestone village connected with an ancient settlement, associated with a manorial estate and church.

Following the public consultation, a large percentage of the respondents who expressed an opinion stated the preservation of the village was of paramount importance.

It is important that future developments reflect the historic significance of the area in their design, construction and use of materials to respect the natural and built surroundings. This action should encompass the layout, form, height, density and scale, avoiding the removal of trees, loss of important open spaces or other important landscape features.

St. Anne's Hall off Grange Lane



DEVELOPMENT

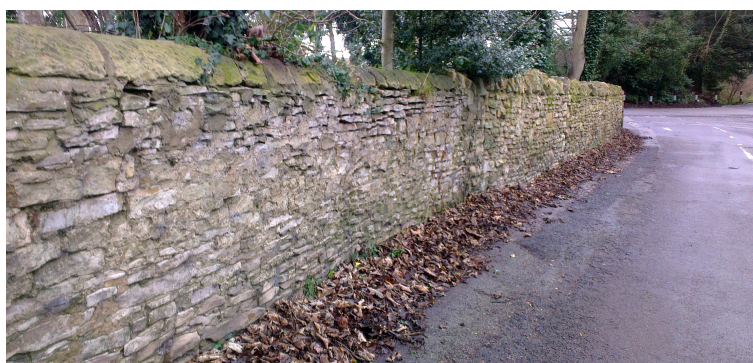


POLICY D1: REQUIRING HIGH QUALITY DESIGN IN BURGHWALLIS

Development proposals should, where appropriate and relevant, provide for good design by demonstrating that consideration has been given to:

1. Recognising and reinforcing the distinct local character in relation to height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design, and materials of buildings. The use of vernacular detailing is encouraged; and
2. Respecting and protecting local heritage assets and their settings, including the Burghwallis Conservation Area; and
3. Protecting natural assets, and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity; and
4. Considering the visual impact of proposals on key views and vistas of the local landscape and minimising adverse impacts on these views. Where possible, new development should create views along streets and/or open spaces to the surrounding countryside; and
5. Incorporating adequate landscaping to mitigate the visual impact of the development and to ensure that proposals merge into the existing village context. Where appropriate, landscaping schemes should seek to include native species; and
6. Seeking to retain mature or important trees. Development that damages or results in the loss of ancient trees or trees of good arboricultural and/or amenity value will not normally be permitted unless justified by professional tree survey and arboricultural statement, and mitigated by replacement with appropriate native trees.
7. Ensuring new boundary treatments reflect the distinct local character in relation to materials, height and design; and
8. Providing adequate private amenity space; and
9. Integrating refuse and recycling storage facilities to mitigate the visual impact they may have on the public realm.

Stone wall along Abbe's Walk



DEVELOPMENT



Sustainable Drainage

Although Burghwallis may appear to be flat and level there is the potential for quite a large area of the Parish to be subjected to long-term flooding. The flood map drawn by the Environment Agency shows flooding affecting Squirrel Wood, the Scout camp and a considerable part of the field to the south of the village known as Burghwallis Park.

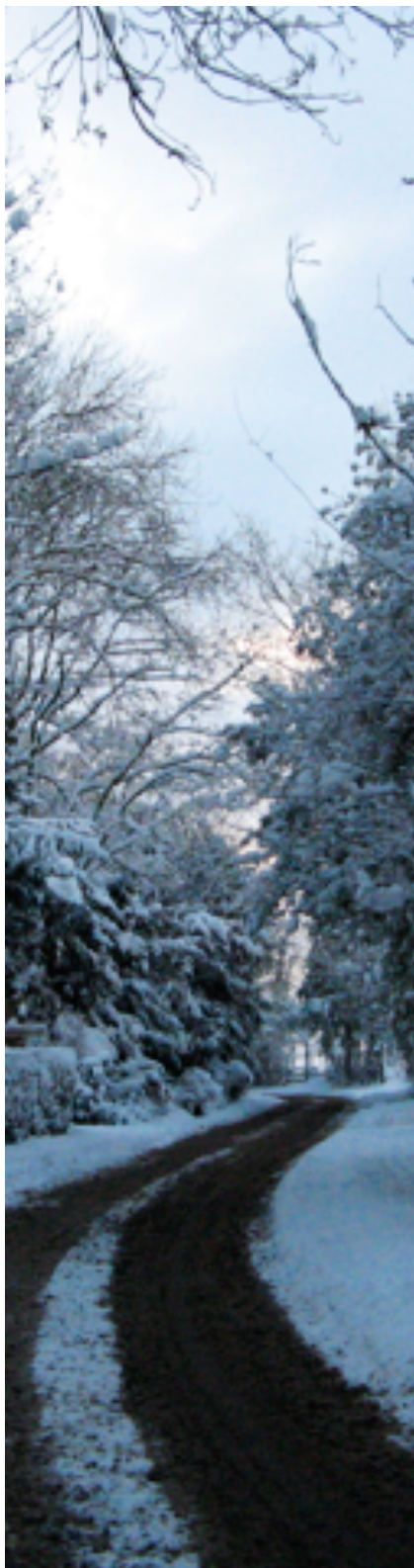
Great care should be taken regarding the drainage capacity of the village and how this could be affected by future development work. This should extend to engineering work and changes in land use that could affect the drainage routes. Changing the flow of water, e.g. by engineering work through the Easterly brook, will cause drought or flood harming wildlife and localised facilities.

Considerable attention should be given to future planning applications with regard to the impact of surface water drainage on the existing drains and culverts that lie in the parish. Key areas of concern include Burghwallis Road, Burghwallis Lane, Abbe's Walk, Grange Lane, Scorcher Hills Lane across Grange Lane and Stony Croft Lane (known as The Bridle Path).

Brook down Abbe's Walk



DEVELOPMENT



POLICY D2: SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE

Where possible and appropriate, proposals for development should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). The enhancement of wildlife and biodiversity as part of the development of such systems will be supported.

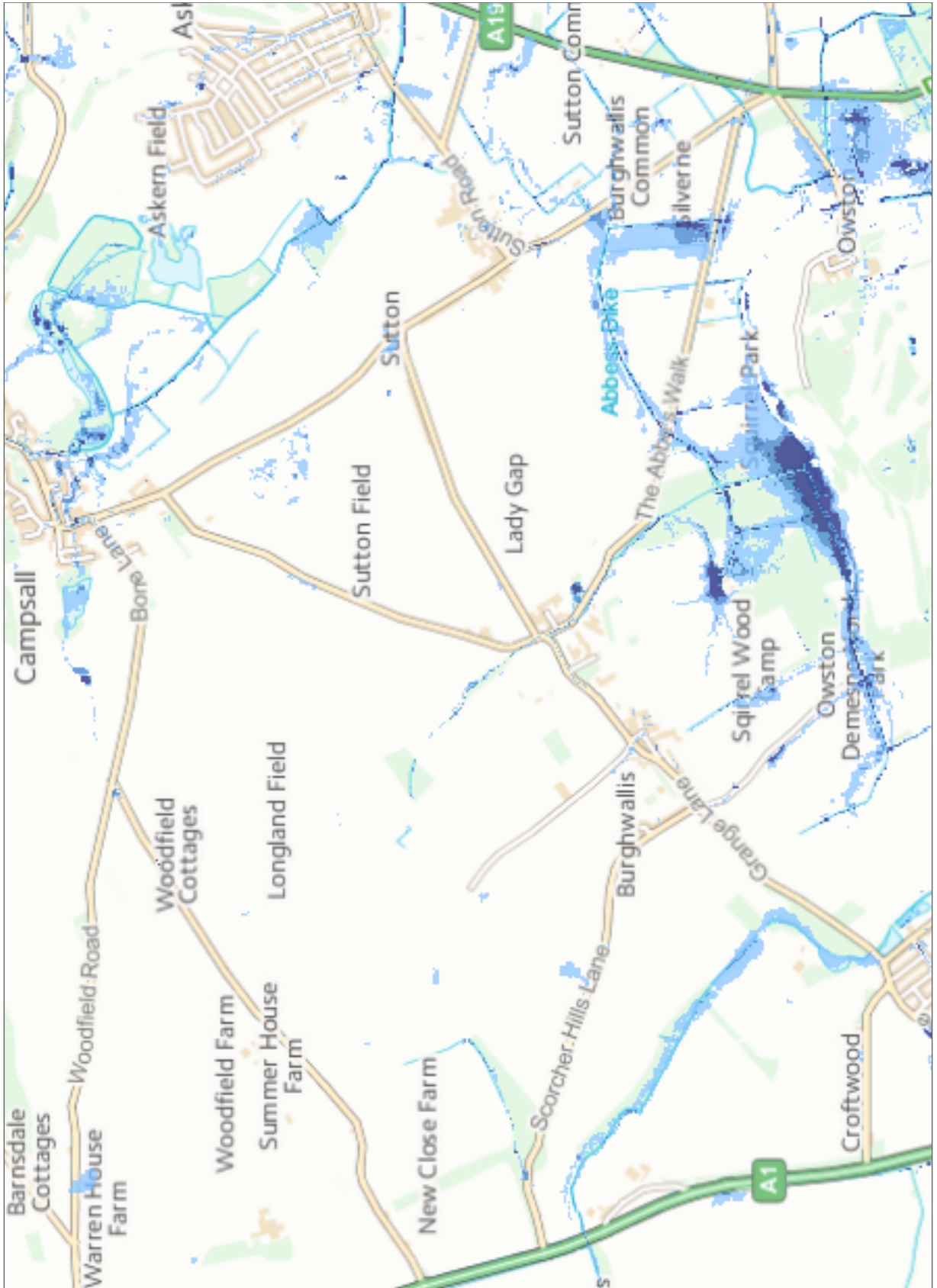
1. Consideration of all available Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDs) techniques, accommodating waste water recycling and achieving a reduction in surface water run off.
2. Control measures which can be maintained over the long-term, avoiding any adverse impact on the water environment, including groundwater aquifers, flood water capacity and nature conservation interests.

All SUDs systems shall be designed and managed to enhance biodiversity in the area. Such would be in accordance with Paragraph 9 of the NPPF.

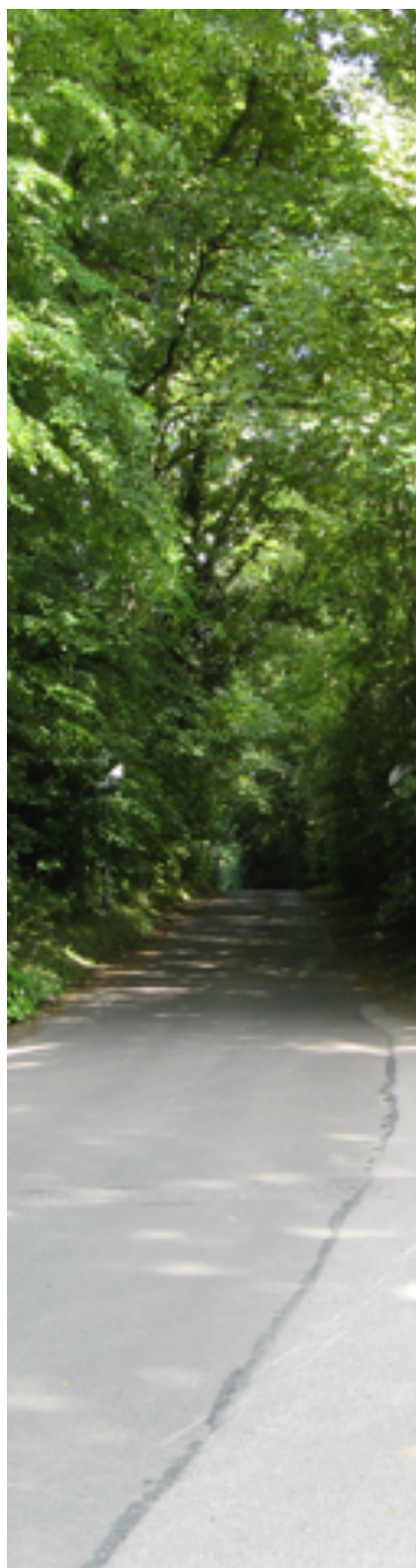
Brook down Abbe's Walk



RISK OF FLOOD FROM SURFACE WATER MAP



DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS



Community Action

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), if and when adopted by DMBC, will be levied on developers undertaking new building projects in the Parish and based on the floor area of the development. Although the levy would be paid to DMBC in the first instance, a proportion of this levy (potentially 25%) would then be paid to the Parish Council to fund community projects once the Neighbourhood Plan is in place (examples below). In the meantime, certain developments will attract developer contributions via Section 106 Agreements between developers and DMBC which could also, by agreement, be used to help fund the same community projects.

Initial public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan generated 102 respondents which showed:

30.4 % gave support to preserving the character of the village

24.5 % want road safety to be improved

16.7 % sought improvements to local amenities

17.16 % want to protect the natural habitat

7.8 % feel it is important to preserve local heritage

Preserve Village Character

The Parish Council would like to see funds used to enhance the historical fabric and flora and fauna of the area. It is important that successful work to restore the Pinfold is continued, and that work started to replant verges and hedgerows is maintained. The use of developer contributions will be supported where they improve road and path safety and will include measures such as:

- Ongoing maintenance of the Pinfold
- Continuing planting along Grange Lane, Scorcher Hills and Abbe's Walk
- Restoration and planting of hedgerows

The Parish Council will encourage the owner of any vacant or under-used historic building to promote their re-use, or the more efficient use where this preserves or enhances its heritage significance.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS



The Parish Council aspires to achieve the following and where possible and appropriate, will seek to use developer contributions in order to do so.

Enhance Road Safety

Extra focus will be given to the needs of pedestrians, horse and cycle riders that use Grange Lane, Burghwallis Lane, Burghwallis Road and Scorcher Hills Lane. Developer contributions should be used to improve road and path safety and will include measures such as:

1. Improved street lighting; and
2. Increased traffic warning signs; and
3. Speed deceleration markings on the road in advance of 30 mph zone; and
4. Improved road surface at; A) The junction of Burghwallis Lane to follow Abbe's Walk and Grange Lane; B) Grange Lane, through the bend near the war memorial; C) Scorcher Hills Lane

Enhance Local Amenities

A key priority is to maintain and improve the attractiveness of Burghwallis as a place to live, work and visit. The playing field, Stony Croft Lane (known as the bridle path) and footpaths are important amenities valued highly by the community. Developer contributions should aim to improve these facilities and include measures to discourage litter dropping, dog fouling and fly tipping.

Key measures will include:

1. Continued improvements to playing field equipment; and
2. Provision of outdoor seating; and
3. Increased number of litter bins; and
4. Increased number of penalty warning signs; and
5. Provision of litter picking tools; and

Bus Services:

Transport through improved bus and coach services are needed to help non-drivers travel in the local area, in particular between Skellow, Carcroft, Askern, Sutton, Norton, Doncaster, Pontefract and Wakefield.

Many non-drivers are elderly people requiring frequent and reliable bus services to access essential services such as, post offices, doctors, pharmacy, banking, veterinary surgery, library and general stores.

It is proposed that we encourage new and existing bus companies to operate frequent services throughout the area and fund surveys to measure demand aimed at achieving a 'step change' in services serving the most vulnerable living in the area.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS



Protect Natural Habitat

Development has the capacity to result in irreversible changes to natural habitats and resources. It is important that the planning system controls the impact of future development on natural habitats.

Developer contributions should be utilised to enhance local natural assets and support action that focuses on ensuring the survival of important habitats.

Measures will include:

1. Take ongoing action to avoid loss or damage to habitats
2. Restoration of areas damaged by development
3. Fund surveys to identify and record important natural features
4. Promote the understanding of the need to protect important habitats
5. Work proactively with the DMBC planning department to protect habitats from inappropriate development

Preserve Local Heritage

1. Burghwallis has a rich heritage with real significance to local people. It comprises of many areas of historical importance, but also includes parkland which could be vulnerable to development.

A proportion of the developer contributions should be used to:

1. Take ongoing action to avoid loss or damage to areas of historical importance
2. Fund restoration and maintenance of heritage sites
3. Work with other agencies to safeguard the specific heritage features of the area

Preserve Village Pub, Car Park and Pub Field

The Village Pub, Car Park and Pub Field are of proven value to the local community and will be protected from development or change of use including by registration of the Village Pub, Car Park and Pub Field as an 'Asset of Community Value'.

APPENDICES



A2. Referenced National and Local Policies	33
Image of Burghwallis and Surrounding Villages	34

NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES



A2. REFERENCED NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICIES

The Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan supports aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the relevant policies established by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, as shown below

Policy BH1

Part 7: Requiring Good Design

NPPF Part 12: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS15 Valuing Our Historic Environment, pages 73 and 74

Policy BH2

NPPF Part 12: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Policy GE1

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

NPPF Part 9: Protecting Green Belt Land

NPPF Part 11: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS3 Countryside pages 33, 83/4, 100, 111

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS16 Valuing our Natural Environment 75 to 82

Policy GE2

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

NPPF Part 9: Protecting Green Belt Land

NPPF Part 11: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Policy GE3

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

NPPF Part 9: Protecting Green Belt Land

NPPF Part 11: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Landscape Planning on Development Sites in Doncaster, Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) DMBC 2008

Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation, Interim Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) DMBC 2008

Policy CA1 (1)

NPPF Part 3: Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

Policy CA1(1)

NPPF Part 3: Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

Policy CA1(2)

NPPF Part 3: Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

Policy CA1(3)

NPPF Part 3: Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy

NPPF Part 8: Promoting Healthy Communities

Policy CA1(4)

NPPF Part 5: Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure

Policy D1

NPPF Part 7: Requiring Good Design

NPPF Part 12: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS14: Design and Sustainable Construction, pages 70 to 72.

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS15: Valuing our Historic Environment pages 73 and 74

Extensions to Domestic Dwellings, Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG), DMBC 2004

Residential Backland and Infill Development, Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) DMBC 2010

Policy D2

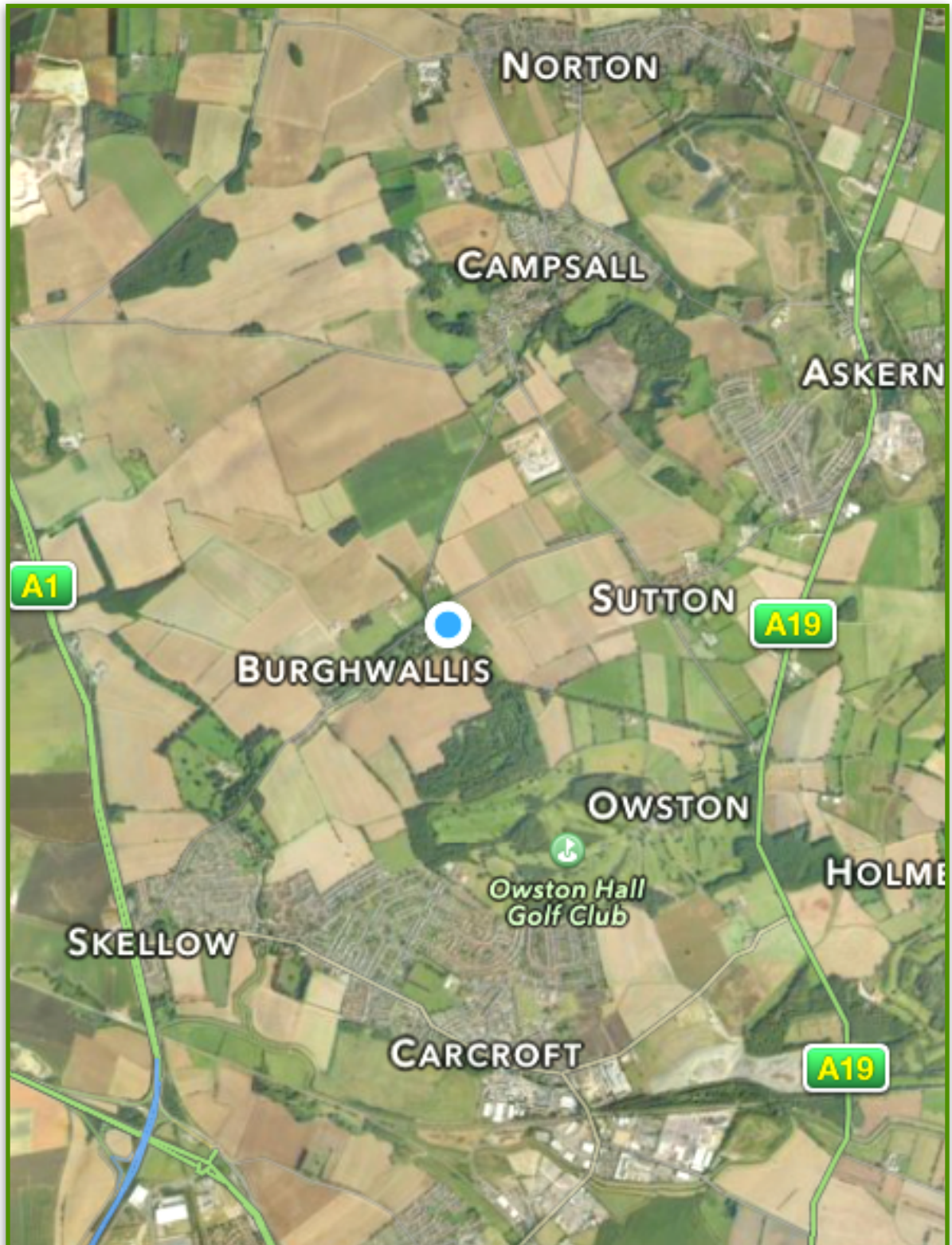
Part 10: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

Doncaster Core Strategy Policy CS4 Flooding and Drainage, pages 35 to 38.

SURROUNDING VILLAGES

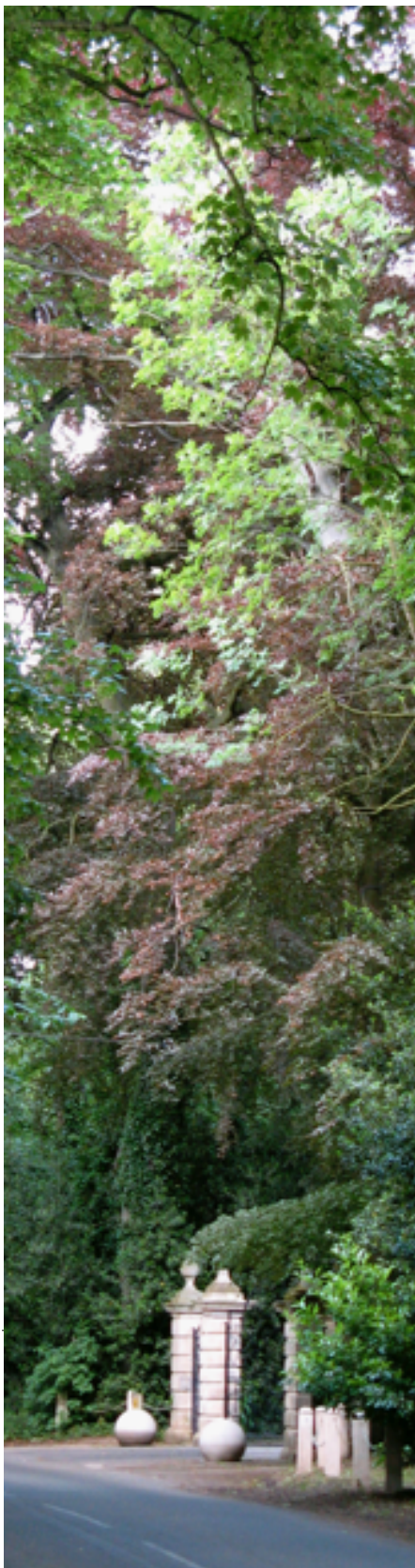


IMAGE OF BURGHWALLIS AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



BURGHWALLIS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2016 - 2028



Maps by courtesy of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and Environmental Agency
Photos by Rob Grimes, Alistair Owens, Adrian Sowden
Neighbourhood Plan logo, designed by Space Creative
This document is also available at www.burghwallis.org.uk



For further information contact:
Burghwallis Parish Council,
Burghwallis, Doncaster.
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24th November, 2016

**To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 – 6 MONTH REVIEW OF THE PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND SUB- COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to advise 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.
2. Members are asked to note that this report sets out the position on the proportional allocation of seats on the basis of the number of Elected Members in each Political Group. This report does not account for any further changes in the composition of Political Groups that may occur prior to this meeting of Council, or any changes to the size of Committees that are detailed in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

3. It is recommended that Council:-
 - (i) notes the existing proportionate allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, remains unchanged from the position reported at the Annual Council Meeting on 13th May, 2016;
 - (ii) approves the appointment of the Labour Group nominations to serve on the following Committees:-
 - Planning Committee (Councillor John McHale);
 - Audit Committee (Councillor Iris Beech); and
 - Chief Officers Appointments Committee as a Substitute Member (Councillor Sue McGuinness)
 - (iii) notes any revisions to Committee and Sub-Committee memberships advised by Political Group Leaders.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance. By appointing to Committees in line with recommendations within this report, the Council satisfies its legal requirements for appointments to Committees.

BACKGROUND

5. At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 13th May, 2016, it was reaffirmed that a mid-year review of the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees having regard to political balance in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, would be undertaken if there were any changes to the composition of Political Groups.
6. Since the Annual Meeting in May, 2016, a casual vacancy has arisen in the Norton and Askern Ward, and as a Bye-election has not been held, a vacant seat remains.

7. Subsequently, the political composition of the Council is as follows:-

Political Group	Members
Labour	41
Conservatives	8
Mexborough First	3
UKIP	2

8. As a consequence, the political balance and entitlement to seats as at 24th November, 2016, compared to the Annual Council Meeting, is as follows:-

	Political balance as at <u>13th May, 2016</u>	Current political balance as at <u>24th November, 2016</u>
Labour	45 seats i.e. 42/56	45 seats i.e. 41/56
Conservatives	9 seats i.e. 8/56	9 seats i.e. 8/56
Mexborough First	3 seats i.e. 3/56	3 seats i.e. 3/56
UKIP	2 seats i.e. 2/56	2 seats i.e. 2/56
Independent Members (not affiliated to any Political Group registered with the Council)	1 seat i.e. 1/56	1 seat i.e. 1/56
Total number of seats for proportional allocation	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>

9. As can be seen in the table above, the overall proportional implications with regard to the proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by Council, remain unchanged. Therefore, no re-calculation of proportionality is required.

10. However, as a consequence of the casual vacancy in the Norton and Askern Ward, there are 3 seats allocated to the Labour Group which are vacant. Therefore, Council is requested to approve the following replacement nominations from the Labour Group, to serve on the following Committees for the remaining period of the current Municipal Year:-

- Planning Committee (Councillor John McHale);
- Audit Committee (Councillor Iris Beech); and
- Chief Officers Appointments Committee as a Substitute Member (Councillor Sue McGuinness)

Proportional Allocation of Seats on Licensing Committee

11. Even though there has been a change to the political balance at the Authority, the overall proportional implications with regard to the proportional allocation of seats on the Licensing Committee which has 14 seats, remains the same.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. There is a duty to comply with the requirements of Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, in the allocation of seats to Political Groups to ensure political balance. Alternative arrangements can be put in place with the unanimous agreement of Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

13. As there has been no change in the overall proportional implications with regard to the proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees appointed by Council, no other options are considered appropriate.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

14. This report has no direct impact on the Council's Key outcomes. By appointing to Committees in line with recommendations within this report, the Council satisfies its legal requirements for appointments to Committees.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. Failure to comply with the statutory requirements for seat allocations would impact on the entitlement of Political Groups and Independent Members on Committees, and potentially lead to reputational issues.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, sets out the duties of the Local Authority and the allocation of seats to Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees to ensure political balance.
17. The cumulative effect of these duties is to require “proportionality” across the formal activities of the Authority, representing the overall political composition of the Authority, so that there can, for example, be no one party Committees so far as they are constituted as formal Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council.
18. Section 15 provides that the Council is bound to review the representation of different Political Groups on Committees and Sub-Committees when:-
 - (a) the Authority holds an Annual Meeting; and
 - (b) as soon as practicable after the Members of the Authority divide into different Political Groups.
19. The duty to make a determination as to political representation arises as soon as practicable after a review. The Authority has a statutory duty only to make allocations of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees according to the overriding principles that:-
 - (a) all the seats on a Committee are not allocated to the same Political Group;
 - (b) the majority of the seats on a Committee go to the Political Group which has a majority on the Full Council;
 - (c) subject to the above two principles, that the number of seats on the Committees of the Authority allocated to each Political Group, bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the Committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of Members of that Group to the Membership of the Authority; and
 - (d) subject to (a) - (c) above, that the number of the seats on the Committee which are allocated to each Political Group, bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee as is borne by the number of Members of that Group to the Membership of the Authority.

20. Section 16 provides that once the Council has carried out its review and determined the allocation of seats further to the principles by which it is bound listed above, the Council has a duty to exercise its powers to make appointments to Committees as to give effect to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that Committee which are allocated to a particular Political Group as are expressed by that Political Group. Section 16(2A) requires that where appointments fall to be made to seats on a Committee to which Section 15 applies otherwise than in accordance with a determination under that Section, it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise its power to make appointments so as to secure that the persons appointed to those seats are not Members of any Political Group.
21. Exceptions to these requirements of political balance may be made where arrangements are approved by the Council without any Member of the Council or a Committee, voting against them.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no specific human resources implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

24. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

26. Group Leaders have been informed that, as there has been no change in the overall proportional allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees, no recalculation of proportionality is required.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council – Local Government and Housing Act 1989 – Review of the Allocation of Seats on Committees and Sub-Committees – 13th May, 2016

REPORT AUTHOR

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Jo Miller
Chief Executive

24th November, 2016

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks the Council's approval of appointments of Member representatives to fill existing vacancies on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's (SCRCA) Transport Committee and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Council is asked to:-
 - (i) appoint a replacement Conservative Councillor as a Member representative on the Transport Committee of the SCRCA; and
 - (ii) appoint Councillor John Healy as the replacement Labour Councillor to fill the current vacancy on the Police and Crime Panel.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. In addition to being appointed to Committees and Panels within the Council, Councillors are also appointed to external bodies such as charitable bodies, local partnerships and other organisations. This can be either as representatives of the Council, as trustees or directors in their own right. The Council also has representatives on bodies known as Joint Authorities, including the Police and Crime Panel.

BACKGROUND

SCRCA Transport Committee

4. At its last meeting on 15th September 2016, the Council appointed Councillor R. A. Jones to the SCRCA Transport Committee as the replacement Member representative from the Conservative Group, to join the remaining two representatives (Councillors Joe Blackham and Bill Mordue). Unfortunately the South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat has determined that Councillor Jones cannot sit on both the SCRCA's Scrutiny and Transport Committees as the Scrutiny Committee holds the Transport Committee to account. It is therefore necessary for Council to appoint a different Member to serve as the Conservative Group representative on the Transport Committee.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

5. The Police and Crime Panel's role is to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, to promote openness in the transaction of police business and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of their functions. Following the sad passing of Councillor Alan Jones on 16 August 2016, there is a need to fill the current vacancy for one Labour Councillor on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. Consequently, the Labour Group is proposing to nominate Councillor John Healy to take up this position. The Council's other Member representatives on the PCP are Councillor C McGuinness and Cllr G Jones (Substitute).

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. To appoint Member representatives to the SCRCA Transport Committee and the Police and Crime Panel (recommended option).
7. To not fill the current vacancies in the Council's representation on the SCRCA Transport Committee and Police and Crime Panel (not recommended). This would not meet the political proportionality requirements that apply to both of these particular bodies or enable Doncaster to be fully represented on them.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. It is important that Doncaster MBC is represented on the outside bodies identified in this report to enable Doncaster to contribute towards the delivery of these bodies' functions. As set out in the body of the report, the membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee is subject to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts and only a Conservative councillor may be appointed. Similarly, the allocation of seats on the Police and Crime Panel is based on proportionality across South Yorkshire. Currently, this equates to DMBC being entitled to appoint 2 x Labour Councillors, plus substitutes, to the Panel.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9. This report has no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes. Indirectly, clear responsibility and effective Constitutional provisions for making appointments to Outside Bodies contributes towards the Council's outcome 'Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance', thus demonstrating that effective governance arrangements are in place.

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

10. Appointees to outside bodies will need to act strategically and ensure issues of significance are effectively reported back to the Authority where appropriate.
11. During 2015/16 work was undertaken to review the Governance of the Council's arrangements and relationship with outside bodies and partnerships. One of the key elements of this work was to ensure that representatives appointed to Outside Bodies were clear of their roles and responsibilities. A particular risk exists where representatives may act beyond their powers or potentially commit the Council to unauthorised actions or expenditure. To

mitigate this risk training is provided for all individuals appointed to outside bodies to raise awareness and provide clarity and understanding of their roles. In addition, the Council may also provide indemnity insurance for individuals against personal liability, provided they act reasonably, and where this is not provided by the relevant partner organisation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The SCRCA was established by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee is subject to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts. Currently, this equates to Doncaster Council being entitled to nominate 3 representatives (voting members) on this body, i.e. 2 x Labour and 1 x Conservative.
13. Police and Crime Panels were established as part of the new Police governance framework introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The allocation of seats on the Police and Crime Panel is based on proportionality across South Yorkshire. Currently, this equates to DMBC being entitled to appoint 2 x Labour Councillors to the Panel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific technology implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no specific equality implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

17. Consultation has taken place with the relevant Group Leaders in respect of these appointments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council – 15th September 2016: Appointment of Conservative Councillor Representative to Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's Transport Committee.

REPORT AUTHOR

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Senior Governance Officer
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Simon Wiles
Director of Finance and Corporate Services

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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
Thursday, 9th June, 2016

Present:-

Barnsley MBC

Councillor R. Frost

Doncaster MBC

Councillor A. Jones

Councillor C. McGuinness

Rotherham MBC

Councillor B. Cutts

Sheffield CC

Councillor J. Drayton

Councillor T. Hussain (in the Chair)

Councillor J. Otten

Councillor M. Rooney

Co-opted Members

Mr A. Carter

Mr S. Chu

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor D. Griffin (Barnsley MBC)

Councillor S. Sansome (Rotherham MBC)

F1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

Resolved:-

That Councillor Talib Hussain be appointed as Chair of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

F2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

Resolved:-

That Councillor Stuart Sansome be appointed Vice-Chair of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year.

F3. TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF ANY PART OF THE AGENDA

The Chair confirmed that there were no items of business on the agenda which would require the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

F4. TO DETERMINE ANY ITEM WHICH THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business requiring consideration by the Panel.

F5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

F6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2016

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 4 March 2016 be agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

F7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was reported that Procedure Rule 10 (General Questions by Members of the Public at Panel Meetings) enabled members of the public to submit questions to the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. The Clerk to the Panel reported that Mr Peter Thirlwall had submitted the following question:-

“Is it true that the Crime Commissioner’s Election Agent is the Partner/Husband of the previous Police and Crime Panel Chair and if so, was it detailed in his declaration of interests and it is appropriate?”

The Chair invited the Police and Crime Commissioner to comment on the question. The Commissioner indicated that the South Yorkshire Elected Local Policing Body Code of Conduct required him to notify disclosable interests in the following areas:

- Employment
- Sponsorship
- Contracts
- Land
- Licenses
- Corporate Tenancies
- Securities
- Other Interests: Membership of other organisations

He indicated that he had met that required and published his disclosable interests on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner website. He further explained that, as the selected Labour candidate, not in his capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner, he had formally appointed Howard Knight (husband of the former Chair of the Police and Crime

Panel) as his election agent on 4 April 2016, although he asked him informally on 15 March 2016.

The Commissioner indicated that in the interests of openness and transparency, had a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel taken place after that date, he would have drawn attention to this relationship with the Police and Crime Panel's Monitoring Officer before the meeting, notwithstanding that he was not required to declare it.

In response to Mr Thirlwall's question, the Chair indicated that the former Chair of the Police and Crime Panel was no longer a Panel Member or an Elected Councillor in Sheffield and he could not comment further.

F8. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11 (General Questions from Members of the Panel), the following questions were put with responses from the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Mr. Alan Carter, a Co-opted Independent Member of the Panel, had submitted the following question:

"My question arises from some information that I have which relates to the Government having opened bidding to a £15m fund with the intention of providing health based places of safety to stop the practice of those in mental health crisis being held in police cells. I am anxious to know if the Commissioner is concerned about current practice and is aware of this initiative. I would ask if, in the interests of the people of South Yorkshire generally, he will be actively encouraging the South Yorkshire Police to support a bid for a proportion of this funding for allocation to South Yorkshire, thereby significantly reducing the need in South Yorkshire for the use of police cells and vehicles for this purpose."

The Police and Crime Commissioner responded:

"I am aware of the £15 million fund available to provide health and community based places of safety, in order to prevent vulnerable people being held in police cells. However this funding has not come directly to Police and Crime Commissioners.

South Yorkshire Police and I fully support this initiative. A number of bids are currently being developed and discussed at the Countywide Strategic Mental Health Partnership Board and such bids have already received my full support."

Mr Alan Carter submitted a further question for the Police and Crime Commissioner:

"Does the Commissioner see any relevance in this arrangement in the NHS to addressing the not entirely dissimilar situations (of unacceptable

levels of care and a culture which deters staff from raising genuine concerns) which can and do arise in the Police Service? And could he envisage the similar appointment of a National Guardian, to promote and reinforce best practice in supporting police staff (uniformed and civilian) to speak up safely through a network of Freedom to Speak Up Guardians (which, at a local Force level, conceivably might be Police and Crime Commissioners and/or their Deputies)?”

The Police and Crime Commissioner provided the following response:

“I do see the relevance of work undertaken by the NHS in relation to staff being deterred from raising genuine concerns about poor care and dangerous practices.

In January this year, the draft National Policy and Guidance about Reporting Concerns (Whistleblowing) released by the College of Policing was presented to my Independent Ethics Panel for comment prior to being rolled out in the Force. The Independent Ethics Panel has a role and there is a protocol which sets out the process Panel members should follow if they are approached by a member of South Yorkshire Police wishing to challenge or report improper behaviour.

Officers and members of police staff also report concerns directly and confidentially to my office and these are treated sensitively and seriously, usually by my Chief Executive and/or the Chair of my Independent Ethics Panel. Concerns reported to my office anonymously are also considered and any issues which need to be raised with the Chief Constable and Senior Leadership Group, and action taken, are so raised.”

Councillor Robert Frost submitted the following question:

“Could Dr Billings outline his plan for South Yorkshire Police moving forward to regain the trust of the public. Will Dr Billings lobby the Home Secretary forcefully to have any costs of an enquiry into Orgreave funded centrally? Many people in the area were not born at the time and should not suffer police cuts as a result. Other forces were also involved in policing the dispute and I believe the Tory Government at the time was complicit in decisions taken.”

In response, the Police and Crime Commissioner stated:

“Dealing first with the question about the policing of events at the Orgreave coking plant in 1984, I am currently talking to the Interim Chief Constable, the Truth and Justice Campaign and the Home Office about a way forward, particularly over the matter of making the archives held by the Force publicly available. I have, of course, said publicly many times that I support an independent review or public inquiry into Orgreave.

It is well known that policing at Orgreave was provided by a number of forces in the country and, if this is to be the subject of an enquiry this should be seen as a national issue and funded by central government. One of the lessons from Hillsborough is that the only way to establish all the facts and for justice to be done is for the Force to be fully open and to do everything possible to ensure that any enquiry is both thorough and swift.

The Interim Chief Constable and I have already requested a meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss a range of issues facing South Yorkshire Police. I am hopeful of constructive discussions; the Home Secretary has already been receptive to previous approaches I have made for funding, and supportive following recent events.

In terms of my plan for South Yorkshire Police moving forward, in order to regain the trust and confidence of the public, there are a number of strands of work that have been initiated by the Interim Chief Constable and myself:

- College of Policing Peer Support with a team currently in Force led by DCC Andy Rhodes (of Lancashire Constabulary).
- Support in Examining the Financial Position of the Force
- Exploring different approaches to issues relating to Hillsborough – potential prosecutions, misconduct proceedings and civil claims
- Exploring the best approach to Orgreave
- Support to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner with two projects – peer support aimed at strengthening my ‘holding to account’ arrangements, and a commissioned research project aimed at restoring public trust and confidence.

Finally, it is important to grasp the opportunity presented by the national support being made available and the arrival of a new Chief Constable to demonstrate to the public that the Force is willing to learn the lessons of recent events, especially the child sexual exploitation scandals and the Hillsborough Inquests, and to listen to victims, survivors, families and other interested groups who can help the Force begin the fundamental culture change necessary.”

Councillor Otten submitted the following question:

“Do you and did you approve of the timing of the Acting Chief Constable’s statement on Orgreave, being the day before the Police and Crime Commissioner election, in contravention of the spirit of ‘purdah’?”

The Police and Crime Commissioner responded as follows:

“Councillor Otten is mistaken as to the date. The Interim Chief Constable made his statement on the day of the election so he did not contravene the spirit of ‘purdah’. I did not know the Interim Chief Constable was going to make his statement. However, I do agree with his sentiments. South Yorkshire Police must approach the whole matter of Orgreave with the spirit of openness and cooperation.”

Councillor Otten submitted a further question to the Police and Crime Commissioner:

“Given the Home Office guidance on the ‘legal high’ ban wherein the legality of buying whipped cream and antifreeze seems to depend on how old you are and what time of day it is, are you confident that police will be able to enforce this law in a fair and proportionate manner?”

In response, the Police and Crime Commissioner stated:

“I would expect South Yorkshire Police to enforce all laws in a fair and appropriate manner.

South Yorkshire Police has provided the following information:

“The new Psychoactive Substances Act provides a blanket ban on the production, supply and import of new psychoactive substances. The Act covers psychoactive substances which create a psychoactive effect by stimulating or depressing the person’s central nervous system, effecting their mental functioning or emotional state. It does however, contain certain exemptions which include controlled drugs, medicinal products, nicotine and tobacco products, caffeine and food (including drink).

The legislation came into effect on 26 May 2016 and has since, changed the way forces tackle the issue of psychoactive substances. This Act is policed in a practical manner adopting a common sense approach and provides a variety of options to police forces to ensure it is enforced correctly. This includes, but is not limited to; powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, search persons, premises and vehicles and enter premises by warrant if necessary. There are provisions for civil sanctions: prohibition notices and prohibition orders — to enable the police and local authorities to adopt a proportionate response to the supply of ‘legal highs’ in appropriate cases. South Yorkshire Police are committed to reducing the harm caused by all drugs and are working with partner agencies to ensure prevention, education and health services all play a vital role in tackling psychoactive substances.”

F9. THE 'DREW REVIEW' AND THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Police and Crime Commissioner detailing the findings of the independent review by Professor John Drew in respect of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation (CSE). The Commissioner also set out his response to the review findings.

It was noted that the review had been announced in March 2015 and the following areas for review were identified:

- 1) Has the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation been adequate in the past?
- 2) Has South Yorkshire Police (SYP) understood and acted on the findings of and recommendations in previous reports and inspections, in the media and during parliamentary questioning?
- 3) Is the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation adequate now?

It was reported that Professor Drew's overall judgement was that the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation in the past was inadequate, especially in Rotherham where he simply repeated the criticisms already made in the Jay and Casey reports. Professor Drew was satisfied that South Yorkshire Police had understood and acted both on the general direction of previous criticism and also on most of the specific recommendations of previous scrutiny activity of its performance. Furthermore, Professor Drew believed that the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation was now adequate. Indeed, it was noted that some recent work undertaken by South Yorkshire Police appeared to be of high quality.

Panel Members noted the eleven recommendations from Professor Drew and the response of both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to the review. The Panel welcomed the Commissioner's commitment to continuously hold South Yorkshire Police to account in delivering on the review's recommendations.

Discussions range from the need to continue rigorous scrutiny of South Yorkshire Police and local authorities to how the nature of CSE was moving from the streets to an online problem. Reference was made to the review of licensing policies in the authorities across South Yorkshire and the introduction of mandatory training on identifying CSE.

In view of the recent changes in personnel at the top of South Yorkshire Police, the Panel sought assurances that recommendation 9, in respect of a standard operating procedure for the investigation of CSE, had been progressed. The Police and Crime Commissioner indicated that the Interim Chief Constable had been tasked with reviewing this, as part of a thorough review of practices and operations at South Yorkshire Police.

In response to further questioning, the Police and Crime Commissioner explained that a lot of work was ongoing within South Yorkshire Police to raise consciousness of CSE and to improve the sharing of intelligence with other public bodies, such as local authorities.

The Panel recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner submit reports providing updates on progress on a regular basis in respect of the implementation of the recommendations from the Drew Report.

Resolved:-

1. That the Drew Report and response of the Police and Crime Commissioner be received.
2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner be requested to provide update reports on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Drew Report to future meetings of the Panel.

F10. THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE HILLSBOROUGH INQUESTS VERDICTS

The Panel agreed to defer consideration of this item until after Members had completed their induction.

Resolved:-

That the item be deferred to a future meeting.

F11. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN RESPECT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSAL TO CALL FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S RETIREMENT OR RESIGNATION

The Panel agreed to defer consideration of this item until after Members had completed their induction.

Resolved:-

That the item be deferred to a future meeting.

F12. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN RESPECT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Panel agreed to defer consideration of this item until after Members had completed their induction.

Resolved:-

That the item be deferred to a future meeting.

F13. COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE FORMER POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Consideration was given to a report which informed the Panel of its options in relation to the complaints received in respect of the conduct of the former Police and Crime Commissioner, in accordance with the Panel's decision at its previous meeting.

It was reported that two complaints were received in October 2015 to the effect that the previous PCC had misled in his evidence to the Home Select Committee. As it appeared that the complaint may have referred to the commission of a criminal offence, in accordance with the Panel's complaints procedure, the complaints were referred to the Independent Police and Crime Commission (IPCC). In March 2016, the IPCC referred the complaints back to the Panel on the basis that the IPCC had obtained legal advice to the effect that deliberately misleading a Select Committee was not in fact a criminal offence, but if proved would be a contempt of Parliament. As such the IPCC stated that it was not necessary for them to investigate the complaint.

The Panel's complaints procedure provided for complaints received by the Panel to be resolved through the mechanism referred to as "Informal Resolution", which is a way of dealing with a complaint by solving, explaining, clearing up or settling the matter directly with the complainant, without an investigation or formal proceedings. The method of informal resolution is left up to the individual PCP, provided that it is in accordance with the Regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

It was reported that there was little prospect of an informal resolution being successful and there was no requirement for the former PCC to engage with with a sub-committee and there would be no sanctions which the Panel could impose. It was reported that an alternative option for the Panel would be to refer the complaint to Parliament, although it was noted that Parliament's powers in respect of contempt tended to be used very sparingly.

The Panel discussed the importance of responding to the issues raised by the complainants, but noted the lack of options available in providing redress. Consequently, the Panel concluded that the complaints should be referred to the Clerk of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That, in principle, the complaints in respect of the former Police and Crime Commissioner of South Yorkshire be referred to the Clerk of the Home Affairs Select Commission, subject to a further check with the Monitoring Officer at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

F14. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

It was reported that a work programme planning session involving all Panel Members would be convened in due course. Panel Members requested that the work programme from the previous municipal year be circulated for information.

Resolved:-

That the position in respect of the work programme be noted.

F15. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel would be held on Tuesday 28 June 2016 for the purposes of considering the recommendation from the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of the appointment of a new Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police. Members were advised that the time of the meeting would be confirmed in writing at a later date.

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
Friday 8 July 2016

Present:-**Barnsley MBC**

Councillor R. Frost

Rotherham MBC

Councillor S. Sansome

Sheffield CC

Councillor J. Drayton

Councillor T. Hussain (in the Chair)

Councillor J. Otten

Councillor M. Rooney

Co-opted Members

Mr A. Carter

Mr S. Chu

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor D. Griffin (Barnsley MBC)

Councillor A. Jones (Doncaster MBC)

Councillor C. McGuinness (Doncaster MBC)

F17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

F18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair indicated that he did not propose to exclude the press or public from the meeting unless it was necessary to discuss issues which would require the disclosure of exempt information.

F19. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE - CONFIRMATION HEARING

The Chair welcomed Panel Members, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Constable, Mr. S. Watson, as well as members of the public in attendance, to the meeting. He also apologised to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr. Watson for the need to re-schedule the meeting to ensure that a sufficient number of members could attend in order for the Panel could exercise its statutory powers.

The Panel considered a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner setting out his proposal to appoint a new Chief Constable for South Yorkshire Police, Mr Stephen Watson, in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Police and Crime Commissioner provided a brief overview of the recruitment and selection process that had been undertaken and explained that the key characteristics that were required from the postholder included the authority to build and rebuild the public trust, and confidence in South Yorkshire Police and lead fundamental change and inspire the workforce

The Panel asked the Police and Crime Commissioner to explain why Mr. Watson was the best candidate of those that had made it to the final stage of the process. Dr. Billings explained that he had been impressed by Mr. Watson's ability to handle the media and understand a developing situation quickly. He also indicated that he had been impressed by the way in which Mr. Watson had appreciated how reputational issues affecting South Yorkshire Police had impacted on the morale of the organisation and what he would do in order to improve morale and the reputation of the Force. The Panel also sought assurances from the Police and Crime Commissioner that the proposed appointment would not be a short term fix. In response, Dr. Billings cited a number of long-term issues that required resolution and that the contract for the new Chief Constable would cover a five year period. He was satisfied that Mr. Watson was the best candidate to address the challenges that lay ahead and put right the reputation of the force both locally and nationally.

In order to make a recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Panel asked questions of Mr Watson and initially sought further information on the qualities that he would bring to the role. In response, Mr Watson set out his career history and outlined specific examples of high profile policing activity that he had led or been involved in throughout his career.

Members sought to understand from Mr Watson how he would begin to change the culture of the force and address legacy issues arising from the Hillsborough tragedy, Orgreave and child sexual exploitation. Mr Watson indicated that it would require a cultural shift within South Yorkshire Police and one which returned to old fashioned behaviours which had previously engendered trust and confidence in the police. He categorically confirmed that understanding and learning from victim experience would be a lynchpin of the approach that he would embed within the force.

In response to questioning from Members, Mr Watson also confirmed that neighbourhood policing would be front and centre of his approach and acknowledged that the absence of neighbourhood police tended to lead to spikes in crime. The neighbourhood approach was cited as the principal form of intelligence for high performing policing cultures.

Mr Watson provided the Panel with examples of where the police had actively contributed to community cohesion and reducing tensions in the community and referred to his specific experience within the London Borough of Haringey at the time of the riots in the summer of 2011.

The Panel retired to consider their recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of his proposal to appoint Mr Watson and returned shortly to confirm its unanimous support for the appointment of Mr Watson. The Chair confirmed that the Panel looked forward to working with Mr Watson as the new Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and wished him well.

Resolved:-

That the Police and Crime Commissioner be advised that the Panel unanimously support his proposal to appoint Mr. Stephen Watson as the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police.

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SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

AMP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WAVERLEY, ROTHERHAM, S60 5WG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC (Chair)

Councillor Ann Syrett, Bolsover DC
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor Chris Read, Rotherham MBC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Glyn Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Diane Meale, Notts CC
Councillor Tom Murphy, Chesterfield BC
Sir Nigel Knowles, SCR LEP

Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team
David Armiger, Bassetlaw District Council
Fiona Boden, Sheffield City Region Executive Team
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Philip Cooper, Sheffield City Region Executive Team
Peter Dale, Doncaster MBC
Sarah Fowler, Peak Park NPA
Andrew Gates, SCR Executive Team
David Hewitt, SCR LEP
Sharon Kemp, Rotherham MBC
Julie Kenny CBE, Rotherham MBC (Commissioner)
Anthony May, Nottinghamshire CC
Martin McCarthy, South Yorkshire Joint Authorities
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Veena Prajapati, SCR Exec Team
Trevor Rees, KPMG
Mel Dei Rossi
Dave Smith, SCR Exec Team
Gareth Sutton, Sheffield CC / SCR
Daniel Swaine, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Diana Terris, Clerk / Barnsley MBC
Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit

Eugene Walker, S.151 Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Burrows, Mayor R Jones, Councillor A Rhodes, Councillor L Roberts, Councillor L Rose, Councillor A Western, D Bunton, A Frosdick, J Miller and N Taylor

1 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was agreed that there were no items where non-Constituent Members should not have voting rights.

2 APOLOGIES

Members' apologies were noted as above.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

4 URGENT ITEMS

None.

5 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, that agenda item number 21 – Framework Agreement for the Gainshare National Panel, be considered in the absence of the public and press.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

None.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None received.

9 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2016

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2016 be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

11 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

A report was received inviting Members consideration of the Authority's Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 and Governance Improvement Plan for 2016/17.

Members were informed an officer Governance Advisory Group has met regularly throughout the year to consider the current status of the Authority's governance framework. The Group will continue to meet and monitor these areas and if required, add to those under review. Regular monitoring of progress against this Plan will be reported to the Authority's Audit Committee for consideration.

Members were asked to note 2 outstanding issues contained within the Governance Improvement Plan; the requirement to establish a code of corporate governance, and the requirement to recover performance as a result of the introduction of the software for the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Pension Fund.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16.
2. Approve the Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) for 2016/17.

12 APPROVAL OF THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16

On behalf of the S.151 Officer, G Sutton provided Members with the statutory financial accounts for 2015/16.

It was noted that unlike a local authority, where the annual accounts would be signed off by an Audit Committee, for the City Region this responsibility lies with the Combined Authority as the body charged with governance.

The report and accompanying presentation explained the complexities of the CA, highlighting where accounting rules are the same as, or differ from, those relating to a local authority.

The information provided covered the organisations contained under the umbrella of the CA Financial Group, the structure of the accounts, timescales and key approval milestones, the revenue outturn position and a number of key financial highlights from 2015/16.

Regarding key financial highlights for the year, Members were asked to consider that this has been a year of marked contrasts; between the efficiency savings achieved by SYPTE and the expanding remit of LEP economic development activity. It was noted that much work has been done to allow for significant and sustainable reductions on the South Yorkshire transport levy.

It was reported that during the year the CA also took on the financial accountable body role for the Transport for the North partnership as it transitions from a non-legal entity to a sub-national transport body

It was reported the Authority continues to be at the forefront of public service re-design and spent much of the year in negotiation with government on the devolution deal

Regarding the investment of funds, it was noted that all investment activity is covered by the CA's Treasury Management Strategy.

Members welcomed the External Auditor, Trevor Rees (Director, KPMG) who delivered the External Auditor's Opinion.

It was reported the financial accounts would be signed with no qualifications, however the External Auditor did issue an 'except for' qualification on the value for money conclusion due to issues with corporate governance.

It was noted the External Auditor has concluded that the Authority has made proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people except for some areas of corporate governance arrangements specifically in respect of the need to establish a clear Code of Corporate Governance, but it was suggested there are no concerns this requirement won't be addressed.

The External Auditor informed Members of the excellent co-operation of officers through the audit process and confirmed the Auditor's Opinion would be signed ahead of the September deadline.

Regarding the External Auditor's comments on the need to improve a number of governance related measures, Cllr Dore asked when the Metro-Dynamics report would be available. It was noted a draft report will be presented to members at a special meeting prior to formal presentation at the next CA meeting in October.

Members thanked the Finance Team officers for their work throughout the year.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Accepts the Report to those Charged with Governance (ISA260) 2015/16.
2. Agrees that following the above acceptance, the Chair may provide signature to the Letter of Representation
3. Approves the Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 and agrees that the Chair of the meeting may provide signature to the Statement of Accounts.

13 DEVOLUTION AND CONSULTATION

A report was presented to address the next steps in the implementation of the Governance strand of the 2015 Devolution Deal. Specifically: (1) changing the governance of the existing combined authority (the "CA") to reflect it becoming a "Mayoral" CA (or "MCA") (2) giving the MCA the powers needed to deliver the SEP and Devolution Deal (3) extending the area of the CA to include the areas of Chesterfield and Bassetlaw.

It was noted the statutory consultation period has now ended and SCR Officers / Ipsos MORI have prepared a Summary of the consultation material. The report asked the Combined Authority to approve the Summary of the Consultation being sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (along with a number of other documents including a description of the consultation more generally).

It was noted that the next key stage thereafter in the process for the Combined Authority would be to consider whether to consent to any statutory Orders drafted by the Secretary of State being laid before Parliament. It is anticipated that the Combined Authority will be in a position to consider that final key stage at its meeting on 24th October 2016.

Regarding the finding of the Consultation, it was noted that in the position of the Executive Team; (1) the majority of residents, businesses and civic institutions who responded to this consultation support the general principle of devolution and the proposals set out in the Scheme document, (2) in general, those who supported in the proposals set out in the Scheme document believed that the proposals would facilitate growth and improve the exercise of statutory functions, (3) this support was not universal or unanimous – and the consultation did raise issues and matters that the Secretary of State should have regard to when considering the nature and extent of future orders, and (4) the consultation raised a number of alternatives and/or variations to the proposals in the Scheme.

Cllr Jones re-asserted Doncaster MBC's contention that whilst the City Region want's devolved powers, it doesn't need a mayor to make devolution successful and there is therefore a requirement to fully explore all potential alternatives with government.

Cllr Murphy noted Chesterfield BC's full endorsement for the submission of the consultation summary, noting every vote in Chesterfield full council had unanimously supported the borough's intentions, recognising the overriding economic benefits to Chesterfield.

Cllr Meale noted that Nottinghamshire CC's (NCC) position is to not support the inclusion of Bassetlaw, on the grounds that it is not agreed the residents of Bassetlaw will benefit economically from the proposed governance changes and that these will lead to unnecessary confusion. It was noted representations to this effect have been provided via the consultation. However, it was further noted that NCC will continue to work closely with the SCR in the future irrespective of outcome.

Cllr Greaves noted that Bassetlaw remains fully committed to the direction of travel and thanked the district's residents and businesses for responding to the consultation. Cllr Greaves made reference to recognising differences in policy between the district and county but noted both share the same desire to achieve the best outcome for Bassetlaw's residents.

Cllr Syrett commented on Bolsover's support for the SCR concept but highlighted the issue of inherent unknowns arising from the change in status of non-Constituent districts.

The Chair noted the Authority will have the opportunity at the October meeting to decide whether to sign off the Secretary of State's draft order. It was acknowledged the mayoral issue was always going to be contentious and asserted every effort will be taken to fully understand any potential change to the government's position ahead of the decision whether to sign the order.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Notes the Summary of the consultation which has been prepared pursuant to section 113 the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction 2009 ("the 2009 Act") and that the Summary identifies a broad measure of support for devolving additional powers to the Sheffield City Region and to the extension of the geography of the Authority to include Bassetlaw and Chesterfield.
2. Notes the response identifies some appreciable opposition to the proposals set out in the Scheme including two substantial representations from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils.
3. Agrees it is appropriate, having given due consideration to the outcome of the consultation exercise, that the Summary of the consultation be submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 113 of the 2009 Act and that the Secretary of State be requested to consider the exercise of their powers under the 2009 Act to make relevant Orders so as to progress the implementation of the Devolution Deal.
4. Agrees that delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service to finalise supporting representations to accompany the Summary together with other supporting documents referred to in Appendix C of the report, noting this may extend to making minor amendments to the summary document itself.
5. Agrees that the current position with regard to the legal proceedings issued by Derbyshire County Council ("DCC") be noted.
6. Notes the next steps set out at Paragraph 5.1 – 5.7 of the report.

14 EARLY COMMISSIONING: UPDATE

A report was received recapping the Combined Authority decision taken on 1st August to launch a 'SCR Early Commissioning Proposal' and setting out the progress made to date in designing, developing and launching the early commission.

The report highlighted the key principles which will be used in order to assess and prioritise schemes, in particular outlining the role of the Combined Authority and its supporting Executive Boards in ensuring that deliverable schemes which align to SCR priorities can be supported through this approach.

Cllr Read noted the importance of ensuring all schemes contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and asked when work to refresh the SEP will be complete. D Smith suggested the intention is for this work to be complete by the end of the year.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Approves that schemes are able to progress rapidly through the Appraisal Process to the point at which they have demonstrated compliance, as well as the intention to commence discussions with Scheme Promoters on funding agreements at the point that the mandate is agreed.

15 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS: NEXT STEPS

A report was received requesting Combined Authority support for a set of recommendations that would enable progress to be made on establishing and embedding a set of core Sheffield City Region messages to support our place-marketing and strategic communications objectives.

Members were advised this work would support the delivery of the ambitions set out in the Strategic Economic Plan.

Cllr Dore commented on the importance of the Exec Team's Marketing and Communications officers working seamlessly with their counterparts in the districts. It was confirmed it was the intention to undertake joint promotions and do more with existing resources.

Noting intentions to establish a 'SCR level working group' to work up proposals, it was confirmed this would engage the districts' heads of marketing and communications.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Notes the intention to establish an SCR level working group, to be chaired by a Private Sector LEP Board member to lead work on an SCR place marketing and strategic communications approach.
2. Notes that the programme of work will be delivered through a combination of in-house, local partner and externally commissioned support.
3. Provides the SCR Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority, the approval to enter into a contractual arrangement with the potential value of this activity to exceed £100k to deliver the programme of work.

16 FINANCIAL APPROVALS

A report was presented asking the Combined Authority to note the approval by written procedures to progress to 'Award of Contract' for Chesterfield Waterside at a cost of £2.7M LGF and to consider the approval of a recommendation to progress

scheme business cases to Full Approval and entering into funding agreement for the Sustainable Transport Exemplar Programme (STEP) - Public Transport Connectivity Programme (PTCP) at a cost of £4.195M

It was noted that in line with the Sheffield City Region Single Assurance Framework these projects have been considered and recommended for CA approval by SCR Executive Boards and the schemes have been through a process of technical appraisal, utilising where necessary external support, and consideration by a Panel of Offers representing the SCR Statutory Officers culminating in the recommendations presented for approval.

In addition, the report requested consideration of 24 minor change requests affecting spend profiles. It was noted this will establish a firm baseline for subsequent monitoring of changes via the change request process. It was confirmed the change requests have been reviewed by the SCR Performance team and endorsed by Executive Boards prior to being presented for approval.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Note the approval by written procedures to progress Chesterfield Waterside to Award of Contract at a cost of £2.7M to SCR CA subject to the detailed condition set out in the Project Approval Summary Table
2. Approve progression of the Sustainable Transport Exemplar Programme (STEP) - Public Transport Connectivity Programme (PTCP) at a cost of £4.195M to SCR CA subject to the detailed condition set out in the Project Approval Summary Table
3. Approve the requests for change affecting various Infrastructure Projects set out in the Change Request Table.

17 SCR SINGLE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

A report was received requested the Combined Authority's consideration of two projects at an expected cost of up to £8M of Local Growth Fund funding (Strategic Testing Tools at a cost of up to £3M and an Enterprise Zone Development Fund at a cost of up to £5M).

It was noted that in line with the Sheffield City Region Single Assurance Framework these projects Expressions of Interest have been considered and recommended for CA approval by SCR Executive Boards. Each project will be required to complete the relevant assurance processes before commencing work.

It was noted that given the nature of the projects proposed the CA are asked to approve rapid progression through the Assurance Framework and invite submission of Full Business Case noting that projects will be evaluated at the furthest completed stage.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Approves acceptance of a project to develop and refresh the SCR Strategic testing tools at a cost of up to £3M LGF.
2. Approves acceptance of a project to develop and Enterprise Zone Development Fund at a cost of up to £5M LGF.
3. Approves the rapid progression of these projects through the Assurance Framework to Full Business Case.

18 SUMMARY REPORT - HOUSING EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED, that the summary report's recommendations be endorsed.

19 SUMMARY REPORT - TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Item deferred.

20 SUMMARY REPORT - INFRASTRUCTURE EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED, that the summary report's recommendations be endorsed.

21 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE GAINSHARE NATIONAL PANEL

A report was received advising the Combined Authority of developments with the Framework Agreement for the Gainshare National Panel.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority:

1. Notes the update on the appointment of the National Panel.
2. Noted the appointment of a preferred contractor following the open procurement process, having been identified through a quality and cost assessment.
3. Agrees to the SCR entering into a Framework agreement for the National Panel noting that the cost range for the procurement was £10,000 - £50,000 per annum for five years (assuming a flat profile), with exact costs for defined outputs to be agreed for each contract made through this Framework.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor A Cave (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, P Haith, S Howard,
E Hughes, C Ransome and G Weatherall

CFO J Courtney, DCFO J Roberts, ACFO M Blunden and
B Sandy (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

D Terris, A Brown, D Cutting, M McCarthy, L Noble, I Rooth
and M McCoole (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Akther,
Councillor B Johnson, Councillor J Satur, J Bell, A Frostdick
and F Foster

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the following items be considered in the absence of the public
and press:-

Item 16 'Comparative Contingency Costs'.

Item 17 'SYFR Executive Team Re-Alignment'.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO
ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Hughes had attended a cheque presentation at the Real Junk Food Project in Doncaster. She gave thanks to the Service for the funding provided which had enabled the project to go from strength to strength.

Councillor Atkin had recently visited a number of fire stations where he had been warmly greeted by the crews. He had recently visited the Lifewise Centre at which his daughter had been present during a school visit; he had found the whole experience to be enlightening. Members had recently met with senior staff to discuss the IRMP and Efficiency Plan submission; Members would meet with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) tomorrow (20th September).

Councillor Howard referred to the regular communications received by Members in relation to the awards presented to the Service and the funding provided to projects. She suggested that it would be useful to find a way to celebrate the work moving forwards.

CFO Courtney commented that he would look into the matter.

Councillor Haith referred to the new Safe and Well Visits that would commence in Doncaster later this month. She gave thanks to the firefighters and community support officers who had undergone training to enable them to undertake the vital work.

Councillor Ransome referred to an email sent by the Clerk to the Authority to an Independent Member, which had been forwarded on for Members' attention. The email had stated that the Independent Member was prohibited from meeting with Councillors Ayris and Ransome; the Independent Member had queried where this was stated in the Constitution.

Councillor Ayris expressed concern at being referred to in the email without prior contact. He added that Councillor Ransome and himself had been assured by the previous Authority Chair, that they would be offered the same pre-meeting facilities as other political party Members prior to the Authority and committee meetings. At that time Councillor Ransome and himself had extended the invitation to Independent Members who did not have a pre-meeting facility.

Councillor Ransome commented that she had been informed, at her initial appointment onto the Authority, that they were political meetings, although she had not observed any political voting.

D Terris commented that, to adhere to the role of the independent members, it would be advisable that Independent Members were briefed separately rather than attending political meetings. She added that pre-meeting facilities should be made available for Independent Members should they so wish.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2016

Councillor Ayris reiterated his concerns in relation to the proposed changes to the Procedural Standing Orders. He added that all Authority Members had a duty to challenge, and he was concerned that the proposed changes would restrict that duty. Councillor Ransome agreed with his concerns.

Members noted that at the Fire Authority AGM on 27 June that the new governance arrangements had been agreed by all Members. L Noble commented that a full review of the FRA Constitution would be presented to Members at the Fire Authority meeting on 28 November.

Councillor Ayris referred to the recommendations from the 'Audit Committee – Internal Audit Report: Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd' to which he still had a number of unanswered questions. He enquired whether any further contact had been made with previous employees, and whether the view not to refer the matter onto South Yorkshire Police had changed in light of any further developments.

Councillor Ransome reiterated that not all of the Audit and Governance Committee Members had agreed not to refer the matter onto South Yorkshire Police.

R Winter referred to an update report on today's Audit and Governance Committee agenda following the last cycle of meetings where a number of further enquiries had been made. He added that from his perspective, that nothing further had come to light, and therefore there was no requirement to change the view that the matter did not need to be referred onto South Yorkshire Police.

Councillor Hughes requested an update on fitness testing.

DCFO Roberts commented that the FBU would be taking fitness testing to the Brigade Committee meeting on 21 September.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 25 July 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 PRESENTATION ON EXTRICATION

The Authority received a presentation on extrication, from Firefighter North. Members noted the following key points:-

Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Statistics

The United Kingdom Rescue Organisation, the World Rescue Organisation and Internal Development Project (IDP) had released the following statistics on 30 June 2016:-

A total of 1,732 UK road deaths had been reported in 2015 which was a 2% decrease in comparison to 2014. Since 2002, road deaths in the UK had fallen by almost 50% which equated to almost 1,700 lives saved each year. The reduction had been attributed to by:-

- Safer vehicles – Supplementary Restraint System for occupants in cars.
- Safer roads – Speed cameras and speed humps.
- Education – Fire and rescue services community teams.
- Medical care – Equipment training and air ambulance.
- Fire service – Extrication techniques training and equipment.

The United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) aimed to advance professional rescue, and to encourage rescue challenges at both regional and national level. Every team that entered the challenge must attend the national workshop to advance their skills and knowledge.

The World Rescue Organisation (WRO) ran an annual world rescue challenge in RTC extrication and trauma, which was open to all qualifying countries.

The Internal Development Project (IDP) ran from the UK with the aim to assist and share experiences with rescue and medical services around the world. Equipment was provided via fire aid, Blytheswood Care and FRS direct donations. The UKRO IDP Training Team was provided from the Fire Service and NHS to provide basic training to firefighters in RTC extrication techniques Level 1 to 4, together with medical training, training to fire service instructors in extrication instruction techniques, training national assessors in extrication assessing techniques, and facilitated an Annual National Challenge.

SYF&R and UKRO have had extrication teams in place for over 20 years, and had reached third place at the UK National Challenge in Belfast in 2000 which enabled World entry into Johannesburg, South Africa following which SYF&R had attended 7 World challenges.

Firefighter North's roles included UKRO Deputy Lead for Extrication, UKRO Head Assessor and Head of Quality Assurance, WRO Assessor and Quality Assurance and the Extrication Trainer and Assessor with the IDP. Members noted the following countries that had been supported to date:- Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Luxemburg, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Serbia, Republic of Ireland and Singapore; consideration was being given to additional countries who had requested assistance.

The Service benefited from its investment into the organisation by the huge improvements in extrication techniques in recent years via UKRO, together with the new equipment that had been trialled at UKRO events for technical services, the extrication teams had cascaded new skills onto their own watches/stations which had resulted in more advanced and safer RTC techniques for firefighters and ultimately safer roads in the UK.

Members noted the Service's future with UKRO, WRO and IDP:-

- An SYF&R extrication team would compete in the regional and national events next year.
- J Lister from the Service had recently joined the UKRO as Rope Rescue Assessor.
- S Jeffries from the Service was interested in going forwards as the Extrication Command/Technical Assessor.
- The Service could also become involved in water, trauma and animal rescue disciplines.

Councillor Buckley commented that he had previously worked with Firefighter North at both Tankersley and Rotherham Fire Stations. He gave thanks to Firefighter North on behalf of the Authority, for being an excellent ambassador for the Service, and he hoped that his connections through the organisations would continue following his retirement in November.

Councillor Ransome gave thanks to Firefighter North for his presentation.

Councillor Cave also gave thanks to Firefighter North for an interesting and informative presentation, and she wished him the very best in his upcoming retirement.

RESOLVED – That Members received the presentation.

11 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS - AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to request Members to consider postponing the appointment of an additional Independent Member (co-opted) to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee until the revised Committee, with its reduced membership, had been in place for one year. It had been agreed at the Authority's AGM on 27 June 2016 to significantly reduce the membership of the Committee from 10 to 5 elected Members.

Members noted that Independent Members had provided risk and financial management expertise and knowledge to the Committee since 2008. One of the three Independent Members' term of office would expire at the end of September 2016; Independent Members could serve a maximum of eight years.

Councillor Ransome commented that it would be prudent for transparency to the public, for the Committee to continue to consist of three Independent Members.

Councillor Ayris commented that he would like to retain the current proportionality of Independent Members on the Committee. He paid tribute to the Independent Members for their invaluable input which was vital to maintain scrutiny and challenge.

Councillor Howard gave thanks to C Marshall for all her work and commitment provided to the Committee over the last 8 years. She agreed that the Committee should consist of three Independent Members, and that appointment should be made to replace the outgoing Independent Member.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to appoint an additional Independent Member (co-opted) to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee, to be reviewed in one year's time as part of the wider governance arrangements.

12 WEBCASTING

A report of the Deputy Clerk was presented to seek an extension to the webcasting of Authority and sub-committee meetings for 3 years to 2018/19.

Members noted that meetings of the Authority had been webcast since 2007, and that the current webcasting contract would expire at the end of August 2016. Over the last 12 months there had been 11,626 live and archived viewings of Authority meetings, which was a 34% increase over the 2014/15 figure of 8,691 live and archived viewings.

M McCarthy commented that both the Pensions Authority and the Sheffield City Region had agreed to extend the webcasting contract for an additional 3 years, subject to the agreement of partners.

Councillor Howard commented that webcasting of the Authority meetings could communicate to the public the good work provided by the Service, and inform staff that Members supported the work undertaken.

Councillor Buckley also agreed that webcasting provided openness and transparency for the public on the work undertaken by the Service, and the decision-making process of the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members approved a 3 year contract for the webcasting of Authority meetings (to 2018/19) at a cost of £5,683.31 p.a. (ex-VAT).

13 JULY 2016 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to inform Members of the projected spend for the 2016/17 financial year based on the July 2016 outturn position and any additional information gathered during August 2016.

Members noted the outturn position currently projected a potential overspend of £422,702, which was an increase of £28,837 from the projected outturn position in May which was reported to the July Authority meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

14 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 - 2016/17

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented to provide Members with details of the corporate performance for quarter one of 2016/17 and set out the current position for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's (SYFR) suite of Local Performance Indicators (LPis).

Members noted that in quarter one of 2016/17:-

- Primary fires had been 16.2% higher compared with the same quarter in 2015/16, and equated to 4.2% above the upper tolerance level.
- There had been 11 fewer accidental dwelling fires in the quarter in comparison with the same quarter in 2015/16. The launch of a high-visibility electrical fires campaign had taken place during May-July 2016 and had proved to be successful.
- Primary arson was 41% higher in the quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015/16.
- There had been 1,935 fires in adult prisons and young offender establishments in England and Wales during 2015 which was a 57% increase from 2014. SYFR were in discussions with the prisons to establish whether any further assistance could be provided.

Councillor Ayris referred to the Stakeholder Planning Board meeting, where Members had been informed of the faulty electrical goods issue. Members had been informed that the Service's Media Team had deferred the high-visibility electrical fire campaign due to Trading Standards issues; he queried the current position.

ACFO Blunden commented that Members had been informed at the Stakeholder Planning Board meeting of the success of the campaign that had commenced in November 2015 which had achieved a 37% decrease in the number of fires related to electrical appliances, together with the faulty goods campaign. The Service's Media Team were liaising with Trading Standards, who had the legal responsibility to deal with faulty goods, to establish what measures could be implemented when trading electrical products.

Councillor Weatherall expressed concern in the increase of prison fires experienced in South Yorkshire, which reflected a national trend. He considered that the lack of investment in the prison service had put SYFR under strain following the recent cuts made.

Councillor Haith queried whether the matter would be raised at the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) as a national issue.

ACFO Blunden commented that the District Commander was working closely with the prison management team and prisons in the Doncaster area, to ensure that the Service was called out for the right reasons, and to ensure that staff were as safe as possible when entering into such environments.

Councillor Buckley commented that Members had been informed at the recent Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting of a large number of instances where prison fires had already been extinguished upon the Service's arrival. He considered that potentially the Service was being used to highlight the problems encountered in the prison service.

Councillor Ransome referred to the partnerships, and she queried how the Service worked with South Yorkshire Police and the district councils.

DCFO Roberts commented that the partnership agenda remained strong within the four local authority areas in South Yorkshire, and that community safety partnerships, which were the main partnership forums, continued to be functional. There had been many changes in policing and within local authorities; the Service had found strength in the partnerships that had been beneficial to all parties.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented in the report.

15 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented for Authority consideration and approval of the Audit Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

Members noted that in support of good governance and following the CIPFA Solace Code of Good Audit Practice, the Audit Committee produced an Annual Report for the Authority which outlined the role of the Audit Committee, the responsibilities undertaken by its Members and the programme of work engaged upon.

Councillor Ransome expressed concern in relation to the confidential reporting and whistleblowing policies that had last been reviewed and noted on 18 May 2015. She requested, in view of the events regarding the Chair's payments, Officers overtime payments and the Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd matters that the issue should come through to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillor Ayris referred to the Officer overtime payments and Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd issues, to which he considered that the outcomes had not been delved into deep enough. He considered that there were a number of unanswered questions that were not reflected within the Annual Report.

M McCarthy commented that a more regular report in relation to the confidential reporting and whistleblowing policies could be built into the Audit and Governance Committee's Work Programme if that was Members' wish.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the Annual Report of its Audit Committee.
- ii) Agreed to publish the Annual Report onto the Authority's website.

All Members voted in favour to publish the Annual Report onto the Authority's website, with the exception of Councillors Ransome and Ayris who voted against the decision.

16 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

17 COMPARATIVE CONTINGENCY COSTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to set out the comparative costs of providing 'contingency officers in charge of appliances' during periods of industrial action, relative to the utilisation of senior officers from the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report.

18 SYFR EXECUTIVE TEAM RE-ALIGNMENT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented following a review of the SYFR Executive Team and the allocated roles therein that had been undertaken as a result of the changing expectations of Government.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to the proposal outlined within the report.

CHAIR

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SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2016

Please find below information from your
Section 41 Member representative on South
Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Pat Haith



Charity bike ride—South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Area Manager Steve Helps, Head of Prevention and Protection and four members of SY Fire and Rescue Service staff are raising money on behalf of the Firefighters' Charity.

The Fire Fighters Charity provides assistance, rehabilitation and recuperation to ill or injured firefighters, serving or retired, and their dependants.

AM Helps, GM Stuart Nicolson, FF Rogers from Tankersley and former Fire Officer Tony Deakin are undertaking a sponsored bike ride from Lands End to John O' Groats raising money for the charity. This will take place from the 18th of September to the 2nd of October 2016 and will involve a total distance of 965 miles.

Anyone wishing to donate please visit the Just Giving page –

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SYFRCC-LEJOG2016>

Princes Trust Team Programme

Do you know what the Princes Trust Team Programme is and what it can do for the young people it caters for?

We've joined forces with South Yorkshire Police to produce this [video](#) .

Government criticised over quietly abandoning requirement for new schools to install fire sprinklers

(taken from 'The Independent')

Government ministers have been heavily criticised after quietly abandoning the requirement for fire sprinklers to be fitted in new schools, in what has been called a "retrograde step" by fire chiefs.

An update to the Department of Education's (DfE) [Design in Fire Safety in Schools](#) stated that "Building Regulations do not require the installation of fire sprinkler suppression systems in school buildings for life safety".

"Therefore," it added, "[guidelines] no longer include an expectation that most new school buildings will be fitted with them."

The move has been lambasted by fire officers and follows two recent major school fires.

More than 75 firefighters were called out to tackle a blaze at Selsey Academy in Sussex on 21 August leaving the structure "effectively a skeleton", while on 24 August, 12 fire engines tackled a blaze at Cecil Jones Academy in Southend-on-Sea.

According to [The Mail on Sunday](#), neither school was fitted with sprinklers.

Julian Parsons, of the Chief Fire Officers Association, told [The Argus](#): "This is a retrograde step that doesn't make any sense. Sprinklers don't just save lives, they prevent fires from spreading and causing significant damage and disruption to our children's education."

Brian Robinson, Chairman of the Fire Sector Federations, said the Government "appears to have relegated the principles of property protection to an afterthought".

Are you a housing provider with properties in South Yorkshire?

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue would like to invite you to attend a free event to find out about your fire safety responsibilities to protect your tenants and residents.

Safe as Houses? Protecting the Vulnerable from Fire

We have set aside some funds from our Stronger Safer Communities Reserve as a sprinkler fund to put fire suppression systems into buildings housing high-risk vulnerable residents.

How we can support you:

The event will include speakers from the SYFR Business Fire Safety team focussed on identifying best practice and legal responsibility in high risk residential settings.

Sprinklers and suppression:

Our sprinkler and suppression advocate will be on hand to show how assisted technology can reduce fire risk to occupants.

Funding:

Find out about the Fire Authority's Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR) and how to apply for funding to help with the cost of installation of fire suppression systems.

Spaces are limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. **Please visit the SY Fire and Rescue Authority website—[here](#)—for further details.**

SYFR will then send you details of the event that is planned to take place in October.

Fire service scheme praised for transforming life of Sheffield sight loss patient

A Sheffield woman has hailed the life changing impact of a fire service referral scheme which saw her given vital help with her eyesight after suffering a blaze in her home.

Dawn Caney, aged 60, from Sheffield was referred for specialist sight loss support from Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind after fire service staff noticed cataracts may have contributed to the incident.

She was referred for help thanks to 'Optimeyes'- a new lottery funded partnership between South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR), Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and local charity Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB).

The scheme has trained dozens of fire service staff in delivering a simple, five minute sight screening tool to assess sight problems. The assessment is built into the fire service's established programme of home safety visits.

Nearly 5,000 people have now been offered the assessment by the fire service in South Yorkshire, with at least 40 people referred to SRSB for further interventions, including Dawn.

Dawn has now spoken to a hospital consultant about undergoing surgery on her cataracts, is visited by a physiotherapist to help her walking and referred to a care agency who help her with day-to-day tasks.

.Dawn said: "I noticed that my eyes were getting bad about three years ago when things started to look blurred and I got a lot of headaches. I used to go out to the local shops every day but it got too difficult for me to manage the steps down from my first floor flat, I just couldn't see the rubbish. I was frightened of slipping, so I stopped going out, except to the rubbish chute. I was also frightened because I didn't know why I couldn't see clearly anymore. I thought it was because I smoked and that was what was causing everything to be blurred. Now I know it's also because I have got cataracts so that's a bit of a relief in some ways.

"I had an incident at my flat and the fire service came out. They sent a home safety officer out to visit me after that to check that my flat was well protected with smoke alarms and that I knew how to avoid the risks of having another incident. The home safety officer noticed that I couldn't see clearly and referred me to Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind who I had heard of, but didn't know how to get in touch with. I also didn't know that they helped people like me who weren't totally blind.

"Since then my life has changed a lot, all for the better. A Community Advice Officer from SRSB came to my flat and has arranged appointments and support for me. I've been able to tell her all my problems and she always listens and asks me what I want and what I prefer. She gives me time to think about things first so I don't feel pressured into making decisions. It feels like I have some say in my life again.

"My support worker is helping me to trust people again and I now get out of my flat at least once a week. I would say there have been lots of positive changes in my life since February thanks to being referred to SRSB by the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue."

The fire service said the partnership is all part of its efforts to extend the benefits of the work it does with some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

SYFR Area Manager Steve Helps, said: "In the last decade, the fire service has helped to make South Yorkshire safer than it has been at any time in its history in terms of house fires and fire related deaths and injuries.

"But we believe we can play a much wider role in terms of tackling some of the big health challenges our country faces in the future. This scheme is the perfect illustration of that aspiration, where the fire service's contact with some of the most vulnerable people in society is



Did you know you can watch all Authority meetings LIVE?

All Fire Authority meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on the internet. Visit www.southyorks.gov.uk. You can also view previous meetings.

Whilst viewing the meeting you can contribute comments and debate proceedings with other viewers via CoverItLive or Twitter.

Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter



@syFireAuth

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue help hundreds of homeless people through Crisis

South Yorkshire-based homelessness charity has used fire service funding to support vulnerable homeless people whilst simultaneously providing fire safety advice.

Crisis Skylight South Yorkshire partnered with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) to help 300 homeless people to better understand how to find and sustain a tenancy, improve their housing situation and provide safety advice to prevent fires.

The project aims to improve the tenancy skills of homeless people, many of whom have never lived in private rented accommodation before.

The charity works with the fire service to identify single homeless people who are considered very vulnerable due to their physical and mental health, their lack of tenancy skills and their inability to secure quality housing. Support workers then ensure the tenant receives all the support and guidance they need to find and sustain a tenancy, including arranging for safety



checks to be carried out, fitting smoke alarms and helping them to source fire safe electrical goods.

The project was awarded £82,789 under South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's funding scheme, the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR).

Station Manager Darren Perrot said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for SYFR to work with some of the most vulnerable people in South Yorkshire, and help those in need who we haven't been able to reach previously. Crisis is a great charity which offers these people a chance at living a comfortable life, and if we can educate them in how to prevent fires at the same time then it benefits everyone. This is why the SSCR fund was set up and it's brilliant to see the direct benefits within the local community."

Fire service attends hundreds of medical 'break ins' in unique 999 collaboration

Firefighters are attending hundreds more incidents each year in a unique arrangement with the county's police force.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it has attended more than 1,800 'medical break-in' incidents since July 2014- when it became the first fire service in the country to take on this type of work.

It sees firefighters provide humanitarian assistance at emergencies where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them, for example when they are locked indoors.

Firefighters will normally use specialist equipment to break into properties, allowing paramedics to quickly deliver help to patients. The equipment and skills they use also means less damage is caused when entering properties and crews can help to make the scene safe afterwards.

The work used to be carried out by police officers, so is helping to save thousands of hours of police time each year. The scheme was the first of its kind in the country when it was first trialled in Rotherham in September 2014, but has now been adopted by other UK fire and rescue services.

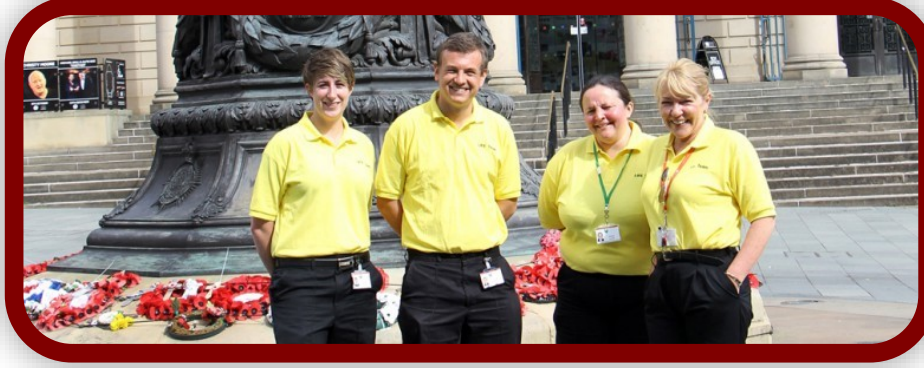
This type of incident now comprises a growing element of fire service incident activity in South Yorkshire. Officers say the arrangement is another example of the valuable contribution of the modern fire and rescue service, on top of the thousands of fires and other emergencies like road traffic collisions and water rescues the service attends across the county each year.

Head of Emergency Response Tony Carlin, said: "We provide a first class emergency response to the people of South Yorkshire, but the skills and equipment our firefighters have mean we can apply that service to more than just fires.

"This arrangement benefits everyone. For the police it helps them to concentrate their resources on other areas of work. For our firefighters, they get experience of a wider range of emergency incidents and get to apply their extensive training to an even wider set of situations. For patients themselves, it means they can receive the medical attention they need as efficiently as possible."

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings said: "All the emergency services are working together in South Yorkshire to make our resources go further and avoid duplication. I welcome these initiatives by colleagues in the Fire Service. It is saving a lot of police time which can be better spent on directly fighting crime. I look forward to working more closely with both the Fire and Ambulance services in the future."

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.



New joint emergency services team launched in Sheffield

South Yorkshire firefighters and police have joined forces with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust to launch a new team to attend lower priority incidents in Sheffield, with the aim of reducing the demand on 999 responders.

The Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team, will see fire and police staff visit hundreds of homes in the city to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen and contribute to reducing the risk of falls.

The team will respond to help people at high volume, lower priority incidents, which can take police officers and paramedics off the road for many hours.

Those incidents include helping residents who have had a fall, are not seriously injured, but are unable to get up on their own. Their work will also involve carrying out welfare visits relating to low risk missing people and vulnerable people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour.

The team will operate using two specialist vehicles and will consist of four staff – two South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue employees and two South Yorkshire Police community support officers (PCSOs).

The scheme has been funded by South Yorkshire Fire Authority for six months and researchers from the University of Huddersfield have been commissioned to evaluate its effectiveness. If successful, it could be extended and taken to other parts of South Yorkshire.

SYFR Head of Prevention and Protection Steve Helps, said: “The fire service already does far more than simply fighting fires and rescuing people from road traffic collisions. Really, this team is just an extension of our vision to make our communities safer.

“We also know that there are huge links between the people who need the help of the police and health services, and those who are at risk of fire. So strengthening our knowledge and referral mechanisms through collaborative working such as this must surely benefit our public safety work.”

South Yorkshire Police Chief Inspector Jenny Lax, said: “This is an exciting and innovative way of working in collaboration to help reduce risk and vulnerability within our communities, and improve their quality of life.

“The team will support the work of South Yorkshire Police, working in local communities to provide a service that includes a range of prevention advice spanning all three emergency services to help improve safety.”

Dr Steven Dykes, Deputy Medical Director at Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, said: “This is a great example of a number of organisations working together effectively and using the skills of their staff to benefit residents in the local area by providing the most appropriate care and support for their needs. The pilot is a good opportunity to explore how we can further develop partnership initiatives with our emergency service colleagues.”

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In South Yorkshire, fire crews already attend hundreds of ‘medical break-ins’ every year, where they gain access to properties where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them. This work used to be carried out by the police.

Plans have also been approved for a joint police and fire station in Maltby, whilst five ambulance stand-by points will also be created at five other fire service premises across the county.

Five ambulance stand-by points created at fire stations in South Yorkshire



A landmark agreement between emergency services in South Yorkshire will see up to five ambulance stand-by points created at fire stations across the county.

The existing fire stations at Aston Park, Barnsley, Birley Moor, Edlington and Parkway will be modified to allow ambulance staff to share space in one of the first schemes of its kind in the country.

The memorandum of understanding signed between South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust sets out the proposed co-location of ambulance service resources at the sites, including office space for ambulance staff, welfare facilities and ambulance parking bays. It also allows for shared use of meeting rooms and gyms.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Roberts said: “This is the best possible proof of our commitment to pursue meaningful collaboration opportunities with our emergency service partners.

“This agreement makes perfect sense for us, for the ambulance service and for the taxpayer. By working alongside each other, the move will also benefit both organisations by improving how we work together to solve problems we both face, which can only help to improve the quality of the service we offer to local people.”

Jackie Cole, Locality Director of Emergency Operations in South Yorkshire, said: “Our staff often work together at incidents across the county and this opportunity means that our close working relationship will be further endorsed. Our vehicles operate from a network of strategically located stand-by points and the locations of some of SYFR’s stations are well matched to where our resources need to operate from to serve local communities and provide responsive patient care.”

The fire service is pursuing similar opportunities to share buildings with South Yorkshire Police.

Planners in Rotherham have previously approved proposals for a joint police and fire station in Maltby. Maltby fire station will close and the nearby police station will be modified to accommodate fire service vehicles and staff.

The project won Government Transformation Funding of £560,000 last year and will help save both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue money by sharing building running costs, enabling funding to be targeted at frontline services.

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another to better improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Fire Service funded waste food scheme wins national award

A fire service funded waste food project has won a national industry award for sustainability.



(L to R): Cllr Pat Haith (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority), Dave Scully (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue), Fiona Cahill (Real Junk Food Project), Cllr Eva Hughes (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority)

The Doncaster based Real Junk Food project campaigns to end food waste and runs a ‘pay as you feel’ cafe catering for people who use food banks and struggle with the cost of food.

The Real Junk Food Project is run entirely by volunteers and was voted as the community winner at the Footprint Awards ceremony held in London recently. The award recognises the catering and hospitality businesses that contribute to a reduction in the environmental impact of the industry and in turn making it a more sustainable in environmental, economic and social terms.

Fire safety officers hold regular drop in sessions at the Project, giving face-to-face safety and fire prevention advice to service users and their families.

The project was awarded just over £8,000 under South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's funding scheme, the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve.

The fund saw dozens of registered charities, community organisations and partner agencies come forward and apply for grants from the £2 million fund, which had been set aside from the Authority's reserves.

Head of Prevention & Protection Steve Helps said, "House fires have reduced massively in the last decade, but sadly the people most likely to suffer a fire are also often the hardest to reach with fire safety information. That's why it's important that we work closely with partners, like The Real Junk Food Project, so that we can continue to reduce death and injuries in accidental house fires."

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SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2016

Please find below information from your
Section 41 Member representative on South
Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Pat Haith



Fire safety campaign leads to big drop in electrical blazes

Electrical blazes in South Yorkshire have dropped by a quarter, thanks to a fire service safety campaign.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it attended 33 electrical related house fires between May and July- 27 per cent fewer than the same months over the last three years.

The fall in incidents comes after a major safety campaign was launched by fire officers to warn the public about the dangers of everything from e-cigs to tumble dryers.

The campaign saw advertising vans carry safety messages to areas of South Yorkshire known to experience high numbers of house fires and radio advertisements warn people about the most common causes of electrical blazes.

Officers also encourage visitors to check the safety of their home electrics by completing a short, online checklist.

Head of Community Safety Trevor Bernard, said: "We'd like to thank the public for listening to our safety messages, but we'd urge people not to become complacent when it comes to house fires.

"The simple truth is that homes have more small electrical devices in them than probably any time in our history- from tablets and mobile phones, to e-cigarettes and games consoles. Unfortunately, we can't get round everyone's home to check the safety of their electrics for them. But by raising awareness of the biggest safety issues. we hope we can give people the knowledge to check their own electrics and hopefully prevent a serious fire."

Electricity is involved in about two thirds of all accidental house fires, with household appliances the most common culprits.

Sometimes fires are caused by faulty goods, which could be small items like mobile chargers, or big things like washing machines and dryers.

Fires are also caused by people misusing electrical appliances, for example by leaving them plugged in for too long or covering them up allowing them to overheat.

The fire service has issued the following advice to stop electrical fires:

- Don't buy cheap, unbranded chargers and make sure chargers are compatible to the device you are using
- Don't leave things to charge overnight or beyond the recommended charging time. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Keep electrical items away from flammable materials when charging
- Don't overload sockets– long, strip adaptors are safest, but can only take a total of 13 amps.

People can still check the safety of their home electrics by visiting 13orbust.co.uk

Fire service volunteer lands full-time job



A former volunteer turned fire service employee has hailed the strength of the organisation's volunteering scheme after it helped build his skills and experience to land a full time role.

In 2013, Ben Williamson became an Assistant Fire Cadet Instructor after being a Fire Cadet for a number of years. Wanting to work further with the fire service he became a Fire Support Volunteer within the Community Safety department, assisting and supporting the fire service safety teams by helping out at events, carrying out Home Safety Checks and fitting smoke alarms for members of the public

Ben soon became a valued member of the team, and it was here that he gained the skills and experience required to further his career within the fire service.

A full time vacancy became available and his drive and determination spurred him on to apply for the permanent post of Maintenance Operative Driver. Ben was successful and became a paid member of staff in September 2016.

Ben said; "Without volunteering I would never have developed the skills and confidence that secured me this role. Volunteering has changed my life and has benefited me in many ways and I would recommend it to anyone."

Sue Butler, Volunteering Co-Ordinator at South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue said; "Ben is a shining example of how volunteering helps out the local community and the individual themselves. Ben has gone from strength to strength and the knowledge and skills he acquired during his time as a volunteer was a large factor in his gaining full time employment within the service. We are all really proud of him and wish him all the best in his career."

If you are interested in volunteering for South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue call 0114 253 2413.

Cooking Related Fires—video to be launched

Last month Fire Authority members helped to launch a new project to tackle cooking related fires in South Yorkshire.

The initiative won funding from the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve and has been led by Doncaster Council Public Health. The project involved the production of a video called 'How To Save A Life' to highlight the role we can all play in identifying people who may be at risk of fire due to a range of issues, including substance misuse and dependency.

The video will be used as part of a wider fire service cooking safety campaign which will be launched in South Yorkshire later this month. You can preview this video here—<http://www.tosavealife.uk/>

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Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter

@syFireAuth

St Wilfred's Centre Sprinkler Project

St Wilfrid's Centre in Sheffield has built a new residential unit to work in conjunction with the day centre. The new unit benefits from a full fire sprinkler system funded by a grant from South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's Stronger Safer Communities Reserve Fund.

The aim of the new project is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people and help relieve the homelessness situation within the city of Sheffield

The 20 apartment block which will help homeless and vulnerable persons learn life skills in a safe secure environment which will promote their well being and self confidence. Tenancies will be offered for up to 2 years, after this tenants will be helped to find permanent accommodation and live independently with the ongoing support of St Wilfrid's Centre.



Roger Brason from South Yorkshire Business Fire Safety handing over the cheque to Josie Brooks of St Wilfrid's.

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SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



NOVEMBER 2016

Please find below information from your
Section 41 Member representative on South
Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Pat Haith



Campaign to curb kitchen blazes kicks off



A major new campaign to curb kitchen blazes has been launched, as the fire service reveals it's tackled nearly 1,000 cooking related incidents in the last three years.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it has attended 925 house fires caused by cooking since 2013, resulting in more than 200 injuries and two deaths. Most of the blazes are caused by cooking that's been left unattended, chip pans that overheat or dirty ovens that ignite due to a build up of fat and grease.

Factors contributing to the fires also include alcohol, drugs and mental health issues, including dementia. Head of prevention and protection Steve Helps, said: "The cooking fires we go to range from burnt toast to serious blazes which gut houses and destroy lives. But what all these incidents have in common is that they are nearly always entirely preventable.

Whether it's remembering to keep an eye on your cooking, giving your oven a good scrub or buying a takeaway after a night out, rather than attempting to cook, this campaign is all about asking residents to take some simple steps to protect themselves and those they love."

The fire service has issued the following advice to cut kitchen fires:

- Clean out ovens and grill pans regularly to avoid a build up of fat and grease
- Ditch old fashioned chip pans, use oven chips or thermostat controlled fryers instead
- Don't attempt to cook if you've been out drinking, buy a takeaway instead.

For more information on preventing fires, visit www.syfire.gov.uk

Sheffield firefighters win top national challenge for second year in a row

A fire crew from Sheffield is celebrating after coming out on top in a national competition to test firefighters' search and rescue skills in heat and smoke.

Central White Watch were awarded first place in the UK finals of the Breathing Apparatus (BA) challenge - defending the title they won last year.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue firefighters competed against 15 other fire crews from across the UK, including West Yorkshire, West Midlands and Cornwall.

Each team tackled a series of scenarios involving the rescue of 'casualties' from inside smoke-filled buildings at Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Awards were also won by Will Selby, who was named best entry control officer, and Chris Moore and John Taylor who won best BA team. A second team from South Yorkshire, made up of officers and instructors from across the service, finished fourth.

Judges at the competition named the Central crew overall winners after scoring firefighters in a number of different skill areas including BA search and rescue, firefighting while in BA, pump operator, BA entry control officer and incident command.

Officers say the competition is proof of the skill and professionalism of the county's crews.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Roberts, who attended the event, said: "We're very proud that for the second year in a row a crew from South Yorkshire has taken first place in a national competition that was filled with ultra professional, highly-skilled firefighters. The standard is always extremely high but is rising year on year, so for our crew to perform again to such a high standard on the national stage is a fantastic achievement."

Stronger, Safer Communities Reserve Fund

The Stronger Safer Communities Reserve fund is a Fire Authority scheme which reinvests money into local communities to support our work to prevent emergencies. The money has been set aside from the Authority's reserves.

We have already delivered two rounds of successful projects through this scheme, benefiting more than 40 projects with charities and community groups able to bid for sums ranging from £5,000 to £150,000.

You can view summaries of the projects by visiting this link—

<http://www.syfire.gov.uk/safety-advice/stronger-safer-communities-reserve/>

Work starts on new fire and police station in Maltby

Work has started on a new joint fire and police station in Maltby.

Chief Fire Officer James Courtney, Police & Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police Superintendent Sarah Poolman and Fire Authority member Cllr Pat Haith attended an event to formally begin work on the site.



From left to right:

PCC Dr Alan Billings,
Chief Fire Officer James
Courtney
Superintendent Sarah
Poolman,
Kier's Kevin Keyes and
Cllr Pat Haith, Member of
South Yorkshire Fire and
Rescue Authority

Maltby fire station will close and Maltby police station will be modified to accommodate fire service vehicles and staff, under the plans approved by Rotherham Council last year.

The project won Government Transformation Funding of £560,000 and will help save both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue money by sharing building running costs, enabling funding to be targeted at frontline services.

The move will shift fire service resources around a mile closer to the east side of Rotherham, which traditionally accounts for a greater volume of emergency incidents compared to lower risk areas to the east of Maltby.

It will also improve services by making it easier for police and firefighters to share knowledge, skills and expertise when tackling common issues, like anti-social behaviour and road traffic collisions. In a similar way, it will also help both organisations to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.

Chief Fire Officer James Courtney said: “This move makes perfect sense for us, for the police and for the taxpayer. Instead of having two public buildings, and all the running costs associated with them, we will be able to combine our resources into one facility to provide a more efficient frontline service.

“By working alongside each other under one roof, the move will also benefit both organisations by improving how we work together to solve problems we both face, which can only help to improve the quality of the service we offer to local people.”

Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner said: “The move to accommodate both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue staff under one roof is a huge step in our commitment to the public to reduce costs and work more collaboratively.

“The diminishing government grants for both organisations are requiring all of us to be most cost effective, whilst still providing the same levels of service. I hope that the police and fire station will prove to be a successful pilot and we can identify further opportunities for blue light services to work together.”

South Yorkshire Police Superintendent Sarah Poolman said: “The layout of this purpose-built facility will assist internal information and intelligence sharing among police staff, as it’s better designed to help meet the demands of modern policing, demands that have changed substantially since the existing station was constructed many years ago on Main Street.

“We envisage that sharing the building with our partners at the Fire and Rescue Service will improve both parties input into collaborative projects too, delivering a better coordinated service to the public.” Kier has been appointed as the main contractor for the building work and the new facility is expected to open in spring 2017.

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In South Yorkshire, fire crews already attend hundreds of ‘medical break-ins’ every year, where they gain access to properties where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them. This work used to be carried out by the police.

Plans were announced earlier this year to create ambulance stand-by points at up to five fire stations in South Yorkshire. The existing fire stations at Aston Park, Barnsley, Birley Moor, Edlington and Parkway will be modified to allow ambulance staff to share space in one of the first schemes of its kind in the country.

A Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team has been also been set up in Sheffield which sees fire and police staff visit hundreds of homes in the city to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen and contribute to reducing the risk of falls.



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@syFireAuth

MP visits project to transform Swinton as part of fire and police youth development scheme

Wentworth and Dearne MP John Healey will meet young people taking part in a major local youth development programme this week- the first scheme of its kind to be jointly run by the police and fire services anywhere in the UK.



The Prince's Trust Team Programme is being delivered by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and South Yorkshire Police from Dearne fire station.

Team Programme is a 12 week personal course for unemployed 16 to 25 year olds, offering work experience, qualifications, practical training and a residential development week.

The programme also gets young people to nominate their own community project, with those on the current scheme choosing to transform the centre of Swinton- fixing benches, clearing graffiti, picking litter and planting trees and flowers.

John Healey MP said: "Young people are the future of this area and it is fantastic that both fire and police are working together to transform not only the lives of those on this programme, but also the places where they live."

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Team Leader John Daley said: "Team Programme is about more than simply boosting young people's employment skills. It gives them hope, confidence and the opportunity to make a difference. The community project the young people are involved in this week is the perfect proof of that aspiration and we hope the sense of achievement it gives them will give them the self-belief which they can transfer to their future lives."

A second Team Programme is also running currently from Barnsley fire station.

Safe as Houses?

Are you a housing provider with properties in South Yorkshire?

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue would like to invite you to attend a free event to find out about your fire safety responsibilities to protect your tenants and residents.

Protecting the Vulnerable from Fire

The event will take place on **Weds 11 Jan 2017** at SYFR Training and Development Centre, Beaver Hill Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, S13 9QA.

How we can support you:

Clear information

The event will include speakers from the SYFR Business Fire Safety team and guests focussed on identifying best practice and legal responsibilities in high risk residential settings.

Sprinklers and suppression

Our sprinkler and suppression advocate will be on hand to show how assisted technology can reduce fire risk to occupants.

Funding

Find out about the Fire Authority's **Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR)** and how to apply for funding to help with the cost of installation of fire suppression systems.

The SSCR Fund Co-ordinator will be presenting along with representatives from successful projects.

Spaces are **limited** and will be available on a first come first served basis. Please register your interest by email to: TFSCennSupp@syfire.gov.uk



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**



CFOA
Chief Fire Officers
Association



SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

6 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor S Ellis (Chair)
Councillor M Stowe (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: R Wraith, E Butler, J McHale, A Sangar, P Wood
and J Wood

Trade Unions: N Doolan-Hamer (Unison), G Warwick (GMB)
and F Tyas (UCATT)

Officers: S Barrett (Interim Fund Director),
G Chapman (Head of Pensions Administration) and
S Smith (Head of Investments)(SYPA)

F Foster (Treasurer), M McCarthy (Deputy Clerk) and
M McCoole (Senior Democratic Services Officer) (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor H Mirfin-Boukouris, Councillor M Iqbal,
Councillor Z Sykes, Councillor K Wyatt, A Frosdick and J Bell

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Ellis introduced S Barrett, Interim Fund Director to the Authority. Members noted that J Hattersley had recently retired as Fund Manager; formal presentation would be made to him at the conclusion of the meeting.

Councillor Ellis expressed her gratitude, on behalf of Members to J Hattersley for all of his work provided to the Authority, which had helped to ensure that the Authority was in a good financial state and entered into an uncertain future in the best shape possible.

Councillor Wraith commented that it had been a great pleasure to work with J Hattersley, who had been a fine ambassador for Barnsley and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda item 19 entitled ‘LGPS Pooling: Update on Proposals for BCPP’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6 ACTUARIAL VALUATION 2016 - MERCER

Members were provided with a presentation from P Middleman and J Perera at Mercer on the Actuarial Valuation 2016. Members noted the following provisional results in terms of the contributions required from employers:-

- An initial meeting had been held with the district councils on 19 September 2016, in relation to affordability.
- The Fund objectives were to achieve a 100% solvency level within a reasonable timeframe, to maintain sufficient assets to pay all benefits as they arose and to have a sufficiently prudent funding plan to protect against downside outcomes.
- The Fund was maintaining a direct link with inflation.
- The allowance for future 50/50 scheme membership would be removed.
- Mercer would continue to work with the Fund to ensure that any refinement of data from the small funds was undertaken.
- Life expectancy analysis had indicated a reduction from last time of approximately 0.2 years for current pensioners in South Yorkshire. Across the board, male life expectancy was improving quicker than female life expectancy.
- South Yorkshire continued to have a lower rate of ill-health retirement compared with other LGPS areas.
- The short term pay figure assumed that it was incorporated for all employers at 1% for 4 years, which was unlikely to be the case in practice.
- Thought was required on how to develop the contribution plans, to ensure the financial health of the Fund was kept on an even keel moving forward.
- A funding strategy statement would be brought as part of the consultation.
- A formal consultation process would commence between now and the employer meeting at the end of November 2016. This would be extended to all employers as part of the overall governance arrangements, with a view to signing off the valuation at the end of March 2017.

Councillor Sangar referred to the valuation data and in particular the 2,350 active members with a missing CARE salary. He queried how this valuation compared with previous valuations.

G Chapman commented that as a result of the CARE Scheme there was a greater emphasis on ensuring that the contributions and pay data was accurate with only a short period of time. In recognition of this the new administration strategy penalised employers who submitted their annual return after the deadline employers and this has brought about an immediate improvement with 93% of returns at the end of May 2016.

Councillor Sangar queried Mercer's position in terms of communication with the four district authorities.

P Middleman referred to a number of meetings held over the summer period in relation to budgeting and other pressures faced by the district councils. Mercer had last met with the district treasurers on 19 September, and would meet with them today

in order to reach a sensible position for all parties. Members would be provided with an update in due course.

Councillor McHale referred to the budgetary pressures faced. He anticipated that the main authorities would be looking for a tapering down of recovery periods and percentage contributions.

P Middleman commented that the assumptions on pay growth were still incomplete. Mercer was talking to treasurers about the individual budgets; a key aspect would be to modify some of the contribution patterns, together with keeping watch on what could happen in the next 3 years.

Councillor Wraith congratulated G Chapman, F Foster and the other three district treasurers, on behalf of the Authority, for all of the work provided.

Councillor Ellis thanked Mercer for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the presentation.

7 VERBAL UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None.

8 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2016

M McCarthy informed Members that Councillor M Iqbal had become the new Sheffield CC representative.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual Authority meeting held on 9 June 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

9 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Ordinary Authority meeting held on 9 June 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the extraordinary Authority meeting held on 30 June 2016 were noted.

11 MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PLANNING & GOVERNANCE BOARD HELD ON 2 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Corporate Planning and Governance Board held on 2 June 2016 were noted.

12 MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PLANNING & GOVERNANCE BOARD HELD ON 20 JULY 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Corporate Planning and Governance Board held on 20 July 2016 were noted.

13 MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD HELD ON 30 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Investment Board held on 30 June 2016 were noted.

14 MINUTES OF THE INVESTMENT BOARD HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Investment Board held on 15 September 2016 were noted.

15 WORK PROGRAMME

Members were presented with a copy of the cycle of future meetings work programme to 16 March 2017.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

16 BOARD CHAIRS' REPORT

Councillor Ellis informed Members that J Hattersley would act as a temporary property investment manager for the Fund for the foreseeable future.

17 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

Members noted that actuarial valuation discussions were underway at the districts.

18 LGPS CURRENT ISSUES SEPTEMBER 2016

Members were presented with the LGPS Current Issues paper dated September 2016, which included a number of items for consideration including the 2016 Actuarial Valuation.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

19 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT REPORT

Members were presented with a copy of the Business Planning and Performance Framework's Snapshot Report for 2016/17 Quarter 1.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

20 REVIEW OF PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPM SYSTEM

A report of the Head of Pensions Administration was submitted to provide Members with a comprehensive review of the experience of the Pensions' Administration Division of the Authority since the last report of this nature in October 2015.

Members noted that following the launch of the UPM Pensions Administration System in November 2014, a report had been submitted to the October 2015 Authority meeting. The Authority continued to encounter extremely problematic issues with the system and its development company Civica.

G Chapman reported that prior to the implementation of the new system, the Pensions Administration Division had met the 99% target performance target for scheme member transactions. This had declined to 56% following the introduction of the new system. Following overtime and a great deal of effort to improve the performance level, the level of all casework completed from 15 September 2015 to 14 September 2016 had increased to 83%. Over 44,000 statements had been issued to members by the 31 August 2016 deadline. One of the few areas which the UPM system had shown a marked improvement over a short period was the Pensions Payroll process, which had dramatically improved over the last two months. The UPM system had impacted upon the Authority's Information Technology (IT) Department, who had been inundated with user queries and helpdesk calls. Staff continued to express high levels of frustration with the system, and staff morale continued to be low.

Councillor Wraith expressed concern at the continued overtime payments. He enquired when the workload would resume to normal levels, and he queried whether senior representatives from Civica should be invited to attend a future Authority meeting.

G Chapman commented that the new scheme had placed many new demands upon the Pensions Administration Division to ensure that the CARE pension delivered into scheme members' pension accounts was correct. The statutory deadline for production of annual statements allows little time to complete the work required without compromising other areas of work. G Chapman said we were pushing the system in the right direction to achieve efficiencies, although staff manpower was required to achieve this. He hoped to meet shortly with the new Civica leadership, following which he would arrange for them to attend a future Authority meeting if required.

Councillor McHale enquired whether plans were in place to review the procedures and processes. He queried whether resources could be deployed more effectively.

G Chapman clarified his earlier comment by saying that bringing new staff at a fixed level for a specific task would bring immediate benefits to the team which would not happen if we went down the usual route of appointing career grade staff. A considerable amount of time had been spent by the UPM team to ensure the work processes were obtaining maximum efficiency and further to this the intention of the online employer system was to undertake straight through-processing, which would help the Pensions Administration Division to meet the statutory deadline and drive efficiencies to deal with Members and customers to provide the service. The Pensions Administration Division had previously achieved and continued to maintain

the Customer Service Excellence Award. It was essential to continue the link with scheme members, which had recently been compromised.

Members noted that a staffing issues report would be presented to the next Authority meeting, with a view to having a revised structure in place by 1 April 2017. The staffing levels had not increased since 1997, but the workload had grown immensely.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the contents of the report and commented on any areas where there were new or continued concerns.
- ii) Agreed that a staffing review report would be presented to the next Authority meeting.
- iii) Agreed that Civica would be invited to attend an Authority meeting, at an appropriate time in the future.

21 SYPF ANNUAL FUND MEETING

A report of the Head of Pensions Administration was presented to advise Members of the 2016 Annual Fund Meeting which would be held on Thursday 20 October at the Holiday Inn, Dodworth, Barnsley, commencing at 5.30 pm. All Members were welcome to attend.

The meeting would follow the same style and format as last year's event, with additional time allocated for questions. The meeting would be available to view in near real time as at last year's meeting, which would enable scheme members with internet access to watch the event.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the forthcoming 2016 Annual Fund Meeting.

22 CP&GB AUDIT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS ANNUAL REPORT

A report of the Clerk was submitted to present the Annual Report of the Corporate Planning and Governance Board's work during 2015/16 for Members consideration. The report provided evidence of the arrangements the Authority had in place to monitor, challenge and hold to account those responsible for managing its governance arrangements and the production and approval of its Annual Governance Statement.

Members noted that the draft Annual Report had been considered at the Corporate Planning and Governance Board meeting held on 2 June 2016.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the Annual Report for 2015/16.
- ii) Noted that it would be published on the Authority's website.

23 WEBCASTING

A report of the Clerk was presented to provide Members with an update in respect of the Authority's webcasting contract.

Members had agreed at the last Authority meeting, to enter into a 3 year webcasting contract for the live transmission and archived viewing facility of Pensions Authority meetings. The Authority's cost to the webcasting contract was calculated against a percentage of the total broadcasting hours by the webcasting partners i.e. the Authority, Fire Authority and Sheffield City Region Combined Authority; both of which had approved their portion of the contract. Members had agreed to delegate final responsibility to the Chair and Vice Chair to agree to enter into the contract. The 3 year contract had been entered into on 26 September.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the cost of £2,511 (ex VAT) for webcasting meetings of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority per annum, for the next 3 years as part of the Joint Authorities webcasting contract.

24 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

25 LGPS POOLING: UPDATE ON PROPOSALS FOR BCPP

A report of the Interim Fund Director was presented to advise Members on the latest proposals for the BCPP and actions arising thereon.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed the recommendations outlined in the report.

CHAIR

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