

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2020

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held as a MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING on THURSDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2020, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Paul Wray  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Andrea Robinson  
Mayor - Ros Jones  
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings, Bev Chapman, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, George Derx, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, John Gilliver, Martin Greenhalgh, Pat Haith, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, David Hughes, Eva Hughes, Richard A Jones, Kenneth Keegan, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Nikki McDonald, Tosh McDonald, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Ian Pearson, Cynthia Ransome, Tina Reid, Derek Smith, Frank Tyas, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson and Jonathan Wood.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mick Cooper, Susan Durant, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, Andy Pickering, Kevin Rodgers and Dave Shaw.

16 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

17 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 24th September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Thursday, 24th September, 2020, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18 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 Paul Wray, made the following announcement:-

“On Remembrance Sunday, a small Civic Party, including myself, Mayor Jones, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Canon Stevens, Chief Executive, Dame Rosie Winterton, MP, Ben Parkinson, representatives from the Royal British Legion and Her Majesty’s Armed Forces, held a small service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Bennethorpe to remember all those servicemen and women who gave their lives in two World Wars and later conflicts.

On the 11th of November at 11 a.m., we also observed a two minute silence on the steps of the Mansion House.

Both events were much smaller in scale than previous years due to the restrictions we are all living and working under, but it was only right that we marked these occasions with the reverence and solemnity that they deserved, and I was honoured to be a part of the service.

Both events were filmed and put on social media, and can be viewed on the Visit Doncaster Facebook page.”

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

Since the 5th of November, the Country has once again entered into a period where further restrictions have been placed on our lives. The conditions of operation and the context are much different than the lock-down from March to June. We know that Council services provide a lifeline to many individuals and businesses in the community, so I want to make sure our residents know that Doncaster Council is open for business. In addition, we have increased our local capacity to support our Local Test and Trace Team, support to the clinically extremely vulnerable, strengthening our Town Centre marshalling capacity and making business support payments.

The infection rates for Doncaster are dropping, which is positive, but I need to emphasise the importance of following the guidelines. The faster we can get infection rates down, the better chance we have of being able to spend Christmas with our friends and family, but I will not lie to you, this festive season will be very different.

We are putting the necessary building blocks in place to support Doncaster to get ready for the next phase and our focus continues to be on protecting lives and livelihoods. As we start our Christmas shopping, please back our local businesses. You will find that many are now online or offer click and collect services. The more we support our local businesses as residents, the more we support local jobs and enterprise.

My second announcement is that it has been a year since many communities across Doncaster were hit by the devastating floods. It was an awful time for many and we know some are still suffering one year on. My thoughts are with those who are still trying to get their lives back to some degree of normality.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 emergency, a significant amount of work has been carried out already to prepare for whatever weather the winter months may bring us. This will provide better protection and support for our communities. As part of this work, a large number of flood mitigation measures have been put in place by Doncaster Council, the Environment Agency, water companies and Drainage Boards.

We are committed to helping to mitigate against potential flooding, and ensuring our communities are well prepared as winter approaches. We are better prepared and more resilient in order to respond when the time comes.

I will continue to press Central Government for funding for further flood prevention and alleviation works across Doncaster, and the wider Don catchment. At the beginning of the month, I signed a letter alongside Sheffield City Region Mayor Dan Jarvis and our other South Yorkshire Leaders, calling on Government to plug the gap with an

investment of £36m to support an initial 9 priority schemes from our full list of 27. Supporting these 9 priority schemes would represent a much-needed step change in investment in the South Yorkshire region and in the North.”

Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services, made the following announcement:-

“This is just a brief announcement regarding some training. The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan training is to take place on 27th November at 9.30 am and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer will be presenting the Integrated Risk Management Plan to Members, which is currently out to consultation, with a follow up briefing session. Obviously, this would be the perfect opportunity for Members to attend to ask any questions of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer on this issue.”

The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, made the following announcements:-

“I have three announcements to make.

As I am sure you are aware, Peter Dale, the Councils Director of Economy and Environment, retired on 9th November.

Peter, who is from Adelaide, South Australia, has worked in Local Government for over 20 years. Prior to moving to Doncaster, Peter held a number of executive positions in the Public Sector, having worked for the City of Woodville, the City of Charles Sturt and the City of Adelaide. In all of these positions, Peter had responsibility for delivering significant multi-million dollar regeneration projects including the development of Adelaide’s first Digital Precinct. Peter moved to the United Kingdom in 2004, to take up the position of Director of Development with the Council and has remained with the Council since that time.

During his time with the Council, Peter has been instrumental, working with partners in delivering a transformational regeneration programme within the Borough that has seen among other things, the building of a new Community Stadium, redevelopment, of the Town Centre as a Civic and Cultural quarter, redevelopment of the Racecourse, enhanced road links to the Borough, including a new link road to the Airport. These initiatives have helped boost the local economy, create jobs and increase the footfall of people visiting the Borough.

Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, we are unable to personally thank Peter for his significant contribution. I am sure you will all wish to join me in thanking Peter for his dedicated service to the Council, and wish him and his family, our sincere best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

My second announcement relates to Peter’s successor, Dan Swaine, who joined us on 2nd November.

Dan has a wealth of experience in Local Government, particularly in regeneration and housing. His most recent role was as Joint Chief Executive of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils. Dan will be a great addition to our Leadership Team in the Borough and I am sure like me, you are looking forward to working with him and will join me now in welcoming him to Doncaster and his first Full Council meeting.

My third announcement is to inform Council that Jane Stimpson from our Planning Policy and Environment Team, sadly passed away on 5th November. Jane was a kind and caring person who was a force for good; a strong proponent of good planning and defender of Doncaster's interests. She was reliable, inspirational, protective and a resilient natural leader, who was well respected amongst her peers, colleagues and the community.

For over 30 years, Jane worked conscientiously for the benefit of her hometown and our communities. She started at Doncaster as a Development Control Officer, experienced strategic planning in the Policy Team, before managing the Built and Natural Environment Team, and more recently the larger Planning Policy and Environment Team which includes specialist Officers and those responsible for producing the Local Plan.

Jane will be greatly missed by her work colleagues and Members who she came into contact with. I am sure Council would wish to join me in placing on record, our appreciation to Jane for her excellent work with the Council and to pass on our condolences to her husband David and family, on their tragic loss."

- 19 In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, to receive the presentation of a Petition relating to the Defence of Conisbrough, Denaby & Old Denaby from flooding.

Before inviting the Petition Organiser to speak, the Chair of Council, Councillor Paul Wray, outlined the procedure to be followed. The Chair of Council explained that the Petition Organiser would be given a period of 5 minutes to present the Petition and as the Petition was below the 10,000 signature threshold, there would be no discussion or debate involving Elected Members. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Petition would be referred to the appropriate Executive Member.

The Petition Organiser, Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, was invited to present the Petition.

Upon completion of the presentation, the Chair of Council thanked Councillor Ball for her presentation and formally accepted the Petition on behalf of the Council, and confirmed that the Petition would be referred to the appropriate Executive Member, Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment, for consideration.

RESOLVED that the Petition relating to the Defence of Conisbrough, Denaby & Old Denaby from flooding, be referred to the Executive for consideration.

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

(a) Question from Mr Glen Bluff to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"How much does the Council have invested as part of its treasury management that is due to mature between now and the end of 2020 and would it not be more prudent for the Council to re-invest this money in local businesses impacted by COVID, rather than invest our money externally?"

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

"The Council has £15m invested that will mature between 19th November and 31st December, 2020. A further £35m will mature between 1st January and

31st March, 2021. The Council is required to operate a balanced budget which broadly means that cash raised during the year, will meet cash expenditure. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy, approved each year by Full Council, sets out how balances are invested. Of primary concern in the strategy are liquidity and security; in other words, ensuring cash is available when it needs to be spent on the delivery of services and ensuring that investments are only made with low risk financial institutions. The Treasury Management Strategy is written to comply with the Local Government Act 2003, CIPFA Prudential Code, MHCLG MRP guidance, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the MHCLG Investment Guidance. Therefore, there is no scope for investing surplus cash balances locally as suggested, unless there is a national change in legislation.

The Council is however, doing what it can to support local businesses through distribution of national government grants to businesses forced to close or impacted. £60m has been distributed to over 5,000 businesses. We are currently administering business grants for those businesses required to close and who have been impacted by the localised restrictions. In addition, £30m is being channelled via Sheffield City Region, to provide additional financial support to businesses impacted by the localised and national restrictions."

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

"Thank you for your response Mayor Jones. I have checked the documentation and legislation you quoted in your response, and I believe there is no need for a change in legislation. Would it be possible for some of the funds that are maturing in this period, to be used as loans as described in the guidance documents you mentioned, as a potential less prudent method of raising funds for the Council, but could they be offered as loans to some of the businesses in Doncaster?"

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

"Thank you for your question. The advice I have been given is that we have got to invest prudently and we take this through Council every year on how investments will be made, but I will refer your supplementary question to the Director of Corporate Services, and ask if there is any way. However, given the advice we have been given, that will be very difficult to achieve, but there are other loans through the Sheffield City Region, if they meet the relevant criteria."

## 21 Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 - Licensing Act 2003

The Council considered a report, presented by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones and the Licensing Officer, David Smith, which requested Elected Members to consider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 (Licensing Act 2003) following its quinquennial review.

It was reported that Doncaster Council as the Licensing Authority, was required under the 2003 Act, to produce a Statement of Policy and review the Policy every 5 years which included a period of statutory consultation. The Licensing Service had compared the re-issued Home Office Guidance, made under Section 182 of the Act, with the Council's existing policy statement and made amendments to reflect the new

statutory guidance and other legislative changes. In addition, suggested changes were received from the Police along with the inclusion of locally adopted schemes, which had now been incorporated into the revised Policy Statement.

Members were informed that the four licensing objectives set out in the Act, must be addressed within the Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy, which were:-

- Prevention of Crime and Disorder;
- Public Safety;
- Prevention of Public Nuisance; and
- Protection of Children from Harm.

It was also reported that the Policy set out, with reference to the four objectives, the steps which needed to be taken by applicants to address these issues, and also set out how the Licensing Committee would conduct hearings for applications that could not be resolved. The delegation of duties to the Licensing Committee were prescribed within the Act and Members of that Committee and any Sub-Committee, would have to have a detailed knowledge of the Policy and its implications for applicants. Decisions of the relevant Committees must state how decisions had been made and how the relevant parts of the Policy had been used to make that decision.

The responses and suggested actions resulting from the statutory consultation and a summary of the amendments from the existing 2016 Policy, were outlined within Appendices A and Appendix C respectively.

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the Policy and after consideration of the responses received during the consultation, and the recommendation of the Licensing Committee held on 17th September, 2020, it was

RESOLVED that the reviewed Statement of Policy 2021 (Licensing Act 2003) be approved and adopted to take effect from 7th January, 2021.

## 22 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, which highlighted the progress of Doncaster Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during 2019/20. The report also provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and its four Standing Panels, and highlighted some of the key achievements and the impacts that Overview and Scrutiny had made over the past year, and identified priorities for 2019/20.

In presenting the report, Councillor Jane Kidd, Chair of the OSMC, pointed out that the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report was usually presented to Council at the ordinary Council meeting following the Annual Council Meeting, and that whilst keeping with this practice, the change to the Council's meeting schedule had resulted in presenting the report later in the year.

It was reported that the period covered by the report was 1st April, 2019 to 31st March, 2020 which mainly reflected a time before the lives of the Borough's residents

and communities were so profoundly changed by the COVID pandemic. When the 2020/21 report was presented to Council next year, it would include details of the important work which had been undertaken through virtual meetings during this challenging period.

Members' noted that the Annual Report highlighted a number of activities and achievements that were important, including how Overview and Scrutiny had engaged with the public and partners, had held decision makers to account, contributed to policy development and provided an opportunity for Members to consider issues they felt were important to residents of the Borough. The report also identified some of Overview and Scrutiny's priorities moving forward for 2020/21 and that consideration of a number of these issues were already well underway.

It was also reported that much of Scrutiny's work had been driven by the wider strategic objectives of Doncaster Growing Together and the priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan. It had also been responsive enough to consider issues that had arisen during the course of the year, such as the wider impacts of the flooding emergency of November, 2019.

Councillor Kidd drew Members' attention to an important piece of work where Overview and Scrutiny helped shape and influence decision making, where significant work had been undertaken by OSMC during Autumn 2019, to review the use of Ward Member budgets as a means of engaging and supporting communities to deliver important local initiatives and priorities. All Members were invited to participate and contribute to this review and OSMC's recommendations to establish a process of priority setting and review of applications at regular Ward Meetings, were agreed by the Executive. Whilst it was not possible to implement the Ward Member budget arrangements in the way they were originally envisaged, the key principles for establishing the scheme were used to enable Ward Members to support and respond to their communities during the early stages of the COVID pandemic, and initial lockdown period. OSMC would continue to review Ward budgets and other Locality issues during the course of the year.

In concluding her presentation, Councillor Kidd conveyed her thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Overview and Scrutiny process including Members, the Executive, partners, the public and Officers, and she hoped Overview and Scrutiny could continue to build on its successes moving forward, particularly in these challenging times.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20, be noted.

- 23 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Tosh McDonald and Seconded by Councillor John Healy, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Tosh McDonald and Seconded by Councillor John Healy:-

"This Authority looks to support the NUM campaign by raising the awareness of a longstanding issue that is seen as critical in context of the Covid-19 crisis, namely ensuring that the correct cause of death, including any underlying occupational diseases, is listed on the death certificate of former mineworkers to ensure proper compensation can be accessed by the bereaved widow and families.

More broadly, this Authority wants Ministers to do more to support healthcare and wider regeneration in former coalfield areas, which we know suffer disproportionately from poor health and lower life expectancy. Given that recently released data from the ONS shows our communities as some of the hardest hit during this pandemic, it is critical these issues are looked at in more serious detail.

We ask the Mayor Ros Jones to write, on behalf of this Council, to all Doncaster area MP's, Jonathan Ashworth MP Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, David Lammy MP Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, Secretary of State for Justice and Matt Hancock MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care."

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

A vote was taken on the Motion proposed by Councillor Tosh McDonald, which was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED that this Authority looks to support the NUM campaign by raising the awareness of a longstanding issue that is seen as critical in context of the Covid-19 crisis, namely ensuring that the correct cause of death, including any underlying occupational diseases, is listed on the death certificate of former mineworkers to ensure proper compensation can be accessed by the bereaved widow and families.

More broadly, this Authority wants Ministers to do more to support healthcare and wider regeneration in former coalfield areas, which we know suffer disproportionately from poor health and lower life expectancy. Given that recently released data from the ONS shows our communities as some of the hardest hit during this pandemic, it is critical these issues are looked at in more serious detail.

We ask the Mayor Ros Jones to write, on behalf of this Council, to all Doncaster area MP's, Jonathan Ashworth MP Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, David Lammy MP Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP, Secretary of State for Justice and Matt Hancock MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

24 Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3

A. Questions on Notice

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.2, the Chair accepted the following questions from Elected Members during "Question Time":-

(a) From Councillor Nick Allen to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

Q. "What steps have you implemented to support landlords in Doncaster during the pandemic? Would you consider introducing some scale of Council Tax relief for landlords who have been affected by the extra



charges levelled on owning a property which has been empty for two years or more?”

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

“Like many Councils, Doncaster faces a continuing shortage of housing and bringing empty properties back into use is one of the main ways to provide much needed additional housing across the Borough. From 1st April 2020, we took advantage of the legislative provision to increase the amount of Council Tax charged for properties that have been empty for more than two years.

Doncaster Council does have discretion to reduce Council Tax charges on the grounds of financial hardship and where this is in the interests of local Council Tax payers. The cost of reducing charges in these circumstances has to be met by the Council and ultimately, by other Council Tax payers through future increases.

This is only considered in exceptional circumstances and the criteria for awarding relief is that there is clear evidence of financial hardship/circumstances that justifies a reduction, and that it is reasonable to award a reduction having regard to the interests of other Council Tax payers who have to meet the cost.

If businesses are suffering financial problems, they can apply for a reduction by providing suitable evidence such as accounts.

We have also provided a 3 month payment holiday and longer payment terms which many businesses have made use of.

In doing so, I feel we have struck a balance between being sympathetic to the financial challenges faced by businesses, whilst balancing the financial challenges being faced by the Council.

Unfortunately, landlords are not the only ones to be lacking support from Government. There are a number of other sectors that have been let down, including some SMEs, freelance professionals, the recently self-employed and those Company Directors who for years have rightly or wrongly, but perfectly legally, paid themselves mainly in dividends. May I suggest you contact Government and your own party leadership, and find financial support for these sectors which have been left to fall through the cracks.”

(b) From Councillor Jane Cox to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

Q. “Could the Mayor please give a detailed breakdown of what the initial £1m that has been drawn down from the Town Fund will be spent on. Does she consider these schemes to be good value for money given the current state of the Town Centre with many empty shops. Would the money have been better spent on enhancing the look of the High Street?”

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

“Thank you for your question Councillor Cox. The Government particularly encouraged submissions that would support improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links, improvements to Town Centres including repurposing empty commercial properties, and Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit.

This £1m funding was announced in September and has to be spent before the end of March 2021, so within a very tight timescale of only 6 months in which the schemes need to be drawn up, contracted, feet on the ground and the money spent.

Council Officers put forward a range of projects to the Doncaster Town Deal board, whose members decided which schemes to progress. The Doncaster Town Deal Board is composed of a range of stakeholders, including the private sector. This was important as this Board will be key to agreeing the projects that will be delivered under the wider Towns Fund deal.

It was felt that these projects strike a good balance between delivering on the Government's criteria and tight timescales for the accelerated Towns Fund, whilst blending and adding to other initiatives that we have set in motion under the Transforming Cities Fund, future High Street Fund and Get Building Fund, which are all focused on enhancing the look of and regenerating the Town Centre.

The £1m spend can be broken down and I will get the detailed breakdown of schemes to you. But, to summarise, there are schemes to be carried out on Elmfield Park, Town Fields, Regent Square, Hall Gate to Wood Street Alleyway, Printing Office Street, and the Civic and Cultural Quarter.

On the question of improving the high street, the accelerated fund is just one part of multiple funding sources that target regeneration in urban centres. I continue to press Council Officers to maximise all avenues of external grant. The truth is, there is not enough money currently being pledged by Government for Doncaster and the North. There are countless opportunities for regeneration in our Towns and Villages across the Doncaster Borough, but we need the ‘levelling-up’ funding as a matter of urgency and with realistic timelines for delivery, not just 6 months. Time for Boris to stand by his words and deliver on the ‘levelling-up’ agenda that he promised. If you take a look at our Urban Centre Masterplan, you will see our ambitious ideas for rejuvenating our highstreets; this includes shrinking our retail offer, encouraging more leisure and culture, Town Centre living and green spaces, for example.

And finally, you ask whether I think the schemes are good value for money. I believe considering the tight time constraints and Government criteria set, that we have achieved a good balance. I would say it is significantly better value for money than the £1.5 billion that has been wasted by this Government on a failing Track and Trace System from companies with very dubious links to the Conservative Party. Maybe you

should direct your Value for Money concerns right back at Government and your own party.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Cox asked the following supplementary question:-

Q. “I am shocked that there is not enough money coming into Doncaster with the amount that is coming in at the moment, so there is £50m in the two Towns Fund at the top of my head. I understand the Waterfront and the ambitious plans we have got, but we do not seem to have any ready to give to Government in the short term, and also, could I have a copy of the minutes of the Board where it was decided where the £1m would be spent please? I really do not understand the reluctance of the Mayor to share the actual amounts spent on each scheme which I do know is available. Thank you.”

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

“The reluctance is not there; we will give you a detailed breakdown of the sums of monies. I would reiterate that the actual decision of the Board had to be delivered in six months. You talk about the £50m Town Fund; can I advise you that the bids have got to be back sometime in January which is up to £25m for the Town Fund and £25m for Hatfield. Therefore, it is not about a shortage of funds, it is about the shortage of time when we spend the £1m to deliver schemes that meet the Government criteria, but thank you for your question.”

#### B. Questions Without Notice

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

##### A. Questions to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones

Q. Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“I would like to ask a question about the Council’s Tree Policy and if you feel the protests which are currently ongoing on Middlefield Road could have been handled in a different way by the Council?”

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

“I am going to pass this to Councillor Joe Blackham as this falls under his Portfolio and I am sure he has got a comprehensive answer for you.”

A. Councillor Joe Blackham gave the following response:-

“Unfortunately, I do not concur with any judgement which suggests we could have handled it differently. Extensive public consultation with residents was carried out. They supported the concept of the tree removal with good reason. The reason for the removal is due to the damage caused to the highway infrastructure. It is regrettable that

people who are not living in this area are boycotting the removal. There is an ongoing dialogue and I hope we can find a sensible resolution. As part of the assessment in relation to the tree removal, we brought the protester from Sheffield to Doncaster, to express his views and opinions, and he felt as we felt, that it was appropriate for the trees to be removed. For individuals from outside the area who are not impacted by the removal of these trees, to actually perform in this way and stop the removal of the trees which is to the benefit of local residents, is appalling.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Nick Allen asked the following supplementary question:-

Q. “My original question was how the Council responded to the protestors. I am aware of the history and I am pleased that Councillor Blackham outlined that, particularly with regard to the consultation which happened previously. Could there be any sort of enforcement action taken against sitting Parish Councillors who have essentially turned up on Middlefield Road, causing a nuisance at this so called protest? In terms of handling it differently, there were opportunities for the Council to be more robust and I am mindful of the adjacent issue of the paving, not just on Middlefield Road, but paving around the area in Stoops Road and Broughton Road. I am pleased as to what you have said Councillor Blackham.”

A. Councillor Joe Blackham gave the following response:-

“It is difficult to have an ongoing discussion and dialogue with somebody who is not prepared to have a discussion, but we will look to find a way to get the removal finalised and more importantly, the repairs to the footways to make them safe for local residents to utilise.”

Q. Councillor Sean Gibbons asked the following question:-

“Ros, as revealed in a recent article, why did Doncaster Council sign a non-disclosure agreement with regard to HS2 and on what date?”

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

“Councillor Gibbons, I do not have this information to hand and I am not aware of this so I will provide you with a written response.”

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

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

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

There were no questions put to Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the absence of Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor McGuinness should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after the meeting, and a response would be provided accordingly.

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

Q. Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“I would like to ask how many schemes to support local businesses has the Council initiated and developed in-house, which are uniquely from Doncaster Council?”

A. Councillor Bill Mordue gave the following response:-

“I hope you will appreciate I have had no notice of this question and I do not have this kind of information to hand, so I will provide you with a written response.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

M. Questions to Councillor Jane Kidd, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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

25 To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Joint Authorities be noted:-

- A. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 15th April, 1st June and 27th July, 2020;
- B. Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 5th March, 21st May and 16th July, 2020;
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 10th February, 22nd June (Annual) 22nd June (Ordinary) 27th July and 14th September, 2020;
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Local Pension Board held on 13th February and 23rd July, 2020;
- E. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 12th September, 2019 and 23rd January, 19th March, 11th June (Annual) 11th June (Ordinary) and 10th September, 2020;
- F. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 6th February, 8th June and 20th July, 2020; and
- G. Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership held on 21st January, 2020.

CHAIR:\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:\_\_\_\_\_