



Doncaster Council

Agenda

To all Members of the

COUNCIL

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

Venue: Microsoft Teams via Virtual Meeting

Date: Thursday, 21st January, 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

The meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams. Members and Officers will be advised on the process to follow to attend the meeting. Any members of the public or Press wishing to attend the meeting by teleconference should contact Governance Services on 01302 737462/736712/736723 for further details.

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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**Damian Allen
Chief Executive**

Issued on: Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Governance Officer for this meeting

David Taylor
01302 736712

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 19th November, 2020. 1 - 14
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:-

- (a) Question from Mr Chris Nowak to Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment:-

“On March 17th last year Councillor Glyn Jones told me:-

‘The Council remains committed to ensuring that the people of Doncaster are not unduly impacted by the actions of an anti-social few.’

However this commitment has not been enough. As I predicted at the Council meeting I attended 12 months ago, I am asking the same question.

Why is fly tipping of household waste still happening on a regular basis in the alleyways behind houses in Hexthorpe and other areas?

It seems the Council is happy to clean up the mess but not take positive action to stop it.”

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

For Decision

7. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020. 15 - 42
8. Environment and Sustainability Strategy. 43 - 142
9. Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2021/23. 143 - 172
10. Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3:-

- (i) Questions on Notice to the Executive:-

None received for this meeting.

- (ii) Questions without Notice to the Executive and the Chairs of Committees.

For Information and Not Endorsement

- 11. To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities. 173 - 258
 - A. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 21st September and 16th November, 2020.
 - B. Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 10th September and 5th November, 2020.
 - C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 12th October and 23rd November, 2020.
 - D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 30th September, 2020.
 - E. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 7th September and 10th November, 2020.

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Agenda Item 4

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: _____



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 21st January 2021

To the Chair and Members of the Council
Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Nigel Ball	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The 2020 Doncaster Director of Public Health Annual Report is the sixth authored by Dr Rupert Suckling.

In an increasingly digital world, this year the delivery of the main report will be as an online document. However, the text of the report is attached for ease of access.

This report describes the course of the global COVID-19 pandemic in Doncaster, includes a rapid assessment of whether health is improving locally. The report also demonstrates how the public health grant is used locally and how those commissioned services perform. Finally the report points to the role and content of a new borough strategy to support the recovery and renewal of Doncaster over the next decade.

The immediate lessons learnt from the COVID -19 pandemic include

- Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, groups and institutions have all pulled together amazingly, responding to need quickly and effectively.
- The importance of 'Key workers' was reinforced during the first national lockdown.
- Not everyone was impacted equally. Existing inequalities, poverty and social exclusion were highlighted and the following impacts were felt differently locally
 - Impacts directly from COVID

- Impacts of overwhelmed health services
 - Impacts of changes to health services
 - Impacts of lockdown and other measures
 - Impacts on particular communities and groups
- National decision makers are too remote and lack the local knowledge needed for many decisions including the relaxing of the first national lockdown, the re-opening of schools and return of elite sporting events.
 - Pandemic preparation should not be neglected. This includes better understanding of how local people live their lives, investment in health protection, establishing clear, agile, system leadership and supporting better data to aid management as well as increasing transparency.
 - Health and the economy are intrinsically linked and the best way to address the pandemic is good for both health and the economy.

The report concludes with five recommendations for Team Doncaster and partners:

- Recognise, celebrate and support the role of ‘Key workers’ in the way Doncaster operates
- Develop and adopt a new Borough strategy to spearhead recovery and renewal
- Continue to develop asset based, community centred approaches to health and wellbeing working with and for communities
- Revitalise approaches to health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion
- Learn the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to prepare for future public health emergencies in light of the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) following the review of Public Health England

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Council is asked to NOTE and PUBLISH the report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The publication of this report demonstrates the council’s commitment to its leadership duties with regard to health improvement, health protection and health and social care quality.

BACKGROUND

5. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write a report on the health of the local population and the authority has a duty to publish it (section 73B (5) & (6) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the 2012 Act). The content and structure of the report is something to be decided locally.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. No other options considered.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. The recommendation fulfils the council's duty to publish the Director of Public Health annual report.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Good health and wellbeing is a contributor to increased productivity. Equally good quality work contributes to good health and wellbeing.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>All these wider determinants of health improve health and wellbeing. Combining universal and targeted investment could reduce health inequalities.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p>	<p>Good health and wellbeing is a contributor to improved learning outcomes. Equally good learning outcomes contribute to good health and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	wellbeing.
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	Universal and targeted prevention approaches can improve health and reduce burdens on health and care services.
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	A more connected council could support better health and wellbeing in Doncaster people and improved health and wellbeing in the workforce could increase the effectiveness of the council.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF Date...05/01/2021]

10. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write a report on the health of the local population and the authority has a duty to publish it (section 73B (5) & (6) of the National Health Service Act 2006, inserted by section 31 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012). The content and structure of the report is something to be decided locally.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HR Date 06/01/21]

11. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials EL Date 08/01/2021]

12. There are no specific human resource implications with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 07/01/21]

13. There are no specific technology implications with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS..Date 29/12/2020]

14. There are no additional health implications in this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS Date 29/12/2020]

15. This report continues to identify reducing health inequalities and addressing fairness as one of five building blocks for health and wellbeing. Health varies across the Borough and is associated with deprivation, with those living in the most affluent parts of the Borough perceiving, experiencing and having better health than those living in the less affluent parts of the Borough.

CONSULTATION

16. No formal consultation has taken place to contribute to this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Dr Rupert Suckling
Director of Public Health

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Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020

Foreword from Cllr Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture

Introduction

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2020

The State of Health in Doncaster 2020

Use of the Public Health Grant

COVID Related Monies

The Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services

Call to action – the Future a new Borough Strategy

Conclusion

Recommendations

Foreword from Cllr Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture

2020 has been an awful year and none of us have been untouched by the effect of Covid 19 across all aspects of our lives. This last year has thrown so many challenges our way as a borough which has tested our communities and our citizens resilience and perseverance but has also highlighted some amazing examples of big-hearted individuals and groups who have helped so many people in Doncaster and gone above and beyond in many peoples time of need.

Coronavirus has not unsurprisingly been the main focus of our Public Health activity, support and communications and continues to be at the forefront of our work. Our workers, officers and teams have been at the forefront of the pandemic response in Doncaster and I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their unceasing service, hard work and resilience throughout this year and indeed beyond. As this annual report is published still during the testing times of a pandemic, I would like to pay tribute to our Public Health team led by Dr Rupert Suckling for their tireless work and guidance in difficult times. For being their late at night and early in the morning at the end of a phone or a computer and at our darkest, worrying times for always being there indeed 7 days a week.

I also would like to acknowledge the significant role of our key workers and the NHS in Doncaster who have continued to do their best to support our most vulnerable people and offer vital services and support - thank you. I would also like to thank our communities and the people within them who have shown the strongest elements of resilience, determination hardship who have done their bit in following the advice we all have had to follow.

Our health as a borough is changing and we have yet to see the full impact of this pandemic on our wellbeing and mental health. The pandemic does impact different people in different ways. How we feel, how our health is improving or not are closely linked to how our borough prospers. Being fit and well both mentally and physically helps to boost our sense of wellbeing and confidence and indeed our ability to help Doncaster to thrive. Quite simply, our health affects our quality of life and the way in which we enjoy and live it. It also impacts on others around us and our relationships whether at work, home or leisure.

This annual report highlights that despite the enormous energy and activity that has and is still being devoted to battling Coronavirus, so much other important work on a range of health issues has taken place and I am proud to see that happening. There is of course more to be done but recognition should be given to everyone who helps our health and wellbeing and indeed to those individuals who make changes in their life and lifestyle, in however a small way, to take stock and improve their health and wellbeing. The pandemic has, in some ways, enabled us to become more aware of our areas, our nature and provided us with the opportunity, albeit forced, to take stock and indeed recognise our environment and some of the positives of our locality in and around Doncaster.

I hope you find this report useful and informative in relation to how Doncaster has attempted to meet the challenge of the pandemic, but also as a starting point in terms of how we as a borough begin the long fightback as we move into 2021 and recovery. I have no doubt and the report clearly indicates that there is still much work to do but we move forward on a firm footing with strategies and initiatives already in place to tackle health inequality.

It's been a very rough year for all of us and we all need to be mindful of this in our day to day interactions with people. None of us has been exempt from the worry and stress of the last 12 months so on a personal note be good to each other, take care of yourselves, your families and communities.

Regards,

Cllr Nigel Ball

Introduction

Welcome to my sixth Annual Report as Director of Public Health for Doncaster Council.

2020 has been the year of COVID-19. At the turn of the year, a previously unknown SARS-CoV-2 virus emerged and over the next few weeks spread right around the globe. Within months the tell-tale symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, a high temperature and loss of or change to smell or taste) became common knowledge and the impacts of the virus were felt in homes, families, communities, schools, businesses, care settings and hospitals. For many the infection caused a short respiratory illness but for others the infection proved fatal. This was especially the case in older residents, those in key worker roles and those from ethnic minorities. My thoughts are with all those who lost loved ones or have been impacted by the pandemic in other ways.

Throughout 2020 new ways of preventing the spread of COVID-19 arose including handwashing, adopting the 2m physical distance and wearing face coverings. New medical practice also arose to treat people with COVID-19 and at the time of writing three vaccines for COVID-19 have been approved here in the UK. However, these new practices proved insufficient on their own and a national lockdown in the spring together with national restrictions in the autumn were needed in addition to a range of 'tiers'. Whilst the lockdown and national restrictions stemmed the infection the impact of the lockdown especially on children, families, businesses and communities was severe. No more so than in the case of lonely and isolated or the hospitality sector. In response to the pandemic we saw communities come together to support each other and who can forget the Thursday evening clapping for health and care workers.

This report provides an initial story of the COVID-19 pandemic in Doncaster, albeit from a particular perspective and I want to hear other people's COVID reality and their stories. This report also includes a high level assessment of how the overall health status is changing in Doncaster. This needs to be heavily caveated as the data available to us does not yet fully reflect the short term impacts of COVID-19, or in fact the long term impacts of COVID -19 that could be with us for the next decade.

As last year, I have provided a breakdown on how the public health grant is allocated and the performance of locally commissioned public health services.

The pandemic has shown that although we may have been 'in it together' we have not been impacted equally. The starting points for many people, families and communities were different and their ability to cope set by long standing inequalities and the recent 2019 flooding.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2020

It may seem premature to consider the impacts of COVID-19 but the sooner the impacts are assessed and the lessons are learnt the sooner and more effectively Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, schools and institutions can plan for a more prosperous future. There will be government reports and inquiries in due course but this report starts to provide a Doncaster perspective on the pandemic. There are other perspectives and they too need to be heard.

What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan in the Hubei province of China. It spread around the world causing a pandemic typified by fever, cough and loss of or change to smell or taste. The virus is spread during close contact and via respiratory droplets and aerosols.

People are most contagious when they have symptoms but spread is possible before symptoms appear. The time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms is between two to fourteen days. The majority of cases result in mild symptoms but some progress to pneumonia and multi-organ failure. In March 2020 the overall case fatality was 4.5% ranging from 0.2 percent in the young and healthy to over 10% in the elderly and infirm. Cases are diagnosed by clinical symptoms and a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test from a nasal/throat swab. One in twenty people who have had COVID develop the Long-COVID syndrome, which can include severe on going health issues.

On the 31st December 2019 the first cases of pneumonia of unknown origins were identified in Wuhan. It took until the 12th January 2020 to isolate the new virus and by the end of January the first cases of COVID-19 were imported into the UK and identified in York and Brighton. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the 2019-20 coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30th January 2020. By the middle of February there were cases across the UK and by the end of February evidence of person to person transmission had been confirmed resulting in the WHO declaring it a pandemic on 11th March 2020. COVID-19 has been present in the UK ever since.

How did this impact Doncaster

Pandemics are characterised by a number of peaks or waves and COVID-19 is no different. At the time of writing we have passed two waves of COVID-19 and are approaching a third wave. The first two waves resulted in national action, in March 2020 there was a national lockdown and in November 2020 a set of national restrictions were introduced. The third wave has resulted in a third national lockdown in January 2021.

January 2020 – May 2020 -The first wave begins

The initial stages of the global pandemic saw spread of COVID-19 from China through air travel to a number of European countries. Individual cases started to be seen in the UK from the end of January 2020.

In Doncaster, the local pandemic plan was reviewed and the first pandemic planning meeting was held in early February. This soon escalated into a South Yorkshire pandemic response coordinated through the Local Resilience Forum. Initial preparations included advice to the public, to staff and to

the local Chinese community on how best to prevent the infection through containment, hand hygiene and cleaning as well as raising awareness of the three core symptoms.

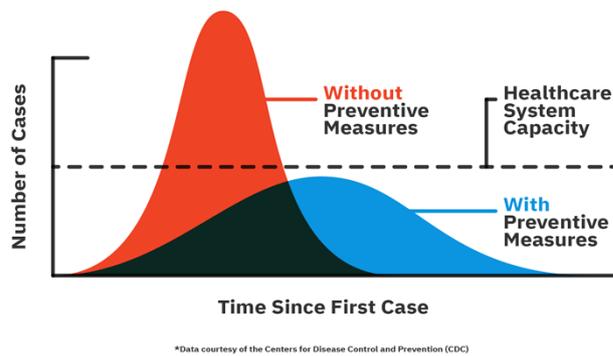
At the end of February local school ski trips returning from Northern Italy began contacting the Council for advice as they had been in areas where COVID-19 had been reported. Doncaster declared 2nd March as week 0 of the pandemic even though no cases had been seen locally.

The government announced 'Delay' on the 12th March stopping all mass gatherings including sporting events and asking people to work from home. On the 19th March the first COVID-19 cases in Doncaster were confirmed, although subsequently the date of confirmation was backdated to the 10th March and later that month there was unfortunately the first death. Despite adding social distancing to the national public health advice, schools were asked to shut on the 20th March, with hospitality businesses asked to shut on the 21st but by 23rd March a national lockdown had come into force in order to prevent the NHS becoming overwhelmed by the number of patients needing care. NHS services scaled back all routine and elective activity, moving whatever they could on-line. The hospitals increased critical care capacity to look after people with COVID-19 and nationally Nightingale hospitals were established. Health and care providers struggled to find enough suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). National contact tracing stopped at the same time as the demand exceeded capacity.

Doncaster people and organisations followed the emerging restrictions, secured additional PPE and the hospital increased critical care capacity. Although tests for COVID-19 had been developed they were limited for use in those people with severe enough symptoms to require hospital admission, so the council set up a self-assessment form on its website so people could self identify if they had symptoms to enable the spread of the virus to be tracked. At the same time as the national 'stay at home guidance' the 9,700 most vulnerable Doncaster residents were asked to start 'shielding' for 12 weeks. A community hub was established to work with existing and new community, voluntary, faith and mutual aid groups to help ensure those who were 'shielding' were still able to access food and medical supplies.

The overall approach in this first wave was to 'flatten the curve' to reduce and spread out the number of cases of COVID-19 so that health services would not be overwhelmed. In this first wave Doncaster followed about 2 weeks behind the national picture. Even so by the end of May there had been 1,592 confirmed cases in Doncaster and 176 deaths. Many of these deaths were in the elderly, those with existing health conditions but also in care homes and key workers including health and care workers. It was also established nationally that other groups were at higher risk of mortality from COVID-19 those in key worker occupations and people from ethnic minorities. On the 30th April local public sector organisations introduced risk assessments for staff from ethnic minorities.

The 'lockdown', including the closure of schools for all but key worker children and vulnerable children together with large sectors of the economy certainly 'flattened' the curve. However, there were intentional and unintentional impacts of these approaches including huge impacts on family and community life, delays to treatment for people with other health conditions, mental health impacts of 'lockdown' and wide ranging economic implications. The young and those already in poverty were most badly impacted. Ahead of this the Mayor launched a 'Fight Back Fund' in March to support local people and this was followed by national support including the 'furlough' scheme, a temporary increase to universal credit payments and the 'everybody in' approach to support the homeless.



June 2020 – August 2020 - The first wave declines

The national lockdown lasted from 23rd March until 28th May when the government deemed the UK had met its 5 tests. These tests included

- The NHS has sufficient capacity to provide critical care and specialist treatment right across the UK
- Sustained and consistent fall in daily deaths from coronavirus
- Reliable data to show that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board
- Operational challenges including testing and PPPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand
- Confident that any adjustment to the current measures will not risk a second peak in infections that overwhelm the NHS

In May the government had published the Contain Framework and as well as establishing NHS Test, Track and Trace it placed a requirement on local government to establish a member led engagement board and a COVID control Board to develop a COVID control strategy. Essential businesses continued to operate with more stringent rules of PPE, people continued to ‘shield’ and in fact another 6,000 residents were added to the shielding list in early May and further 2,000 in late May. Early June saw the Council and partners, through the Team Doncaster partnership, begin to plan for recovery as a way of addressing humanitarian, economic and environmental impacts of lockdown. This coincided with the socially distanced and peaceful Black Lives Matter protest in Doncaster on 7th June responding to the death of the African-American man George Floyd while in police custody.

As the lockdown was eased there was a gradual reopening of the economy up until mid-August with the local Authority heavily involved in helping manage the public realm. Areas across Doncaster saw new road layouts and signage to reduce the risk of transmission of what is still a highly infectious disease. Environmental health teams supported food business to reopen in different ways and schools continued to support vulnerable children and the children of essential workers. Doncaster schools reopened two weeks later than nationally as the Director of Public Health deemed there were still too many local cases. Non-essential shops reopened, with hospitality following in early July and hairdressers and other ‘close contact’ services in the middle of July. National schemes such as ‘Eat Out, to Help Out’ and other business supports were also rolled out. Council services that had been suspended during the ‘lockdown’ also gradually stood back up. However these were not normal times for many people, the impacts on the young and the poorest were particularly noticeable and the council and partners worked to try and address ‘holiday hunger’.

By the end of August there had been a further 489 confirmed cases in Doncaster and 46 deaths related to COVID-19.

September 2020 – November 2020 – the start of the second wave

September began with a number of significant changes. NHS Test, Track and Trace had become NHS Test and Trace with increases in testing capacity and a change in testing regime so that anyone with symptoms could request a test. Elite sporting events were being tested for their feasibility to restart including the St Leger. Schools were also preparing to reopen for all children and face coverings and other compliance measures were still compulsory in shops.

However despite this apparent return to near normality there were signs of a second wave. There was a spike in new cases that meant the 10 tests that the DPH had set for the St Leger festival to go ahead with limited crowds were no longer met, resulting in racing having to move to behind closed doors from day 2 onwards. On the 14th September the 'rule of 6' was introduced as the doubling time for new infections reached every 7 to 8 days. Local COVID marshals and welfare calls started to support local people and businesses and by the end of September this was supported by the NHS App. Communications and marketing approaches were reviewed and revitalised focussing on 'hands, face, space' and a daily incident management team began meeting to ensure all new cases, clusters and outbreaks in high risk settings were identified and effectively managed. Yet, despite this the number of cases continued to increase. A national tier system was introduced and Doncaster went into tier 2 on the 14th October, tier 3 on the 24th October and then followed the rest of the county into national restrictions on 5th November and this included the reintroduction of 'shielding' albeit for a more tightly defined group of people – the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Additional support for business through a further set of business support grants was implemented too.

This second wave was different from the first, because of the new testing strategy the number of confirmed cases was much higher than the first wave where the testing was limited to those people needing hospitalisation. Difficulties in accessing tests at the end of September may have underestimated the number of true cases and it's likely that only a quarter of people with COVID-19 actually came forward for testing. There are a number of other possible reasons for low testing take up and they are likely to include the fact that for some people this is a mild illness or even without symptoms, transport to a test site may be difficult or the implications of self isolation (e.g. if people are on zero hours contracts) may make self-isolation unaffordable. Throughout this wave schools and businesses remained open and health and care services also continued to operate both 'business as usual' services alongside 'COVID response'. The rate of new cases rose to 580/100,000 people, hospitals saw the number of admissions for people with COVID increase and surpass the first wave, fortunately new treatment pathways including early oxygen therapy and dexamethasone meant fewer people needed invasive mechanical ventilation. Yet the number of deaths from COVID-19 rose again. There were serious outbreaks in care homes as well as outbreaks in schools and workplaces. As well as new cases and deaths even young people developed a range of post-COVID syndromes collectively known as long COVID.

The reintroduction of restrictions in September although important to control the spread of the virus also brought back the unintended consequences of lockdown including impacts on mental health and those suffering from loneliness or domestic violence. This time instead of a community hub support to local people was coordinated through close working with community groups and new locality working arrangements.

By the end of November there had been a further 9,959 confirmed cases in Doncaster and 291 deaths related to COVID-19 from the end of August.

December 2020 onwards - Easing the November national restrictions and the third wave

In December Doncaster was back in new 'tier 3' restrictions. Although the number of new cases had fallen from November they had flattened and had struggled to fall below 200/100,000 cases. In December there was some evidence of a further small increase in cases. Health and care services were still seeing significant numbers of people with COVID-19. The hospitals were still looking after more people with COVID-19 than during the first wave. Local contact tracing had started and additional testing facilities and approaches were under consideration. Yet across the country the number of new cases were rising much faster, a new variant had been identified with higher transmissibility and hospitals in the South were under increasing pressure. A national review of tiers took place on 30th December and the UK went into a third national lockdown on 6th January 2021.

Yet there is light at the end of the tunnel. A number of new vaccines are under development and the first one was administered in Doncaster on 15th December 2020 with NHS partners leading the roll out. The challenge now is to continue to interrupt the chains of transmission of the virus and avoid as many subsequent peaks as possible as the vaccine is rolled out. Now is not the time to be complacent. All data is available at

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=Doncaster>

Immediate lessons learnt

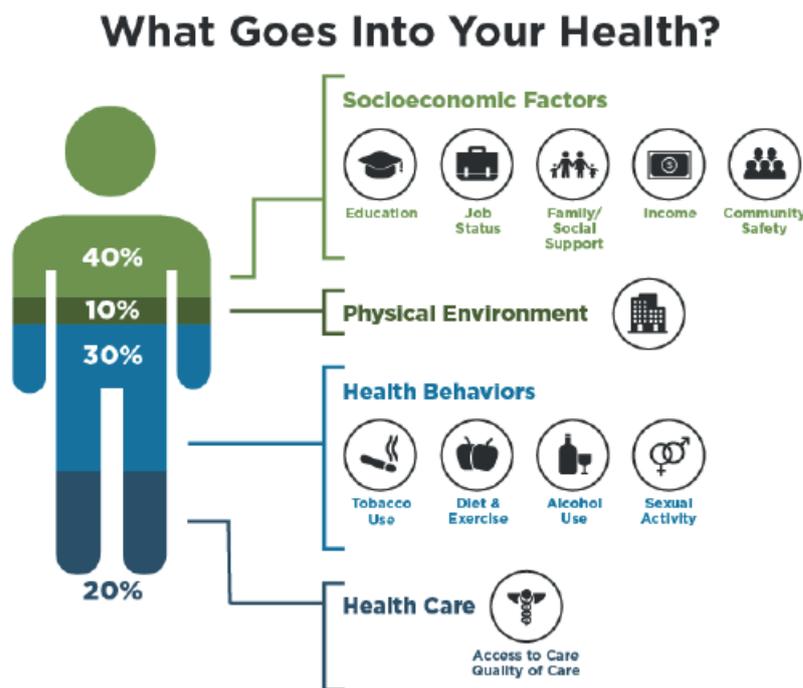
There will be national and local reviews of the pandemic but immediate lessons learnt include:

- Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, groups and institutions have all pulled together amazingly, responding to need quickly and effectively.
- The importance of 'Key workers' was reinforced during the first national lockdown.
- Not everyone was impacted equally. Existing inequalities, poverty and social exclusion were highlighted and the following impacts were felt differently locally
 - Impacts directly from COVID
 - Impacts of overwhelmed health services
 - Impacts of changes to health services
 - Impacts of lockdown and other measures
 - Impacts on particular communities and groups
- National decision makers are too remote and lack the local knowledge needed for many decisions including the relaxing of the first national lockdown, the re-opening of schools and return of elite sporting events.
- Pandemic preparation should not be neglected. This includes better understanding of how local people live their lives, investment in health protection, establishing clear, agile, system leadership and supporting better data to aid management as well as increasing transparency.
- Health and the economy are intrinsically linked and the best way to address the pandemic is good for both health and the economy.

The State of Health in Doncaster 2020

2020 has shown once again the value people put on health. Yet a narrow definition of health, one that doesn't include friends, families, freedoms and futures is uninspiring.

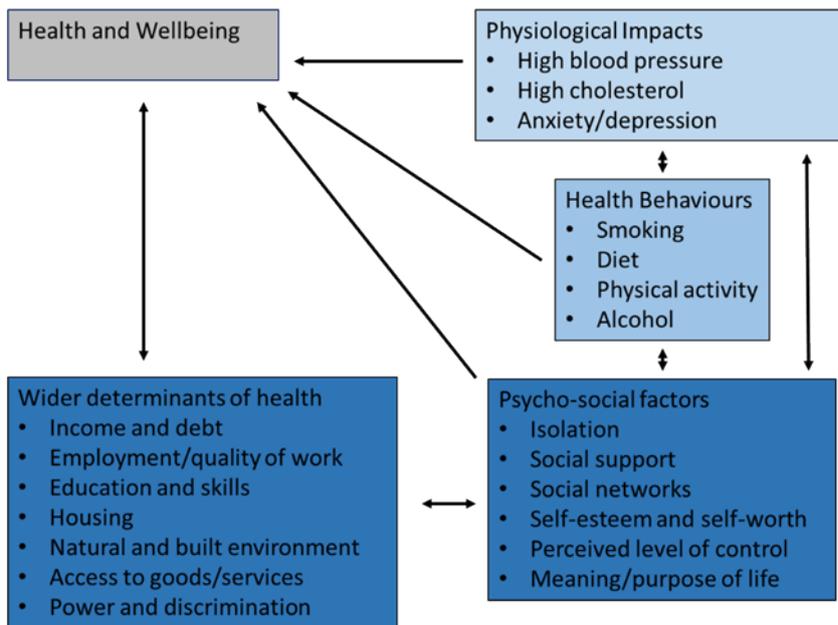
In previous reports I have described how good health is not only valuable in its own right but also contributes to thriving and vibrant economies and places. I have also described how staying healthy depends on much more than health care, important though that is in a crisis. Health is both created and maintained in the places we are born, live, work and socialise. A series of broader socio-economic factors, the physical environment, health behaviours as well as health care all contribute to health.



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

Adapted from The Bridgespan Group

There is increasing evidence that shows how all these factors not only have an individual impact on health but also combine through the body's response to chronic stress and trauma through psychosocial factors, health behaviours and ultimately physiological factors to lead to disease, disability and ultimately death.

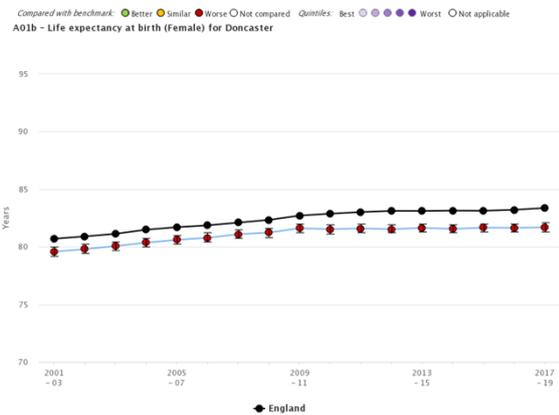
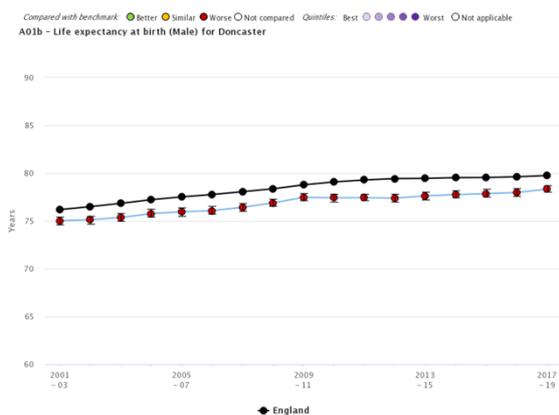


I have also previously described how everyone knows when they feel healthy and how Directors of Public Health use a range of population outcomes to assess overall health status. In particular, there are three headline measures that are used to describe overall population health, life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and health inequalities.

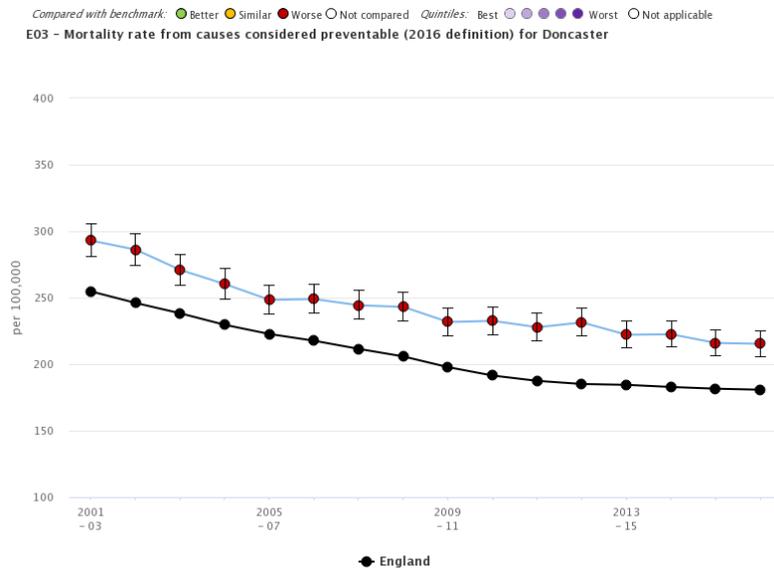
Life Expectancy

Life expectancy across England over the last 10 years has been flat. In Doncaster Life Expectancy continues to mirror the national picture albeit at a lower level.

For 2017-2019 life expectancy at birth in men is 78.3 years in Doncaster compared to 78.8 years for men in Yorkshire and the Humber and 79.9 years for men in England. Life expectancy at birth for women for 2017-2019 was 81.7 years in Doncaster compared to 82.5 years in Yorkshire and the Humber and 83.4 years in the England.

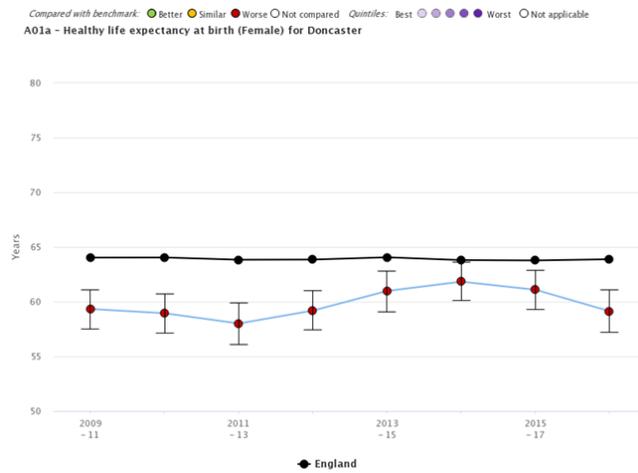
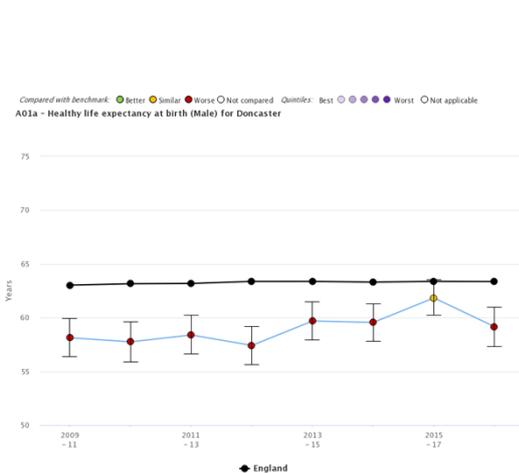


The contributors that make the biggest impact on life expectancy in Doncaster are deaths in childhood, deaths from overdose, violence and suicide, and premature deaths from heart disease, respiratory diseases and cancer. Many of these conditions are preventable and although reducing are not reducing as fast as nationally. In future years the impact of COVID will be seen on the data.



Healthy Life Expectancy

As well as assessing length of life, quality of life is important and this is measured by assessing Healthy Life Expectancy. This is the length of time people live in a self-assessed state of good or very good health. Although last year the Public Health Outcomes Framework showed that, for the first time since 2009, healthy life expectancy at birth for men in Doncaster was no longer significantly worse than the national rate, this trend has not continued. For 2016-18 healthy life expectancy for men is 59.2 years compared to the England rate of 63.4 years, a difference of 4.2 years. The latest data shows a health life expectancy for women of 59.1 years a difference between Doncaster women and England of 4.8 years. Although this is self-reported data, a fall of 2 years for both men and women is worthy of further investigation especially in terms of obvious inequalities.



Health Inequalities

Whether it is life expectancy or healthy life expectancy, over the last 10 years Doncaster has not closed the gap with the rest of England. Whether it is life expectancy or healthy life expectancy there has been little overall change and it's time to reassess whether there is more that can be done or new approaches employed to bridge this gap.

Indicator	Group	Measure	Baseline Period	Baseline Value	Reporting Period	Reporting Value	Absolute change	Trend
Life expectancy at birth-Male		Value	2011 - 13	77.4	2016 - 18	78.0	0.6	↑
	LSOA deprivation deciles	Slope index of inequality	2011 - 13	9.6	2016 - 18	10.9	1.3	↑
Life expectancy at birth-Female		Value	2011 - 13	81.6	2016 - 18	81.6	0.0	→
	LSOA deprivation deciles	Slope index of inequality	2011 - 13	7.4	2016 - 18	8.2	0.8	↑
Healthy life expectancy at birth-Male		Value	2011 - 13	58.4	2016 - 18	59.2	0.8	↑
Healthy life expectancy at birth-Female		Value	2011 - 13	58.0	2016 - 18	59.1	1.1	↑

Use of the Public Health Grant

The Council's Director of Public Health is tasked with leading the local public health function with the overall intention of improving health and improving the health of those with the worst health fastest. To achieve these goals often involves multi-sector and multi-party activity working across boundaries both between and within organisations. However, the council's public health function does receive a ring-fenced public health grant to support activity.

The public health grant is allocated through the council's budget setting process and can be directed to both mandated and non-mandated services guided by the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF), the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The list of public health services that are mandatory (prescribed) and non-mandatory (non-prescribed) includes the following:

Prescribed functions (mandated services):

- 1) Sexual health services – sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment
- 2) Sexual health services – Contraception
- 3) NHS Health Check programme
- 4) Local authority role in health protection
- 5) Public health advice to NHS Commissioners
- 6) National Child Measurement Programme
- 7) Prescribed Children's 0-5 services

Non-prescribed functions (non-mandated services):

- 8) Sexual health services - Advice, prevention and promotion
- 9) Obesity – adults and children
- 10) Physical activity – adults and children
- 11) Treatment for drug misuse and alcohol misuse in adults
- 12) Preventing and reducing harm from drug misuse and alcohol misuse in adults
- 13) Specialist drugs and alcohol misuse services for children and young people
- 14) Stop smoking services and interventions and wider tobacco control
- 15) Children 5-19 public health programmes
- 16) Other Children's 0-5 services non prescribed
- 17) Health at work
- 18) Public mental health
- 19) Miscellaneous, which includes: Nutrition initiatives, accident prevention, general prevention, community safety, violence prevention & social exclusion, dental public health, fluoridation, infectious disease surveillance and control, environmental hazards protection, seasonal death reduction initiatives birth defect prevention and other public health services

In 2020 the Public Health Grant was allocated as set out below. This includes bringing additional £716,000 in income into Doncaster from research grants and other external funding sources. The increase in the size of the grant was used to pay for national NHS pay awards and these are reflected in increased expenditure on NHS commissioned services including sexual health services and children's services.

	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget
	£000's	£000's
Public Health Grant	-23,180	-24,412
Public Health Other income	-330	-716
Public health Corporate recharges	-505	-720
Total PH income	-24,015	-25,848
Expenditure: Commissioned Services		
Sexual Health	2,242	2,397
NHS Health Check programme	375	375
Health protection	76	82
National Child Measurement Programme	68	68
Obesity	0	180
Physical Activity	71	169
Substance Misuse	5,805	5,399
Smoking and Tobacco	659	694
Children 5-19 public health programmes	1,827	1,845
Children 0-5 Health visiting	6,109	6,381
Mental Health	0	139
Other public health services misc H&WB	86	303
Income - expenditure (base budget) nb this contributes to the overall AH&WB budget position	173	167
Sub-total Commissioned Services	17,491	18,199
Public Health Advice (including Salary costs)	1,245	1,694
Support services	505	735
Sub-total Central and Support Services	1,750	2,429
Expenditure (wider determinants)		
Realignment	4,907	4,957
Growth	263	263
Sub-total wider determinants	5,170	5,220
shortfall i.e. income against expenditure	-396	0
Total Expenditure (commissioned + central & support + Wider determinants)	24,015	25,848

COVID related monies

Throughout the pandemic the council has received additional monies from central government to address specific aspects of the pandemic. A summary of the main funds that have been used to control the spread of the virus and support vulnerable people is provided below:

Funding	Allocation (£000's)	Deployment
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	7,927	To fund activities to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This includes mass testing, targeted testing and interventions for vulnerable groups, enhanced contact tracing, compliance and community support.
Infection Control Fund	6,000	For residential care providers and domiciliary care providers.
Test, Track and Trace	2,230	To develop and roll out a Test, Track and Trace programme.
Winter Grant	1,204	To provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic. This will include providing support with food, energy and water bills.
Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies	446	To help local authorities to continue to support those struggling to afford food and other essentials.
Self-Isolation Payment Scheme	304	For those with a Track & Trace number and on an in-work benefit or suffering financial hardship.
Rough sleepers / Next Steps	297	To help move rough sleepers into accommodation and provide further support.
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals (CEV)	228	To set up and manage a local system for contacting CEV individuals, assessing their food and basic support needs and where required delivering that support.

The Government has also provided £28.7m of unringfenced emergency funding in 2020/21, some of which will may also be used for public health interventions

Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services

Public Health England produce a public health dashboard that compares the performance of local services to similar or national benchmarks. <https://healthierlives.phe.org.uk/topic/public-health-dashboard/area-details#are/E08000017/par/cat-113-2/sim/cat-113-2>

Local Authorities that are closest to Doncaster in terms of the structure of population size, population density, employment, housing including council tax are:

Rotherham	Stockton-on-Tees	Kirklees
Wakefield	Tameside	Halton
Wigan	Telford and Wrekin	Bolton
St Helens	Calderdale	North East Lincolnshire
Barnsley	Dudley	North Lincolnshire

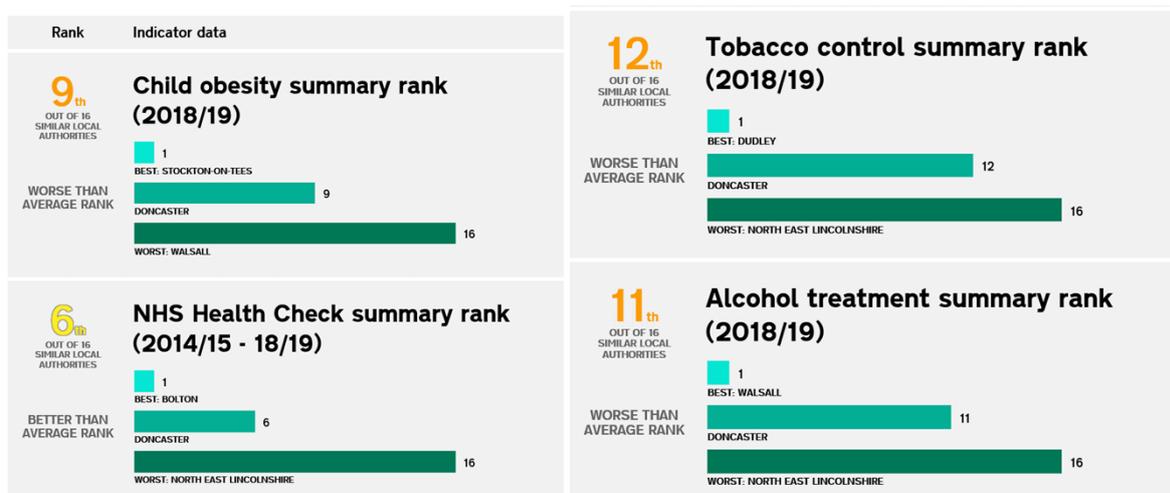
The following charts show how Doncaster performance ranks when compared to these comparator authorities.

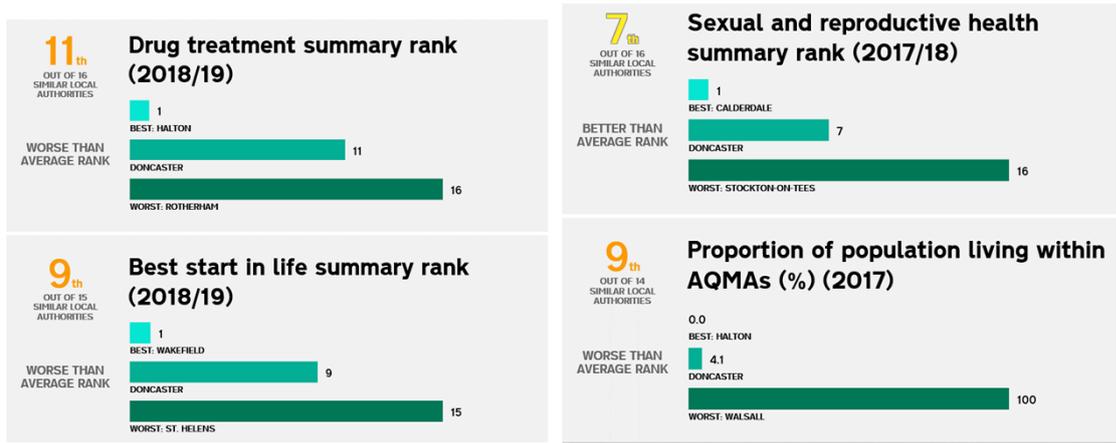
Similar local authorities

Similar view: Doncaster's rank within its CIPFA nearest neighbours (most similar local authorities)

Key for summary rank indicators

Group	Definition	Label
1st quartile	Lowest 25% of LAs (low rank is good)	Best
2nd quartile	LAs with values that lie between 25% and 50% in the rankings	Better than average rank
3rd quartile	LAs with values that lie between 50% and 75% in the rankings	Worse than average rank
4th quartile	Highest 25% of LAs	Worst





Alcohol treatment and drug treatment summary performance has fallen from last years report. This is due to the large number of dependent drinkers not in treatment and the low numbers of people succesfully completing drug treatment. Over the last year the council has created an Alcohol Alliance, and worked with ASPIRE the current treamtent provider to both increase capacity for people seeking treamtent for alcohol and restruuctre the delivery of substance misuse services whilst at the same time reducing the finanical investment in the services to balance the budget.

NHS health check performance has remaind good although the service is currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sexual health and reproductive health performance has also remained good.

Child obesity performance is static as are the proportion of people living within an Air Quality Management Area.

There have been small improvements in the Best Start in Life and Tobacco Control indicators but smoking rates are still too high.

Call to Action - The Future – A New Borough Strategy

A new **Doncaster Borough Strategy** will be launched in 2021 and given the recent experience with COVID-19 and the longstanding inequalities the pandemic exposed this is not before time. The strategy will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan (DGT) to drive a **transformation in the wellbeing** of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years. The **four year DGT Plan** was launched in September 2017 as the collective commitment of Team Doncaster to create a thriving place to live, learn, care and work.

‘Doncaster Caring’ is one of the four priority themes of DGT with the goal of supporting residents to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives. However, the other three themes (‘Living’, ‘Learning’ and ‘Working’) have supported a **whole-system approach** to tackling complex health and well-being issues across the life course.

A range of public health approaches have contributed to the approach:

- The prominence of the **Get Doncaster Moving** priority within DGT’s ‘Living’ theme has elevated the importance of supporting more people to be physically active not only through organised sport but by making healthy choices in everyday activities such as active travel.
- The award winning **Complex Lives** programme takes a holistic joined up approach to tackling homelessness and the factors influencing it.
- From a Doncaster Learning perspective the **Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives** programme is supporting Doncaster children and young people to learn in an environment that supports their health.
- The **Be Well @ Work** programme is supporting local businesses to build good internal health practices and the ‘Doncaster Working’ theme’s priority of developing more inclusive, productive economy.

The annual **‘State of the Borough’** assessment supports a more intelligence-led, self-aware approach to developing and delivering DGT priorities.

Over the past two years a number of **profound and pressing challenges** have come into stark relief.

In September 2019 Ros Jones, the Mayor of Doncaster declared a **Climate Change and Biodiversity crisis** and instigated a Commission to consider what action needed to be taken. A couple of months later Doncaster experienced severe, widespread **flooding** affecting hundreds of homes and businesses. This was followed by the **Covid-19 pandemic** which has dominated 2020 and created both a health and economic crisis. It has highlighted health inequalities, particularly the vulnerability of people with underlying health conditions and risk factors and also the uneven impact of job losses and business closures on people, places and sectors.

Amidst the unprecedented turmoil and distress, the **underlying capabilities of people, places and businesses** have come to the fore, which have the potential to be enhanced and connected, including:

- Compassion, community spirit, creativity, innovation, resilience and resourcefulness.

The response of the new Borough Strategy will be **drive a step-change** in Team Doncaster’s collective, whole-system approach to improving wellbeing - crucially guided by the need to:

- **Balance the wellbeing of people and the planet**

This requires seeing Doncaster as **place of places in an interconnected world**, with common challenges and opportunities. The climate and biodiversity crisis, pandemics, new technologies, inequalities and ageing populations all demand new approaches to delivering economic growth and improving well-being.

Recognising, for example that as natural habitat and biodiversity losses increase globally, the novel coronavirus outbreak may be **just the beginning of mass pandemics**.

Whilst at the same time responding to the distinctive needs, aspirations and character of our local communities, as reflecting in the **‘Doncaster Talks’** feedback.

The **Doncaster Wellbeing Wheel** opposite shows the **six emerging well-being goals** in the new Borough Strategy. It marks a turning point in how Team Doncaster approaches life now and for future generations.

The Goals take the DGT themes, but then **sharpen the focus on the well-being imperatives including:**

- Improving skills and supporting creativity
- Improving the safety and resilience of people and business to challenges like pandemics
- Developing a more compassionate approach to improving health and well-being
- Developing an economy that provides good, well paid jobs and connecting the Borough, including via public transport and active travel.

The **‘Greener & Cleaner’** outer circle prioritises:

- The need to consider the impact on the local and global environment in all we do.

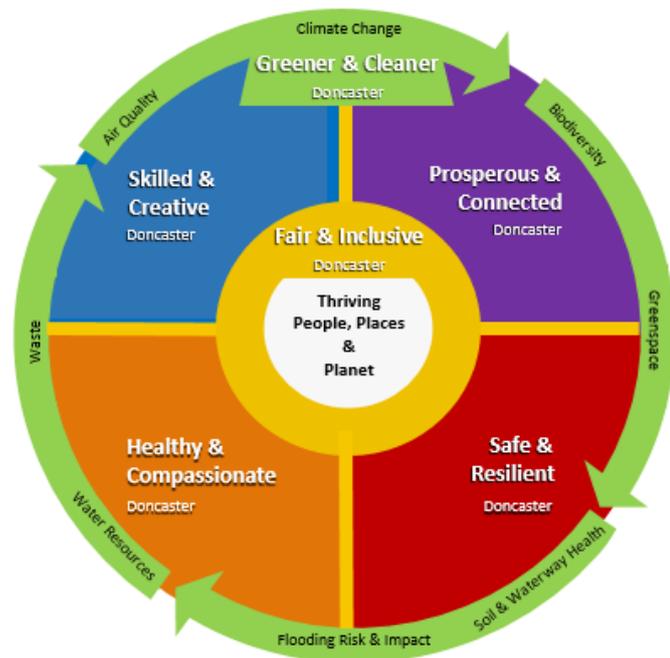
The **‘Fair & Inclusive’** inner circle provides a focus on:

- Tackling inequalities and improving access to social and economic opportunities.

This well-being framework has the **policy breadth** to improve Team Doncaster’s approach to promoting and integrating the wider determinants of health, for example relating to education, safety, employment, housing and air quality. The further development of the goals and the supporting strategies (e.g. the Environment Strategy) will support decision-makers to identify **trade-offs and synergies** across different policy areas

Doncaster has a number of **strategic opportunities** to achieve significant and lasting improvements in well-being, including to:

- Re-evaluate what constitutes economic success and consider how to transition to a **well-being economy** – which balances human and planetary health and is long-term, resilient, inclusive, distributive and regenerative.
- Develop a **regenerative borough** that renews and improves its assets, strengths and capabilities. This includes developing a **circular economy** that keeps finite resources in a loop of use and reuse using renewable energy sources, enhances our natural environment and designs out waste from production.



- Work **across local and regional boundaries** on shared priorities with a **‘one catchment’** perspective, for example to improve biodiversity, reduce the risk of flooding and the borough’s overall resilience.
- Create a significant number of **new green jobs and businesses**, working with the grain of Doncaster’s economic assets, industry strengths and developing new UK and global supply chain opportunities. Also crucially, using a ‘just green revolution’ to **address ‘wicked problems’** particularly health inequalities.
- Develop the **Foundational Economy** – which support the majority of Doncaster jobs and produces the essential goods and services that cannot be shut down (e.g. health, social care and food production) as the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated. As part of this, develop good **health as the new wealth** – which is valuable in its own right and also contributes to thriving and vibrant economies and places.

Delivering the Borough Strategy will require **closer working with communities, shared responsibilities** and a mission-orientated approach to **innovation** that is targeted at challenges like improving vocational skills.

The Council’s new **Corporate Plan**, to be agreed in March 2021 will provide a more developed summary of Doncaster’s approach to well-being ahead of the agreement of the new Borough Strategy by September 2021.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, although the arrival of effective vaccinations are a cause for hope. There is still much to be done to prevent as many new cases of COVID-19 as possible, to identify new cases of COVID-19, respond promptly to those cases and reduce the impact of any new cases on individuals and the wider population. As well as these direct impacts on health of COVID-19 the health and care system must continue to adapt and offer care for those with other non-COVID-19 needs and at the same time prepare to support those whose health was impacted by the national lockdown or restrictions especially those suffering from mental health impacts. Community centred approaches have come to the fore and they should be developed further. At the same time education, work and the wider economy need to be stimulated as we move into recovery and renewal.

2020 and COVID-19 in particular has shone a light on poverty, long term inequalities and a lack of resilience not just in Doncaster but in the UK more generally. As 2021 begins, with a new relationship with the European Union, we should take this opportunity to rebalance our approaches to health, wealth and the economy. Health and the economy are intrinsically linked and the best way to address the pandemic is the good for both health and the economy. Any recovery needs to have a productive, low carbon economy at its heart, with a job's led recovery leading to low unemployment, wages that keep pace with the cost of living and a reduction in child poverty. Connecting people to place grounds health and the economy.

Recommendations

Team Doncaster and partners should:

- Recognise, celebrate and support the role of 'Key workers' in the way Doncaster operates
- Develop and adopt a new Borough strategy to spearhead recovery and renewal
- Continue to develop asset based, community centred approaches to health and wellbeing working with and for communities
- Revitalise approaches to health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion
- Learn the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to prepare for future public health emergencies in light of the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) following the review of Public Health England



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 21 Jan 2020

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

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. An Environment and Sustainability strategy has been developed in response to the climate change and biodiversity emergency declaration made by Full Council in 2019. The strategy is derived from the latest research, data, opinion and insight gathered from residents, elected representatives, and a range of partner organisations, some via the Climate and Biodiversity Commission.
2. The strategy is presented alongside an evidence base, which together form part of a package of documents that include the climate and biodiversity commission report and numerous partner-specific strategies and plans.

EXEMPT REPORT

3. N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Approve the Environment and Sustainability strategy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. The Strategy sets out how residents, elected representatives, public and private sector organisations and community groups need to respond to the climate change and biodiversity crisis. It identifies a range of interventions of various scales from simple individual behaviour changes to significant borough-wide investment requirements.

BACKGROUND

6. Full Council declared a climate change and biodiversity emergency in 2019, and a Local Commission, led by Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, drew upon the insight and expertise of various public and private sector organisations, government agencies and resident representatives to discuss a range of environmental priority areas. A series of recommendations were presented in their final report in December 2020.
7. Alongside the work of the Commission, numerous 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises were held to directly gather the opinions and views of residents, as well as multiple series of elected member workshops and officer working groups representing public and private sector partners.
8. The strategy is an amalgamation of the views of multiple stakeholders and includes both new activity and a continuation or expansion of existing commitments and initiatives already included in individual partner strategies and action plans.
9. The strategy considers the drivers and impacts of issues and interventions from both a global and local perspective. It aims to provide a clear and transparent understanding of the challenges we face, as well as the numerous opportunities that environment-focused interventions will bring across other strategic priorities (e.g. economy, health and wellbeing).
10. The strategy is consistent with and complimentary to individual partner environment/sustainability strategies, as well as other partnership strategies that are either in place or currently in development e.g. Borough Strategy, Housing Strategy.
11. The strategy (Appendix A) is presented as part of a package of documents which includes an Evidence Base (Appendix B) as well as the Climate and Biodiversity Commission report and individual partner environment strategies and plans.
12. There are a couple of key matters in particular that are included in the strategy document that decision-makers might want to be aware of:

Funding

13. This is a key issue across numerous strategy priority areas and interventions. Significant deprivation remains across several areas within Doncaster, and recent flooding and the Covid-19 pandemic have severely affected the financial stability of many businesses. As such, not everyone will have the money to make the necessary investments required to achieve strategy objectives.
14. The strategy is clear that there are some things that we can do now with no investment required – it's simply about changing our behaviours. There are also some things that some organisations will be able to do now with minimal investment. However, there are some things that businesses and households will be unable to do without funding support, especially given the levels of household deprivation and large proportion of businesses struggling as a result of Covid-19.

15. The strategy has identified the need for Team Doncaster to put in place a means of supporting stakeholders to obtain funding from Government or private investment funding streams (e.g. from organisations needing to offset their unavoidable emissions). Doing so would mean that those that are unable to make the necessary investments themselves don't miss out on having the same impact as others, and achieving the associated health, wellbeing and financial benefits that accompany the interventions.
16. There is a strong message, from both a financial and environmental point of view, about the longer-term benefits of the proposed investments, as well as a significantly higher cost of not acting.
17. The strategy is also clear on the value of Team Doncaster partners identifying and co-procuring responses to various environment issues, so that economies of scale bring unit prices down. This could be public sector partners working together, public and private sector partnerships, and even using street or community-level procurement to make individual interventions more affordable.

Monitoring and Governance

18. Due to the strategy identifying what needs to be done over the longer term, there is need for a clear process of monitoring progress towards those goals and holding partners to account for delivering their required contribution to the collective effort.
19. The Team Doncaster partnership board will have ultimate responsibility for delivery of the strategy and will assign responsibility for implementation of the Strategy to an appropriate delivery group. This group will be established in early 2021 with representatives from all stakeholder groups. Stakeholders will be required to contribute to the delivery of the strategy, and will have ultimate responsibility for monitoring and governance. There is also a role for Scrutiny Panels to challenge Team Doncaster on progress at appropriate stages throughout the year/strategy period.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

20. Option 1: Approve the strategy. (Recommended)
21. Option 2: Do not approve the strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

22. International, regional and local leaders have all acknowledged the climate change and biodiversity emergency. This is a global issue, but also a local issue. Doncaster needs to set out how we intend to play our part in the national effort to combat this emergency, as well as respond to the local environmental issues that Doncaster is currently faced with and will likely face in the future. The strategy is the first step in identifying and communicating the scale and breadth of the challenge we face and encouraging a partnership approach to our collective response.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 23.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Environment-focused interventions represent significant economic recovery and growth opportunities. They can create jobs, support new enterprises, and encourage better partnership working amongst businesses.</p>
<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Various environment-friendly initiatives (e.g. improving energy efficiency of homes; access to a greener, cleaner environment; or increasing active travel) can provide financial benefits to residents and businesses (e.g. through reduced running costs), but also contribute to improving mental and physical health and reducing inequalities across the Borough.</p>
<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Knowledge and awareness of environmental issues will help residents and businesses make the right choices for our natural environment, but also the best choices for their households or businesses. New skills developed for new green industries will contribute to the Education and Skills ambition to upskill our labour force and support workers to obtain higher wage employment.</p>
<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>All residents can benefit from numerous interventions included in the strategy that will provide direct and indirect health benefits. This could prevent or postpone the need for care as more people will live healthier and more active lifestyles. This will be more possible from the right environment and infrastructure improvements (e.g. better quality homes, reduced fuel poverty, active travel, more leisure options, improved physical and mental health.)</p> <p>Engaging with nature and environment-friendly initiatives can also help with childhood development and provides opportunities for children to be exposed to different, enriching experiences.</p>
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer 	<p>Interventions that benefit the environment also benefit businesses and organisations through improved energy efficiency/reduced running costs;</p>

<p>interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>contributing to their corporate social responsibility; and a healthier workforce. Taking action towards addressing climate change can also help businesses and residents feel like they are part of the solution in the Borough and can provide a sense of community and connectedness through doing things together to make a difference for Doncaster.</p> <p>Planning for and mitigating risks associated with environmental emergencies such as flooding can help the Council and partners in their response if/when these events occur again.</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

24. Many of the interventions included in the strategy can be delivered to some level within current partnership resources, but likely cannot be delivered to the extent/scale required to achieve the objectives. Significant investment is required by households, businesses and other organisations who may not have access to the money to do so. Additional funding sources (e.g. Government, SCR, private investors) will need to be identified and exploited to deliver the scale of intervention required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [SRF Date 23/11/20]

25. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do. S111 Local Government Act 1972 further provides that a local authority shall have power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. The Government has issued a series of Environmental targets and this strategy should take account of any Central Government requirements and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to any changes in those targets and strategies.
26. Any monies spent in pursuant of this strategy should be spent in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and any decisions taken pursuant to this strategy should be taken within the legal framework within which local government sits. Further specific legal advice will be required as to the implementation and operation of the strategy and how it sits alongside other Council policies and procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [OB Date 23/11/2020]

27. The implementation of the strategy is subject to the availability of both capital and revenue budgets. Although it is anticipated that some of the interventions included in the strategy could be delivered using existing partnership resources, additional sources of funding such as income from government grants and private investors will need to be identified and maximised to deliver the scale of intervention required. Any budget pressures arising from the

implementation of the strategy should be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [DK Date 20/11/2020]

28. There are no direct HR imps in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW Date 20/11/2020]

29. There are no specific technology implications relating to the recommendations in this report. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy would need to be discussed with Digital & ICT and where applicable would need to be considered and prioritised by the Technology Governance Board (TGB).

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT Date 24/11/2020]

30. Public Health supports the approval of the Strategy, which will enable the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through the provision of healthy environments for the residents of Doncaster. Public Health has worked closely with the authors, providing input to the evidence base that sits alongside this Strategy.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [AB Date 23/11/2020]

31. Data and information collated as part of developing this strategy has not focused on any one specific group, area or characteristic, but instead has collected data which applies to all of Doncaster Borough and its population. The information collected has covered different aspects of the environment, both in terms of the current situation and options for interventions to respond to the issues faced.
32. Evidence gathering and consultation/engagement has sought input and feedback from as diverse an audience as possible in order to understand the needs and experiences of all members of Doncaster's population, including those in protected groups. A range of specific consultation exercises have taken place including partner workshops, elected member seminars and public engagement through various Doncaster Talks engagement events.
33. The Strategy is a high-level document setting out our strategic intent. The impact of many projects that stem from this Environment and Sustainability Strategy will require more in-depth consideration to understand the needs of each protected group. As we develop and propose individual projects/ activities to implement the Strategy, project/locality-specific Due Regard Statements will be considered to ensure that specific cohorts with protected characteristics are adequately considered, included, engaged in the activity/opportunities and supported to contribute to the activity required.

CONSULTATION

34. Consultation has been a huge part of the development process for this strategy. This strategy is a borough-wide, multi-partner strategy that requires the contribution of various stakeholders. It has been critical to gather their opinions and insight on what is happening or not happening now, and what needs to happen in the future. It has also acted as a communication tool to prepare residents, businesses and organisations for the activities and required contributions that will come during the implementation of the strategy. Due regard has been given to ensure various stakeholders have been included in the development of the strategy; a Due Regard Statement is included as Appendix C.

35. A summary of the engagement is provided below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer 2019 - Doncaster Talks• Oct 2019 - Ward Member seminars• Nov 2019 - Doncaster Talks (Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering)• Jan 2020 - Parish Councils (PCJCC)• Jan 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel• Jul 2020 - Ward Member seminars• Jul 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct 2020 - Doncaster Talks (Environment)• Oct 2020 - Parish Councils (PCJCC)• Sep 2020 - Members of Parliament• Nov 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel• Partner officer representatives (throughout 2019 and 2020)• Elected leadership (throughout 2020)
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36. This research has given us a clear picture that tackling climate change is a priority for many people, and that many are already acting in response to it. The key factor in achieving our strategic aims will be to help more people to take similar action, and to encourage people, businesses or organisation to do more wherever they can – and where they cannot, we need to find ways to support them to do so.

37. As part of the latter stages of the strategy development, The Community and Environment Scrutiny panel and Team Doncaster Partnership Board have both reviewed the Strategy and given it their endorsement (Team Doncaster response to the Commission report included in Appendix D). The strategy was approved by Cabinet on 12 January 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

38. None.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

39. N/A.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2030

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FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR OF DONCASTER

Welcome to Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability strategy.

Global, national, regional and local leaders all agree on the need to protect the environment and limit global temperature change to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Failure to do so may cause irreversible damage to the planet causing detrimental impact to all life on earth.

This threat does not exist merely in the future; Doncaster is experiencing major environmental issues now. The recent devastation caused by flooding and moor fires are just two examples that show the need for us all to act now to protect communities from the impact of climate change both now and in the future, and to ensure there is still a habitable planet for future generations.

This environment emergency is broad and interrelated to many other policy areas. Our economic, housing, health, transport, education and environment strategies must all be consistent with and complimentary to each other and with our new borough strategy, ensuring that the challenges and opportunities identified in each are considered and tackled together to support the achievement of our strategic wellbeing goals.

This strategy draws upon the opinion, insight, feedback and recommendations collected from residents, elected representatives and partners – much of which came from the Climate and Biodiversity Commission and Doncaster Talks public engagement exercises.

As we continue to rebuild and grow our economy post Covid-19, we must take advantage of the growth in both existing and new green technology sectors, as well as benefiting financially from energy efficiency improvements and the re-use, removal or reduction of waste. We can tailor today's homes to the standards of tomorrow, removing the need for costly retrofitting in the future, and potentially saving residents considerable money via reduced energy bills. As transport changes to introduce new technologies, we must position ourselves to take advantage of new, cleaner options, both individually and commercially; and continue our transition to cleaner sources of electricity, bringing clean and renewable energy into our homes and industry.

The scale of the challenge should not be underestimated. We must overcome the environmental impact of decades of industrialisation and change what could be a lifetime of habits and behaviours. We all need to make our own contributions – individuals, families, businesses, community groups and public sector organisations, which collectively will make a difference to the future of our borough and help with the collective effort to combat climate change.

Some changes and interventions are easier than others, and for some, the impact will be greater and seen quicker than others. Some however, will be significant, could take longer to achieve and see the benefit from, and could be quite costly. However, the cost of not acting will be greater – both to individual and organisational finances, our health, safety and our overall way of life.

We are the generation that will need to take the difficult decisions, to take the 'short-term pain', in order to achieve the longer-term gain that results from our actions today.

Although we face a significant challenge, this agenda also brings massive opportunities for Doncaster – be it in the form of economic gain for existing and new businesses, increased jobs and better paid jobs for our local workforce; cleaner, safer and more pleasant neighbourhoods for locals and visitors to enjoy, and improved public health and well-being for our residents.

I call on all Doncaster residents, businesses and organisations to put the environment at the forefront of their thinking in the way they live their lives and manage their organisations. If we all work together, then we can continue to enjoy the improvements we have seen over recent years, and we can continue to enjoy a borough that is a pleasant place to live, work and visit for everyone.

If Doncaster is going to make its contribution to this national and international effort, then we need to act now.

Ros Jones, Elected Mayor of Doncaster



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy set outs how we will play our part in the national effort to reduce carbon emissions and help limit global average temperature increases. It also identifies how we will respond to Doncaster-specific issues like litter, fly tipping, and flooding. The strategy is derived from the input and expertise of numerous stakeholders such as businesses and organisations (including the Climate and Biodiversity Commission) as well as from residents and elected members (via Doncaster Talks public engagement exercises and member seminars).

OUR VISION FOR DONCASTER

Doncaster businesses, organisations and residents will deliver their contribution to the regional, national and international effort to tackle the climate change emergency; and in doing so will improve and maintain a pleasant and sustainable natural and built environment for everyone to enjoy.

We will have clean air and water, thriving plants and animals, and a sustainable economy that protects and enhances our natural and built environment.

Our homes and other buildings will be energy efficient; our transport network will have minimal impact on nature, and people will have access to attractive green spaces both for leisure and to live and work in.

Future generations will look back and realise we made the right choices in prioritising the environment in order to sustain and enhance quality of life in Doncaster.

OUR AMBITION

Become carbon neutral by 2040, recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030 (compared to a baseline of 2005 levels), and increase the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, wildflower grassland and thus support greater biodiversity.

PRIORITIES

Over a dozen priority areas/sub-topics have been identified within the strategy, each of which have a series of key aims and delivery actions (details in later sections of the strategy).

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Protect and enhance **WOODLAND** and **GREEN SPACES**, plant more **TREES**.
- Protect and enhance **BIODIVERSITY** to support resilient ecosystems.
- Improve **WATER QUALITY** in rivers and lakes, maintain & enhance **DRAINAGE**, and protect from **FLOODING**.
- Protect, enhance, and promote the conservation of our internationally important **PEATLAND**.
- Manage **CONTAMINATED LAND** appropriately.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Improve the **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** of homes and other buildings.
- Increase the **ENERGY** production from **SUSTAINABLE** sources.
- Proactively and reactively tackle **NOISE**, **LIGHT**, and **ODOUR NUISANCES**.
- Improve **air quality** by reducing **TRANSPORT** emissions.

ECONOMY

- Exploit opportunities in **GREEN TECHNOLOGY** industry sectors.
- Encourage and support **EXISTING BUSINESSES** to improve energy efficiency and waste/recycling practices.
- Exploit blue and green **NATURE TOURISM** opportunities, whilst ensuring their protection and supporting their enhancement.
- Support the local **FARMING** sector to supply locally and operate efficiently using environmentally friendly operations.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Reduce avoidable **FOOD** waste. Encourage and support food sourcing from local, sustainable providers.
- Focus on the reduction, re-use, repair, recycling and recovery of household and commercial **WASTE**.
- Reduce **FLY TIPPING** and **LITTERING**; and optimise the response to incidences when they do occur.
- Raise awareness, share best practice, support and **EDUCATE** partners, businesses and residents on how their own **BEHAVIOUR CHANGES** can contribute to environmental improvements, whilst also achieving economic, health and social benefits.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

No single organisation or group can tackle this challenge alone. All businesses, public sector organisations, community groups and individual households must play their part. An indication of the contributions different groups can make are listed below:

Businesses and Public Sector Organisations

- Identify and share advice, guidance and good practice.
- Work collaboratively on investment, procurement and operational activity.
- Identify and share awareness of opportunities associated with private finance options.
- Invest in electrification of fleet vehicles.
- Include environmental factors in procurement policies.
- Decarbonisation of energy supplies through demand reduction and low carbon energy generating technology.
- Identify opportunities for local partnerships – supply chains and customer base.
- Take advantage of funding opportunities for environmental improvements.
- Consider, and where possible, prioritise longer-term benefits and savings against short-term costs.
- Ensure appropriate policies are in place to encourage, enable, and support residents and employees to deliver on their role.
- Invest in higher energy efficiency features for new and existing buildings.

Residents

- Reduce waste; maximise re-use and recycling.
- Dispose of unavoidable waste considerately - don't drop litter and choose legitimate waste disposal companies/facilities.
- Invest in home energy efficiency improvements.
- Consider the environment when making transport choices: cycling, walking, using public transport, car sharing, and investing in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles where possible.
- Consider the environmental impact of the products you buy, how sustainable the materials used are, where it will be shipped from, and whether natural resources such as peat are being exploited.
- Shop locally wherever you can and consider the impact of buying from further afield.
- Make space for nature in your garden and support naturalisation in community areas.
- Support community initiatives e.g. litter picking.

Elected members (Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Parish Councils)

- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for funding opportunities to support the implementation of the interventions required, to the scale required.
- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for legislative changes that make environmental priorities mandatory.
- Give the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

This strategy was developed in partnership with numerous Team Doncaster partners. The views of residents, elected members, public and private sector organisations, and Government agencies have been considered and collated to form a compromise and consensus on the ambition, the type and scale of interventions, and individual or collective contributions needed in order to address these critical issues.

Doncaster's Commission on the climate and biodiversity crisis has spent the last year discussing specific issues and potential solutions, informed by the latest data and expert insight from a range of partners across different environmental disciplines. They have made numerous recommendations which can be found in the published report.

Residents have voiced their concerns and opinions via numerous 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises in summer 2019, autumn 2019, spring 2020, and summer 2020. Elected members and Team Doncaster partners have contributed to the strategy development process across the year via member workshops and working groups, with Government agencies providing insight and support throughout.

Partners involved in the development of this strategy, many via the Climate Commission, include but are not limited to the list below. Delivery of the strategy and achievement of the vision for Doncaster will require an equally collective and collaborative effort from these partners and others.

- Residents
- Elected ward members
- Parish Councils
- Members of Parliament
- Doncaster Youth Parliament
- Doncaster Green Party
- Doncaster Mayor and Cabinet
- South Yorkshire Police
- Doncaster Council
- St Leger Homes of Doncaster
- Doncaster Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital
- Doncaster Chamber of Commerce
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Engie UK
- Go Green Ltd
- Doncopolitan Magazine
- Bentley Urban Farm
- Peel Land and Property Group
- University of Leeds
- Environment Agency
- National Farmers' Union

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

- The International Paris Agreement on Climate Change is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. Around 200 countries, including the UK, have signed the agreement signifying their intention to help limit global temperature increases.
- The UK Climate Change Act has been enacted in 2019 and the UK Government set out its 10-point plan in 2020 for achieving carbon neutrality:
 - Increase offshore wind energy capacity sufficient to power every home by 2030.
 - Invest £500m in hydrogen-based energy production.
 - Invest in large- and small-scale nuclear power with advanced modular reactors.
 - Invest more than £2.8bn in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure; ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans in 2030 (Some hybrids will be allowed until 2035).
 - Cleaner public transport, thousands of green buses and hundreds of miles of cycle lanes.
 - Aim to achieve the first non-stop transatlantic journey with a zero emissions plane and ship.
 - Invest £1bn in 2021 to make homes, schools and hospitals greener, and energy bills lower.
 - Establish a new world-leading industry in carbon capture and storage, backed by £1bn of government investment for clusters across the North, Wales and Scotland.
 - Absorb carbon by planting 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025 and rewilding 30,000 football pitches' worth of countryside.
 - Help commercialise new low-carbon technologies via a £1bn energy innovation fund.

LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

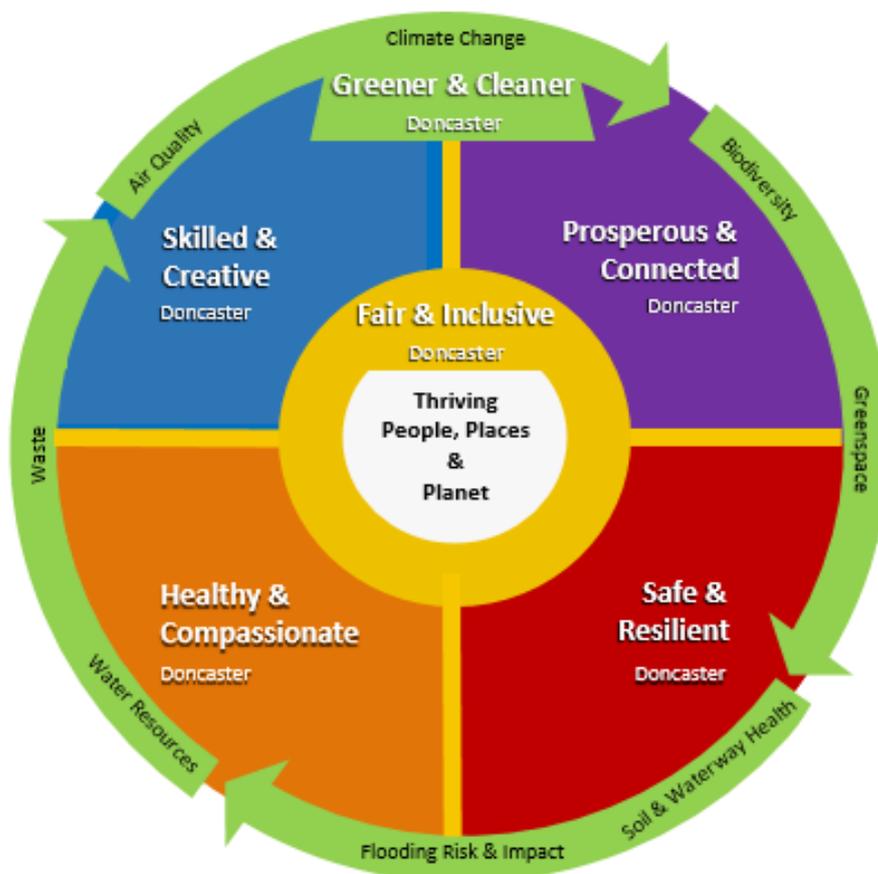
Borough Strategy and Wellbeing Goals

A revised Doncaster Borough Strategy will be launched in 2021. It will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.

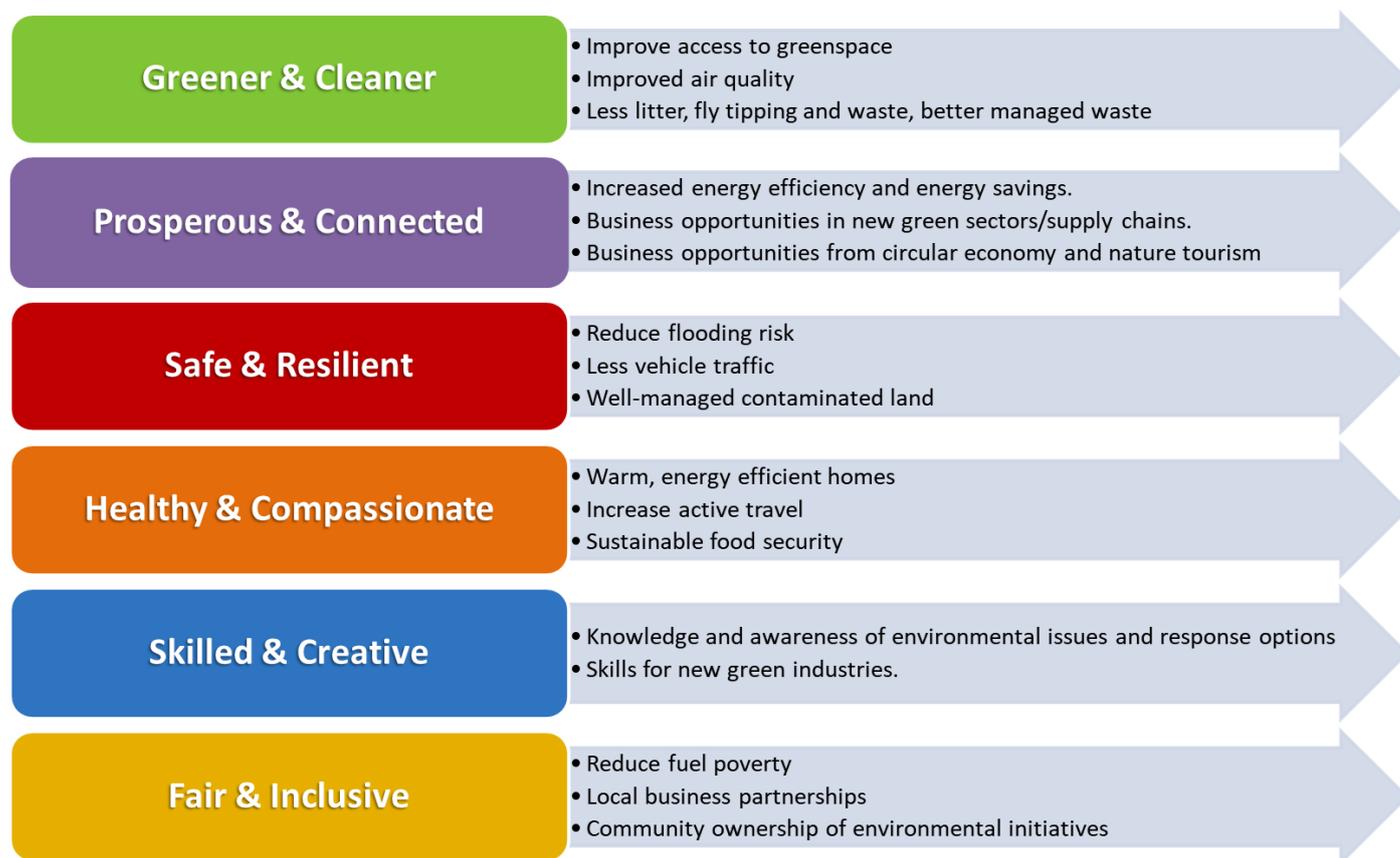
The Strategy will focus on the local quality of life issues residents have identified through 'Doncaster Talks' and global shared challenges like the climate change and biodiversity crisis.

Six emerging well-being goals include creating a greener and cleaner borough, improving the safety and resilience of places to challenges like flooding and developing a more compassionate Doncaster. Alongside these will be creating quality jobs, improving education and skills, tackling inequalities and supporting culture and creativity.

Delivering the Borough Strategy will require closer working with communities, shared responsibilities and a more regenerative approach to development.



The Environment and Sustainability strategy will have a significant impact on the following emerging Borough Strategy well-being goals:



KEY STRATEGIES

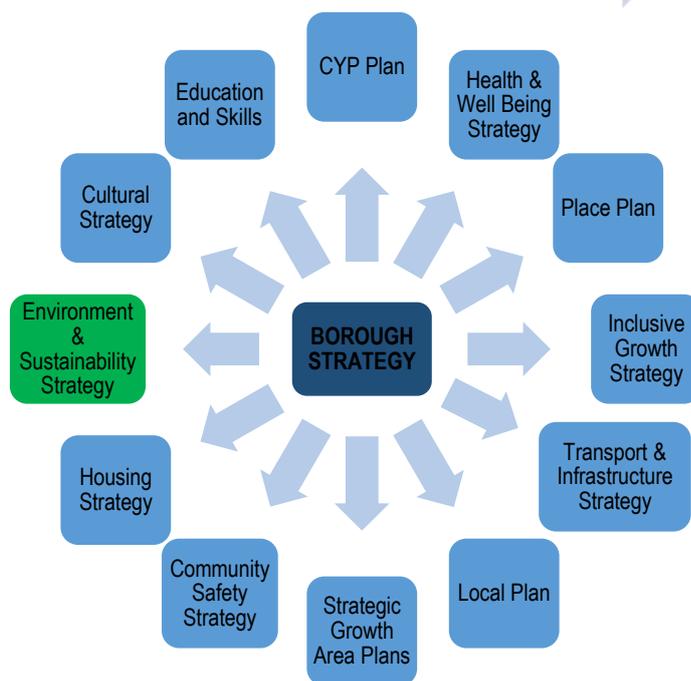
The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is just one of a number of key strategies that will support the delivery of the Borough Strategy and achievement of our wellbeing goals.

Each tier 2 strategy is consistent and complementary to the borough strategy and to each other.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This Strategy is part of a package of documents. The reader can access the data, research and insight upon which it has been derived via the *Evidence Base* and the *Climate and Biodiversity Commission* report.

Further details on individual partners' commitments and plans to address the environment and sustainability can be found in their own individual strategies and plans, which are summarised and referenced in the *Evidence Base* document.



The Environment and Sustainability strategy has several sub-strategies and plans that address specific topics; some of which are listed below. More detail and web links can be found in the Evidence Base document.

- Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree Risk Management Plan.
- Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Moors Site management plans.
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Water Level Management Plans
- Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, UK Peatland Strategy
- Housing Delivery Plan, Doncaster Energy Masterplan, SCR Energy Strategy
- Air Quality Action Plan, Doncaster Walking Strategy, Doncaster Cycling Strategy, Get Doncaster Moving Strategy
- Doncaster Visitor Economy Strategy, SCR Strategic Economic Plan.
- NFU Net zero Strategy, National Food Strategy.
- Resource and Waste Strategy, South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.

OUR VISION FOR DONCASTER

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Future generations will look back and realise we made the right choices in prioritising the environment in order to sustain and enhance quality of life in Doncaster.

OUR AMBITION

The UK Government and Sheffield City Region Combined Authority have adopted targets to become carbon neutral by 2050 and 2040, respectively. Locally, Full Council took the decision to declare a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis; in doing so, challenging Doncaster to become carbon neutral, protect and enhance our natural environment, and move towards an innovative, inclusive economy, built on clean growth, decent wages, and a sustainable health and care system. Different organisations are aiming to become carbon neutral in different timeframes, but overall, this Strategy adopts the ambition recommended by the Climate and Biodiversity Commission:

Become carbon neutral by 2040, recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030 (compared to a baseline of 2005 levels), and increase the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, wildflower grassland and thus support greater biodiversity.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

CLIMATE CHANGE

When certain gases produced from human activity build up in the atmosphere, they prevent energy that would ordinarily escape into space from doing so. This creates a 'greenhouse' or warming effect on the planet, which in turn increases average temperatures across the globe. Humans have already caused global warming of around 1°C above pre-industrial levels and if this trend continues then this will reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. This is the point after which the sorts of climate change impacts we are already seeing worldwide will become more severe and more regular; and natural systems may undergo lasting changes that subsequently effect our way of life.

The United Nations-led international treaty known as the 'Paris Agreement' on Climate Change (2016) agreed that all signatory nations would commit to measures intending to keep global warming 'well below' 2°C, and to 'make efforts' to keep it below 1.5°C. Keeping within the global carbon budget for greenhouse gases would give us a 66% of achieving this.

The threat to use all is clear: 'Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species, and global economic disruption and crisis'.

BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life within a particular area, habitat or ecosystem (a community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each. Human survival depends on healthy ecosystems providing us with benefits, environmental goods and services such as:

- Production of food, clean water, medical and other resources.
- Nutrient cycling, oxygen production, soil formation, habitat provision, pollination of food crops, and carbon capture and sequestration.
- Climate regulation, waste decomposition, control of animal populations, pests and diseases.
- Cultural, recreational and mental health benefits.

Our reliance on the natural processes of carbon sequestration by plants and trees, along with other ecosystem services, means that the climate crisis and biodiversity are inextricably linked. It is vital therefore, that measures to mitigate against the threat of global warming also promote the recovery of nature and its role in supporting resilient ecosystems. Agricultural land management, deforestation, climate change, hydrological change, pollution urbanisation, woodland management and invasive non-native species are amongst the most significant of pressures. One million species already face extinction unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of the drivers of biodiversity loss.

THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

The global carbon budget can be divided using population sizes to give national, regional and local carbon budgets. Doing so gives Doncaster a total carbon budget of around 12 million tonnes of CO₂e. Once this has been spent, we need to be 'carbon neutral'. This means reducing our emissions such that any remaining emissions can be cancelled out by carbon capture or offsetting. Forecasts suggest that, at current rates, Doncaster will use up its carbon budget in by 2027.

Doncaster clearly needs to reduce its rate of emissions such that our limited carbon budget lasts longer during which we can make the necessary investments and behavioural changes to transition to a lower carbon economy and way of living.

The Government's most recent biodiversity assessment indicates that the UK will not meet the Global 2020 targets it has committed to. Rapid changes in species abundance continues, with more species decreasing than increasing and with the rate of decline not letting-up and in some cases accelerating. Species distribution is falling, and 15% (1,188) of conservation-status species, are currently assessed as being threatened with extinction.

There are difficult investment and prioritisation decisions to be made: longer-term cost savings and benefits to the environment and the cost of not acting now versus the short and immediate term costs of changing behaviours, technology, and working practices. This is a difficult balancing act under normal circumstances but becomes more complicated during the current economic recovery period following major incidents such as the recent flooding and Covid-19 pandemic.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN DONCASTER

Doncaster Talks

- 90% of respondents said that tackling climate change is extremely or somewhat important to them, with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the need for big changes to address climate change.
- When asked about the way they do things (e.g. use of utilities in the home, how they travel, waste and recycling) majority of respondents said that they are already doing a lot or some changes to the way they do things in order to address climate change.
- Similarly, a large proportion of respondents (61%) said that they have already made changes to improve the insulation of their homes. Similar proportions of respondents said they have already made changes to their homes heating system (35%) and that they are willing but not able to (39%). Majority of respondents said that they are willing but not able to spend money on solar panels, an electric vehicle or other measures in response to climate change.
- 88% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the new naturalisation approach being trialled in different areas across the Borough.
- Respondents were asked to rank policy areas in order of importance to them. This resulted in Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills and Economy being ranked as the top three, Arts and culture was ranked last, and Environment and climate change ranked in the middle (5 out of 8 policy areas).
- 63% of people choosing the options which focused on improving energy efficiency of existing homes and building new homes to high environmental standards, as well as saying no to building developments that are not at the highest environmental standards, even if this results in those developments not going ahead. Only 9% of respondents said that the council should focus on building many new homes, complying only with minimum legal building standards.
- When asked to place a marker on a continuum indicating where Doncaster should focus resources (from targeting resources on a few specific areas to spreading resources evenly across all areas), respondents put the marker near the middle, but slightly more towards spreading resources evenly across all areas.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Woodlands, Trees and Green Space

- Approximate 6% of Doncaster is woodland, a smaller proportion than South Yorkshire (7%) and UK (8%).
- Tree canopy cover is 13% (ranging from 7% (Stainforth/Barnby Dun) to 24% (Edlington/Warmsworth)); a smaller proportion than the South Yorkshire (16%) and UK (16%) averages.
- Standard of Doncaster parks varies; some are high standard (Fields in Trust status), others are poor/declining standard.

Biodiversity

- We lack Doncaster-specific data evidence on local biodiversity gains and losses upon which to base targeted initiatives.

Water Quality, Flood Management and Drainage

- Large proportions of the east of the borough have low-lying agricultural land that is intensively pump-drained and subject to Water Level Management Plans.
- Doncaster has large areas that are at risk from river and/or surface water flooding. Much of the northern half of the borough is designated as flood zone 3.

Peatland and Soil

- Doncaster has one of the largest areas of lowland raised bog (peatland) in the UK's (Thorne and Hatfield Moors covers 3,318 hectares, supporting 5000+species of plants and animals).

Contaminated Land

- Currently 43 sites in Doncaster on the public Contaminated Land Register.
- Existing policies in place to ensure developments take account of any contaminated land.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Energy Efficiency of Buildings & Sustainable Energy

- Most of Doncaster's 135,000 homes are energy rating D (43%) and C (24%). 23% are E/F/G, 10% are A/B. National average is D. Around 62% of Council stock is energy rating C, and 35% energy rating D. A small proportion are rating B.
- No data available on energy efficiency of commercial or community buildings.
- Doncaster has the 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK, with 7,053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity (as of March 2019).

Statutory Nuisances

- 2000+ noise complaints received per year, mostly from residential sources (music, pets, neighbours). Only 80 odour complaints (mainly agricultural, in rural areas) and 25 light complaints respectively.

Transport

- Air quality is largely okay, but 8 Air Quality Management areas have been declared – all near busy roads, due to nitrogen dioxide levels.
- Doncaster has consistently had the highest vehicle use in South Yorkshire 1993-2019. Motor vehicle traffic has increased 67% over this period.
- Bus use in Sheffield City Region has fallen by 18% in 10 years.
- Overall downward trend across 2015-2018 of cycling for travel from 12% down to 9% (similar to England and S. Yorks).
- Overall upward trend across 2015-2019 of walking for travel from 24% up to 27% (similar to England and S. Yorks).
- 9 rail stations across Doncaster. Doncaster and Conisbrough have seen increases in travellers across 2016-2018 (2% and 29% respectively), but all others (Adwick, Bentley, Hatfield/Stainforth, Kirk Sandall, Mexborough and Thorne North and Thorne South) have seen reductions (ranging from 6% to 14%).

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Nature Tourism

- Between 2017-2019 there was an average 7.1 million day visitors, 760,000 overnight stays, and total visitor spend of around £253m per year. Several parks and nature reserves have achieved Green Flag awards and/or are protected heritage sites and form key aspects of Doncaster's visitor economy.

Green and Innovative Economy

- Across all the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, 3,649 jobs will be required by 2030, and 5,565 will be required by 2050. These will include sectors such as alternative fuels, low-carbon heat, energy efficiency and low emission vehicles and infrastructure.

Existing Business Operations and Growth

- GVA increased 37% to £5.9bn between 2012-2018. Business base grew 44% to around 9,400 across 2010-2020 (90% are micro businesses employing up to 9 people). Private sector jobs increased 17% to 95,000 (2009-2019). This included professional, scientific and technical jobs (+2,500), transport and storage (+2,000), construction (+2,000), manufacturing (+1,000), business administration and support services (+1,000). Reductions were seen in retail (-1,000) and mining, quarrying and utilities (-700). Public sector jobs also reduced by approximately 5,000.
- House building rates were on a par with the national average and we've seen over 1,000 net new homes per year for the last 4 years.
- Covid 19 has had an unprecedented impact on our economy in terms of job losses and business closures. As at May 2020, the number of claimants searching for work reached 14,560 (8% of working age population) – double the amount the same time in the previous year. The proportion of 16-24 year olds searching for work was 11% - the second highest in the country.
- Doncaster has long-standing post-industrial challenges relating to: relatively low skills levels (e.g. ranked 62 out of 63 in Great Britain for NVQ4+ skills); an above average proportion of residents with no formal qualifications (ranked 43 out of 63); relatively low productivity levels (ranked 55 out of 63); relatively low levels and exports per job (ranked 59 out of 63); and relatively high unemployment levels (7.2% compared to a rate of 3.9% for England).
- Doncaster has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time. Doncaster is linking its competitive advantages and wider low-carbon growth opportunities to investment in education, skills and training. This includes developing new Centres of Excellence as part of Doncaster's University City ambitions – including Green Tech.

Farming

- Farming is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions but can also play a significant role in climate adaptation and mitigation. Agricultural emissions are mainly methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O); not CO₂ like for electricity generation, transport and manufacturing. Cutting CH₄ and N₂O emissions is difficult because they result from complex natural soil and animal microbial processes.
- Doncaster's commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares; almost ¾ of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels – likely therefore to include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Roughly 6000 hectares is used for grassland for livestock and almost 300 hectares is used for fruit and vegetables.
- Direct employment in Doncaster's agriculture is modest – around 865 individuals.
- Turbulent weather has a huge impact on farm businesses. 2020's harvest is expected to be the lowest in 40 years.
- Farms are often dissimilar to each other with unique characteristics and circumstances in place – any opportunities/solutions/support mechanisms will need to be flexible enough to be accessible to a range of different businesses.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

Food

- Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) is a national campaign to tackle the 8 million tonnes of food waste thrown away each year in the UK at a cost of £12 billion to households. Since its launch, millions of people have responded saving around £1.5 billion worth of food.
- Better education around health and skills development is required around fresh food preparation due to the large amount of avoidable waste, transport and energy use, generated from convenience foods, that could be tackled if families could be encouraged to cook from scratch.
- The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership, Love Food Hate Waste Campaign centres around 5 themes: Perfect Portions, Love Your leftovers, Savvy Storage, Know your dates, Planning Perfection
- In BDR, 34% of household residual waste consists of food waste. Doncaster households are estimated to be wasting an average 2.4kg of food waste per week; of which 60% is classed as avoidable waste that could have been consumed at some point prior to disposal.

Fly tipping and litter

- Monthly fly tipping incidents range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). This is aligned with other similar authorities and slightly below the national average. Monthly fly-tipping incidents have further reduced with 109 reported in July 2020.
- This data significantly under-states the true number of incidents because they do not include fly-tipping in hotspot areas which are dealt with separately on a scheduled basis. Hotspots include many areas of the Borough where residential streets have back alleys.

Waste & Recycling

- Detailed information about the exact amount of total waste generated in Doncaster is not available as there are several sources of waste and a standard system for waste reporting does not exist for commercial operators.
- 63% of waste is Construction, Demolition and Excavation; 18% is Commercial and industrial; and 12% is household waste.
- The amount of waste collected by the Council that is recycled increased from 41% to 46% (2014-2018) and the percentage going to landfill has reduced from 55% to less than 5%.
- Fortnightly black, green and blue bin and green box collections occur, and household waste is processed at a BDR facility for recycling and solid recovered fuel production.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

As important as the environment is, we cannot tackle issues in isolation without due consideration for other strategic priorities. Acknowledgement of the synergies and conflicts that exist between the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and other key strategic priorities is critical; as is working together amongst partners to find appropriate connections and compromises to ensure everyone remains supportive of the interventions we seek to deliver.

Interventions that bring benefits to the environment may be directly or indirectly beneficial or detrimental to certain partners' priorities/operations. Where required, a supported transition will be necessary to ensure the right changes happen in the timescales needed.

Some business sectors that are currently thriving in Doncaster rely heavily on fossil fuels and are high in emissions and so by their very nature are detrimental to the environment e.g. logistics, manufacturing, aviation. It will be important to identify opportunities for these sectors to 'green' their processes in order to reduce and mitigate their impact on the environment.

Making changes to operations and investment requirements to become 'greener' may be unaffordable for some businesses within the current economic climate. Being voluntary 'early-movers' to greener ways of operating will likely be good for businesses' reputations, but may make some businesses less competitive with competitors that continue with current ways of working, particularly if 'greening' has led to higher costs for goods and services. Potential opportunities for collaboration and support to those businesses need to be exploited.

Embracing new green technology sectors will likely bring more and higher paid job opportunities to the borough, but may also be out of reach for the significant number of low-skilled workers in Doncaster. These new technologies may also be detrimental to existing industries as the new, greener technologies become more popular. Our education and skills strategy must be shaped by businesses, focusing on the new knowledge and skills required for future job opportunities.

High levels of deprivation remain across significant proportions of our borough, rendering many households unable to make significant investments in environment-improving interventions and unable to realise the associated benefits. Opportunities for support, financial and informative, need to be identified and promoted to ensure nobody is left behind.

Deep-rooted habits and behaviours exist both at individual and organisational levels that can be difficult to change voluntarily. Clear information and policy direction will need to be provided to encourage and support individuals and organisations to change their behaviour where needed to contribute towards achievement of the Borough's targets and ambitions. Similarly, our elected members have a role to play in lobbying Government to introduce legislation to support environmental protection and improvement, giving local progress and the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

The way we recover from the economic impact of the CV19 pandemic will have a significant impact on our climate-related ambitions. Supporting people that have become unemployed to get back into work may involve continuing short-term encouragement and support for enterprises in industry sectors that we will ultimately transition away from in favour of greener job sectors. We must recognise the need for a transition from certain industry sectors to cleaner, greener alternatives; but recognise that this transition needs to be managed and supported carefully.

Infrastructure developments and certain industry sector expansions, e.g. major road developments, potential airport expansion; will have negative environmental impacts. Such economically important developments need to take the environment into consideration and evidence mitigation measures to reduce environmental impact, particularly in line with the Government's Environment Bill, which introduced a mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the planning system. Development on brownfield sites should be prioritised over greenfield sites.

The financial resources available from private households, businesses, and local and national government is insufficient to implement the interventions needed. We must look for and exploit alternative funding sources to help our residents and businesses to make the required investments to reduce their own carbon footprint; e.g. exploiting the carbon offsetting activity of private companies from outside Doncaster.

Some biodiversity-focused interventions could provide environmental benefits alongside savings to tax-payer funded services, but could be in conflict with the generally accepted standard and 'look and feel' of the borough e.g. regularly cut grass verges vs a 'naturalisation' approach of letting the grass grow and encouraging wildflowers/plants.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CROSS-CUTTING BENEFITS

Although this strategy focuses on the environment, there are broader benefits to tackling climate change. These factors, along with the cost and challenges faced if we do not act, must be at the forefront of policy and investment decisions.

BENEFITS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A healthy environment is vital for human health and wellbeing. Poorly planned and managed communities with unsustainable transport systems and a lack of access to public and green areas increase air pollution, noise and heat islands, reduce opportunities for physical activity and have a negative impact on community life and people's physical and mental health (WHO, 2020).

Improving access to a healthier environment (e.g. better air quality) will help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Doncaster residents such as reduced risk of chronic conditions and better mental health.

Addressing climate change will decrease the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, droughts and extreme rainfall and reduce the transmission of food-borne, water-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases. Those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are at higher risk and strategic actions are required to support those disproportionately affected.

Team Doncaster and local communities should work collectively to mitigate the negative effects of increasing demands for energy, transport and technological innovation in order to protect and promote health. Health needs to be central to decisions affecting these trends, identifying opportunities for health protection and promotion.

BENEFITS TO THE ECONOMY

Ensuring that businesses become more environment-conscious regarding their infrastructure and processes will help to reduce emissions but will also provide a financial benefit. For example, using less energy to heat buildings means lower running costs; and natural environment solutions can be lower cost compared to engineered solutions.

A crucial activity for this strategy is to connect businesses with funding opportunities to help make the changes required to reduce their environmental impact – both in terms of awareness and support. It must also help to connect businesses with investment opportunities – for example, those identified by the Natural Capital Assessment.

Resource efficiency is another opportunity for savings. The 'circular economy' approach ensures that waste from one business or sector is re-used as a raw material/resource for another. This can generate savings for businesses both in purchasing and disposal costs. We must maximise awareness of the businesses operating in our area and support the development of supply/demand partnerships between our local businesses.

New markets will open up, stimulated by the increased demand for existing and new technologies and services. These will include opportunities for higher skilled and higher paid jobs for local residents. There will also be opportunities for existing and new businesses operating in the supply chains of these new enterprises. Doncaster businesses need to position themselves with the right knowledge and skills to take advantage of these opportunities.

BENEFITS TO HOUSEHOLDS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

Changing the way we do things could help households save considerable sums e.g. lower utility bills through better insulation, lower energy costs and carbon footprints through local energy production, lower transport costs through using active travel options for shorter journeys. Money saved from environment-conscious decisions gives us more money to spend in our community and leads to further investment and jobs growth in our local economy.

Protecting and enhancing our natural environment creates more pleasant places to live, work, and spend leisure time, which is as good for rest, relaxation and mental health as it is for activity and physical health. Neighbourhood pride will increase, encouraging residents and visitors to take responsibility and maintain those high standards.

More specifically, appropriate protection against extreme climate-related events gives residents and business owners the confidence to invest in their homes, businesses and neighbourhoods, leading to broader place-based and economic improvements.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. WOODLAND, TREES & GREEN SPACES

Green infrastructure contributes significantly to local climate regulation. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, converting it to oxygen through natural processes. Tree canopies create shade and shelter, and they help prevent or reduce the risk of flooding by absorbing water, intercepting it and slowing down the rate that it flows into rivers. Trees also help protect soil erosion and surface run off and provide a pleasant, natural landscape and cover for/contrast within the built environment. Our parks, green spaces, and woodland enhance our settlements, providing places for us to relax and exercise, while at the same time providing areas where nature can flourish. Through diversification of grassland management, we can support ecosystems and reduce our carbon footprint.

Aims

- Protect and enhance existing woodland and green spaces.
- Increase overall tree cover and woodland cover.
- Maximise prevalence of appropriate green space in new developments.
- Achievement & maintenance of ‘Quality Parks’ benchmark standards for open space provision.
- Enhance the biodiversity value of all public open spaces, as key connecting components of ecological networks and sites supporting access to nature.

Outcome

Improved green space provision and increased tree coverage.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Through active engagement, interpretation and education, ensure that the value of woodland, wood pasture, trees, and parks is understood and considered by policy makers, residents and businesses.	X	X	X
Manage public open spaces for biodiversity through appropriate management practices, informed by expert advice and local knowledge, e.g. naturalisation of appropriate greenspace.	X	X	X
Use the Future Parks Programme to develop, implement and share best practice; and integrate new technologies into parks provision through the Smart Parks project.		X	
Maintain and improve current and future green infrastructure assets.	X	X	X
Support the continued development of the Doncaster Green Space Network – enhancing social & community capacity, developing local knowledge share/best practice.	X	X	X
Ensure that open space, woodland, trees and hedgerows are adequately considered in new developments, with a presumption against developments that result in loss or deterioration of woodland/trees.	X	X	
Develop and implement a tree-planting programme, to include various sized sites from individual trees in gardens to strategic woodland creation where feasible.	X	X	X
Procurement of companies with appropriate growing procedures and controls to ensure that all nursery stock planted is free from pest and disease.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Future Parks management plans (2019)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure strategy \(2014\)](#)
- [Tree Policy and Tree Risk Management plan \(2019\)](#)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021) (in development)

2. BIODIVERSITY

Mirroring global trends, the UK's biodiversity is undergoing significant declines due to agricultural practices, detrimental land management, climate change, urban expansion, pollution, and invasive non-native species. The impact on nature includes loss of habitat and degradation of its quality, character, distinctiveness and connectivity; in-turn resulting in a loss of species diversity – our biological communities are becoming more similar to each other and in turn less resilient.

We must adopt a step-change in how we value and use the natural environment in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and ensure that ecosystems are resilient, continue to function and thrive and provide us with goods and services like food, clean water and oxygen production. We must work to a principle of 'bigger, better and more joined-up' areas of nature. This means thinking about ecosystem functions at a landscape-scale.

Doncaster has a varied landscape with many green and blue infrastructure assets, such as its parks, woodlands, allotments, playing fields, cemeteries, rivers and canals. It has conservation sites of international importance (Thorne & Hatfield Moors), two Nature Improvement Areas (The Dearne Valley and Humberhead Levels), and 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. We have a long history of natural history recording and conservation successes in partnership working, but much more needs to be done. Many people also recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and are calling for and taking action for the environment for nature's sake.

Aims

- Embed South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment outcomes & principles in decision-making.
- Continued partnership work to deliver strategic, landscape-scale biodiversity projects.
- Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to identify and communicate where and how the most strategic and beneficial interventions should be targeted.
- Facilitate informed local, community action to complement strategic biodiversity projects.
- Connect more people with the natural environment and improve access to nature.
- Adopt a Biodiversity Net Gain approach for Doncaster.
- Protect Doncaster's environment from invasive non-native species.

Outcome

Bigger areas for nature, and better quality habitats, that are more joined up at all scales.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Work with and support strategic partners to share and apply the Natural Capital Assessment evidence and insights and highlight the continued need for high-quality environmental data.	X	X	
Develop and implement a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	X	X	X
Maintain and improve the condition of the borough's statutory nature conservation sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas for Conservation and Special Protection Areas).	X	X	
Increase the proportion of non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites in positive management.	X	X	X
Support the designation/extension of a Dearne Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest.		X	
Support a review of the Humberhead Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest re-notification.		X	
Research, develop and implement a Biodiversity Net Gain approach for Doncaster.	X	X	
Review existing DMBC land management regimes and the potential for public open spaces and connecting areas of green and blue infrastructure to deliver biodiversity enhancements, e.g. 'naturalisation' of appropriate greenspace e.g. grass verges, areas within parks.	X	X	X
'Greening' of the public realm and 'art and ecology' collaborations.	X	X	X
Engage with communities to ensure that changes to land management are well informed and communicated, and promote opportunities for local stewardship and adoption of good practice.	X	X	X
Work in partnership to engage with landowners and managers, particularly (but not exclusively) in the farming sector, to understand the challenges and opportunities for biodiversity, and explore where better outcomes can be supported for farming and wildlife.	X	X	
Support environmental research and innovative approaches to sustainable land and water management, including through changes in agricultural land-use and practice, to help inform policy change, environmental subsidy and a diversified green economy.	X	X	X
Promote and support biodiversity recording and monitoring to ensure that decisions are well informed by sound environmental information.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Biodiversity Net Gain guidance (2020) (in development)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure strategy \(2014\)](#)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement Plan (2021)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (in development)

3. WATER QUALITY, FLOOD MANAGEMENT & DRAINAGE

Safe, well-managed and good quality water resources are essential to the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the population. Our lakes and rivers form part of our biodiversity ecosystem as well as providing economic and health benefits in the form of blue tourism and pleasant places at which physical activity is encouraged.

A well-maintained drainage network leads to multiple benefits including reduced risk of flooding which affects local homes and the ability of local people to travel to work. Doncaster has suffered from severe flooding on multiple occasions recently so we must do all we can to reactively and proactively protect homes and businesses from the devastating effect it has on our communities.

Appropriate road drainage also reduces potholes and helps reduce delays to transport – reducing emissions and improving the reliability of public, private and commercial transport.

Aims

- Develop robust asset intelligence, identify key flood risk areas and map drainage assets.
- Develop and implement Water Level Management Plans that include the long-term sustainability of drainage networks and consider how current practices can support biodiversity and catchment flood management more effectively.
- Develop and implement a borough-wide pump management policy.
- Design, promote, manage and monitor Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Develop and implement an appropriate de-culverting programme.
- Support the work of Catchment Partnerships in identifying issues and solutions, sharing information, expertise and advice and seeking funding for the delivery of targeted priorities.
- Explore opportunities to reconnect rivers with their floodplain and associated habitat types.
- Increase resident/business engagement in river stewardship organisations, through opportunities, education, awareness and empowerment.
- Reduce diffuse pollution inputs to the borough’s waterbodies.
- Ensure appropriate monitoring, management and regulation of controlled waters (aquifers).

Outcome

Better water quality and better protection from flooding.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Closer, joined up working between Doncaster Drainage Boards and review of Water Level Management Plans.	X	X	
Support the work of Catchment Partnerships in identifying issues and solutions, sharing information, expertise and advice and seeking funding for delivery of targeted priorities.	X	X	
Implement Catchment Plans for the River Don and the River Torne.	X	X	
Implement Local Plan policies requiring due consideration and measures to deal with drainage and flood risk.	X	X	
Raise awareness of the impact of (& reduce the use of) using chemicals such as pesticides (in particular when there is a possibility of run-off to watercourses).	X	X	X
Planned works completed on a cyclical basis that includes cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways, trash screens, pumping stations, ponds and flow controls.	X	X	
Adequate maintenance of drainage assets that support flood risk mitigation.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Our Plan for the River Don \(2020\)](#)
- [Don](#), [Dearne](#), [Torne](#) and Rother Catchment Plan (various, under review)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)
- [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2014\)](#)
- Water level management plans (IDB) for Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ([Part 1 \(2008\)](#) and [Part 2 \(2018\)](#)) and [Hatfield Chase \(1995\)](#)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Adoption Policy (2020) (in development)
- [Humber River Basin District Management Plan \(2015\)](#)

4. PEATLAND AND SOIL

Peatlands are highly significant to global efforts to combat climate change and the achievement of wider sustainable development goals because when they are in a healthy condition they act as large land-based carbon sinks and water stores. They form part of a diverse natural environment that contributes to biodiversity but also provide a natural landscape that promotes health and wellbeing. In their healthy, natural, wet state peatlands are an internationally important habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species but they also provide vital ecosystem services. These include storing and capturing carbon from our atmosphere, helping to minimise the risk of flooding by storing and regulating water flows and they sequester carbon.

Lowland peat is one of the most carbon rich habitats in the UK and Doncaster has the largest extent of lowland raised bog in England – Hatfield, Thorne, Goole and Crowle Moors covers over 3,300 hectares. The mixture of habitats, including peatland, marsh, woodland and gravel pits, means the area is incredibly rich in wildlife – the reserve supports over 5,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than 4,000 are insects. Large parts of Potteric Carr are on peat soils and it has pockets of conservation managed fens as well as tall reedbed communities; there are significant areas of agricultural peatland and some ex-floodplain fens located along the River Torne too.

Unfortunately, a significant proportion of Doncaster’s lowland peat was damaged by commercial peat extraction in the second half of the 20th Century. These areas have been drained and degraded which has lowered the natural water table and has reduced the land’s ability to provide many of the ecosystem services mentioned above, converting them from carbon sinks to significant sources of carbon release. Conservation-managed lowland fens under high water table management are among the most effective carbon sinks per unit area in England and Wales, whereas agriculturally drained lowland peats are amongst the UK’s largest land-use derived source of carbon dioxide emissions. There is a clear correlation between CO2 balance and mean water table depth and so restoring or raising water level in agriculturally drained lowland peatlands could deliver nationally significant climate mitigation benefits

Restoration of floodplain fens must therefore be a priority particularly where they are not in intensive management and can be relatively easily restored, and we need to give careful consideration to intensively managed agricultural land. Work is underway to remediate the numerous sites, but it will be years before the bog is fully functional again, which is key to maximising its potential as a carbon store.

Soil loss and its environmental impact is not limited to the peatlands. Watercourses in agricultural land throughout the Doncaster area are impacted by sediments from soil loss – reducing biodiversity, contributing to flood risk, and increasing release of carbon and soil fertility.

Aims

- Restoration and conservation of peatland sites to retain suitable conditions for the development of raised bog and its vegetation.
- Appropriate management of agricultural peatlands.
- Improve understanding of the location of existing peat soils, in particular degraded peatland to inform a restoration programme.
- Encourage, support and promote composting schemes, both home and commercial, as an alternative to peat-based compost purchases.

Outcome

Peatland is recognised, protected, enhanced and extended for biodiversity, water storage, carbon sequestration, and essential climate mitigation.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Enforce Local Plan policies protecting from significant loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and require development proposals to demonstrate that all practicable steps have been taken for soil resources to be conserved and managed in a sustainable way.	X	X	
Work in partnership with Natural England, Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, Environment Agency, River Torne Catchment partnership and YWT.	X	X	
Insist on low/no peat content in soils/compost in horticultural works.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- [UK Peatland Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Site Management Plans for the individual Moors](#) (under review)
- Wildfire plans relating to response and recovery (in development)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)

5. CONTAMINATED LAND

Doncaster has a rich industrial past and thus has a legacy of historic land contamination involving a very wide range of substances. Although there is little conclusive evidence of serious acute health effects from the types and levels of land contamination found in England, given the known toxicology of contaminants at certain sites and their potential health risks associated with long-term exposure, it is prudent to ensure areas potentially affected from contamination are managed appropriately.

Aims

- Identify, risk assess and appropriately manage contaminated land.
- Consider and mitigate the potential impact of flooding on contaminated land sites.
- Review and update the Contaminated Land strategy and register.
- Maintain a GIS database which links planning developments and land quality databases, enabling the more efficient processing of planning applications.

Outcome

Potential risk from contaminated land sites is appropriately mitigated.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Continue to map, review & ratify potential contaminated land sites; with appropriate sharing of intelligence amongst partners/stakeholders.	X	X	
Local plan policies to ensure development sites mitigate contamination or unstable land.		X	
Partnership working amongst The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group to promote best practice, training and guidance documents for partners/stakeholders.	X	X	
Prioritise potential sites for inspection – as per the Inspection Strategy 2017, ensuring potential high-risk sites are identified, risk assessed, recorded and remediated in accordance with the Contaminated Land Regulations.		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Contaminated Land Inspection strategy \(2017\)](#)

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

6. ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Buildings, be they housing, commercial or community units, are amongst the biggest sources of CO2 emissions, due in part to their requirement for heat and power, but also their low levels of energy efficiency. A key requisite for health is that people can afford energy and can heat and run their homes efficiently.

Embedding sustainability into current and future housing and other developments is essential for a cleaner and greener borough. Supporting interventions and developments that improve the energy efficiency of buildings can also contribute to an inclusive economy that benefits the health and wellbeing of everyone in Doncaster.

Despite Doncaster's significant housing growth over the last half a decade, most of our housing stock is relatively old – developed during times when build standards were significantly lower than today's requirements. We need to not only build to high standards, but also retrofit new, higher standards to existing buildings. Consideration will be given to re-purposing existing buildings as it can be more sustainable than demolishing and replacing with new builds. Consideration of the heritage and listed status of historical buildings will need to be given.

Renewable sources of energy offer several potential advantages. They do not irreversibly deplete finite resources, and most have a lower climate footprint than fossil fuels. If managed well, they can pose minimal health risks and can yield social and economic co-benefits. Such energy sources can serve individual buildings or could be at a community scale.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the energy efficiency of new and existing homes and buildings. Maximise the large-scale and small-scale renewable energy generation. Maximise the use of energy produced from renewable resources. 	Reduced carbon footprint from homes & buildings and reduced running costs for residents and businesses.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Ensure new build developments are built to the highest level of energy efficiency that is practicably and financially viable, utilising new energy technology and design.	X	X	
Lobby Government for better build standards and earlier introduction of these changes.	X	X	X
Undertake a retrofitting of insulation, space heating, and hot water facilities in domestic homes.	X	X	X
Increase the proportion of domestic and commercial heating supplied from fuel cell μ CHP.	X	X	X
Reduce demand for domestic hot water and commercial heating, hot water and cooling.	X	X	X
Provide advice and guidance on energy saving measures to residents, landlords, schools, businesses, community groups.	X	X	
Ensure tenant awareness of and landlord adherence to building standards legal requirements.	X	X	
Promote and support access to energy saving grants/loans for households and businesses.	X	X	
Promote micro-renewable energy technologies and decentralised heat/power systems.	X	X	
Maximise opportunities to purchase and consume renewable electricity and heat generated within the borough. Encourage the use of energy providers that use renewable energy sources.	X	X	
Commission a private sector housing stock condition study and commercial buildings energy efficiency standards study; identify options for improvement.	X	X	
Development of appropriate renewable energy infrastructure throughout the borough.	X	X	X
Referrals to Council enforcement service from health care providers for anyone presenting with cold-related health issues (housing conditions assessment).	X	X	X
Promote the roll out of residential smart metering.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- Housing Delivery Plan (2020)
- DMBC Enforcement Policies (various)
- Energy Masterplan (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- [Heritage Strategy \(2015\)](#), under review)

7. STATUTORY NUISANCES INCLUDING NOISE, ODOUR AND LIGHT POLLUTION

Noise stands second to poor air quality in terms of the burden of ill health caused by a single pollutant and is increasingly high on the international agenda.

Odour nuisance is subjective and difficult to define and measure. They can also arise from a wide variety of sources. Although most odours are not harmful to health, they can be a common cause of distress and complaint for individuals.

Appropriate lighting contributes to a sense of identity and place, and makes for a safer and friendlier environment, however, inappropriate lighting can cause light pollution. There are health implications related to using inappropriate lighting in public spaces, including risks relating to glare, light pollution, harm to local ecologies and inappropriate light spectrums. Although artificial light can provide many benefits to society, it is important that the right lighting is in the right place, at the right time.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce the creation of and optimise the response to nuisances such as noise, light, odour, dust and smoke issues.	Reduced noise, light and odour nuisances.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Make appropriate planning decisions based on best practice to mitigate adverse impacts of new developments.	X	X	
Develop and strengthen reporting and monitoring protocols amongst partners.	X	X	
Robust and fair enforcement in accordance with Enforcement Policies where necessary and appropriate.		X	
Enable easy and effective ways for residents and businesses to report nuisances affecting them.		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Doncaster Council Enforcement Policies (various)

8. TRANSPORT

Air quality has a demonstrable effect on health, with children and older people being more susceptible to the effects of air pollution. It is heavily affected by emissions from transport and industry, with traffic emissions being the major factor. These pollutants do not just affect the areas with greater traffic, given certain conditions, pollutants could be transported, great distances to affect areas far from the pollution source. Secondary pollutants such as ozone, created by reactions between sunlight and traffic emissions are also a problem across both urban and rural areas.

The use of cars, buses, lorries, and trains are an established part of our everyday lives, both for leisure and industry use; and a significant proportion of our economy is reliant on our fantastic transport links within Doncaster, regionally, national and internationally. We must minimise the environmental impact vehicular transport has and offset against any unavoidable damage it causes.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the 'Air Quality Management Area' status of the eight Doncaster areas with high nitrogen dioxide levels. Reduce vehicular emissions, by reducing the emissions from the vehicles using our roads and reducing the number of vehicles on the road. 	Improved air quality across the borough.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Increase prevalence of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles – both for personal and fleet; improving infrastructure, awareness and understanding of options, and increased prioritisation in investment decisions.	X	X	X
Increase average vehicle occupancies.	X	X	X
Improve provision of affordable, high quality, low emission public transport, and increased integration between bus and rail services.	X		
Decrease the average total distance travelled per individual per year.	X	X	X
Promote greater use of rail and waterborne freight options, with reduced use of and increased efficiency in road freight.	X		
Include sustainable, clean transport options in the design of all new developments – including active travel and public transport options; and ensure comprehensive health impact assessments are completed for all proposed major infrastructure developments to identify the impact on residents' health and identify mitigation where the development is deemed necessary.	X	X	
Provide safe, attractive environments to walk and cycle; focusing on reducing the 55% of journeys that are less than 1km made by car.		X	
Naturalisation of appropriate areas through appropriate measures such as changes in grass cutting frequency, planting more greenery or reducing public access.		X	
Implementation of the interventions identified in the Air Quality Action Plan		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Air Quality Action Plan \(2018\)](#)
- [Walking Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Cycling Strategy \(2019\)](#)
- [Get Doncaster Moving Strategy \(2016\)](#)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy \(2014\)](#)
- [Local Plan \(2015\)](#) (approval underway, publication expected late 2020)

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

9. NATURE TOURISM

Nature tourism (sometimes referred to as green and blue tourism), can be categorised into three groups: incidental natural settings/experiences; activities dependent on nature and where nature provides a focus; and activities enhanced by nature. The success of nature tourism is predicated on a few key factors: the presence of charismatic (or 'iconic') species, a supporting infrastructure of well managed sites capable of handling individuals and groups of visitors, and a network of supportive businesses including accommodation providers, catering services, and where relevant, locally based services such as boat trip operators and/or wildlife guides.

Between 2013 and 2015 Doncaster had 6.8million visitors (6.5m day visitors, 0.3m overnight visitors), and an overall visitor spend of £173m. There are 14,000 jobs in our visitor economy sector.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promotion of the borough's green/blue infrastructure including nature reserves and historic parks and gardens of national significance e.g. Potteric Carr, Thorne and Hatfield Moors, and Cusworth Hall & Brodsworth Hall and their parklands. Improve local transport links between tourism locations and key transport nodes such as Doncaster Transport Interchange and Robin Hood Airport. Protect, maintain and enhance our natural areas, and access to and within them. Encourage Green Tourism through investment and development. 	Nature tourism sites are protected, improved and well-used by residents and visitors.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Support appropriate non-residential development in the countryside that can support rural economies.	X	X	X
Local Plan policies to support the preservation/enhancement of key sites such as Thorne & Hatfield Moors.		X	
Achievement and maintenance of Green Flag status for the borough's parks.		X	
Promote nature tourism opportunities via Visit Doncaster, through both investment and development.	X	X	X
Continue to promote the markets to encourage local purchasing and reduce food miles.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019\)](#)
- [Heritage Strategy and Policies \(2015\)](#), under review)

10. GREEN AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

A recent LGA report ('Local green jobs – accelerating sustainable economic recovery' (2020)) estimates that across the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, around 3,600 jobs will be required by 2030 and 5,600 by 2050. These will mostly be within the alternative fuels, low-carbon heat and energy efficiency sectors; but will also include low emission vehicles & infrastructure, low-carbon services and low-carbon electricity.

To fully exploit the benefits of a low carbon economy, it is necessary to develop an overall circular economy – to keep finite resources in a loop of use and reuse for as long as possible using renewable energy sources. A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system. This needs to be underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources. The circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital and is based on three principles:

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

Aims

- Prioritise investment in a low carbon economy – to improve the well-being of residents through cleaner air, environmental security, improved health, improved public transport, and a resilient economy with more quality jobs.
- Developing a framework for delivering green growth that will balance the improvement of local well-being with the respect for planetary environmental boundaries.
- Support the development of skills needed for low carbon jobs.
- Support the development of a Green Technology Centre of Excellence as part of the University City work.

Outcome

Opportunities in the green economy are accessible and exploited.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Prioritise low-carbon investments that will deliver jobs at scale and deliver productive and sustainable assets for the future.	X	X	
Take advantage of public, industry and Government pressure for a more sustainable borough including development of new buildings, machinery and retro-fitting/upgrading of existing technology to newer, cleaner standards.	X	X	
Invest in 'green' buildings – improving energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings.	X	X	X
Invest in low-carbon energy infrastructure and usage.	X	X	X
Invest in Doncaster's natural capital and green infrastructure – for ecosystem resilience, job creation and regeneration.	X	X	
Support the low-carbon transition – to ensure the benefits of acting on climate change are shared widely and the costs of a sustainable transition do not fall on those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are most at risk as the economy changes.	X	X	X
Re-skilling communities to support and take advantage of green and innovative economic growth.	X	X	X
Encourage and support businesses to upgrade their business premises.	X	X	X
Increase the take-up of energy suppliers using 100% renewable sources amongst Doncaster businesses.	X	X	X
Harness local, regional and national funding to support the transition.	X	X	X
Adherence to Local Plan policies requiring developments to contribute to Green Infrastructure, meet high BREEAM standards and have at least 10% of regulated energy from renewables.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development)

11. EXISTING BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND GROWTH

Doncaster has over 9,000 businesses of which 90% are micro businesses employing 0-9 people. The top five employing sectors are Health, Retail, Manufacturing, Transport & Storage, and Education; and our economy is in a transition from an economy dominated by heavy industry to a more diverse, knowledge-driven economy. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact locally – both in term of job losses and business closures.

Doncaster already has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time. We must continue to invest and support our competitive advantage in areas such as Future Mobility and industry specialisms such as rail engineering and logistics.

Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region economic recovery plans are focused on the imperatives of getting people back into work, through employment and skills support, supporting as many businesses as possible to bounce back and exploiting new markets and opportunities – such as the need for environmental improvements and the development of new technologies. At the same time, the objective of ‘building-back better’ for the longer-term underpins the work – to improve the well-being of residents within a zero-carbon future.

Aims

- Minimise the carbon footprint of Doncaster businesses.
- Develop Doncaster’s Future Mobility competitive advantages.
- Develop environmentally friendly supply chains.
- Support local innovative businesses in the circular economy to grow.
- Create a development zone for net carbon neutral manufacturing and innovation.
- Develop a Sustainability Centre on the Waterfront site.

Outcome

Local businesses are supported to be more environmentally sustainable and to access opportunities associated with the green economy.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Undertake a local business audit to understand the scale and scope of ‘green ‘activity completed or underway.	X		
Development of appropriate support for small and medium enterprises to be more sustainable.	X	X	
Promoting ‘low carbon’ business practices through supply chains, promoting accredited sustainability standards through purchasing, employee travel plans.	X		

Key Strategies and Plans

- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development)

12. FARMING

Agriculture is uniquely placed to tackle climate change as it is both an emissions source and a sink. Farmers have the ability to protect carbon reserves stored in soils and vegetation through sustainable farming practice that focuses on soil health. Healthy soil is fundamental to safe and affordable food production. It also locks in greenhouse gases and can help reduce the risk of flooding. The principal GHG emitted by most industries is CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion, whereas for agricultural systems its methane and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Reducing these emissions is more difficult than cutting CO₂, because they result from complex and imperfectly understood natural soil and animal microbial processes. A supply of nitrogen from organic or inorganic sources is necessary for the growth of crops and pasture (food), and it is an unavoidable consequence of soil processes that a small amount of nitrogen in an agricultural system will be emitted as nitrous oxide.

There are no ‘silver bullet’ answers to tackling climate change, but improving farming’s productive efficiency will enable farmers to produce the same quantity of food, or more, with less inputs, in smarter ways. This, in turn, will enable the sector to further reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. A variety of measures can include loosening compacted soils and preventing soil compaction in cropland and pasture, reducing the need for cultivation and minimising N₂O emissions. Enhancing carbon storage in soils and vegetation will require collaborative working with multiple parties. There also needs to be recognition by all parties of the multiple environmental benefits that could be layered together with carbon storage in response to a realistic carbon reward price.

Doncaster’s commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares, almost three quarters of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels. Doncaster’s farms include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Approximately 6000 hectares is grassland for livestock and around 300 hectares are used for fruit and vegetables. Following the UK’s exit from the EU, farms face the challenge of changing subsidies and changing commercial challenges from new trade deals. We need to understand and support our farmers to be both viable and successful businesses that can contribute to our local economy; but also support them to farm in a way that supports biodiversity and contributes to reducing climate change and supporting local health and wellbeing.

Aims

- Gain a better understanding of the farming industry within Doncaster.
- Support local food producers to adapt to climate change and challenging weather events.
- Enable local farming businesses to play a role in sustainable local food security.
- Engage local farmers and landowners in the development of nature recovery networks and biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- Support regenerative farming and local food production approaches, including improving access to land for smallholdings, agroecological land trusts or county farms.

Outcome

Local farms are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, and actively support the reduction of impacts of climate change.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Improve intelligence on local farms – for example, which farms are signed up to carbon cutting schemes, ELMS or other biodiversity initiatives, tree planting and commercial off-setting, selling produce locally, renewable energy generation, etc.	X	X	
Support local farms to make the best use of opportunities such as ELM funding, woodland creation funding, commercial carbon offsetting option, and renewable energy production.	X	X	
Identify and promote funding and investment opportunities to promote the financial viability of Doncaster’s agricultural sector, particularly where finance relates to sustainability, renewable energy, decarbonisation, carbon sequestration and offsetting, and biodiversity enhancement.	X	X	
Training & support for new entrants, social enterprises, cooperatives and community ownership.	X		
Promote relevant partnership working between Doncaster’s agricultural sector, land agents, business sector, and other Team Doncaster partners.	X	X	
Develop a clearly defined food strategy for Doncaster. Raise the profile of Good Food Doncaster/Sustainable Food Cities to local food producers – to improve access to affordable healthy food, reduce food insecurity, and promote a successful, locally-led food economy.	X	X	X
Integrate support for agro-ecological farms and local supply chains into local development plans and new development site plans.	X	X	
Engage with farmers about land drainage and their contribution to flood risk mitigation.	X	X	
Optimise farming practices to support the protection of peatlands.	X		

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Achieving Net Zero: Farming's 2040 Goal – National Farmers Union \(2019\)](#)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, EDUCATION & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

13. FOOD

Changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme weather are already having an impact on both national and local food production and therefore commercial viability. Local flooding in 2019 affected 18 farm-holdings and general wet weather impeded harvesting and planting. Each year, Doncaster generates 10,000 tonnes of avoidable food waste. This is wasted money for households and businesses; and also represents waste that has a high disposal cost.

Aims

- Increase the proportion of locally sourced food.
- Reduce and remove avoidable food waste.
- Promoting food security for the residents of Doncaster

Outcome

The impact of local food consumption and waste disposal is minimised.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Support communities to buy locally produced food or to grow their own food.	X	X	X
Continue to endorse the BDR Waste Partnership Love Food Hate Waste Campaign (Perfect Portions, Love Your leftovers, Savvy Storage, Know your dates, Planning Perfection).	X	X	X
Alignment with National Food Strategy principles; Review organisational or household food purchasing policies/approaches, ensuring healthy and sustainable choices are made.	X	X	X
Develop a 'veg cities' approach through the Doncaster Food Network.	X	X	
Encourage and support partnership between local suppliers and users/sellers of food produce.	X	X	X
Support local food producers to adapt to a changing climate and challenging weather events,	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- National Food strategy (Parts One and Two) ([2020](#) and 2021)

14. FLY TIPPING AND LITTER

Fly tipping is a major problem in some parts of the borough, particularly within the urban centre alleyways where thousands of tonnes of waste are cleared each year with an annual cost to the local taxpayer of almost half a million pounds. Aside from a drain on financial resources, it also presents a significant health risk and blights our neighbourhoods and countryside, and can negatively affect how an area looks and how people feel about their area. Where the composition of fly-tipped waste includes hazardous waste, it can threaten our ecosystem and wildlife and may even depict a risk to human life. Fly tipping also negatively impacts on the local landscape and enjoyment of green space for residents and visitors. Littering is also a problem across many parts of the borough with around 2000 reported cases last year, 3000+ fines issued and 500+ cases submitted for prosecution.

Aims

- Increased proportion of land and highways meeting required cleanliness standards.
- Reduce fly tipping and litter.

Outcome

Reduced incidences and impact of fly tipping & litter.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Robust and fair enforcement activity in response to fly tipping and littering.		X	
Lobby local magistrate courts for fly tipping punishments that reflect the social, economic and environmental costs.	X	X	X
Improve awareness of legal waste disposal contractors and the consequences of using unauthorised contractors.	X	X	X
Review, and improve and/or increase household and commercial waste provision.	X	X	
Use proactive architectural protections to reduce the risk of fly tipping, especially in areas that can affect drainage and cause flooding.	X	X	X
Develop innovative ways of working with local businesses to reduce the amount of take-away litter and encourage businesses to take ownership of localised issues caused by their packaging.	X	X	
Effective and accessible communication and engagement to discourage fly tipping and littering.	X	X	X
Maximise involvement in local initiatives e.g. Big British Spring Clean and Love Where You Live.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- Doncaster Council Enforcement policies (various)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021)

15. WASTE & RECYCLING

Waste is a problem at a global and local level. The world's oceans contain 97% of the world's water; they regulate our climate; absorb CO₂, and they are the number one source for protein for over a billion people. However, they are facing a major problem in the form of plastic pollution. Plastic waste can take hundreds of years to degrade and not all plastics are recyclable – single-use plastics make up almost half of the plastic made each year. In some cases, certain types of plastic are technically recyclable but not cost effective to do so. There are trillions of pieces of plastic waste already polluting the world's oceans, totalling millions of tonnes.

We all need to reduce our waste and ensure any unavoidable waste is disposed of appropriately. Our mind-set when dealing with waste must be to focus on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy: Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle, Recover; with Disposal being the last option rather than the default one.

Doncaster is well served by waste processors who deliver waste transfer, processing, and total waste management services to residents and businesses. Waste services, included transfer stations, are delivered by numerous local and national independent companies. In addition, the Council operate several household waste recycling centres and are responsible for kerbside collection of general and garden household waste from residential properties, as well as the collection of waste from litter bins, street cleansing and ground maintenance activities.

Doncaster Council waste collection data shows that households have increased their recycling level to approximately 46% over the period 2014/15-2018/19; with the amount of residential and local authority collected waste reducing slightly over the same period. The percentage of waste going to landfill has reduced significantly from around 55% to 5%.

Aims

- Focus efforts on the waste hierarchy of 'Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle, Recover, Dispose'; with particular focus on the first 5 stages.
- Achieve national targets associated with household waste recycling.
- Maintain the high level of waste diverted from landfill at 95%+.
- Maintain waste collection completion at 99%+ of all scheduled collections.
- Minimise consumption of single-use plastics.

Outcome

The impact of the borough's waste on the environment is minimised.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Provide advice and guidance on residential and commercial waste disposal/recycling options and consumer choices and behaviours.	X	X	
Ensure adequate, value for money provision of household, municipal and commercial waste facilities.	X	X	
Recovery of all waste at the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham waste partnership facility, for recycling and solid recovered fuel production.		X	
Explore public and/or private waste management partnerships that promote the concept of the local 'circular economy' where one businesses waste become another business's resource.	X	X	
Review and if necessary, update the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Plan.		X	
Procurement policies to include requirements associated with reduction and careful processing of waste.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [BDR Joint Waste Plan \(2012\)](#)
- South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan (in development)
- [South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy \(2017-2021\)](#)

RESEARCH AND EMERGING EVIDENCE

MONITORING RESEARCH AND DEBATE

Although there is clear and robust evidence surrounding many aspects of climate change research and policy, we must acknowledge that there are areas where uncertainties and disagreements remain. Detail and clarity continue to develop as research progresses into the impact of certain factors as well as the validity and value of potential solutions that emerge. Two examples where there remains a significant range of views and disagreement are aviation and meat consumption/plant-based diets.

Aviation is widely acknowledged to be a heavy polluter, but our international airport is also a major economic benefit for Doncaster, South Yorkshire and the Sheffield City Region. We need to do all we can to ensure our airport and associated business park minimise its impact on the environment whilst at the same time supporting it to realise its jobs growth and local economic gain potential. Regional airports are part of the solution to reduce the overall impact of passengers travelling further afield to a small number of specific airports e.g. in London or Manchester; but they also **need to invest in carbon reduction measures in their own fleet vehicles and ground operations, and their offsetting and investment in local natural capital**

Individually, we need to consider the environment when making decisions about the number of flights we take each year, particularly long-haul flights. The aviation industry has committed to cutting net emissions to zero by 2050 and is **progressing research into the development of cleaner fuels and electric planes.** Locally, any new developments in Doncaster are subject to a Biodiversity Net Gain requirement through the planning system.

Debate continues internationally about the environmental impact of livestock/red meat diets (methane production from animals, stronger impact than CO₂, impact on land from animal food requirements) versus a plant-based diet (intensive farming/threat to soil fertility, rainforest clearance, CO₂ production from transportation around the world). As there is currently no scientific agreement on this matter, Doncaster should monitor this discussion closely and adapt our own approach accordingly as and when a consensus is found. In the meantime, **we can all consider the source of our food, taking individual and commercial decisions to buy as locally as possible, and from manufacturers that use sustainable farming and production practices.**

These examples demonstrate the need for an environment and sustainability strategy to be flexible enough to be able to take on changes as they occur over time and adapt to changing information or circumstances. It is essential that we remain aware of international agreements and protocols for action on certain matters so that we can factor these into our own activity and investment plans as and when a scientific consensus is in place. This monitoring role also applies to forthcoming UK legislative changes e.g. the Environment Bill and Agriculture Bill and their potential impact on our strategic ambition and plans. **This will require all partners, particularly major organisations, to put in place resources to obtain such information and insight as well as developing arrangements for the effective sharing of information between appropriate stakeholders.**

FUNDING

It is also clear that financial resourcing is a major challenge. Local, regional and national government finances will be an essential part of our response to the environmental emergency, as will access to private finance opportunities from organisations wishing to offset their unavoidable emissions through investment elsewhere. **Doncaster will need to put in place the infrastructure and networks whereby such finance opportunities are identified at the earliest opportunity and exploited to the maximum as and when they become available.** In addition, businesses and residents will need to take a long-term approach to investment decisions wherever possible by spending money now to reduce emissions but also to save money in the long-term. We also need businesses, public sector organisations and residents to invest time and money in general sustainability improvements such as parks, and greenspaces.

MORE LOCAL EVIDENCE NEEDED

There are some aspects of the strategy that require further or more in-depth research to determine a clearer understanding of the current situation in Doncaster – only then can we identify and implement our collective locality-specific response. There is currently a lack of data and understanding in the topics listed below; each will need to be addressed by partners either individually or in partnership, in order for the most appropriate responses to be identified and implemented.

- Local biodiversity data.
- Energy efficiency of private homes.
- Energy efficiency of commercial and community buildings.
- Status of local trading partnerships (producers, manufacturers, retailers).

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

This section identifies a series of activity and/or commitments that we will need to deliver on if we are going to achieve our vision for Doncaster. In the same way that multiple stakeholders have contributed to the development of the strategy, its implementation is equally dependent on the collective effort and contribution of us all.

It is clear from the sort of interventions discussed in this strategy that different stakeholders will have different roles to play; and it is acknowledged that within any given cohort, different people and organisations will be able to make different scales of intervention according to their own particular circumstances.

Businesses and Public Sector Organisations

- Consider, and where possible, prioritise longer-term benefits and savings against short-term costs.
- Embed appropriate policies to encourage, enable, and support residents and employees to deliver on their role.
- Identify and share advice, guidance and good practice.
- Work collaboratively on investment, procurement and operational activity.
- Identify and share awareness of opportunities associated with private finance options.
- Decarbonise energy supply through demand reduction and the installation of low carbon energy generating technology.
- Invest in electrification of fleet vehicles.
- Identify opportunities for local partnerships – supply chains and customer base.
- Take advantage of funding opportunities for environmental improvements.
- Include environmental factors in procurement policies.

Residents

- Reduce waste; maximise re-use and recycling.
- Dispose of unavoidable waste considerably - don't drop litter and choose legitimate waste disposal companies/facilities.
- Invest in home energy efficiency improvements.
- Consider the environment when making transport choices: cycling, walking, using public transport, car sharing, and investing in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles where possible.
- Consider the environmental impact of the products you buy, how sustainable the materials used are, where it will be shipped from, and whether or not natural resources such as peat are being exploited.
- Shop locally wherever you can and consider the impact of buying from further afield.
- Make space for nature in your garden and support naturalisation in community areas.
- Support community initiatives e.g. litter picking.

Elected members (Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Parish Councils)

- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for funding opportunities to support the implementation of the interventions required, to the scale required; and for legislative changes that make environmental priorities mandatory.
- Give the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

MONITORING PROGRESS AND GOVERNANCE

Progress needs to be measurable so we can continuously determine and communicate the success or otherwise of the activity we undertake. Different partners – be it businesses, organisations, communities or individuals will identify their own targets and measures of success; but as a borough, we must put in place a means by which we can assess quantitative progress. The Team Doncaster partnership board will adopt responsibility for performance management oversight and will put in place a framework by which board members can collate and analyse performance data.

All partners must be open to appropriate sharing of data associated with factors such as energy use, transport use, buildings efficiency etc. such that this can be accumulated to determine our collective impact/progress towards the borough's goals. Without such data sharing agreements, it will be very difficult to determine progress.

Priority Area	Outcome	Performance Indicators	Baseline
Woodland, Trees and Greenspace	Improved green space provision and increased tree coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of land covered by greenspace and tree canopy coverage (increase). Net loss of woodland, trees and greenspace due to development (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 5.8% of Doncaster is woodland. Doncaster tree canopy cover is on average 13% (7% - 24%).
Biodiversity	Bigger areas for nature and better quality habitats that are more joined up at all scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of wildlife sites actively managed for their biodiversity interests (increase). Expenditure and engagement in biodiversity conservation (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites are actively managed for their biodiversity interests (2020). Public support, awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation and social responsibility is rising; as shown by increases in expenditure by Non-Government Organisations and time committed to conservation causes by volunteers. Conversely, public sector expenditure has fallen dramatically over the last decade, and coordinated communication & support to help individuals/communities contribute, isn't well-developed.
Water Quality, Flood Management & Drainage	Better water quality and better protection from flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality measures (optimise). Scale and severity of flood damage incurred by residents and businesses (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this.
Peatland & Soil	Peatland is recognised, protected, enhanced and extended for biodiversity, water storage, carbon sequestration, and essential climate mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale of loss/degradation of peatland from 2020 levels (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of vegetation and resident fauna affected, peat surface burned, tramways and access routes damaged, plastic water control structures melted and peat from some of the baulks which divide up the restoration cells burned.
Contaminated Land	Potential risk from contaminated land sites is appropriately mitigated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of CL sites identified and assessed (maximise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 sites on the public Contaminated Land Register (2020).
Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Sustainable Energy	Reduced carbon footprint from homes & buildings and reduced running costs for residents and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of homes/buildings with energy rating A-C (increase). Proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic energy efficiency ratings: A/B: 8%, C: 52% Private sector homes: A/B: 10%, C: 26% Council houses: B: 3%, C: 62% 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK: 7,053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity. 678kw solar PV installed on 16 Council owned buildings. 2.124MW solar PV installed on 750 council houses.
Statutory Nuisances	Reduced noise, light and odour nuisances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of noise, light and odour complaints (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 2,200 noise complaints per year. Around 24 light complaints per year. Around 80 odour complaints per year.

Priority Area	Outcome	Performance Indicators	Baseline																
Transport	Improved air quality across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of AQMAs (reduce). Air quality measures (optimise). Number of people cycling/walking for transport (increase) 	8 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Average (2019/20)</td> <td>µg/m3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PM10 across all sites</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - worst 3 sites</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - best 3 sites</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - worst sites across all AQMAs</td> <td>46</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Jan-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cyclists</td> <td>1910</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrians</td> <td>12395</td> </tr> </table>	Average (2019/20)	µg/m3	PM10 across all sites	16	NO2 - worst 3 sites	74	NO2 - best 3 sites	33	NO2 - worst sites across all AQMAs	46		Jan-20	Cyclists	1910	Pedestrians	12395
Average (2019/20)	µg/m3																		
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NO2 - worst sites across all AQMAs	46																		
	Jan-20																		
Cyclists	1910																		
Pedestrians	12395																		
Nature Tourism	Nature tourism sites are protected, improved and well-used by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of visitors to nature sites/attractions (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of £253m visitor spend per year (2017-2019) An average of 305,000 trips a year generating 760,000 overnight stays per year and generating an average annual spend of £41 million (2017-2019). 7.1 million day visitors p.a. generating an average £212 million p.a. (2017-19). Visitor spend on the Trans Pennine Trail increased from £144m (2011) to £885m (2017). 																
Green & Innovative Economy	Opportunities in the green economy are accessible and exploited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of businesses and jobs created in green tech industries/supply chains (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Existing Business Operations & Growth	Local businesses are supported to be more environmentally sustainable and to access opportunities associated with the green economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of commercial buildings with energy rating A-C (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Farming	Local farms are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, and actively support the reduction of impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of businesses trading with local farmers (increase). Carbon footprint of local farms (reduce). Number of new farmers joining the sector (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Food	The impact of local food consumption and waste disposal is minimised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of food sourced from local providers (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Fly Tipping and Litter	Reduced incidences and impact of fly tipping & litter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale and severity of fly tipping and litter across Doncaster (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly fly tipping incidents range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). 70 tonnes of waste collected each week from hotspots, costing around £400k per year. In 2019, there were 1617 reported cases of littering, 3142 littering fines and 506 cases submitted for prosecution. 																
Waste & Recycling	The impact of the borough's waste on the environment is minimised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of household waste recycled (increase). Amount of household, municipal and commercial waste to landfill (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total waste generated is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% Household waste (46.4% recycled, 4.6% to landfill (2018/19)). 18% Commercial and Industrial waste 63% Construction, Demolition and Excavation (Recycling and landfill proportions for C&I and C,D&E waste are not known at present) 																

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2030

EVIDENCE BASE 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide further details of the evidence upon which the Environment and Sustainability Strategy is based. It forms part of a package of documents alongside the strategy itself, the Climate and Biodiversity Commission report, and other individual partner strategies and action plans.

The document includes an overview of analysis from resident and member engagement activity, as well as specific data and current activity associated with each priority area.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Resident engagement has taken place through a number of 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises including 'Doncaster Talks (Summer 2019)', 'Doncaster Talks – Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering (November 2019)' and 'Doncaster Talks – Environment (October 2020)'.

SUMMER 2019

This engagement exercise was done through an online survey and face to face engagement with residents in various settings across the borough (e.g. pop up stalls in town centres and at local events). The exercise was not environment-specific, and residents were asked to answer three general questions relating to the Borough:

1. What is good about where you live?
2. What would you like to see improve?
3. What should Doncaster focus on in the future?

There were 3,610 resident responses. The majority of respondents were in the 18-64 age range (73.5%) and an average of approximately 1% of each ward (21 wards) were represented.

Question 1 analysis (What is good about where you live?) showed that *access to green spaces* was the second most mentioned topic (17 wards), second only to community spirit. This shows how highly valued access to the environment is by our residents. Having a quiet neighbourhood (6 wards) and good transport links (5 wards) were fourth and fifth respectively for this question.

Question 2 analysis (What would you like to see improve?) showed that *street cleansing, littering and fly tipping* was the most mentioned topic (20 wards). This shows how much residents appreciate a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment. Road conditions (7 wards), public transport (3 wards), road safety (3 wards) and environment/green spaces (3 wards) were fourth, and joint seventh respectively.

Question 3 analysis (What should Doncaster focus on in the future?) showed that *cleanliness, fly tipping and litter* was the second most mentioned category (13 wards) which Doncaster should focus on in the future, with transport (4 wards) mentioned seventh.

Specific analysis of environmental themes identified in Q2 and Q3 gave the following insight:

For 'What would you like to see improve?': 29% said transport related issues such as condition of roads, pavements and pathways; transport links and infrastructure. 27% said fly-tipping, litter and street cleansing. 19% said woodland, greenspace, better maintenance of trees, grass and hedges.

For 'What should Doncaster focus on in the future?': 30% said fly-tipping, litter street cleansing. 25% said air quality and transport related issues such as conditions of roads, pavements and pathways; improving public transport, traffic and congestion. 11% said woodland and greenspace, with a majority of reference to maintenance of existing parks and open spaces.

NOVEMBER 2019

This engagement exercise was performed on behalf of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission between October 2019 and April 2020 to gather evidence about current environment initiatives and ideas for how Doncaster should respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency. The questions asked via an online survey were:

- "Do you know Doncaster has declared a climate & biodiversity emergency?"
- "Do you know of anything happening in Doncaster which is helping to reduce the impact of Climate Change?"
- "What could Doncaster do to help reduce the impact of Climate Change in the future?"

120 residents responded. The majority of respondents were in the 45-64 age range (43%) and there was representation from across all wards in the Borough.

51% of respondents said they did not know that Doncaster had declared a climate & biodiversity emergency; 45% said they did know; and 4% were unsure.

Around 39% of respondents said that they did not know (or were unsure) of anything happening in Doncaster that is helping to reduce the impact of climate change. Some residents referenced the work of various groups around the Borough and environment initiatives they have set up, for example Trust 22 in Thorne working to reduce plastic use. Other themes that emerged from the responses about things happening in Doncaster to help reduce impact of Climate Change include recycling, school-specific projects, business responsibility and waste processes.

The three most common themes for what Doncaster could do to help reduce the impact of climate change in the future were increasing tree & hedge planting (24%), improving recycling (23%), and improving the condition of roads and pathways (22%). Other themes that emerged include better infrastructure for active travel, improving building regulations, more electric vehicles, renewable energy, education and information accessibility.

OCTOBER 2020

An environment-specific Doncaster Talks engagement exercise took place October to December 2020 to gain public opinion to influence various strategies which are in development, including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Borough Strategy. The online consultation aimed to gain resident opinions on the Climate and Biodiversity Commission's recommendations, aspects of the Environment Service Improvement Plan and matters being considered for inclusion in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

Findings from the 450 respondents include:

- 91% of respondents said that tackling climate change is extremely or somewhat important to them, with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the need for big changes to address climate change.
- The following benefits associated with tackling climate change were listed as extremely important by majority of respondents: "Better air quality", "Enjoyment of nature", "Doing the right thing for future generations" and "Better physical and mental health".
- When asked about the way they do things (e.g. use of utilities in the home, how they travel, waste and recycling), majority of respondents said that they are already doing a lot or some things to changes the way they do things in order to address climate change.
- Similarly, a large proportion of respondents (61%) said that they have already made changes to improve the insulation of their homes. Similar proportions of respondents said they have already made changes to their homes heating system (35%) and that they are willing but not able to (39%). Majority of respondents said that they are willing but not able to spend money on solar panels, an electric vehicle or other measures in response to climate change.
- 88% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the new naturalisation approach being trialled in different green spaces across the Borough whereby grass is cut less frequently to all more wildflowers and plants to grow.
- Respondents were asked to rank policy areas in order of importance to them. This resulted in Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills, and Economy being ranked as the top three, Arts and culture was ranked last, and Environment and Climate Change ranked near the middle (number 5 out of 8 policy areas).
- A question about balancing priorities, with house building given as the example, resulted in 63% of people choosing the options which focused on improving energy efficiency of existing homes and building new homes to high environmental standards, as well as saying no to building developments that are not at the highest environmental standards, even if this results in those developments not going ahead. Only 9% of respondents said that the council should focus on building many new homes, complying only with minimum legal building standards.
- When asked to place a marker on a continuum indicating where Doncaster should focus resources (from targeting resources on a few specific areas to spreading resources evenly across all areas), respondents put the marker near the middle, but slightly more towards spreading resources evenly across all areas.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ENGAGEMENT

WARD COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

All elected Ward Members were consulted throughout the development of the strategy. Engagement took place in various ways including:

- Two series of engagement sessions held in October 2019 and July 2020,
- Updates provided to the Housing & Environment Overview and Scrutiny panel on both the strategy and progress of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission,
- 4 elected members were part of the Climate & Biodiversity Commission.

This section primarily focuses on the feedback and comments provided from the two series of engagement sessions with elected members.

The aim of the first series, held in October 2019, was to understand members' main environmental concerns, both borough-wide and ward-specific. During this series, fourteen councillors provided feedback. The nine topics listed below were commented on by all councillors and highlighted as topics which concern residents the most:

1. Air quality
2. Transportation/congestion
3. Planning/energy efficiency
4. Recycling, waste, street cleaning & fly-tipping
5. Enforcement
6. Education/encouragement
7. Greenspace/parks/trees including biodiversity
8. Flood management
9. Food

Specific comments made by councillors included:

- "Adwick/Carcroft have the highest pollution figures because of the A1M; and have a lot of HGV traffic."
- "Woodfield Way has no weight limits; lorries from the quarries use this road as it shortens the route to the M18."
- "Education is required to ensure people take responsibility of their own rubbish. Problems in Town Centre/Hexthorpe with people not using the correct bins."
- "Braithwell has expanded since 1950s but houses are using same water course/storage as before the additional homes were built. Severn Trent deal with the water in this area. Homes keep getting flooded."
- "Flooding in Kirk Sandall has affected the train line through the area. Thorpe Bank/Barnby Dun/Fordstead Lane regularly closed due to flooding and the diversions impact traffic."
- "Tickhill/Wadworth have significant issues with litter & fly-tipping, pollution from vehicles and noise pollution from motorbikes and quad bikes."
- "Finningley (Airport) – new planes being increased. This will increase pollution in the area."
- "Highfields – fly tipping – people just don't even use their own bin, they just dump it."
- "Town centre has many tree-lined avenues and air quality under tree canopies seems better. A lot of benefits from trees which aren't really seen. Only really talk about the negatives."

The second series of engagement sessions took place throughout July 2020. The purpose of these sessions was to discuss the information obtained through the 'SCATTER' modelling which shows the impact on greenhouse gas emissions of potential interventions to respond to climate change.

Much of the discussion focussed on ensuring understanding of the information but also how best to share this with the wider public in an understandable way – to ensure everyone understands what will be required to help achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

The main points raised by Members included:

- **Understanding** – Communicating the amount of work required to meet our targets, and the significant individual and organisational costs involved. Clear and easy to understand public communications are required.
- **Building** – Difficult decisions to be made regarding house quality vs number of homes built. If developers are not environmentally focussed, then the Council should not give planning permission. Difficulty derived from what is and is not present in planning law.
- **Trees** – May be difficult to achieve the scale of planting discussed. Careful consideration should be given to where trees are planted as the positives are not gained in the area where they are needed if planting occurs in a different area -

'off-setting'. Trees can help improve air quality, but most are planted away from urban areas. Tree off-setting needs to be taken into account during the Planning process.

- **Electric cars** – Concerns about the necessary infrastructure required and potential unwillingness to change vehicle fuel type if their current car meets their needs. There are still issues with the batteries; lithium is a finite resource and what can be done after the battery is no longer viable to be used.
- **Partnership collaborations** – Partnership working is key, particularly to help with the cost of many interventions required to achieve the targets being set. More public-private partnerships need to be used, not only for funding but to show a united front. More organisations working together towards a common goal can further influence others, including the public. Communication between parties is key to ensure all are on the same page to prevent opportunities being missed.
- **Barriers/challenges** – People will only make changes if they feel it is affordable and manageable. Incentives may have to be used widely to gain buy-in. Finances and affordability will be a big factor that needs addressing. There needs to be a can-do attitude to explore different options, rather than saying things cannot be done. Behaviour change will be more difficult for some than others, particularly if commuting requirements are limited by poor public transport provision. People need to be encouraged, rather told what to do.
- **Communications** – Methods need to be tailored to different generations, not everyone uses social media for example, but libraries are frequented by various groups. Maintained and consistent messages are needed to make behaviour changes towards the required new norm. Tone of messaging is also very important. There needs to be a balance between cost and benefit messaging; some people understand the benefits but cannot afford the initial outlay to implement improvements.
- **Education** – This will be key, as will promoting a cultural change. Need to make the issue real and relevant to the public, that anything they do will have much bigger consequences; little changes add up to the big changes. Education around the things that people can do themselves will help sow the seed for them to make bigger changes (when they are able to do so).
- **Policy changes** – Will there be more specific policies to protect the environment i.e., banning disposable BBQs? How much can we do in relation to specific policies when much is dictated from central government?
- **Transport** – The highways infrastructure around Doncaster was developed to reduce traffic issues in town centres but accidents, particularly on motorways, cause diversions to be sent through town centre and cause gridlocks. Many parents are dropping children off at school in cars and keep the engine running. Increasing numbers of visitors to attractions around the Borough, e.g. Lakeside or Yorkshire Wildlife Park, have seen increased vehicle presence in these areas and increasing issues of air quality.

Comments were also made by one or two councillors on enforcement, flooding/water management, research and consultations.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish councillors were provided with an update via their Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee (PCJCC) meeting. This took place in January 2020 where parish councillors were given information on the Climate & Biodiversity Commission, including who the members are and its objectives.

Parish councillors were invited to submit their viewpoints within the Doncaster Talks – Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering and were informed of a number of events which they could get involved in alongside Commission members.

A further briefing was provided to the PCJCC in October 2020 outlining the key information gathered during development of the strategy and the draft content expected to go through the approval process. Committee members provided comments and suggestions which were factored into development of the final strategy document.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

In September 2020, the three Members of Parliament (MPs) for Doncaster were engaged to consider what they would like to see from the new Environment and Sustainability Strategy. All three constituencies were represented:

- Doncaster North, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP (Labour)
- Doncaster Central, Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton MP (Labour)
- Don Valley, Nick Fletcher MP (Conservative).

Communication is going to be a critical element of the strategy. No single group, community or industry sector can deliver all the interventions required to tackle the environment and biodiversity emergency, nor can any single stakeholder

deliver a majority share. A clear communication and engagement plan is required to ensure all residents, community groups, businesses, public sector organisations and regional and national partners understand the importance of this issue. It needs to ensure collective buy-in and commitment to make individual contributions to the response and grow and maintain awareness of the opportunities and support that is available to enable them to do so.

MPs stressed the importance of communicating the benefits that will come from responding to climate change, rather than simply the challenges. Highlighting the anticipated better jobs, better transport, better places, better health, and better lives outcomes must be at the forefront of the strategy engagement activity. This will ensure stakeholders see the benefits to them personally, as well as the benefits across communities, the town, region, country and globally.

Another shared view was that we can tackle most sub-elements of the strategy and start on the required interventions now, with current resources – so we should be clear about this. However, we must also highlight where we need to go further than what current resources allow, identifying where additional resources would be needed from external sources e.g. Government or private investors. There are also numerous aspects of the strategy where further investigation and analysis is required to inform specific responses, either borough-wide or in specific locations across Doncaster.

All MPs felt that flooding is a major issue that needs to be prioritised in the strategy – both in terms of proactive work to defend homes and businesses from flooding, but also in preparing the best possible procedures to activate a response to flooding if it does take place. This will require working with multiple partners across different local authority areas.

PARTNER COMMITMENTS

Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy is an aggregation of numerous partners' targets, commitments and activity; but many partners have their own individual strategies or action plans to address climate change. These documents cover a range of issues such as working practices, procurement policies, buildings, workforce culture, waste, education, and staff support. A summary of some of the key partner strategies is provided below, with further information available within each document.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) incl. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

In 2018 DEFRA released '[A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#)' which captures plans for all DEFRA agencies, of which the Environment Agency is one. The plan sets out the Government's long-term approach to protecting and enhancing various natural landscapes and habitats in the UK.

The plan sets out several goals that hope to achieve the following:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Further, environmental pressures will be managed through:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity

Policies related to the above goals will focus on:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
- Protecting and improving the global environment

DONCASTER and BASSETLAW TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST (DBTH)

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20 states that the Trust is committed to improving its carbon reduction performance and has a range of low carbon initiatives in place to ensure delivery. NHS carbon reduction targets, which are linked to the UK Climate Change Act 2008, are in place and require Trusts to reduce CO2 emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. At the end of 2019/20 the Trust had reduced its CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) by 7,426 tonnes and achieved the 34% reduction target. There had been the intention to roll out Green Champions in 2020, but this was put on hold due to the global Covid 19 pandemic. The Trust will deliver its ambitions through delivery of the Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service released in 2020.

DONCASTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Doncaster Chamber of Commerce has introduced new business support services to help businesses become greener. This includes the introduction of a new Green Business Forum to allow organisations to access and share best practice, as well as an opportunity for local businesses to engage with regional policy makers on environmental policy issues. Additionally, the Chamber has partnered with Engie to offer green energy solutions to businesses which will help companies to be more sustainable and save money. The Chamber will continue to introduce new products and services to help businesses become greener and maximise commercial opportunities linked to the low carbon agenda.

The Chamber's education arm 'Opportunities Doncaster' is increasingly collaborating with progressive businesses to develop work readiness in residents through innovation and enterprise challenges linked to the low carbon agenda. For example, local learners were recently supported by a fast-food chain to develop plastic free children's meals. The Chamber will continue to link its business and education activities to carbon literacy.

DONCASTER CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Doncaster CCG has a [Sustainable Development and Management Plan \(2018-2021\)](#) which details how they are going to reduce their direct impact on the environment including reducing buildings-related greenhouse gas emissions, business travel and waste going to landfill.

The 8 areas they are focusing on to reduce environmental impact are:

- 1. Leadership, Engagement and Workforce Development** - Sustainable and resilient services will only emerge from a culture that understands and values environmental and social resources alongside financial resources. This requires strong leadership and awareness of staff to move sustainability to the forefront.
- 2. Carbon Hotspots** – This area looks to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing recycling and will look at the carbon footprint related to travel of employees, patients and visitors.
- 3. Commissioning & Procurement** - The CCG will look to use criteria to stimulate more ambitious and innovative approaches to delivering care that costs less, creates less environmental harm and reduces inequalities. Sustainable commissioning will take a whole system approach to improving health and wellbeing of the people it buys services for. The CCG understands that commissioning services in a way that utilises local assets, improves the local environment and empowers local people and communities can achieve wider benefits from the same investment.
- 4. Sustainable Clinical and Care Models** - To be prepared for changing times, climates and events it is increasingly important to consider the environmental and social impact of how services are delivered.
- 5. Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Communities** - A local approach is needed to support communities to thrive, be more sustainable, resilient and healthy in changing times and climates. NHS, public health and social care organisations play an important role in local communities, as employers and as core public service providers. They are an integral part of communities and can help support community groups, local agencies and local people to further build a sense of place and identity, so people want to live, work and invest there. These elements also create the conditions for improved health and wellbeing.
- 6. Metrics** - The purpose of this area is to set out a vision for measuring progress in continually improving health and wellbeing in England now and for future generations, within available financial, social and environmental resources.
- 7. Innovation, Technology and Research & Development** - This area can improve sustainability particularly, where the components act as catalysts for each other. It is the product of collaboration with many organisations and individuals across the system that has helped to highlight and define good practice in innovation technology and research & development.
- 8. Creating Social Value** - Actively designing and delivering social value is a core part of the transformation needed across public sector organisations. There is an emphasis on the importance of considering social value in advance of commencing any commissioning and procurement processes. Such considerations should help inform and shape the purpose of the products needed and, perhaps more importantly, the design of the services required.

This plan will be reviewed every two years and in accordance with any changes to relevant legislation or good practice guidelines, or after a significant change in the structure of the CCG. Where review is necessary due to legislative change, this will happen immediately.

DONCASTER COUNCIL

Doncaster Council does not have an individual Environment Strategy. However, the environment is at the focus of numerous elements of the strategic framework within which it operates e.g. the Borough Strategy, Housing Strategy, Education & Skills Strategy, Inclusive Growth Strategy, Transport Strategy, and the Council Environment Services Improvement Plan. The Council will make a direct contribution to many of the interventions required across all aspects of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, some of which are presented below.

Woodlands, Trees & Green Spaces

- Consider opportunities to enhance and increase green infrastructure assets e.g. woodland, parks, open spaces.
- Develop and implement a borough-wide, multi-partner tree planting strategy.

Biodiversity

- Manage land and water sustainably, informed by a Natural Capital Assessment.
- Enforce Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for developments and uphold tree preservation orders.
- Develop and review organisational policies and procedures to ensure natural capital is valued and protected.

Water Quality, Flood Management & Drainage

- Reactive maintenance of highways & property that support flood risk mitigation; ensure public drainage assets are working correctly to allow surface water to drain away.
- Planned works completed on a cyclical basis that includes cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways, trash screens, pumping stations, ponds and flow controls.

Peatland and Soil

- Identify alternatives to replace the use of peat-based products.

Contaminated Land

- Maintenance of public contaminated land register and remediated sites database.
- Assess potential sites of concern in line with appropriate regulations and local inspections strategy.

Energy Efficiency of Buildings & Sustainable Energy

- Build highly energy efficient council homes.
- Inspect private rented homes to identify & respond to excess cold hazards.
- Decarbonise the Council's electricity supply through demand reduction and the installation of low carbon energy generating technology.

Statutory Nuisances Including Noise, Odour and Light Pollution

- Make appropriate planning decisions to mitigate adverse impacts of new developments.
- Develop and strengthen reporting and monitoring protocols across all services.
- Robust and fair enforcement of Enforcement Policies where necessary and appropriate.

Transport

- Lead the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles including the required refuelling infrastructure.
- Naturalisation of appropriate areas through changes in grass cutting frequency, planting more greenery or reducing public access.
- Invest in active travel, including resident led approaches for low traffic neighbourhoods and school streets.

Nature Tourism

- Raise awareness of green and blue infrastructure. Specific emphasis within the Visitor Economy Strategy.

Green and Innovative Economy

- Learn from the international community in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity.
- Support businesses to set out green strategies to help investors to direct capital into 'green' projects at scale.

Existing Business Operations and Growth

- Support businesses to identify and access available funding streams for making their operations more environmentally friendly.

Farming

- Maintain focus on local farm business development, funding and subsidy with particular focus on resilience, sustainability, and climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Raise the profile of Good Food Doncaster/Sustainable Food Cities to local farmers and food producers – aiming to maximise access to affordable healthy food, reduce the risk of food insecurity, and to promote a successful, locally-led food economy in Doncaster.

Food

- Explore a compassionate approach to supporting residents to eat sustainably and healthily, and adoption of the BeWell@Work award.
- Explore links with community food initiatives and projects.

Fly Tipping and Litter

- Greater deployment of CCTV cameras at fly tipping hot-spots to support enforcement action against perpetrators
- Invest in technology to improve efficiency of fly-tipping response routes and times.

Waste and Recycling

- Provide advice and guidance to partners and households on waste/recycling options.
- Review future options for enhancement of council-operated household waste facilities.
- Procurement policies to include requirements associated with reduction of waste.

DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT (DSA)

DSA have produced a Sustainability Road Map. Peel Group, who own the airport, have four targets derived from several UN SDGs that they aim to achieve in the next 5 years.

- Continually improve the sustainability of assets - including targets for energy, waste, water, procurement and office sustainability.
- Support the development of sustainable low carbon communities, transport, energy and infrastructure - including buildings being a 'very good' or excellent BREEAM standard.
- Create new training, employment and local business opportunities through regenerations activities - increasing jobs & skills, looking to provide for local communities and encouraging sustainable tourism.
- Help communities connect with nature - including biodiversity protection by natural capital accounting.

There are plans for a sustainability school at DSA (to address carbon literacy and employee initiatives), support functions (e.g. car share schemes, paperless working, electric vehicles, removal of single use plastics, remote working for non-operational roles), supply chain review (including retail aspects) and a solar farm onsite.

Prior to the development of their Sustainability Road map, they produced their [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\) Report 2019](#) which provides details on environment related initiatives. The CSR report outlines several specific initiatives that DSA have implemented in recent years to help reduce the impact of the airport on climate and biodiversity issues.

- Invested £110k in energy saving lighting upgrades for the terminal and car parks.
- Invested in its own purpose-built onsite water treatment works to better manage surface water and sewage.
- Waste is managed on behalf of the airlines, terminal tenants and all other tenants with recycling initiatives through a partnership with Doncaster Community Recycling Partnership (DCRP).
- Supporting strategic transport schemes that aim to increase public transport connectivity such as a proposed rail station connected into the East Coast Mainline and local rail networks.
- The Noise Monitoring and Environment committee is a subgroup of the Airport consultative committee with a specific remit to monitor and review all aspects related to noise, air quality, ecology and the impact on the local community of ground operations associated with the Airport.
- Developed a long-term Landscape Management and Habitat Creation plan which is agreed with the Council.
- Created over 25 acres of managed habitat areas, including 44 artificial bat roosts erected around the Airport and 6 bird and owl boxes within woodlands. Underground tunnels have also been built between some of the habitats which have also been constructed.
- DSA aims to achieve sustainable growth while contributing to the development of society through several initiatives including the installation of a solar power farm.
- Ecological and landscape aims:
 - To retain and replace as much of the existing vegetation around the Airport as is feasible.
 - To maximise opportunities for new habitat creation.
 - To provide an attractive and beneficial environment for passengers and residents.

ENGIE UK

Engie is a leading energy and services company focused on three key activities: production and supply of low carbon energy, services, and regeneration. They work with businesses and organisations to accelerate the transition towards a net zero carbon world by reducing energy consumption, greening supply and enabling progress through innovative technology, data & partnerships. Engie has vast experience in a number of different areas including green housing, retrofitting and sustainable transport. ENGIE UK considers the environment to be at the heart of their service delivery and it underpins all that they do. They are committed to preventing pollution and reducing their environmental impacts.

Within Doncaster, Engie have been working in partnership with different organisations on a number of key projects including developing an energy masterplan to help the Council and the borough to become more sustainable in energy production and use; developing a high-level appraisal of DCLT's current emissions and investment options for becoming more sustainable; and various other projects which are still being scoped out.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (NFU)

In early 2020 the NFU published its net zero ambitions in [Achieving Net Zero – Farming's 2040 goal](#). The NFU's assessment is that they can only deliver net zero if they act across a range of internationally recognised inventories. The ambition for a net zero contribution to climate change across the whole of agricultural production by 2040 is a national aspiration, not an expectation that every farm can reach net zero. Every farm will start the journey to net zero from a different place and will need a unique action plan. The policy measures needed to enable UK farming to meet their net zero aspiration will require a partnership approach. Uptake by farm businesses will need to be accompanied by concerted support across government departments, agencies and other stakeholders to act with them and help them deliver on this ambition.

Action to tackle climate change in UK agriculture requires a portfolio of different policies and practices focused on three key themes, or pillars:

- Improving farming's productive efficiency to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions – enabling farming to produce the same quantity of food, or more, with less inputs in smarter ways.
- Farmland carbon storage in soils and vegetation – improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon, through bigger hedgerows, more woodland, and especially more carbon-rich soil.
- Boosting renewable energy and the bioeconomy to displace greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and to create GHG removal through photosynthesis and carbon capture.

The NFU has emphasised that, at the same time as reducing their impact on the climate, farmers should not reduce their capacity to feed UK consumers with high quality, affordable British food. The UK must not achieve its climate change ambitions by exporting UK production, or greenhouse gas emissions, to other countries.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE (SYFR)

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have adopted the [Environmental Protection Handbook for the Fire and Rescue Service](#), along with all Fire and Rescue services to follow. The Handbook was developed in conjunction with the Environment Agency from all four areas of the UK.

It states that there is clear evidence that the fire and rescue service can, and do, make a significant contribution in protecting the environment and that because of their actions, significant harm to the natural environment has been prevented or mitigated. The handbook provides a role in enduring information is available to allow effective planning and response to incidents which have the potential to cause serious harm to the environment.

The current version of the handbook outlines that it does not consider the impacts that climate change will have on the Fire and Rescue Service; as this was covered in, 'Effects of Climate Change on Fire and Rescue Services in the UK' (1/2006). This document stated that climate change is unlikely to provide new challenges for Fire and Rescue Services, instead, those challenges that are already faced will potentially become more service, and also more frequent, i.e. flooding and grass/woodland fires.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE (SYP)

South Yorkshire Police have developed a [Sustainability Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) with targets based around seven of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **Good health and well-being** – support the health and well-being of employees and those SYP work with.
 - Develop and implement the actions arising from the health and wellbeing strategy.
 - Identify mechanisms to enhance community wellbeing through neighbourhood policing
- **Quality education** – provide SYP's people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to contribute to sustainability and widely share these opportunities
 - 100% of staff with the skills, knowledge and confidence to contribute to sustainability.
 - Increase SYP's contribution to social value within schools, colleges and universities across the region.
- **Reduced inequalities** – promote environmental, social and economic equality across everything SYP delivers
 - Review and update our policies and processes to promote equality across our business activities.
 - Work with partners and stakeholders to support the reduction of inequalities in the communities we serve.
- **Responsible consumption and production** – embed sustainability considerations into the purchase, use and disposal of all the resources SYP use
 - Embed sustainability within the procurement process and support the transition to a circular economy.
 - Work with suppliers, to understand and improve the sustainability credentials of SYP's supply chain.
- **Climate action** – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

- Play an active role in supporting South Yorkshire to respond to the climate emergency.
- **Peace, justice and strong institutions** – ensure sustainability is considered in everything SYP delivers
 - Embed the use of the Sustainability Spectrum across South Yorkshire Police and report progress annually.
 - Embed sustainability in the governance and reporting processes to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.
- **Partnerships for the goals** – develop effective partnerships to support a positive contribution to the communities we serve
 - Work in 50 partnership initiatives to support the delivery of the SDGs.
 - Work with colleagues from the Police and the Fire Service to support a national response to sustainability.

Progress against the achievement of the Sustainability Spectrum will be monitored via the force Organisational Infrastructure process; whereby each district and department across the force is required to support a quarterly review of their own delivery and this will include sustainability.

The implementation of this strategy will be coordinated by SYP’s sustainability team, which will work with colleagues across the force to achieve the targets identified against their priority SDGs.

YORKSHIRE WATER (YW)

YW have been focusing on climate change, carbon emissions reduction and adaptation for many years. It is a priority for them because, as a business they are reliant on a stable climate – it impacts both their ability to provide clean water to the region, and their ability to deal with wastewater and prevent flooding.

In 2019, YW made a commitment to be Net Zero by 2030. Their approach to achieve this commitment covers three areas:

- **Reducing emissions** - operational emissions have reduced by 80% since 2004/5, mainly through investment in their own renewables and buying only green energy.
- **Retaining carbon** - Yorkshire Water is the second biggest landowner in Yorkshire, and as such their land has significant potential to impact on their emissions. They have developed a tool to account for these emissions which has provided a baseline to monitor against. They are also involved in activities on tree planting and peat restoration. In 2019, the Yorkshire Land Network was established to bring together the region’s biggest landowners to work together, with an aim to develop a carbon offsetting market for Yorkshire.
- **Building resilience** – this work covers a wide range of areas designed to help YW and its customers be more resilient. Key activities include reducing demand and encouraging water efficiency; building supply resilience; reducing flood risk and encouraging mitigation; and helping to create a resilient environment.

To support their approach, they have developed the Six Capitals assessment tool which helps understand the total impact of each decision made. The Six Capitals are Human, Intellectual, Social, Financial, Manufactured, and Natural.

DATA, ACTIVITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

WOODLANDS, TREES & GREEN SPACES

What we know

- Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), prevent flooding (by absorbing water, intercepting it and slowing down the rate that it flows into rivers), prevent soil erosion and reduce surface run-off. The canopies create shade and shelter, encourage wildlife and are a source of fuel. Trees also provide water quality improvements and contribute to climate action by acting as a land-based carbon sink.
- Doncaster's public tree resource is widespread and diverse but was until recently, largely unrecorded. To date, over 40,000 trees on council land have been surveyed and added to the municipal tree database, including nearly 12,000 in parks and greenspaces and 10,000 street trees. 18% of Doncaster's municipal trees are maple species, 11% lime and 7% cherry. 80% of Doncaster's municipal trees are less than 50 years old.
- Approximately 5.8% of Doncaster is woodland (South Yorkshire average: 7.4%, national average: 8.4%).
- Doncaster tree canopy cover is 13%; wards range from 7% (Stainforth/Barnby Dun) to 24% (Edlington/Warmsworth). Doncaster is lowest in South Yorkshire (SY average 16%, national average 16%).
- Pests and diseases that affect trees appear to be increasing in number and severity of impact.
- The increase in urban temperatures and changing patterns of rainfall affect the capacity for trees to grow within urban areas.
- There is a lack of robust data on quantity and quality of greenspace.
- Many of our parks are high quality with 5 parks having received the Green Flag Award and Elmfield Park has been granted Fields in Trust Status; however the standard of many parks is poor and declining.
- Parks have aging fixed play equipment with no defined replacement budget.
- Large trees are often not valued in town centres and residential areas and their removal is often called for by residents/elected members.

What we've done/are doing

- Aligning with regional and national initiatives to lever investment, for example source to sea EA nature-based solutions programme, northern forest, regional climate activity.
- Doncaster Future Parks programme
- Doncaster Green Space Network: Enhancing social and community capacity, developing platforms for local knowledge share/best practice; volunteering opportunities for corporate & residential participants, and opportunities for new partnership working.
- Doncaster Smart Parks: Integrating new technologies into parks provision, usage and delivery; collating data to support parks provision and development; innovation within parks provision; and utilisation of web-based portals and social media to support the Green Space Network
- Doncaster Quality Parks: Striving for benchmark open space provision standards (Green Flag Standards) and local quality mark (second phase of Green Space Audit).
- Doncaster Parks of the Future: Diversification for the benefit of the natural environment/climate adaptation - for example, looking at more sensitive management of parks, reviewing mowing regimes, allowing naturalisation where appropriate, encouraging areas of natural regeneration to support multiple environmental outcomes. Exploring opportunities for storing water in parks to enhance habitat and look at climate adaptation in urban areas.
- Developing a strategy to encourage and support an increase in the use of greenspace areas by incorporating additional amenity facilities (cafés/toilets) etc.
- Undertaking a Natural Capital Assessment to identify natural assets that provide ecosystem services and developing knowledge share arrangements with other places about adapting green space management for multiple benefits.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 33 states that development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that woodlands, trees and hedgerows have been adequately considered during the design process and significant adverse impact on public amenity or ecological interest has been avoided. There will also be a presumption against development that results in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and/or veteran trees. The Local Plan also has a policy where developers will be asked to complete a HIA where certain triggers are met – loss of green space is one of the triggers.

Health implications

Woodlands, trees and green spaces play an important role in the health and wellbeing of the population. Not only do they lend beauty to our urban and rural communities; time spent in natural environments has demonstrated mental and physical health benefits.

There are positive health effects of viewing natural landscapes on stress levels and speed of recovery from stress or mental fatigue, faster physical recovery from illness and long-term overall improvement on people's health and well-being are reported. Safe and accessible green spaces such as woodlands and parks entice families and children to spend more time outdoors and natural spaces are key to people spending more time being active and socialising.

High quality green (e.g. parks and open spaces) and blue (e.g. lakes, rivers and canals) infrastructure has a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of local communities. Green infrastructure makes several important contributions to local climate regulation including the positive impact on air quality, the reduction in the impact of the 'urban heat island effect', reduction in the likelihood of surface water flooding and the potential to reduce noise pollution. Trees also help to clean and cool the air and reduce harmful air pollutants and air temperatures.

Communities that have access to clean, safe and attractive green spaces in urban and rural areas will be more likely to travel actively through them, enjoy them, and play and socialise in them. Thus, by safeguarding, sharing and increasing and improving green space we can expect to see significant improvements in the local environment and the mental and physical health of those that use these areas.

BIODIVERSITY

What we know

- The UK's biodiversity continues to undergo significant change, in the face of pressures from agricultural practice, detrimental land management, climate change, urban expansion, pollution, invasive non-native species and other factors.
- The impacts to nature include loss of habitat and degradation of its quality, character, distinctiveness and connectivity, in-turn resulting in a loss of species diversity – our biological communities are becoming more similar to each other and less resilient.
- The Government's most recent biodiversity assessment indicates that the UK will not meet the Global 2020 targets it committed to and the following trends persist, including:
 - Rapid changes in species abundance, with more species decreasing than increasing and with the rate of decline not letting-up and in some cases accelerating
 - Species distribution is falling
 - 15% (1188) of conservation-status species, are currently assessed as being threatened with extinction.
- Public support, awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation and social responsibility is rising as shown by increases in expenditure by Non-Government Organisations and time committed to conservation causes by volunteers. Conversely, public sector expenditure has fallen dramatically over the last decade and coordinated communication and support to help individuals and communities play their part, is not well-developed.
- Doncaster (by area) is the largest Borough in England, covering 220 square miles of varied landscape and supporting some of the richest and rarest habitats in Britain, some occurring nowhere else in the UK.
- Approximately 65% of the Borough is under agricultural use – mostly arable production.
- Doncaster is naturally a marshy landscape but has been artificially pump-drained primarily for agriculture and hunting purposes, making it one of the driest parts of England. Despite this, rivers and wetlands (including the Rivers Don, Dearne, Went, Idle and Torne) are prominent and important features of the Borough's landscape and heritage.
- In the east of the Borough the landform dips to sea level and the low-lying agricultural land is intensively pump-drained and covered in-part by Water Level Management Plans.
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors form part of the UK's largest area of lowland raised bog (peatland), a wetland complex of international importance for nature conservation, which sit within this modified landscape.
- As well as conservation sites of international importance, the borough has 2 Nature Improvement Areas (The Dearne Valley and Humberhead Levels), 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and approximately 381 Local Sites.
- Doncaster's wider green (and blue) infrastructure network - of parks, woodlands, allotments, playing fields, cemeteries, rivers and canals etc - supports nature in both rural and urban areas, however few public open spaces are managed to protect or enhance their nature conservation value. Only 38% of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites are actively managed for their biodiversity interests.
- Public perceptions of what 'managed' greenspace should look like vary widely and are not necessarily beneficial for biodiversity, e.g. the merits of long grass management are not widely understood or welcomed.
- Through local and expert knowledge, we know broadly what action needs to be undertaken for nature, but the supporting evidence and monitoring is not widely or consistently captured to track biodiversity gains and losses. The resources and the drivers needed to implement change are not yet in place.

What we've done/are doing

- Emerging Local Plan Policies 30 (Ecological Networks), 31 (Valuing Biodiversity and Geodiversity), and 32 (Local Wildlife and Geological Sites) work together to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (sites, habitats and species) and ecological networks.
- Working in partnership, at a landscape and river-catchment scale and across the Borough's boundaries, to plan and deliver strategic habitat and species conservation initiatives that also provide wider sustainability benefits, e.g. Natural Flood Management, community pride and capacity building. Recent projects have delivered extensive peatland restoration interventions on Thorne and Hatfield Moors, community engagement in the habitats and heritage of the Dearne Valley, and several wildlife, visitor and natural flood storage enhancements within the Torne, Don and Went river catchments.
- Working with owners and managers of wildlife sites to provide advice, information and support on land management and opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
- Supporting the operation and development of Doncaster Local Records Centre to promote the collection and sharing of biological information, to inform our knowledge of the Borough's biodiversity and decision-making at all levels. Doncaster is one of 16 accredited local record centres in the UK.

- Doncaster delivered one of DEFRA's six Biodiversity Offsetting pilots to inform the development of Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system.
- Developed a Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy to set out the biodiversity priorities.
- Supporting the Northern Forest initiative.
- Review of greenspace capacity for tree/woodland planting is underway.
- Identification of strategic 'Nature Recovery Network' habitat creation and restoration sites currently underway.
- Commissioning with partners a Natural Capital Assessment for Doncaster identifying opportunities for protecting, enhancing and investing in natural assets and the ecosystem services they provide.

Health implications

Favourable conservation status of wild flora and fauna is essential not only for securing healthy eco systems but for human wellbeing too. Well-designed ecological networks are also essential for mitigating the negative effects of climate change. In addition to the ecological benefits of these sites, there are many health and wellbeing benefits for the residents that use them, therefore it is important that the sites are accessible to all.

WATER QUALITY, FLOOD MANAGEMENT & DRAINAGE

What we know

- Doncaster has large areas that are at risk from river and/or surface water flooding.
- A key issue is the increase in impermeable area due to continued development/increase in new highways; with little resources for upgrading the highway drainage network. An improved drainage network would cost in the billions, as the size of pipework is never upgraded. To mitigate this, flows entering sewers are restricted by attenuating on site.
- Doncaster Council Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) Adoption Policy is currently being implemented to help improve water quality on new developments across the borough. SUDS features allow surface water to re-enter the ground after passing through treatment trains, rather than entering sewers or watercourse.
- Flood protocols/action plans are in place.
- Natural flood management (NFM) schemes are implemented where possible across the borough.
 - Historically, NFM schemes have been difficult to deliver due to funding restrictions for government flood defence grant in aid. However, the requirements are changing which is making the wide scale adoption of these projects easier. Similarly, another challenge with financing NFM is that regulatory regimes tend to prefer the more easily quantifiable outputs of traditional solutions. There is also often very little support available to land managers for the ongoing maintenance of NFM schemes. Yorkshire Water's six capitals approach to assessing benefits is useful for NFM as it captures the wider health and environmental benefits.
 - There's an opportunity to fund NFM projects through carbon and biodiversity offsetting markets and Yorkshire Water is exploring this through the Yorkshire Land Network. This could also help get around the lack of funding for ongoing maintenance.
 - The new requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain from developments could also provide a route for funding of NFM approaches.
- The Environment Agency has an investment request for over £40million of nature based solutions schemes' on the flood risk programme for the River Don, £33million of this request is for Doncaster.
- Water Level Management Plans are in place for Internal Drainage Boards however, Doncaster Borough has 3 drainage boards, and a strategic plan needs to be implemented to tie these together.
- Catchment Area Based Action Plans exist for the 'The Don' and 'The Torne', but a broader catchment approach is important to look at the whole system in order to help mitigate flood risk and build climate resilience. Doncaster have been an advocate for the 'one catchment approach' to helping reduce flood risk and plan for future changes in drainage management as a result of climate change. Yorkshire Water is in conversation authorities across the Sheffield City Region about the possibility of a Don Catchment flooding partnership. Similarly, the Environment Agency is developing a catchment plan for the whole catchment along with other partners involved in source to sea and one catchment approach work.
- A well-maintained drainage network across the Borough leads to achievement of objectives within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and provides additional benefits including:
 - Reduced the risk of flooding for properties of surface water
 - Less standing water on the highway network
 - Fewer road/bridge closures and road diversions
 - Fewer potholes
 - Reduced liability
 - Less vehicle/personal damage/injury
 - Better reliability for public and commercial transport services
 - Reduced costs
 - An enhanced environment
 - Access to green space (which has health and wellbeing benefits)
 - Biodiversity benefits
 - Climate mitigation benefits.

What we've done/are doing

- Reactive and planned drainage maintenance:
 - Reactive maintenance takes account of highways and properties at risk of flooding and ensures the drainage assets are working correctly to allow surface water to drain away.
 - Planned works are carried out on a cyclical basis and include cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways and trash screens.
 - Inspections are carried out on all other drainage assets, such as pumping stations, ponds and flow controls on a monthly or annual basis to determine the work which needs to be carried out on these assets.

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies several residual flood risk areas and details planning advice for these which should be considered when looking to develop in these areas. The Council keeps an up-to-date evidence base on flood risk so that proposals outside of Development Allocations have the best available evidence on which to prepare their own site-specific flood risk assessments and appropriate mitigation, and to assist with passing the sequential or exception tests.
- Approval, adoption and maintenance of new Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Implementation of new flood alleviation schemes occurs every year, including NFM schemes.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 57 (Drainage) requires that development sites incorporate satisfactory measures for dealing with their drainage impacts, to ensure wastewater and surface water run-off are managed appropriately and reduce flood risk to existing communities.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 58 (Flood Risk Management) requires that all planning proposals be considered against Government planning policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including application of the flood-risk sequential test, and if necessary, the exception test.
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places duties on the Council to:
 - Carry out Section 19 investigations into any flooding incidents
 - Maintain an asset database of flood risk structures (section 21)
 - Consult on all planning applications in terms of flood risk
 - Co-ordinate management of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses
 - Co-operate with all other risk management stakeholders

Health implications

- Safe, well-managed and good quality water resources are essential to the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the population.
- Well-managed SUDS also provide local green space that is accessible when not being used for flood water storage which can provide significant health and wellbeing benefits.
- When flooding does occur, it impacts on the lives of local people in several ways. It can affect their homes and ability to travel and work. Floods may also cause injuries, infectious disease outbreaks, chemical contamination, disruption of power and water supplies and difficulties accessing health services.
- A number of studies have noted increases in the incidence of common conditions such as substance misuse, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder following flooding. The difference between a person experiencing distress and one who goes on to develop further mental health problems depends on a number of factors including the severity and duration of the flood, a person's pre-existing problems, and the overall impact of the flood on each person's life.
- While experiencing a flood is the primary cause of stress for people who are affected, it is important to remember that the stress and strain associated with dealing with cleaning up and recovery may also be a problem.

PEATLAND AND SOIL

What we know

- Thorne, Goole and Crowle Moors, together with Hatfield Moors cover an area of 3,318 hectares (8201 acres).
- The mixture of habitats, including peatland, marsh, woodland and gravel pits, means the area is incredibly rich in wildlife - the reserve supports over 5,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than 4,000 are insects.
- The aim of conservation management for the site is to retain suitable conditions for the development of raised bog and its vegetation.
- Agricultural Land Classification Mapping Data (national dataset) is old and not comprehensive and has limited value in aiding determination of relevant planning applications.
- Soil loss and its environmental impact is not limited to the peatlands but watercourses in agricultural land throughout the Doncaster area are impacted by sediments from soil loss reducing biodiversity, contributing to flood risk, and increasing loss of carbon and soil fertility.
- Peatland, in its natural healthy condition act as carbon sinks and water stores.
- Significant proportion of Doncaster's lowland peat was damaged by commercial peat extraction – these areas have been extensively drained to lower the water table level such that they become a source of significant carbon release.

What we've done/are doing

- Emerging Local Plan Policy 61 (Protecting and Enhancing Doncaster Soil and Water Resources) protects significant loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grade 1, 2 and 3a), protects soils of high environmental value (such as peatlands), and requires development proposals to demonstrate that all practicable steps have been taken for soil resources to be conserved and managed in a sustainable way.

Health implications

Peatlands are highly significant to global efforts to combat climate change, as well as wider sustainable development goals. The protection and restoration of peatlands is vital in the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy. In their natural, wet state peatlands provide vital ecosystem services and sequester carbon. By regulating water flows, they help minimise the risk of flooding. Peatlands form part of a diverse natural environment and thus contribute to biodiversity but also provide a natural landscape which promotes health and wellbeing.

CONTAMINATED LAND

What we know

There are various sources of data related to contaminated land sites. Key sources include:

- Historic Maps (1851 to 2017) identify previous land use and potential contamination.
- Land Quality GIS Datasets including Geology, Hydrogeology, Petrol Stations, Closed Landfills, etc.
- Inspection Strategy (2017) – details how potential contaminated land is identified using datasets within GIS. Potential sites are then risk assessed to determine their priority for inspection. Any land found to be Contaminated Land (as per the Contaminated Land Regulations) that poses an unacceptable risk will be determined, remediated and put on the Contaminated Land Register.
- A public Contaminated Land Register details contaminated land as per the Regulations – currently 43 sites in Doncaster on the register.
- List of Potential Contaminated Land Sites – this dataset is in the process of being ratified.
- A GIS dataset of remediated sites is in the process of being compiled.

What we've done/are doing

Research/Data/Insight

- Phase 1 Contaminated Land Desktop study to ensure potential contaminated sites are identified and risk assessed in accordance with current guidance.
- Cross-referencing of remediated sites to list of potential sites, development of GIS datasets.
- Active member of YALPAG (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group) which provides guidance, training and networking events/meeting with regional officers.
- Sharing of advice amongst partners about potential contaminated land.
- Proactive and reactive consultations with building control and development management.
- Local Plan Policy 56 (Contamination and Unstable land) proposes that development sites mitigate contamination or land stability through ensuring necessary remedial action, properly identifying and treating adverse ground conditions and clearly demonstrating that the land is suitable for use and there is no significant harm to health or the environment. This can only be captured when new applications are submitted and might not necessarily be picked up otherwise. The Local Plan also recognises the importance of identifying potential sites of concern, the need for investigation and, if appropriate, remediation to protect future site users and the environment as a whole.
- Prior to the EPA 1990 Part IIA Regulations of 2000, there was no legislative requirement to consider land contamination at planning application or any other stage; nor was there any robust comprehensive guidance as is available today. However, Doncaster Council did seek to employ the trigger levels of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Redevelopment of Contaminated Land (ICRCL) and occasionally those of the Dutch Intervention Levels (the Dutch being viewed as the model due to their extensive land reclamation experience).
- The Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance was revised in April 2012, it details how local authorities should identify, inspect and, if appropriate, ensure land and groundwater is remediated. One of the roles of the Local Authority is to inspect their areas in order to identify contaminated land. The Local Authority also needs to consult with other agencies (e.g. the Environment Agency) to determine how best to manage the land and establish whether sites should be designated as 'special sites' as prescribed in the Contaminated Land Regulations.
- The National Planning Policy Framework states that planning policies and decisions should ensure:
 - A site is suitable for its proposed use, taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation);
 - after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and
 - Adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, inform these assessments.
- YALPAG Development on Land Affected by Contamination has been adopted by the Council and provides guidance for developers, landowners and consultants on safe development in accordance with the NPPF and Local Plan.

Health implications

To date, there is little conclusive evidence of serious health effects from the types and levels of land contamination found in England. However, some sites could pose significant risks to health from long-term exposure based on the known toxicology of contaminants. Equally, the likely chance and amount of the dose, depends on the potential exposure pathways from which the public could be exposed. In light of these potential risks there is good reason to take a precautionary approach to dealing with land potentially affected by contamination.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

What we know

- By referring to data from the national Energy Performance Certificate database, we know that Doncaster's domestic energy efficiency ratings profile closely matches that of the national profile: A/B: 8%, C: 52%, D: 17%; E: 18%, and F/G: 5%.
- Energy ratings are uniform across all tenures and the private rented sector has the largest proportion of the least energy efficient homes.
- Private sector homes in Doncaster have the following profile: A/B: 10%, C: 26%, D: 45%, E: 17% and F/G: 4%. Around 92% of these have the potential to achieve A-C rating. But only 6% could achieve an A rating.
- Using a combination of EPC data and UNO SAP rating software, we know that the circa 21,000 Council houses mainly fall into rating C (62%) and rating D (35%), with 3% at rating B.
- Doncaster has the 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK, with 7, 053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity as of March 2019.
- 678kw of solar PV has been installed on 16 Council owned buildings, all energy generated on site is either consumed by us or sold via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to the tenant. These works have been funded through borrowing, enabling electricity savings to be made as well as Feed in Tariff and PPA payments returning the investment.
- 2.124MW of solar PV has been installed on 750 council houses; on average, 50% of the solar generated electricity is used by the tenant, the other 50% goes back to the grid. This is HRA funded with Feed in Tariff payments returning the investment.
- Carbon emissions from the use of gas and electricity in Council buildings was 12,051 tCO₂ in 2019.
- Nearly half (45.7%) of households, in England & Wales, living in private rented properties are in fuel poverty. National Energy Action estimates that 10,000 deaths each year are attributable to living in a cold home. In Yorkshire & Humber live, around 11% are estimated to be in fuel poverty.
- National planning policies are in place to support proposals that give priority to low carbon & renewable energy generation: heat or power generation from light, water, waste; landfill & sewage gas energy generation; and wind power, in appropriate locations.
- From April 2020, landlords can no longer let a property with an EPC rating below E, unless they have a valid exemption in place. Legislation is in place to require local housing authorities to investigate and take appropriate action to remove hazards from housing stock, for which 'excess cold' is just one.

What we've done/are doing

- Reduction in Council carbon emissions from the use of gas and electricity from 26ktCO₂ to 12ktCO₂ in the past 5 years, via various measures including PV installations, LED lighting upgrades (buildings and street lighting), biomass boiler installations.
- Continued improvement of the energy efficiency rating of council homes, with a long-term ambition of carbon neutrality.
- Operation of home energy saving grants since 2001, helping thousands of homeowners and social housing tenants to receive free and discounted wall and loft insulation, replacement boilers and first-time gas central heating – upgrade from coal fires/electric storage heaters/portable electric heating.
- Delivering area-based initiatives to target vulnerable households living in fuel poverty in energy inefficient housing, resulting in more high energy efficient homes (SAP more than 65) and fewer low energy homes (SAP less than 35).
- Promotion of the use of micro-renewable energy technologies and decentralised heat and power systems within new developments.
- Inspections of private rented properties and notification to landlords of energy efficiency improvements required to remove excess cold hazards.
- Embedding new Future Homes Standard and associated changes to Parts L and F of Building Regulations for new council dwellings.
- Local planning policy is being updated through the emerging Local Plan Policies 59 and 60.
- Ensuring compliance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for all Council owned commercial property advertised to let.
- Delivery of Energy Management services to schools as part of the Buy Doncaster service offer, helping schools reduce energy and water consumption and invest in renewable energy technology.

- Delivery of a proactive, community based, approach to provide home energy saving advice and support with home energy saving improvements since 2008.
- Developed opportunities for training and education e.g. carbon literacy.

Health implications

Affordable and sustainable energy is important for the health and wellbeing. It is key to health that people can afford energy and can heat and run their homes efficiently. Embedding sustainability into current and future housing and other developments are essential for a cleaner and greener borough. Supporting interventions and developments that improve the energy efficiency of current and new housing stock and buildings and that contribute to an inclusive economy that benefits the health and wellbeing everyone in Doncaster.

10.8% of the Doncaster population (2017) are estimated to be in fuel poverty and fuel poverty affects our populations unevenly, with residents who are poorer and older being more likely to experience it. Fuel poverty and cold housing affect many different population groups, with various levels of health impacts relating to different groups. There are measurable effects of cold housing on adults' physical health, well-being and self-assessed general health, in particular for vulnerable adults and those with existing health conditions. Children experience significant negative effects of cold housing in terms of infants' weight gain, hospital admission rates, developmental status, and the severity and frequency of asthmatic symptoms. There are clear negative effects of cold housing and fuel poverty on the mental health of adolescents. Older people experience a higher mortality risk, physical health and mental health and fuel poverty and cold homes contribute excess winter deaths (Marmot, 2011).

Renewable sources of energy offer several potential advantages. They do not irreversibly deplete finite resources, and most have a lower climate footprint than do fossil fuels. If managed well, they can pose minimal health risks and can yield social and economic co-benefits.

Public Health acknowledges the great importance of low carbon and renewable energy however, placement of such facilities may negatively impact communities' health and wellbeing, however it should be noted that biomass can impact on air quality and thus the public's health.

It is key that energy efficiency interventions are continued and scaled up/receive further investment in order to ensure that as many properties as possible are energy efficient and that those whose health is most at risk are prioritised and proactively targeted.

STATUTORY NUISANCES INCLUDING NOISE, ODOUR AND LIGHT POLLUTION

What we know

- The Council's Enforcement Service has a duty to investigate its area for statutory nuisances and complaints, with an escalating approach to the issues. This often starts with an informal discussion/letter, but can involve personal monitoring, recording equipment, service of legal notice which requires the perpetrator to take action to stop or reduce the problem being caused, prosecution and/or works to stop the nuisance continuing. The Enforcement Service are also consultees of the Planning Service and provide technical guidance to the service on how developers should mitigate any environmental impact and reduce the impact of the locality on a development. The Service are also statutory consultees to the Licensing Team and can offer advice or object to premises licence applications should they believe that unacceptable public nuisance may be caused by any proposal.
- The Council's Enforcement Team investigates a wide range of complaints which can have a negative impact on people's health and wellbeing, the environment and local area or community.
- The Council receives around 2,200 noise complaints per year:
 - Most noise complaints are from residential sources associated with playing music (35%), dogs/animals (27%) and noise from neighbours (23%).
 - Majority of complaints are resolved in the earliest informal manner through letters, phone calls or face-to-face discussions between enforcement officers and the person causing the disturbance. Only around 50 cases per year result in Notices being served, with some of these resulting in formal proceedings such as prosecution and/or seizure of noise making equipment.
 - The vast majority of cases are closed because residents do not complete the necessary monitoring forms to provide evidence upon which formal action can be taken. The reasons for this are unknown, although it is quite likely that for many cases, the initial informal contact made with the perpetrator is sufficient to resolve the problem reported.
- Fewer odour and light complaints are received, with around 80 and 24 per year respectively, the majority of which are not substantiated as a statutory nuisance:
 - The majority of odour complaints are in rural areas and are agricultural in nature.
 - Light complaints are evenly spread across the borough.
- The Council receives around 14 dust complaints per year. Dust complaints often arise due to construction and development sites. In such cases, investigation is undertaken to ensure the developer is taking "best practicable means" to minimise any dust emissions.
- The Council receives around 40 chimney smoke complaints per year, most from domestic premises. It also receives around 240 bonfire smoke complaints, over 75% of which are domestic bonfires.
- There is a need to develop liaison and reporting mechanisms from the Fire Service regarding attendance at fires that cause smoke, to enable the Council to take enforcement action against perpetrators where appropriate.

What we have done/are doing

- Significant investment in 45000 low power LED street lanterns. These will last 25 years (3 times longer than the old sodium lights) and has reduced the borough's energy bill by 70%, and the borough's streetlight carbon footprint by 80%. This tech allows for need-led automatic/remote brightening/dimming of lanterns which will help to minimise light pollution. Over 70% of the material from the old lights were recycled.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 55 (Pollution) states that development proposals that are likely to cause pollution, or be exposed to pollution, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that pollution can be avoided, or where mitigation measures will minimise significantly harmful impacts to acceptable levels that protect health, environmental quality and amenity. Under this policy, particular consideration will be given to assessment of risks to public health and impact of cumulative effects, presence of noise generating uses close to the site, impact on air quality, any adverse effects on water bodies and groundwater resources, and the impact of artificial lighting.
- Larger developments that require planning permission will often have a condition requiring the developer to submit a management plan detailing how they will minimise the impact of dust and noise on the locality.

Health implications

Noise is second to poor air quality in terms of the burden of ill health caused by a single pollutant and is increasingly high on the international agenda. Over 80 percent of people report being exposed to noise pollution in their homes. Direct links to ill health include sleep disturbance and stress, with more indirect associations including hypertension, cardiovascular disease and impaired children's learning development. Addressing noise levels retrospectively can be costly and it is better to consider noise pollution in planning decisions.

Appropriate lighting contributes to a sense of identity and place and makes for a safer and friendlier environment. However, inappropriate lighting can cause light pollution. Inconsiderately sited security lights, as well as illuminated signs and floodlit parks, car parks and recreational areas, all have the potential to affect people in their homes. Health implications related to using inappropriate lighting in public spaces include risks relating to glare and inappropriate light spectrums, as well as harm to local ecologies. Although artificial light can provide many benefits to society, for example extending the time people can spend outside recreationally and providing better visibility and feelings of safety in public spaces, it is important that the right lighting is used in the right place, at the right time.

Odour nuisance is subjective and difficult to define and measure particularly since they can also arise from a wide variety of sources. In rural areas, people may complain about the smell from slurry spreading on farms, or other agricultural activities. In urban areas, odour problems may arise from restaurants and takeaways, dry cleaners, smoking, blocked drains and waste facilities, including waste transfer stations and wastewater treatment works. Although most odours are not harmful to health, they can be a common cause of distress and complaint for individuals.

TRANSPORT

What we know

Air Pollution

- 8 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared. Their locations are all near busy roads, and are due to high levels of nitrogen dioxide:
 - Central Doncaster, alongside the A630. (North Bridge Area/Wheatley Hall Road) (Aug 2001).
 - An area surrounding A1(M) junction 36, extending along the A18 (Balby Road) eastwards to Doncaster town centre. (Aug 2001).
 - Along a section of the A18 (Carr House Road) between the junctions with the A638/Bawtry Road and A638/Trafford Way. (Aug 2001).
 - Along a section of the M18, crossing the A638/Bawtry Road extending into the Hatchell Wood area up to Warning Tongue Lane. (Jun 2003).
 - Parts of Conisborough (Low Road, Doncaster Road and Sheffield Road and other roads adjacent to those listed). (Apr 2012).
 - Along the A1 in Skellow (including Hill Crest, Howden Avenue and Crabgate Lane and other adjacent roads). (Sep 2013).
 - Along the A635 (Barnsley Road) in Hickleton (Dec 2014) and Marr (Aug 2020).
- Whilst we have been successful in reducing concentrations in some areas over the long-term, we are still some way from compliance with the national air quality annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. Current improvement trends suggest the status of the AQMAs will remain unchanged in the near future.
- The number of deaths attributable to particulate matter air pollution in 2010 was around 160 deaths per year. In 2018 this was 147 deaths (4.6%). This is a higher proportion than Yorkshire & Humber (4.5%) but lower than England (5.2%).

Vehicular Road Use

Department of Transport (DfT) 2019 data shows:

- Doncaster has consistently had the highest level of vehicle use in South Yorkshire for almost 3 decades. Since 1993, motor vehicle traffic has increased by 67%; with a recent 16% increase between 2014 and 2019.
- The national average vehicle age was 9.1 years for petrol cars, 7.3 years for diesel cars, and 15 years for motorcycles.
- There was a 18% decrease from the previous year in national new diesel car registrations (3% increase for petrol).
- Electric vehicle registrations increased nationally by 144% (37,850) against the previous year. In Doncaster, the increase was much higher at 489% (from 55 to 324); this was second only to Birmingham.
- The number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) in the licenced car sector increased from 202 in 2012, to 6759 in 2019.
- Bus use in the Sheffield City Region (SCR) has fallen by 18% in 10 years; yet a quarter of households don't have a car. Nearly 1 in 5 residents live in a rural area and the population is ageing (this data is unavailable for Doncaster specifically).
- Doncaster buses are often the oldest and most polluting in South Yorkshire. Bus services are provided by private, for-profit companies, so there needs to be continued support for these businesses in their transition to greener fleet.
- Average number of Public Service Vehicles has reduced in the four years to 2018 by around 13%.

Active Travel

- Data from Sport England Active Lives Survey shows that between November 2015 to November 2018 Doncaster has:
 - A downward trend in cycling for travel (from 12.5% to 9.1%). This is similar to national and regional figures.
 - An upward trend in walking for travel (twice within the last 28 days) (from 23.9% to 27.4%). This figure is the England, Yorkshire and South Yorkshire figures, but the trend is similar.
- The Pedestrian count long-term trend (2002-2018) is upwards, with almost 13,000 pedestrians in 2002 to almost 17,000 in 2018: indicating a 31% increase over 17 years. The average number of pedestrians from 2010 to 2018 is 12% higher than the average from 2002 to 2010.

Rail

- There are 9 Doncaster train stations, located in Adwick, Bentley, Conisbrough, Town Centre, Hatfield & Stainforth, Kirk Sandall, Mexborough, Thorne North and Thorne South.
- Doncaster and Conisbrough stations are seeing increases in passengers, but all others have seen reductions of between 6%-14% across 2016-2019.

Rail patronage – Rail station entries/exits

Station Name	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change	%
Doncaster	3,825,644	3,857,370	3,917,948	92,304	2.4%
Adwick	197,926	186,820	170,790	-27,136	-13.7%
Bentley	130,434	131,280	130,044	-390	-0.3%
Conisbrough	91,724	98,376	118,012	26,288	28.7%
Hatfield & Stainforth	81,440	76,744	73,108	-8,332	-10.2%
Kirk Sandall	124,546	110,646	107,844	-16,702	-13.4%
Mexborough	209,928	200,428	192,350	-17,578	-8.4%
Thorne North	188,758	175,868	173,472	-15,286	-8.1%
Thorne South	87,334	83,840	81,766	-5,568	-6.4%
TOTAL	4,937,734	4,921,372	4,965,334	27,600	0.6%

Taxis

- There are over 700 taxis in Doncaster, consisting of approximately:
 - 200 Hackney Carriage Vehicles (can be flagged down in the street or park on a taxi rank)
 - 100 Private Hire Operators (able to accept bookings and dispatch licensed vehicles to carry out the journey)
 - 600 Private Hire Vehicles (journeys must be pre-booked through a private hire operator)
 - 500 Private Hire Drivers (can only drive a licensed private hire vehicle)
 - 500 Joint Drivers (can drive either Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicles)

Council Fleet

- Approximately 675 vehicles of varying size and specification ranging from small cars to large gritting lorries, which is on par with similar sized Local Authorities. The EU emissions standard footprint is significantly below expected levels.
- Number of miles driven is increasing:
 - Jul 2017 - Mar 2018: 0.42billion miles
 - Apr 2018 - Mar 2019: 1.05billion miles
 - Apr 2019 - Mar 2020: 1.07billion miles

Road Works

- 5000+ road works applications per year 2012-2019, causing 1.23 days disruption per permit. Traffic congestion increases emissions as vehicles progress more slowly along their route.
- Current maintenance backlog is around £150m for highways and around £27m for bridges. Annual maintenance budget for highways works on the ground at £4m-£5m and £850k for bridges.

Alternative Fuel Infrastructure

- Fuelling buses and cars with compressed natural gas (CNG) could help to reduce carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions.
- A CNG feasibility study data shows several very good potential sites for a CNG station (due to proximity of key users and high/medium pressure mains access). These include the A638 near The Dome, Rands Lane Industrial Estate, Middlebank and New Rossington (iPort).
- The initial site identification report proposed that subsequent research is needed to define the viability (including potential demand) and economics of potential stations, taking into consideration the strategic requirements of the region.

Regional and Local ambitions

- The Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy aims to enhance access to jobs, markets, skills and supply chains; Enhance productivity by making the transport system faster, more reliable and more resilient; and Invest in integrated packages of infrastructure to unlock future economic growth and support Local Plans, including new housing provision.
- The Mayor's ambition for journey times: Neighbourhood (the closest built-up area to your home) to Regional Hub in 15mins, Regional Hub to Regional Hub in 30mins, and Regional Hub to Major Centre in 75mins.

What we've done/are doing

Partnerships

- Quality bus partnership – working with private bus companies to improve emissions from the local bus fleet.
- Daily price cap has been implemented for bus travel around Doncaster.
- Doncaster Active Travel Alliance – partnership of internal Doncaster Council colleagues that have similar outcomes in relation to walking and cycling. Supports an active travel providers group that deliver funded programmes of work in the Borough.
- SCR Active Travel Commissioner project and programme board – to shape active travel policy and implementation across the borough.
- Annual Clean Air Day Awareness Campaigns – road closures around a school and areas with high pollution from cars. There was good uptake of the activities. Coupled with the Sustainable Travel work in schools, these campaigns have helped raise awareness of the effect of the number of cars dropping kids off at school and idling outside schools, which contributes to poor air quality. More work is needed to reduce the amount of traffic and idling outside schools.

Investment

- Cycling & Walking – Council investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and behaviour change approaches such as school active travel officers.
- A proposal has been submitted as part of the Emergency Active Travel funding to trial a low traffic neighbourhood in Doncaster by the end of March 2021. It is our intention to develop our community engagement approaches to further identify potential areas. Doncaster has also been successful with Dept of Transport funding to test school streets in 10 schools.
- Using lifecycle planning and budget optimisation modelling to identify long-term maintenance funding requirements for the maintenance and improvement of road network condition.
- Fleet Replacement Policy is underway, which has brought the Council's fleet EU emissions standard footprint significantly below expected levels. Long-term ambition is for all fleet to comprise of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), specifically electric vehicles (EVs), and plans for charging infrastructure are being prepared.
- SCR have been successful with a bid, to the Department for Transport for Transforming Cities funding- £35 million to be spent in Doncaster over the next 3 years on active travel infrastructure and improving bus journey times.

Policy/Regulation

- All industrial processes listed within the Environmental Permitting Regulations are required to have a permit, issued either by the Council or Environment Agency. Doncaster Council currently has 85 permitted processes within the Borough.
- A number of emerging Local Plan Policies relate to air quality:
 - Requirements for EV charging
 - Cycling and walking provision as set out in Policy 17 and 18
 - Strategic provision of Town Centre Car Parking as detailed in Policy 15
 - Reduced cause of, or exposure to, pollution, as described in Policy 55
 - Ensuring that low carbon and renewable energy proposals have no unacceptable adverse effects on air quality, as detailed in Policy 59
- The HIA screening process asks if a development site is in an AQMA – if so, then it asks that a Rapid Assessment is undertaken – however, depending on the development itself it may already need a comprehensive HIA.
- All Streets (road works) Permit Scheme (commenced Apr 2019) – forecasting approximately 9000 permits per year.

Advice/Education/Behavioural Change

- Advising Businesses: ECOstars (funding ended in March 2020) recognised good fleet practices and helps businesses reduce emissions. ECO driving training funded until end of 2020 helps businesses train drivers in cleaner driving practices.
- Advising residents: 'Fuelling Change' & 'Care4air' campaigns – awareness of alternative fuelled vehicles.
- The services schools currently get all year round are:
 - Modeshift STARS Accreditation (national schools scheme, recognising support for sustainable travel)
 - Bikeability (teaching the safe cycling skills, encouraging a healthy lifestyle)
 - Dr Bike (mechanics carrying out bicycle safety-checks/servicing at workplaces/schools)
 - DCLT Cycle Hub (Cycling for Health - focal point for a broad spectrum of cycling activity, from informal support and advice to led rides, cycle training and supervised activity)
 - Active Travel Events (Active Travel Awards, Schools Yorkshire Tour, Clean Air Day)
 - Active Travel Officer in Schools

Health Implications

The quality of the local environment can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Recent evidence indicates that living in an area with clear air can lead to positive changes in people's health behaviours. Improved air quality is associated with increased physical activity among older adults. There is a wealth of consistent evidence demonstrating clear adverse effects of exposure to air pollutants on health outcomes across all population groups. For example, poor air quality is linked with an increased risk of developing chronic conditions (e.g., COPD and type II diabetes), neonatal complications and poor birth outcomes, cancer, worsened respiratory outcomes and childhood mortality, among others. The national trend shows high average concentrations of air pollution in both the most and least deprived areas, and lower concentrations in the (predominantly rural) mid-decile areas. Children (14 and under) and older people (65 and older) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution (NICE 2017).

Reduced levels of car parking and travel plans which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in better local environmental conditions.

Switching more journeys to active travel will improve health, quality of life and the environment, and local productivity, while at the same time reducing costs to the public purse. These are substantial 'win-wins' that benefit individual people and the community as a whole.

Encouraging shorter journeys by walking and cycling can help reduce high levels of road traffic that has a negative impact on air and noise pollution and can isolate communities due to perceived road safety.

Connectivity to and from key development areas across the Town Centre, such as the rail/bus interchange, college and Waterfront, by walking and cycling is crucial to positive redevelopment of the area. It can have multiple interrelated effects on health and wellbeing such as physical activity, the reduction in noise and air pollution and safer streets due to increased pedestrian/cyclist usage.

In order to effectively improve health and wellbeing in the long term, interventions should focus on wholesale system change with a focus on societal and structural improvement in combination with educational or persuasive approaches. Bespoke packages should be developed for our target area and populations. Resources will be required to assess effectiveness and potential impact in combination, for example an anti-idling campaign in isolation may only show small improvements, but should be introduced together with driving measures, appropriate green infrastructure, and behaviour information on what side of the road to walk on, choosing less polluted routes. These combined approaches more effective and have potential public health co-benefits such as improved uptake of walking/cycling.

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

NATURE TOURISM

What we know

- Nature Tourism can be categorised into three groups:
 - *Incidental natural settings or experiences* – the location, both locally and geographically, may not be pre-determined, and could encompass a wide variety of options such as bodies of water, the countryside, wilderness or almost any natural area.
 - *Activities dependent on nature and where nature provides a focus* – more prescriptive wildlife viewing, birdwatching/ornithology or perhaps walking/rambling.
 - *Activities enhanced by nature* – although engagement with nature isn't the primary purpose of the trip or visit, the engagement within a natural setting enhances or adds value to the experience. Outdoor activities and physical pursuits such as cycling, walking, running, and kayaking for example, fall into this category especially in the context of day visits.
- Natural capital projects aim to protect, restore and enhance natural ecosystems to better support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts whilst conserving biodiversity and other vital natural resources.
- The success of nature tourism in many parts of the UK is predicated on a few key factors: the presence of charismatic (or “iconic”) species, a supporting infrastructure of well managed and interpreted sites capable of handling individuals and groups of visitors, and a network of supportive businesses including accommodation providers, catering services, and where relevant, locally based services such as boat trip operators and/or wildlife guides.
- Between 2017-2019 there was an average of 305,000 trips a year to Doncaster generating 760,000 overnight stays per year which generated an average annual spend of £41 million. In the same period Doncaster had, on average a further 7.1 million day visitors per year, generating an average £212 million per year. This is a total of £253m visitor spend per year. Visitor spend on the Trans Pennine Trail increased from £144m in 2011 to £885m in 2017.

What we've done/are doing

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives clear guidance that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas, and together with other policies in the Plan, Part 4 of Policy 26 of the Local Plan provides support for appropriate proposals for new non-residential development in the Countryside. These uses may include the development and diversification of sustainable tourism and leisure developments.
- Policy 35 of the Local Plan supports the preservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage significance of the Borough's assets, including assets at Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Part B of this Policy also supports improvement of accessibility and enjoyment of the Borough's existing and potential attractions, including Cusworth Hall and its parkland, Conisbrough Castle and Brodsworth Hall and its parkland and Potteric Carr.
- A number of parks in Doncaster (Campsall Country Park, Bentley Park, Sandal Park, Cusworth Park and Quarry Park) have achieved a Green Flag Award which recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces. Achieving this award gives the park the status of being affiliated with a prestigious awards programme, as well as tangible benefits such as boosting tourism and opening up revenue opportunities.
- A Visitor Economy group has been set up with partners who manage some assets including Yorkshire Wildlife Park, English Heritage, Conisbrough Castle, Brodsworth Hall. This allows for a coordinated approach to managing and marketing nature attractions to ensure visitors can have the best experience of Doncaster's natural assets.
- Visit Doncaster has a specific section to showcase the nature tourism options in the Borough and make it easier for visitors and residents alike to discover opportunities to explore the natural assets the Borough has to offer.

Health implications

High quality green and blue infrastructure has a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of local communities. It can increase the amount of physical activity and time spent outdoors and green space can have positive effects on mental health and wellbeing. A focus on nature tourism could help safeguard and improve our natural resources in addition to creating sustainable jobs and economic growth for rural areas. In order to support the population's health and wellbeing it is key that economic growth is sustainable and creates social value locally. An example would be ensuring additional income in relation to tourism is invested back into the natural resource and the local community. Any development in relation to tourism must protect and enhance the natural resources and it is important that any additional tourism does not increase car travel, nor negatively affect the site or the local environment. It is key that for any tourism related development that takes place, the primary modes of transport are sustainable, and that additional car travel is not encouraged. Good connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure to our green and blue infrastructure for Doncaster residents and those visiting from outside the borough is key to maximise the number of sustainable journeys made to these venues.

GREEN AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

What we know

Direct Low-carbon jobs by Sector

- The 'Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery' (2020) report written by Ecuity Consulting on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA) provides analysis of the direct jobs employed in the low-carbon and renewable economy and the jobs required for a net zero economy in England. The report also:
 - Identifies where these will be located in the coming years
 - Includes an assessment of the number of jobs that will be required, by sector – which is further broken-down to regional and local authority level, based on industry insight and the current sectoral breakdown in each area.
- The LGA estimates that for Doncaster, across all the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, 3,649 jobs will be required by 2030, and 5,565 will be required by 2050.
- The table below breaks this down by the sectors that the UK Government currently defines as comprising the low-carbon and renewable energy economy:

Sector	Jobs by 2030	Jobs by 2050
Low-carbon electricity	81	205
Low-carbon heat	897	1,349
Alternative fuels	1,330	1,971
Energy Efficiency	820	865
Low-carbon services	194	547
Low emission vehicles & infrastructure	327	628
Total	3,649	5,565

- These 'direct' jobs refer to those jobs that arise directly as result of the investment or installed capacity. In other words, the jobs related to designing, manufacturing, constructing, operating and maintaining a particular technology or energy source.
- Clearly, technologies and services will evolve as the country moves towards 2050, but this is useful information to inform Doncaster's low carbon strategy – when blended with the 'on-the ground' information that the data doesn't capture, for example:
 - Major Projects underway and in the pipeline
 - The opportunities for cross-boundary collaboration at scale

What we've done/are doing

A New Borough Strategy

- Whilst the Covid-19 crisis is likely to lower Doncaster's economic growth for a number of years, the 2030 ambition is unchanged: to develop a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy that improves the well-being of residents.
- Key supporting strategies to help achieve this include: Inclusive Growth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Education & Skills Strategy 2030, SCR Strategic Economic Plan, SCR Energy Strategy, South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
- To 'build-back better' from Covid-19, Doncaster (and the SCR as a whole) is:
 - *Prioritising investment in a low carbon economy* – to improve the well-being of residents through cleaner air, environmental security, improved health, improved public transport, and a resilient economy with more quality jobs.
 - *Developing a framework for delivering green growth* that will balance the improvement of local well-being with the respect for planetary environmental boundaries.

Green Businesses & Jobs

- The transition to carbon neutrality has the potential to unlock substantial business opportunities – to build a more resilient and better economy; and to support people into well-paid work at scale.
- Doncaster will prioritise the low-carbon investments that will deliver jobs at scale and deliver productive and sustainable assets for the future.
- As acceptance and support increases for climate change emergency action, there will be a whole range of opportunities to take advantage of, linked to public, industry, and government pressure to develop a more inclusive and sustainable economy; this could be for new buildings, machinery as well as retrofitting/upgrading of existing tech to newer, cleaner standards. These include a whole variety of industry sectors e.g. clean energy production, domestic heating, and low carbon transport.

- Doncaster recognises that many jobs can be created in sectors which do not display strong distinctive local/regional traits or competitive advantages, i.e. they have the potential to be created everywhere. For example, energy efficiency products are likely to be installed in households across the whole country.
- Emerging Local Plan policy 27 (Green Infrastructure) requires developments to contribute to Green Infrastructure (GI) and have regard to the latest GI audits and strategies. The GI must principally benefit the development and connect to the wider network. Major development proposals of 30+ family dwellings require a GI masterplan that demonstrates how the development enhances the environment and avoids loss or damage to GI assets.
- Emerging Local Plan policy 47 (Design of non-residential, commercial and employment developments) includes a requirement for high quality, attractive developments that make a positive contribution to the area. New major non-domestic developments must meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of at least 'Very Good' and secure at least 10% of their regulated energy from renewable sources. Large buildings must be able to accommodate solar panels.
- Learning from the international community in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in prosperity, for example Amsterdam's application of the 'doughnut economies' model as a guide to what it means for countries, cities and people to thrive in balance with the planet.

The Circular Economy

- The report by Ecuity Consulting provides a useful benchmark on the number of direct jobs, however Doncaster recognises that to fully harness the benefits of a low carbon economy, it is necessary to develop an overall circular economy – to keep finite resources in a loop of use and reuse for as long as possible using renewable energy sources.
- A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. This needs to be underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources. The circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital and is based on three principles:
 - Design out waste and pollution
 - Keep products and materials in use
 - Regenerate natural systems

Health implications

A vibrant economy contributes to good health and wellbeing. Creating a green and innovative economy should contribute to improved health and wellbeing if the development aims to equalise the opportunities presented and tackle the inequality in income, health and opportunity that exist locally. These proposals present the opportunity to change focus to sustainable development and should be used to create good, quality sustainable jobs, training and careers and to increase social value, for example, by creating a cyclical economy that benefits local workers, local communities, local businesses and the local environment. It is important that with any new industry or development that they aim to have a positive impact on the local environment (including transport considerations) and population health and wellbeing in addition to being green technology/industry. A Health Impact Assessment should be undertaken on the new development related to this policy to ensure that it does not negatively affect health and wellbeing.

EXISTING BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND GROWTH

What we know

- Prior to the Covid-19 global pandemic, Doncaster was in a transition from an economy dominated by heavy industry to a more diverse, knowledge-driven economy.
- In the ten years to 2020, Doncaster recovered from the 2008 global financial crisis and made good progress in developing a more enterprising, diverse and inclusive economy, for example:
 - GVA: Between 2012 and 2018, Doncaster recorded a £1.57bn (+37%) increase in overall current price GVA, taking the total to £5.9bn.
 - Businesses: The business base grew from approximately 6,500 to 9,360 (+44%) in ten years (2010-2020). Almost 90% of Doncaster's businesses are micro businesses that employ up to 9 people.
 - Jobs: The number of private sector jobs increased by approximately 13,500 to 95,000 (+17%) in ten years (2009-2019). This included increases in for example professional, scientific and technical jobs (+2,500), transport and storage (+2,000), construction (+2,000), manufacturing (+1,000), business administration and support services (+1,000). These increases more than offset a reduction in retail jobs (-1,000) and mining, quarrying and utilities (-700). During the same period the number of public sector jobs reduced by approximately 5,000. The top five employing sectors in 2019 were health, retail, manufacturing, transport and storage and education.
 - Employment: The employment rate hit record highs and in December 2019 stood at 71.7% which was 6 percentage points higher than in 2014.

- Housing: The rate of house building was on a par with the national average and 2018/19 was a record year with over 1,300 net homes provided.
- Jobs and growth were supported by a critical mass of major projects including town centre regeneration, DN7 Unity Project and the growth hub around the Airport (Gateway East).
- However, the Covid-19 crisis resulted in UK recession and has had major impact on Doncaster's economy and the well-being of residents, particularly through unprecedented numbers of job losses and business closures
- As early as May 2020:
 - The number of claimants searching for work had risen to 14,560 (7.6% of the working age population), double the amount seen at the same time the previous year and the highest number of claimants in one month since April 1996.
 - The proportion of 16-24 year olds searching for work was 10.8% - the 2nd highest in the country.
- Doncaster entered this recession with relatively low economic resilience due to long-standing post-industrial challenges relating to:
 - Relatively low levels of skills, e.g., for NVQ4+ skills Doncaster was ranked 62 out of 63 in Great Britain.
 - There was an above average proportion of residents with no formal qualifications – ranked 43 out of 63/
 - Relatively low levels productivity – ranked 55 out of 63.
 - Relatively low levels and exports per job - ranked 59 out of 63.
 - Relatively high levels of unemployment - a rate of 7.2% compared to a rate of 3.9% for England.
- The Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) reported, 'Back from brink - avoiding a lost generation', identified Doncaster as one of seven Yorkshire and Humber areas that are vulnerable to the long-term scarring of their economies. The report highlighted that unemployment can have long lasting impact on individuals who find it increasingly difficult to reconnect with job opportunities; this then impacts on their health and well-being.
- Doncaster and Sheffield City Region (SCR) economic recovery plans are focused on the imperatives of getting people back into work, through employment and skills support, supporting as many businesses as possible to bounce back and exploiting new markets and opportunities.
- At the same time, the objective of 'building-back better' for the longer term underpins the work – to improve the well-being of residents within a zero-carbon future.

What we've done/are doing

- Bringing the Industry Together - The Doncaster Green Growth Conference in January 2020 demonstrated the Doncaster approach to co-producing future priorities by considering current strength, assets, barriers and opportunities for growth. It brought together local businesses, providers of business support, the academic sector and leading national thinkers in the fields of green growth and productivity.
- Developing Competitive Advantages- Doncaster already has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time.
- Doncaster's Inclusive Growth Strategy and emerging SCR Strategic Economic Plan identifies Future Mobility as a key platform for jobs, innovation, GVA and productivity growth – and for tackling climate change. Doncaster is working to create green jobs and growth at scale, by combining its existing competitive advantages (e.g. rail engineering and logistics) and strategic development projects (e.g. iPort, Airport, NCATI and Waterfront site) and linking them to wider opportunities for innovation.
- Doncaster is linking its competitive advantages and wider low-carbon growth opportunities to investment in education, skills and training. This includes developing new Centres of Excellence as part of Doncaster's University City ambitions – including Green Tech.

FARMING

What we know

General:

- Farming is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions but can also play a significant role in climate adaptation and mitigation. There are significant benefits to be made by farmers from productivity gains which will also benefit the environment, but many would need local and national support to achieve this.
- Agriculture and the land-based economy can capture CO₂, which can be turned into food, fibres and fuels.
- Farmers also have a special responsibility to protect carbon reserves already in soils and vegetation. Farms are custodians of our soils and have the crucial responsibility of looking after the land for use by future generations.
- Agricultural emissions are mainly methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O); not CO₂ like for electricity generation, transport and manufacturing. Cutting CH₄ and N₂O emissions is difficult because they result from complex natural soil and animal microbial processes.
- A supply of nitrogen from organic or inorganic sources is necessary for the growth of crops and pasture, and it is an unavoidable consequence of soil processes that a small amount of nitrogen in an agricultural system will be emitted as nitrous oxide. Likewise, methane is produced by bacteria as cattle and sheep break down the cellulose in their diet, producing milk and meat for human consumption from large areas of grassland that would be unsuitable for arable farming.
- Livestock/animals recycle nutrients back into the ground through their waste, and so support sustainable farming.
- Action to tackle climate change in UK agriculture is focused on three key themes: Improving farming's productive efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; Farmland carbon storage in soils and vegetation; Boosting renewable energy and the bioeconomy to displace greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and to create GHG removal through photosynthesis and carbon capture.

Doncaster:

- Doncaster's commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares; almost ¾ of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels – likely therefore to include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Roughly 6000 hectares is used for grassland for livestock and almost 300 hectares is used for fruit and vegetables.
- DEFRA Doncaster livestock data identifies almost 21000 pigs, 11,000 sheep, 8000 cattle (beef and dairy), and 55,000 poultry. With the area of grassland available, there is then significant intensive livestock farming.
- Direct employment in Doncaster's agriculture is modest, DEFRA figures giving a total of 865 individuals, which includes farmers, partners, directors and spouses (full time and part-time), salaried managers, regular workers ((full time and part-time), and casual workers. There will be further employment in farm-related business, and diversified farm enterprises.
- Turbulent weather has a huge impact on farm businesses. 2020's harvest is expected to be the lowest in 40 years.
- Farms are often dissimilar to each other with unique characteristics and circumstances in place – any opportunities/solutions/support mechanisms will need to be flexible enough to be accessible to a range of different businesses. This will require close consultation, communication and partnership working with farmers to shape the solutions that will provide the most impact.

National:

- Government advisors the Committee on Climate Change (Land Use report, 2020) recommends low-carbon farming practices, afforestation and agro-forestry, peatland restoration, bio-energy crops, and reducing consumption of the most carbon-intensive foods.
- The National Farmers Union have set a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target across agriculture in England and Wales by 2040.
- Emissions from UK farms presently amount to 46m tonnes of CO₂e a year – about 10% of UK Green House gas (GHG) emissions.
- Agricultural emissions have decreased by around 16% overall since 1990, but there has been only modest progress since 2011, when the industry's GHG Action Plan was agreed.
- Leaving the European Union – EU agricultural subsidies will come to an end and a different regime of farm payments based on different principles will be introduced by the Agriculture Act. In addition, trade deals with the EU (from outside) and with other parts of the world will affect export opportunities and competition from imports. Both will have significant impacts on farm business financial models.
- Biodiversity – the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, due to be fully rolled out by the end of 2024, will replace the schemes currently available under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Farmers will be paid for work that enhances the environment, such as tree or hedge planting, river management to mitigate flooding, or creating or

restoring habitats for wildlife. ELM Tier one would encourage farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable farming and forestry practices, while farmers, foresters and other land managers. Tier two would focus on delivering locally-targeted environmental outcomes. The third tier would pay for larger-scale, transformational projects – such as restoring peatland.

What we've done/are doing

- Good Food Doncaster now achieved Sustainable Food City status.
- Procurement policies to support partnerships with local producers
- Maximising relief support for local farmers affected by recent flood events.
- Business Doncaster offering support for local farmers to identify and access funding opportunities.

Health implications

Farming is a critical to maintaining our food self-sufficiency. Sustainable, innovative and responsible farming can work in symbiosis with the environment and help sustain and protect it. However, some types of intensive farming can have a negative effect on the local environment, and population health and wellbeing due waste, noise, smell and the associated road transport.

The UK's farmed land is rich in social and cultural heritage and significance. The food we eat affects our health and wellbeing and our connectedness to the world around us. Farms provide employment to local people and form part of local communities and any interventions and policies that aim to increase opportunities for local people to farm sustainably could be positive for economic health and wellbeing. Protecting green belt and farmland is key to supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and maintain the green space around us. By supporting local farmers to farm in a way that supports biodiversity, protects the natural environment, maintains animal welfare, reduces and reuses waste and energy we can contribute to reducing climate change and supporting local health and wellbeing.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

FOOD

What we know

- The Environmental Land Management (ELM) test and trial scheme (due to be rolled out by the end of 2024) will replace schemes currently available under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and will provide a way of achieving the goals of the Government's 25-year Environment plan and commitment to net zero by 2050 whilst supporting the rural economy. The scheme means that farmers and other landowners may be paid for delivering the following public goods:
 - clean air
 - clean and plentiful water
 - thriving plants and wildlife
 - protection from environmental hazards
 - beauty heritage and engagement with the environment
 - reduction and adaptation to climate change.

Under this scheme, work to enhance the Environment, such as tree and hedge planting, river management to mitigate flooding and creating or restoring habitats for wildlife means that farmers will be at the forefront of delivering environmental benefits, whilst improving the environmental sustainability of farming businesses.

- Locally, the aim is to explore ways of supporting our communities to buy locally produced or fresh food, or to grow their own vegetables. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the priority has been to ensure food is safely distributed to the most vulnerable and to co-ordinate that distribution through the most effective channels.
- Changing weather patterns and more frequent weather extremes are already beginning to have an impact on UK and Doncaster agriculture's food production and therefore commercial viability and food security. Flooding in 2019 affected 18 farm-holdings and more general wet weather impeded harvesting and planting.
- There are a variety of issues created by modern-day food production, including:
 - Water use and water pollution. Growing food takes a lot of water - About 70% of all water use goes towards agricultural efforts. When runoff of agricultural pollutants occur, groundwater supplies can get contaminated with things like nitrogen and phosphorus—commonly used in modern farming practices.
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Greenhouse gas emissions, such as CO₂, are created when fossil fuels are used during several aspects of the food cycle, including food production and distribution.
 - Environmental contaminants and pollutants - The growing, producing, and transporting of food can create numerous environmental contaminants that can have adverse effects on the health of humans and the ecosystem. These contaminants include ammonia pollution and the emission of different nitrogen compounds that disrupt the soil as well as animal and plant life.
 - Depletion of natural resources - Food production takes up a significant portion of the world's natural resources, with livestock being the largest contributor.
- Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) is a national campaign launched by Waste Recycling Action Programme (WRAP) in 2007 to tackle the 8 million tonnes of food waste thrown away each year in the UK at a cost of £12 billion to households. Since its launch, millions of people have responded saving around £1.5 billion worth of food.
- It is recognised that greater education around health and skills development is required around fresh food preparation due to the large amount of avoidable waste, transport and energy use, generated from convenience foods, that could be tackled if families could be encouraged to cook from scratch.
- Food waste is expensive to consumers and has a high disposal cost due to its disposal through the residual waste stream in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.
- The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership, Love Food Hate Waste Campaign adopts some of the principles of the National campaign to reduce the amount of Food waste and centres around 5 themes:
 1. Perfect Portions
 2. Love Your leftovers
 3. Savvy Storage
 4. Know your dates
 5. Planning Perfection
- Following the 2017 LFHW campaign, the most recent waste composition analysis for BDR shows that around 33.5% of household residual waste consists of food waste. This is a reduction of over 75% from the same time the previous year. It is estimated that Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham households are each disposing of 2.2 kg, 2.4 kg and 2.5 kg of

food waste a week respectively. Of this, over 60% is classed as avoidable food waste or food and drink that has been thrown away but was edible at some point prior to disposal.

- This avoidable food waste, that which at some point could have been eaten, makes up around 7,700 tonnes of waste a year in Barnsley, 10,200 tonnes in Doncaster and 9,600 tonnes of food waste a year in Rotherham or 27,500 tonnes a year across BDR. This is a reduction of over 30% on the previous year.

What we've done/are doing

- Reviewing the work and focus of the Good Food Doncaster Partnership in line with the climate change commission priorities and public health priorities
- Looking at re-branding the Good Food Doncaster work and reviewing membership and purpose
- Exploring a healthy weight declaration charter and the adoption of the Be Well@Work award internally which includes work around the healthy eating agenda and behaviour change
- Exploring the potential for an integrated Healthier Doncaster wellness model in forthcoming months which will include behaviour change approaches

Health implications

It is recognised that takeaway and drive-thru fast-food outlets can lead to increased levels of litter from the packaging associated with their products. In the case of drive-throughs, such litter can arise a considerable distance away from the place of purchase. Further details concerning littering is included in the Fly Tipping and Litter section.

The impact of food insecurity particularly during the covid-19 pandemic (and during recovery) is going to have enormous health implications for some individuals and families across the borough and may in a lot of ways further exacerbate health inequalities which were already prevalent before the crisis began. Food is a basic need for human life and if there are barriers to accessing it whether it be physical or mental (or social) there are inevitably going to be enormous health implications for some members of the population. Food is also a social connector and in the absence of community cohesion (through community lockdown and social isolation) there are inevitably going to be considerable implications for mental health and social isolation. The climate commission is developing a local response to the global epidemic and food is a part of the issue. The health implications around food both during and after covid-19 are an essential priority and the mental health issues and social isolation issues will need to be considered across many sectors.

Our food systems have a significant effect on the environment and on population health and wellbeing. A healthy diet is key to the health and wellbeing as it provides not only the nutrition needed to protect us against a range of diseases, but also enables us to maintain a healthy weight. In Doncaster we have unacceptable levels of childhood and adult excess weight and many of our families are eating diets that are low in fresh foods and nutrients and high in cheap, poor quality food. Much of this is due to income, skills, environment and availability. Maintaining a balanced, healthy diet that is high in fruit and vegetables and low in "fast food" and ready meals is key to improving health and wellbeing in Doncaster.

A sustainable, localised approach to food production and provision can help provide access to affordable, healthy food and can help tackle health inequalities. Access to a healthy diet is far more difficult for some groups in our population and a poor diet is linked to deprivation, geographic location and low income. It is essential that any interventions that aim to improve access to sustainable food concentrates on reducing inequalities for these groups and does not increase inequalities by engaging with the "easy to reach" populations.

FLY TIPPING AND LITTER

What we know

- Monthly fly tipping incidents (as reported to DEFRA) range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). This is aligned with other similar authorities and slightly below the national average. Monthly fly-tipping incidents have further reduced with 109 reported in July 2020.
- This data significantly under-states the true number of incidents because they do not include fly-tipping in hotspot areas which are dealt with separately on a scheduled basis. Hotspots include many areas of the Borough where residential streets have back alleys, where waste is potentially collected from several locations along the alley but may only be recorded as one instance of fly - tipping (in some cases, it is not recorded at all).
- An additional 70 tonnes of waste is collected each week from hotspots: at a cost of around £400k per year.
- Since April 2020, 1,500 tonnes of waste has been removed.
- The Council does not meet its target for timely clearance of fly-tipping, often achieving much less than the '85% within 7 days' target.
- In 2019, there were 1617 reported cases of littering, 1247 cases of graffiti, and 809 reported spillages. Littering fines totalled 3142, and 506 cases were submitted for prosecution.
- In 2019, there were 534 complaints for dog fouling and 134 stencils printed on pavements to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs. Data provided over the last five years indicates a downward trend in the number of complaints and notices issued.
- The Council has a Borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that covers a range of behaviours designed to reduce the unpleasant impact caused from irresponsible dog ownership, including the requirement to pick up immediately after it messes and to always carry a means of achieving this when out with a dog.
- Complaints regarding dog fouling in gardens is captured within 'nuisance' but these figures included miscellaneous complaints; overall estimated figures recorded a low of 63 complaints (2019) and a high of 85 (2016); with an overall downward trend between 2015-2019.
- Complaints regarding waste in gardens range from 1448 (2015) to 962 (2019); with an overall downward trend between 2015-2019
- Additional complaints associated with bin issues range from a low of 140 complaints (2016) to 884 (2019); with an overall upward trend between 2015-2019.

What we've done/are doing

- The employment of private contractors to carry out a range of enforcement actions, including litter and dog fouling.
- Liaison with the Environment Agency, Police and Fire Service over fly tipping intelligence for enforcement.
- Comprehensive review of the data and intelligence collected. Identifying the true scale of fly-tipping from ad-hoc and planned clearances - number of incidents, cost of clearance, and speed of clearance.
- Independent review underway of Street scene team data collection practices and procedures.

Health implications

Fly tipping imposes a direct financial cost to the Council, the public and to private landowners relating to the clearance, investigation and prosecution of fly-tipping incidents, as well as to prevention measures. Fly tipping can negatively affect the wider community; how it looks and how people feel about where they live. Where the composition of fly-tipped waste includes hazardous waste, fly-tipping can threaten our ecosystem and wildlife and may even depict a risk to human life. Fly-tipping also negatively impacts on the local landscape and enjoyment of green space for residents and visitors.

WASTE & RECYCLING

What we know

- Detailed information about the exact amount of total waste generated in Doncaster is not available as there are several sources of waste and a standard system for waste reporting does not exist for commercial operators.
- Waste collected by councils (household waste) across the UK is only a small proportion of the total waste generated. DEFRA (2016) data shows 63% is Construction, Demolition and Excavation; 18% is Commercial and industrial; and 12% is household waste.
- Waste from local authorities falls into two main categories:
 1. Local authority collected waste – (until recently referred to as Municipal Solid Waste MSW) this is all waste that is collected by local authorities including waste from households, businesses, litter bins, street cleansing and ground maintenance activities.
 2. Waste from households is the waste collected from kerbside collections, household waste recycling centres, bring banks and bulky waste collections
- The table below illustrates the waste volumes collected by Doncaster Council in financial year 2014/15 and 2018/19.

	2014/15	2018/19
Local Authority Collected Waste (previously MSW)	160,612	154,435
Waste from Households (previously Household Waste)	140,471	134,848
Recycling Rate	40.6%	46.4%
Percentage of waste to landfill	54.6%	4.6%

- Doncaster is well served by local re-processors such as ReFood, Freeland Horticulture, Briar Hills and Attero. There are also several independent transfer stations such as Westmorelands and Middletons, as well as many independent waste companies both for transfer and total waste management services.
- As well as the local re-processors and waste management companies, national companies such as Biffa, Suez, FCC and Veolia also provide waste and recycling services in Doncaster.
- Waste collected by the local authority is recorded in detail and reported to Wastedataflow - the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.

What we've done/are doing

Key Partnerships

- Delivery of the five key strategic priorities set out in the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYMWS) (2017):
 1. Encouraging and inspiring children and adults across South Yorkshire to make less waste and lower their carbon impact by reducing, re-using and recycling more.
 2. Working hard to deliver and maintain dependable and reliable waste services to all our customers.
 3. All four councils working together where appropriate to deliver value for money services.
 4. Continued exploration of how waste technology can be used to improve recycling and waste services.
 5. Proactively influencing decision-making on waste at a European, national and local level, to drive investment into infrastructure within South Yorkshire and the Sheffield City Region economy.
- A strategic review of the SYMWS is to be undertaken in light of the Resource and Waste Strategy for England (2018), 25 year Environment Plan and the transposition of the 2020 Circular Economy Package.
- Developed sufficient, clear planning policies for waste facilities for a green economy to develop through the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (2012). In partnership with Sheffield, undertake a South Yorkshire Waste Plan to contribute to preparing the region for a green future.
- Doncaster Council have implemented changes to their collection and disposal services since 2014/15 that have resulted in better recycling performance and diversion from landfill:
 - Fortnightly household waste collections of black bins (general, non-recyclable waste), green bins (garden waste), green boxes (glass recycling) and blue bins (mixed recycling).
 - Changes to the collection service have reduced health and safety implications for the collection staff, provided simple to use facilities to residents and made savings to the overall costs of collection (?)
 - Trade waste collection service also includes recycling collection.
 - A Public Finance Initiative (PFI) contract was let in 2012 with Barnsley and Rotherham for a 250,000per annum Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant with anaerobic digestion. This plant came online in 2015 and extracts between 12-15% from the black bin waste that is collected for recycling and composting. The process removes water from organic material such as food waste, reducing the amount of material that needs to be sent to a final disposal point by around 30%. The final dried material is referred to as solid recovered fuel (SRF) and is used at the Ferrybridge multi-fuel facility to produce electricity.

- There are some waste types that are not suitable for processing in a MBT plant. These materials are sent to a facility in Leeds that processes the material into refuse derived fuel (RDF) and SRF to be used for energy recovery, minimising the need for landfill.
- The waste and recycling department of Doncaster Council ensure the responsible disposal of waste generated by Street Scene activities – street cleansing, fly tipping and litter – and minimise the landfilling of these materials through efficient separation at the Doncaster Transfer Station.
- A Council-operated facility at Carcroft recycles rubble and road material waste from road works and Council developments, which is then used to create a renewable sub-base for sale. This saves the Council considerable sums on tipping charges as well as generating an income.
- There is a programme of on-going installation of GPS tracking, state of the art camera systems and in-cab technology in 100% of all new and replacement collection vehicles to optimise collection routes and processes.
- There has been and will be further investment in resources to drive improved use of new and existing technology for both staff and customers e.g. more online support.
- Doncaster has been working in partnership with Rotherham and Barnsley Councils for many years to deliver waste services through formal contracts including the Household Waste Recycling contract, garden and residual waste management contracts. More recently, Doncaster has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the other South Yorkshire Councils to enable them to work together where possible to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Council partnership contracts include:
 - Household waste kerbside collections (Suez), household waste recycling centres (Fcc Environment), bulk waste collection and re-use/recycling (Doncaster Refurnish), Garden waste (Freeland Horticulture), and PFI BDR waste facility (Renewi).
 - As well as having a Council transfer station there is also West Moorlands, a privately run commercial transfer station in Balby. Using both these facilities helps to maximise efficiencies and minimise the carbon impacts for street scene services.
 - Since March 2020, due to contract change, materials which previously had to go to landfill due to a lack of technology to process them (e.g. mattresses and sofas) are now being directed to AWM (Leeds), which has invested in modern technology to separate materials for recycling and divert waste from landfill to create fuel. This further reduces the amount of waste currently going to landfill below the 3.4% figure from 2019.
 - There is also a privately run green waste facility operated in Hatfield (Briar Hills).
- Provision of a bespoke recycling service to the Borough's businesses to ensure their waste is disposed of and processed appropriately and as efficiently as possible, while reducing the impact on the environment.

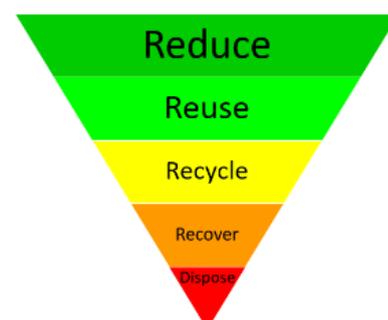
Health implications

Reducing the consumption of materials and increasing recycling are key priorities that have a number of benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents, at both an individual and population level. It helps to reduce the financial expenditure in the economy, providing financial resources for individuals and the public sector. There is less need for raw materials, preserving natural resources and utilising less energy, therefore reducing emissions that may impact climate change. There is also less space requirement for landfill or treatment facilities.

Although landfill activities produce methane and other emissions, the overall scale of direct effects of releases to air from landfill and other waste management practices is relatively small compared with emissions from other sectors such as transport. The Health Protection Agency concluded that although the disposal of waste materials to landfill can undoubtedly present a pollution risk and a potential health hazard, improvements in landfill design and management, restrictions in the type of waste that can be handled and environmental legislation designed to minimise pollution should all ensure there is no significant risk to health of the local population. Nevertheless, landfill remains the last resort for waste disposal.

A focus on reducing the amount of consumption across the Borough and moving up the waste hierarchy (pictured below) to change the focus from waste disposal to reduce, re-use/repair, recycle and other developing forms of resource recovery, will result in raw materials being preserved.

Manufacturers are already reviewing the way they design goods and packaging to enable higher levels of recycling and reducing reliance on disposal facilities and landfill. Doncaster should endeavour to be at the forefront of rethinking waste. Waste and recycling facilities should be viewed as manufacturing facilities with opportunities to build a green economy with skilled and semi-skilled workers rather than facilities that impact on the well-being of residents.



EDUCATION/BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Behaviour change happens because people:
 - Have the skills and knowledge to be able to do it (Capability)
 - Have the resources and social support to do it (Opportunity)
 - Want to do it (Motivation)

Capability

- Education and awareness development are critical to give people the capability to contribute in a positive way to the quality of the environment.
- Promotional activity across a range of media/communication methods must be used to ensure everyone receives the necessary information e.g. via social media, schools, community groups.
- Increasing knowledge may not be sufficient to facilitate behaviour change. People's skills may need to be increased and barriers to attaining knowledge and skills overcome. We will ensure any potential language or cultural barriers don't block people's capability to do the desired behaviour. Examples include providing bin collection and other user information in a range of languages, teaching people how to compost or building individual confidence or ability to actively travel.

Opportunity

- The physical environment heavily impacts on what the automatic behaviour is in any given situation.
- Putting in place the right infrastructure or services and ensuring ease of access to the required behaviour can help individuals to take the desired course of action without thinking e.g. prominence of litter bins, kerbside recycling options, and access to recycling centres can all encourage people to dispose of their litter/waste in a responsible manner.
- Providing opportunities for people to engage in conversations about environmental sustainability provides an opportunity to learn, share ideas, and collaborate for the benefit of the environment, but also for the benefit of households, communities and businesses.

Motivation

- Creating safe, attractive and convenient environments can motivate residents to change their behaviour.
- For example, developing footpaths and cycle paths can encourage people to opt for active travel; creating high quality, safe greenspace will encourage its use for leisure purposes, and in turn increase the value the community puts on such amenities.
- Communicating the impacts achieved by positive behaviour change can motivate others to seek out such personal benefits or replicate community/environmental benefits too. The same can be applied to the negative impact of certain behaviours, in a bid to develop social pressure to act in responsible ways.

Examples of behaviour change interventions include the following:

- Remove or reduce the use of single-use plastics in offices and schools.
- Become more energy aware & energy efficient in their homes.
- Encourage and support households to grow their own food.
- Increase the percentage of journeys that are less than 1 km that are taken on foot, by bike or public transport.
- Improve environmental awareness in schools and the workplace.
- Embed environment strategy objectives into business/organisational policies and procedures.

INTERVENTIONS IMPACT MODELLING

There is clearly a range of activity options available to consider when planning our pathway to carbon neutrality. We needed a way of quantifying the impact of each option on our CO₂e levels such that any given proposed activity could be considered relative to others as part of our prioritisation decisions. The modelling tool we used for this analysis was SCATTER, by Anthesis.

SCATTER is a local authority focussed emissions tool, built to help create low-carbon local authorities. It offers the modelling of emissions reduction pathways, based on the ambition of several emissions reduction measures that can be set by the user.

The tool considers a range of interventions and quantifies their impact (reduction in CO₂e) for varying levels of each intervention. These interventions are broad ranging across multiple sectors: Agriculture & Land Use, Domestic Buildings, Energy Supply, Industry & Commercial, Transport and Waste

All analysis is based on the current understanding of impacts (which is subject to change) and on certain rate of intervention assumptions, e.g. do *THIS*, to this *EXTENT*, across this *TIMESCALE*, to reduce the baseline CO₂e forecast by *THIS AMOUNT*.

It allows relative comparison of different interventions, which can be used together with their costs to inform activity/investment decisions.

SCATTER's baseline assessment for Doncaster indicates the cumulative total emissions for Doncaster based on current levels and trends. It suggests that if things continue as they are, Doncaster is on course to produce around 48 million tonnes of CO₂e by 2050.

Given that Doncaster's carbon budget is around 12 million tonnes of CO₂e, this represents a required reduction of around 36 MT CO₂e.

The following table provides a range of interventions and the potential reduction in CO₂e.

Category	Sub-category	Target/Intervention	Reduction in CO ₂ e
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - retrofit	By 2050, 10% of current stock is retrofitted to a medium level, 80% deep retrofit.	6.2MT
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Technology	Cars & buses are 100% electric by 2035, rail is 100% electric by 2030. Avg occupancies increase to 18 ppl per bus km (from 12), 1.65 ppl per car-km (up from 1.56), & 0.42 ppl per rail-km (from 0.32).	5.2MT
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Demand	25% reduction in total distance travelled per individual per year by 2030.	2.7MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - technology	By 2050, 90% heating with fuel-cell (u)CHP	2.3MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial heating & cooling - technology	By 2050, majority of heating is with community-scale CHP (both solid & gas fuel)	2.3MT
Energy Supply	Offshore wind	Large-scale offshore wind generation grows to 4.8MWh per hectare in 2030, 6.9 MWh in 2050	2.3MT
Energy Supply	Biomass/Coal power stations	Solid biomass generation quadruples in 2025, dropping off after that; Coal phase-out follows trajectories from the National Grids Two degrees scenario	2.2MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial heating & cooling - demand	In 2050, commercial heating, cooling & hot water demand is 60% of today's level	1.6MT
Transport	Domestic freight	By 2050, 22% decrease in distance travelled by road freight; 75% increase in efficiency. In waterborne transportation, 28% increase in use of waterborne transport.	1.5MT
Energy Supply	Solar PV - Small	Local solar capacity grows, generating equivalent to 2500 kWh per household in 2030; 5200 in 2050 (from baseline of 400 kWh per household)	1.4MT
Industry & Commercial	Industrial processes - Efficiency	Industry electricity consumption is 50% of total energy consumption by 2035; 65% by 2050. Output falls by 2% every year for non-heavy industry.	1.3MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - demand	hot water demand per household reduced by 8% every 5 years	1.1MT

Category	Sub-category	Target/Intervention	Reduction in CO2e
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Modal shift	Avg modal share of cars, vans, & motorbikes decrease from current national avg 74% total miles to 38% in 2050.	0.9MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - new build	From 2021, 100% new build properties are built to passivhaus standard	0.7MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic lighting, appliances & cooking - demand	Total energy demand drops to 27%	0.6MT
Waste	Volume of Waste & Recycling - Reduction	Total volume of waste is 61% of 2017 levels by 2040.	0.5MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial lighting, appliances, & catering - Demand	Commercial lighting & appliance energy demand decreases 25% by 2050	0.5MT
Energy Supply	Small-scale wind	Small-scale wind grows to 2.8MWh per hectare in 2030; 3.3 in 2050 (from a baseline of 1.2 MWh per hectare)	0.5MT
Energy Supply	Onshore wind	Large-scale onshore wind generation grows to 1.9MWh per hectare in 2030, 2.2 MWh in 2050	0.3MT
Industry & Commercial	Industrial processes - Output	Reduction in process emission from all industry: general industry reduces process emissions at a rate of 4.5% per year. Chemical emissions reduce 1% per year; metals 0.7% per year, & minerals 0.8% per year	0.2MT
Waste	Volume of Waste & Recycling - Recycling	65% recycling, 10% landfill, 25% incineration achieved by 2035, recycling rates increasing to 85% by 2050.	0.2MT
Energy Supply	Hydroelectric power stations	Hydroelectric pwer generation grows to 34 MWh per hectare inland water in 2030; 41 in 2050	0.2MT
Agriculture & Land Use	Forestry	24% increase in forestry cover	0.1MT
Agriculture & Land Use	livestock management	0.5% annual reduction in livestock numbers	0.1MT
Energy Supply	Solar PV - Large	Large-scale solar generation grows to 200kWh in 2030; 400 in 2050 (from a baseline of 50 KWh per hectare)	0.1MT
Transport	International aviation	DfT "low" forecast for aviation. The "low" forecast encapsulates; lower economic growth worldwide with restricted trade, coupled with higher oil prices & failure to agree a global carbon emissions trading scheme.	0.01MT
Agriculture & Land Use	tree planting (outside woodland)	Tree-planting to increase current coverage by 30% by 2030; from 2030-2050 further increase of 20%	NEG
Energy Supply	Tidal & Wave	For areas with wave/tidal power, 320-fold increase by 2030, 1300-fold increase by 2050	NEG
Transport	International shipping	By 2050, 28% decrease in fuel use at UK ports.	NEG
Agriculture & Land Use	land management	7% decrease in grassland, 1% increase in coverage; increase in the coverage of settled land	-0.02MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial lighting, appliances, & catering - Electrification	By 2050, 100% of commercial cooking is electrified	-0.2MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic lighting, appliances & cooking - electrification	Small reductions in efficiency of domestic cooking. Proportion of cooking which is electric increases to 100% by 2050	-0.6MT

ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES AND PLANS

- [Achieving Net Zero: Farming's 2040 Goal – National Farmers Union \(2019\)](#) – NFU aims to reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the whole of agriculture in England and Wales by 2040 by improving farming's productive efficiency; improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon; and boosting renewable energy and the wider bioeconomy, all while not reducing capacity to feed UK consumers with high quality, affordable British food.
- [Air Quality Action Plan \(2018\)](#) – Measures to improve air quality across the borough, and in particular within Air Quality Management Areas.
- [BDR Joint Waste Plan \(2012\)](#) – Sets out the overall approach to managing waste across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham over the next 15 years, including what waste facilities are required; where they will be located; when they will be provided; and how they will be delivered and monitored.
- Biodiversity Net Gain guidance (2020) (in development) – Guidance to help ensure that developments leave biodiversity in a better state than before.
- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development) – Build upon the successes of the DGT plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.
- [Contaminated Land Inspection strategy \(2017\)](#) – Details how the Council will deal with contaminated land as defined by the regulations, taking into account the local circumstances and land quality of the borough.
- [Cycling Strategy \(2019\)](#) – Aims to make Doncaster a nicer place to live, learn and work by providing opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in cycling.
- [Don, Dearne, Torne](#) and Rother Catchment Plan (various, under review) – Aims to understand the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment. Provides a list of projects summarising the relative contributions each one makes towards Water Framework Directive funding themes and the partnership aims.
- Doncaster Council Enforcement policies – Associated with various service areas e.g. planning, littering, fly tipping, licensing.
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021) – Aims to deliver appropriate service improvements in Street Scene, Regulation & Enforcement and Highways, Waste & Recycling - as well as delivering changes and improvements common across all three areas.
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy \(2014\)](#) – Aims to provide an attractive setting for investment and a place where the workforce wants to live; and provide opportunities to diversify the economy and develop jobs in conservation/green industries, and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g. provide urban cooling & reduce flood risk).
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development) – Sets out the vision and ambitions for lifelong learning opportunities in Doncaster; reviews the challenges and opportunities facing the current system, and establishes six priority areas for action over the next ten years; establishes shared strategic delivery principles and will lead to the development of an action plan for achieving key objectives.
- Energy Masterplan (2020) – Practical actions and solutions that will allow Doncaster to unlock projects to help achieve climate change plans, energy transition, and certified carbon neutrality status.
- Future Parks management plans (2019) – Aims to take a systems based approach to parks and open spaces and look holistically at our provision to enhance the offer and provide opportunities for current and future generations to actively participate in, enjoy and benefit from open spaces.
- [Get Doncaster Moving Strategy \(2016\)](#) – Provides a framework within which physical activity and sport can flourish for the benefit of all parts of the community.
- [Heritage Strategy and Policies \(2015\)](#), under review) – Aims to help to establish heritage's role in Doncaster and its surrounding area, covering all forms of heritage that have value within the Borough, both locally and nationally.
- Housing Delivery Plan (2020) – The Council's 5-year house building programme; includes partnerships with housing associations and private developers.
- Housing Strategy (2020) – The borough's ambitions and activity around meeting need, raising standards and supporting independent living.
- [Humber River Basin District Management Plan \(2015\)](#) – Provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning.

- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#) – Sets out a 15-year vision for inclusive growth in Doncaster. It explains the main focus of our work, and the actions we aim to deliver over the next 3 years (to 2021) that will propel the whole borough's economic prospects and boost the life chances and well-being of its people and communities.
- [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2014\)](#) – Sets out a clear plan for future flood risk management in Doncaster, ensuring people, businesses, communities and other risk management authorities have an active role in how flood risk is managed.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development) – (To be introduced by the Environment Bill) – a spatial strategies for nature, that will map the most valuable existing habitat for nature, map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals, and agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- [Local Plan \(2015\)](#) – Sets out the land use allocations and development policies/conditions for the borough.
- National Food strategy (Parts One and Two) ([2020](#) and 2021) – Part One published in 2020 aims to identify where the worst cracks have appeared during the pandemic and recommend some immediate Government actions to help those most affected; and to prepare for the end of the EU Exit transition period on 31st December to maintain the UK's high food standards, while also becoming a champion of free trade.
- [Our Plan for the River Don \(2020\)](#) – Don Network collaborative pathway to a better Don catchment.
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#) – Sets out the vision, goals, policies and targets in support of the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and has been developed in collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), local authority partners, and stakeholders from academia, business, industry, charity, community groups and members of the public.
- [Site Management Plans for the individual Moors](#) (under review) – Thorne and Hatfield Moors are overseen by Natural England as a national nature reserve part of the Humberhead Levels. Site management plans also include private landowner responsibilities via the Humberhead Levels Partnership.
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#) – Sets out what needs to be done to grow the economy and transform the lives and wellbeing of our people. It focuses on the communities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield and will inform what we do over the next 20 years.
- [South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy \(2017-2021\)](#) – Aims to deliver high quality waste and recycling services for those who live, work, study, visit or conduct business within the region; and to reduce, re-use, recycle and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire's waste by 2021.
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) – An assessment of elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Adoption Policy (2020) (in development) – Aims to provide the process for Doncaster Council to adopt and maintain SUDS features that are a requirement of new developments.
- [Tree Policy and Tree Risk Management plan \(2019\)](#) – Aims to implement the broad aims and actions set out in Theme 2: Trees and Woodlands of the Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy (2014), to ensure Doncaster's urban forest helps contribute to high quality urban environments and establish a clear, consistent and structured approach to how Street Scene will maintain trees on Doncaster Council owned land.
- [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019\)](#) – Sets out to achieve the following vision: By 2022, Doncaster will be recognised as a major visitor destination within Yorkshire and will be seen as one of the foremost emerging visitor destinations nationally. Doncaster's reputation will be one of a blend of historic heritage, family friendly attractions, a broad ranging arts & culture offer, fantastic entertainment, cuisine, sport and leisure facilities.
- [Walking Strategy \(2018\)](#) – Aims to improve the quality of where people walk and their perception of safety, making walking the first choice for short journeys.
- Water level management plans (IDB) for Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ([Part 1 \(2008\)](#) and [Part 2 \(2018\)](#)) and [Hatfield Chase \(1995\)](#) – Provides means by which water level requirements for conservation, agriculture, fisheries, industry, flood defence and water quality can be balanced and integrated.
- Wildfire Plans (in development) – Relating to response and recovery to recent and any future wildfires.
- [UK Peatland Strategy \(2018-2040\)](#) – Aims to capture and embed, for the long term, a shared vision for all peatlands in the UK, helping maintain a focus across a broad partnership and allowing progress to be marked and celebrated.

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EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Due Regard Statement for the Environment & Sustainability Strategy

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

<p>1</p>	<p>Name of the ‘policy’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘policy’ is to equality.</p>	<p>Environment and Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>There is regional, national and international agreement on the need to address climate change emergency and biodiversity crisis. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing emissions of the ‘greenhouse’ gases, such as carbon dioxide, that are causing global temperature increases; • preparation for the increased likelihood of more frequent and extreme weather conditions; and • responding to the loss of nature that is contributing to climate change and how this can be reversed so that nature helps to provide part of the solutions we need for a better future. <p>The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is a ten-year strategy to chart a pathway for Doncaster, all its public institutions, businesses and communities, to keep within its carbon budget, deliver an 85% reduction in net greenhouse gas emission by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2040. The strategy has four main areas of consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Natural Environment (ii) Built Environment (iii) Economy & Green Technology (iv) Sustainable Consumption, Education & Behavioural Change
<p>2</p>	<p>Service area responsible for completing this statement.</p>	<p>Policy, Insight and Change (PIC)</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</p>	<p>Due to the strategic direction being set by International and National government agencies that are, by in large, representative across the protected groups, this ethos has been adopted at a local level.</p> <p>Data and information collated as part of developing this strategy has not focused on any one specific group, area or characteristic, but instead has collected data which applies to</p>

	<p>Service users/residents</p> <p>Doncaster Workforce</p>	<p>all of Doncaster Borough and its population. The information collected has covered different aspects of the environment, both in terms of the current situation and options for interventions to respond to the issues faced.</p> <p>Evidence gathering and consultation/engagement has sought input and feedback from as diverse an audience as possible in order to understand the needs and experiences of all members of Doncaster’s population, including those in protected groups. A range of specific consultation exercises have taken place including partner workshops, elected member seminars and public engagement through various Doncaster Talks engagement events.</p> <p>The Strategy is a high-level document setting out our strategic intent. The impact of many prevailing projects that stem from this Environment and Sustainability Strategy will require more in-depth consideration to understand the needs of each protected group. As we develop and propose individual projects/activities to implement the Strategy, project/locality specific DRSs will be produced to ensure that specific cohorts with protected characteristics are adequately considered, included, engaged in the activity/opportunities and supported to contribute to the activity required.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster Talks (Summer 2019) - 3610 respondents from across representative samples of age and ethnic groups. The engagement process asked three questions with the latter two focusing on what residents would like to see improve and what Doncaster should focus on in the future. The responses were categorised into broad key themes with street cleansing, littering and fly-tipping the most common for both the improvement question and the future focus. The responses were also analysed by ward which showed a focus on future developments and initiatives, and improvement of green and open spaces. • Doncaster Talks – Climate and Biodiversity Commission (November 2019 – March 2020) – online survey and call for evidence and information. 120 responses, 51% of whom didn’t know about the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declaration. The three most common themes from the question about “anything happening in Doncaster which is helping to reduce the impact of Climate Change” were the use of green spaces, recycling and different groups doing things in the Borough (e.g. refill scheme). The three main themes from the question about what Doncaster could do to “help reduce the

	<p>impact of Climate Change in future” related to better public transport and infrastructure for cycling and walking; recycling; and rewilding through planting trees and verges and maintaining natural habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Member engagement seminars (October 2019) - 14 members engaged with the material (draft strategy document) and provided comments that were categorised into several key themes. These themes followed many of the document topic headings including air quality; transportation/congestion; planning/energy efficiency; recycling, waste, street cleaning and fly-tipping; enforcement; education/encouragement; greenspace/parks/trees; biodiversity; flood management and food. Within each of the broad themes, several recurring sub-themes were also identified which members felt should be specifically focused upon in strategy information. • Climate and Biodiversity Commission meetings (Sept 2019 – Sept 2020) – 11 in total covering various topics including renewable energy, waste and recycling, transport, land use and climate adaptation. These meetings were attended by various stakeholders from the Council and external organisations. Each meeting resulted in recommendations being produced for inclusion in the Commission’s final report. These recommendations will guide development of future plans including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy to ensure Climate Change is considered in decisions going forwards. • Attendance at various events in the community – members of the Commission and officers involved in developing the Environment Strategy attended various events across the Borough to engage with residents on the wider Environment agenda. Events included a Woodlands Speaks event with IPPR and ‘Local Trust’, Green Business Event, the Navigating Ecological Tragedy interfaith event and the Doncaster Nature Alliance first conference. • Engagement with various internal DMBC and external stakeholders - The Strategy development has been supported by a reference group of internal DMBC officers from the following teams: Public Health, transportation, planning, communities, energy, asset management, street scene, highways management, and regulation and enforcement. External stakeholders (including the Environment Agency, National Farmers Union and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) have also been consulted for feedback on the information gathered for use in the final strategy document and accompanying technical documents. Several external stakeholders have been consulted through the Climate and Biodiversity
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		<p>Commission whose final report will influence the Strategy content. Team Doncaster partners have also been contacted to obtain their current Environment/Sustainability strategies to show the contribution they will be making towards achieving the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Member engagement seminars (July 2020) - 29 members engaged with the material (draft strategy document) and provided comments that were categorised into several key themes. These themes included an understanding of the overall context, scale of the interventions and resources needed to reach the set targets; building (particularly around house building and standards required); tree management, planting and cutting; transport and electric cars; fly tipping and litter; partnership and collaboration is key; communication and education for the public. Members identified a few barriers and challenges that will need to be overcome, most commonly lack of funding to make the changes required. They also identified key policy changes that will need to be made to achieve the targets set. • Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (July 2020 and Nov 2020) • Doncaster Talks: Environment (Oct- Dec) 2020 - An Environment-specific Doncaster Talks listening exercise took place in Oct - Dec 2020 to gain public engagement to influence various strategies which are in development, including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Borough Strategy. The consultation aimed to gain resident opinions on questions relating the Climate and Biodiversity Commission's recommendations, aspects of the Environment Service Improvement Plan and concepts being considered for inclusion in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.
5	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The findings from the engagement exercises listed in Section 4 have been used to inform various priorities and activity in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and the forthcoming Borough Strategy. These look to improve all aspects of the Borough and the lives of all residents that live here. If there are any characteristics that may be negatively impacted, mitigation of the effects will be built into the development of action/implementation plans. This will ensure that residents with protected characteristics are not negatively affected.</p>
6	<p>Decision Making</p>	<p>The Environment and Sustainability Strategy will follow the Council's standard approval process and will ultimately be approved by Full Council. The decision report will reference measures taken to ensure compliance with the Council's equality policy and show that due</p>

		<p>regard considerations have been included in the strategy development process. The Strategy will be presented at the following meetings for approval:</p> <p>Directors – 07/12/20 Executive Board – 22/12/20 Cabinet – 12/01/21 Full Council – 21/01/21</p>
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>Given the multi-partner nature of the Strategy, performance management will ultimately fall under the remit of Team Doncaster; with individual partners using their own performance management frameworks to monitor their own contributions.</p> <p>The Environment Renewal Board will monitor progress against the outcomes identified in the Strategy and put in place measures by which individual partners identify and share data on their own progress and issues, such that a collective, borough-wide picture of performance can be deduced.</p> <p>Doncaster Cabinet, and in particular, the Cabinet portfolio holder for the environment will provide leadership and challenge to Team Doncaster partners throughout the strategy period to ensure progress is being made at the required pace and scale.</p>
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>The Strategy will be signed off and approved by Full Council. This will be followed by a public launch of the strategy as part of an ongoing Environment communication and engagement campaign, which will use a range of tools such as social media and online content.</p>

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17 December 2020

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION

Dear Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP and members of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission,

Since our collective declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency in September 2019 we have followed the work and the Commission with interest and would like to thank the Climate and Biodiversity Commission for their work over the last year to produce such an informative report. The broad stakeholder engagement and expert opinion obtained has provided valuable insight into a range of complex environmental topics. This has been essential to developing our understanding of the issues we face and the options we have to respond to them.

Team Doncaster therefore welcomes the report and the commission's recommendations. We will seek to take forward these recommendations through our individual organisational and collective Team Doncaster actions. We commit to working with local, regional and national partners including central government to implement those recommendations that are not within our direction control.

Team Doncaster's strategy will include a target for the Borough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 – recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030. It will also seek to support greater biodiversity by increasing the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, and wildflower grassland.

It is reassuring to see that the Commission's recommendations are consistent with a lot of the work that numerous partners have or are currently undertaking already, such as electrifying fleet (e.g. Council and SY Police), improving energy efficiency of buildings (e.g. housing developers and retrofitters), developing flood prevention measures (e.g. Environment Agency and Planning Authority), and the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste (e.g. Doncaster households and businesses).

The public engagement that has taken place alongside the Commission meetings has identified a clear message from Doncaster residents, businesses and elected representatives that addressing climate change should be a priority. Many people are already taking action to tackle the emergency, but there is a need to do more and to support people to be able to do more.

Various engagements have shown that young people in particular are very passionate about this agenda. This was evident in the results of the 2019 Make Your Mark engagement campaign which showed that both primary and secondary school-age children think the environment should be a top priority for the borough. There are various student-led initiatives in a number of schools across the Borough to do their bit for the environment - from reducing single-use plastic through installation of refill stations and roll out of reusable water bottles across the school, to researching and reducing the disposal and processing of waste from school cafeterias. Recently, the Junior Civic Mayor published a video about being eco-friendly with 5 top tips on how to look after your environment.

The strategy development work undertaken so far has shown that much of the required interventions are already being implemented to a certain degree. What has become clear though is that more people, businesses, and organisations need to make changes and investments, and we all need to do so on a greater scale in order to make more significant impacts than we have so far. There is a clear message on the need to work in partnership to ensure everyone is able to make the contributions required and realise the broader benefits that tackling environmental issues will bring.

The Environment and Sustainability strategy is planned to be formally launched in early 2021, and Team Doncaster will ensure that a suitable governance arrangement is in place to implement the proposals and be accountable for delivery. Development work is underway to determine the appropriate membership and remit of this delivery group,

and representation from different parts of the private and public and voluntary sector will be essential, as is the involvement of elected representatives.

We would like to invite the Chair and members of the Commission to provide an independent assessment of Doncaster's progress toward the implementation of the recommendations within two years.

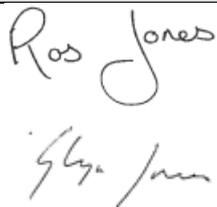
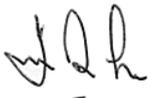
Team Doncaster commitments include:

1. Approval of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy by Full Council	Jan 2021
2. Establish appropriate implementation governance arrangements	Feb 2021
3. Develop a Communications plan for raising awareness of issues and potential solutions amongst different parts of our residential and business communities.	April 2021
4. Undertake individual partner-level baseline assessments of progress made so far, and short, medium and long-term plans for further activity and investments.	Summer 2021
5. Development a new Borough Strategy with the Environment as a central focus	Summer 2021
6. Regular updates to Team Doncaster Gold on progress and achievements.	Every Six Months
7. Invite the commission to review our progress at report back to Team Doncaster	By Autumn 2022
8. Continue to lobby Government for funding to support strategic interventions.	Ongoing

We will support members of the Commission to exercise their influence within their organisations to maintain engagement and commitment to our environmental ambition and would welcome their ongoing involvement in our collective efforts to improve the lives of Doncaster residents now and in the future.

Regards

Team Doncaster

Elected Representatives		
Elected Leadership		Mayor Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster Cllr Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing & Equalities
Private Sector		
Doncaster Chamber		Dan Fell, Chief Executive
Mirata Ltd		Ian Mayer, Managing Director
Voluntary & Community Sector		
Voluntary Action Doncaster		Cath Witherington, Chief Executive
Age UK Doncaster		Heather Boyce, Chief Executive
Inclusion & Fairness Forum	<i>Dolly Agoro Akeela Mohammed</i>	Dolly Agoro and Akeela Mohammed
Club Doncaster Foundation	<i>John Davies</i>	John Davies, Chief Executive
Education/Learning Sector		
DN Colleges		Mick Lochran, Chief Executive

National College of High Speed Rail	<i>Sue Dare</i>	<i>Sue Dare, Chief Executive</i>
New College, Doncaster	<i>Brendon Fletcher</i>	<i>Brendon Fletcher, Principal</i>
Public Sector		
Doncaster CCG	<i>J Pederson</i>	Jackie Pederson, Chief Officer
Rotherham, Doncaster & South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	<i>Kathryn Singh</i>	Kathryn Singh, Chief Executive
Primary Care Doncaster	<i>Laura Sherburn</i>	Laura Sherburn, Chief Executive
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals	<i>Richard Parker</i>	Richard Parker, Trust Chief Executive
South Yorkshire Police	<i>M Palin</i>	Melanie Palin, Borough Commander
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	<i>Shane Tottie</i>	Shane Tottie, Doncaster District Command
Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust	<i>Michael Hart</i>	Michael Hart, Chief Executive
Doncaster Children's Services Trust	<i>James Thomas</i>	James Thomas, Chief Executive
St Leger Homes of Doncaster	<i>Dave Richmond</i>	Dave Richmond, Chief Executive
DWP / Job Centre Plus	<i>S. Thorpe</i>	Sharon Thorpe, District Manager
Doncaster Council	<i>Damian Allen</i>	Damian Allen (Chair), Chief Executive

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Doncaster Council

Report

21st January, 2021

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS – 2021/23

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council for comment, a provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Municipal Years, attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:-
 - (i) consider the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix A;
 - (ii) note the Diary of Meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix A; and
 - (iii) note that the final version of the Diary of Meetings will be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021, for approval.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Approving an advanced calendar of meetings encompassing two Municipal Years from May 2021 to May 2023, and publishing the Forward Plan of key decisions, provides an opportunity for citizens of the Borough to engage in the democratic process; where provided for in the Council's Constitution, questions can be asked at Council meetings, Cabinet and its Committees.

BACKGROUND

4. At its Annual Meeting in May, the Council determines a programme of meetings for Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees. Prior to submitting a report on this issue to the Annual Meeting, Members receive a report, usually in January each year, outlining a proposed timetable of meetings for comment in order that provisional room bookings can be made to hold these meetings.

5. Whilst recognising that Committee membership may change from year to year at the Annual Council Meeting, agreeing Council dates over a longer period provides Members and Officers with advanced notification of meetings and other key dates. This is particularly helpful for Members who may have to organise their time due to other commitments e.g. work, caring, voluntary, family or other commitments.
6. The proposed programme of meetings covers a two year period and encompasses the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Municipal Years. However, there will be an opportunity to review the meeting dates for the period 2022/23, once these have been agreed, as Council will be asked to agree a diary of meetings for the period 2022/23 to 2023/24, in May 2022. This will enable Council to make any adjustments, if required.

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS - OVERVIEW

7. During peak holiday periods in late July and August, and over the Christmas period, meetings have been kept to a minimum.
8. The frequency of meetings of Full Council, Cabinet and Statutory, Regulatory or Quasi-Judicial Committees and Sub-Committees, have remained unchanged from last year's cycle.
9. The scheduling of meetings for the Overview and Scrutiny function reflects the structure approved at Council on 30th January, 2014. Monthly meetings for Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and bi-monthly meetings for the Health and Adult Social Care, and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panels, have been scheduled. These meetings will be cancelled if they are not required. Other Panel's work programmes are undertaken through review meetings arranged as required.

Cabinet Meetings

10. Cabinet Meetings have been determined by the Mayor of Doncaster.

Meetings of Full Council

11. The frequency of Council meetings has been retained at six meetings in each Municipal Year. Evening meetings starting at 6.00 pm, will be held in the months of July and September. With the exception of the Annual Council Meetings starting at 11.00 am in May each year, all remaining scheduled meetings will start at 2.00 pm. In order to comply with statutory requirements for agreeing the Council Budget and setting the Council Tax, it is proposed to hold a meeting of Council in March each Municipal Year.

Health and Wellbeing Board

12. In keeping with current arrangements, meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board have been programmed on a bi-monthly basis.

The E-Diary

13. The Diary of Meetings can be accessed via the Council's website www.doncaster.gov.uk. This helps raise awareness of public meetings and may encourage members of the public to attend. To reduce possible clashes of Member commitments, Officers are asked to check the diary of meetings before organising Member events not shown in the diary. When additional meetings are organised, the diary is updated to maintain an accurate list of known Member commitments from a Doncaster Council perspective.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

14. Members are requested to either approve or amend the proposed Diary of Meetings.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

15. This report has no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

16. There are no identified risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 24/12/20]

17. There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 21/12/20]

18. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RH Date 11/12/20]

19. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 10/12/20]

20. There are no technology implications in relation to this report. Governance & Members Services maintain the diary of meetings electronically in the Modern.Gov system that is accessible via the Council's website.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS Date 10/12/20]

21. There are no direct health implications from this report. However, the individual meetings themselves will need to consider the health implications of any further reports. Report authors can seek further advice from the Director of Public Health, if required.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DMT Date 9/12/20]

22. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

23. The report is being presented to Full Council to allow the Mayor of Doncaster, other Political Group Leaders and Elected Members, to be consulted on the provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Municipal Years, prior to formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2021.

REPORT AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd May, 2021	10th May, 2021	17th May, 2021	24th May, 2021	31st May, 2021
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	4th May, 2021	11th May, 2021	18th May, 2021	25th May, 2021	
T U E S D A Y				10.00 am Cabinet	
	5th May, 2021	12th May, 2021	19th May, 2021	26th May, 2021	
W E D N E S D A Y				3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board	
	6th May, 2021	13th May, 2021	20th May, 2021	27th May, 2021	
T H U R S D A Y	MAYORAL, BOROUGH & PARISH ELECTIONS		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	1.30 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	
	7th May, 2021	14th May, 2021	21st May, 2021	28th May, 2021	
F R I D A Y			10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00 pm, Civic Office)		

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th June, 2021	14th June, 2021	21st June, 2021	28th June, 2021
M O N D A Y	2.00 pm Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)			
	1st June, 2021	8th June, 2021	15th June, 2021	22nd June, 2021
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	2nd June, 2021	9th June, 2021	16th June, 2021	23rd June, 2021
W E D N E S D A Y	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.30 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Audit Committee	3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board
	3rd June, 2021	10th June, 2021	17th June, 2021	24th June, 2021
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning) 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	10.00 am Licensing Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
	4th June, 2021	11th June, 2021	18th June, 2021	25th June, 2021
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th July, 2021	12th July, 2021	19th July, 2021	26th July, 2021
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
T U E S D A Y	6th July, 2021	13th July, 2021	20th July, 2021	27th July, 2021
	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
W E D N E S D A Y	7th July, 2021	14th July, 2021	21st July, 2021	28th July, 2021
	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board	10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel
T H U R S D A Y	1st July, 2021	8th July, 2021	15th July, 2021	22nd July, 2021
	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 10.00 am Audit Committee
F R I D A Y	2nd July, 2021	9th July, 2021	16th July, 2021	23rd July, 2021
			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd August, 2021	9th August, 2021	16th August, 2021	23rd August, 2021	30th August, 2021
M O N D A Y					BANK HOLIDAY
	3rd August, 2021	10th August, 2021	17th August, 2021	24th August, 2021	31st August, 2021
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	4th August, 2021	11th August, 2021	18th August, 2021	25th August, 2021	
W E D N E S D A Y			3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board		
	5th August, 2021	12th August, 2021	19th August, 2021	26th August, 2021	
T H U R S D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board			
	6th August, 2021	13th August, 2021	20th August, 2021	27th August, 2021	
F R I D A Y		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th September, 2021	13th September, 2021	20th September, 2021	27th September, 2021
M O N D A Y		9.30 am Planning Site Visits	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	7th September, 2021	14th September, 2021	21st September, 2021	28th September, 2021
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	
	1st September, 2021	8th September, 2021	15th September, 2021	22nd September, 2021
W E D N E S D A Y		4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board	
	2nd September, 2021	9th September, 2021	16th September, 2021	23rd September, 2021
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL
	3rd September, 2021	10th September, 2021	17th September, 2021	24th September, 2021
F R I D A Y				

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th October, 2021	11th October, 2021	18th October, 2021	25th October, 2021
M O N D A Y				
T U E S D A Y	5th October, 2021 10.00 am Cabinet 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12th October, 2021 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	19th October, 2021 10.00 am Cabinet	26th October, 2021
W E D N E S D A Y	6th October, 2021	13th October, 2021 10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	20th October, 2021 3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board	27th October, 2021
T H U R S D A Y	7th October, 2021 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	14th October, 2021 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	21st October, 2021	28th October, 2021 10.00 am Audit Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
F R I D A Y	1st October, 2021	8th October, 2021 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	15th October, 2021	22nd October, 2021 29th October, 2021

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st November, 2021	8th November, 2021	15th November, 2021	22nd November, 2021	29th November, 2021
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
	2nd November, 2021	9th November, 2021	16th November, 2021	23rd November, 2021	30th November, 2021
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions for Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	10.00 am Cabinet
	3rd November, 2021	10th November, 2021	17th November, 2021	24th November, 2021	
W E D N E S D A Y			1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee 3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	4th November, 2021	11th November, 2021	18th November, 2021	25th November, 2021	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	
	5th November, 2021	12th November, 2021	19th November, 2021	26th November, 2021	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits				

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th December, 2021	13th December, 2021	20th December, 2021	27th December, 2021
M O N D A Y				BANK HOLIDAY
	7th December, 2021	14th December, 2021	21st December, 2021	28th December, 2021
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet		BANK HOLIDAY
	1st December, 2021	8th December, 2021	15th December, 2021	22nd December, 2021
W E D N E S D A Y		3.00 pm Doncaster Covid-19 Oversight Board		
	2nd December, 2021	9th December, 2021	16th December, 2021	23rd December, 2021
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Covid-19 Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		
	3rd December, 2021	10th December, 2021	17th December, 2021	24th December, 2021
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd January, 2022	10th January, 2022	17th January, 2022	24th January, 2022	31st January, 2022
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
T U E S D A Y	4th January, 2022	11th January, 2022	18th January, 2022	25th January, 2022	
		12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
W E D N E S D A Y	5th January, 2022	12th January, 2022	19th January, 2022	26th January, 2022	
			4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Audit Committee	
T H U R S D A Y	6th January, 2022	13th January, 2022	20th January, 2022	27th January, 2022	
		9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	
F R I D A Y	7th January, 2022	14th January, 2022	21st January, 2022	28th January, 2022	
	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th February, 2022	14th February, 2022	21st February, 2022	28th February, 2022
M O N D A Y				1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
	1st February, 2022	8th February, 2022	15th February, 2022	22nd February, 2022
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	10.00 am Cabinet 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
	2nd February, 2022	9th February, 2022	16th February, 2022	23rd February, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting
	3rd February, 2022	10th February, 2022	17th February, 2022	24th February, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	4th February, 2022	11th February, 2022	18th February, 2022	25th February, 2022
F R I D A Y				9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th March, 2022	14th March, 2022	21st March, 2022	28th March, 2022
M O N D A Y				
	1st March, 2022	8th March, 2022	15th March, 2022	22nd March, 2022
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee		10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	2nd March, 2022	9th March, 2022	16th March, 2022	23rd March, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	3rd March, 2022	10th March, 2022	17th March, 2022	24th March, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
	4th March, 2022	11th March, 2022	18th March, 2022	25th March, 2022
F R I D A Y				9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th April, 2022	11th April, 2022	18th April, 2022	25th April, 2022
M O N D A Y			BANK HOLIDAY	
	5th April, 2022	12th April, 2022	19th April, 2022	26th April, 2022
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	6th April, 2022	13th April, 2022	20th April, 2022	27th April, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y				
	7th April, 2022	14th April, 2022	21st April, 2022	28th April, 2022
T H U R S D A Y				10.00 am Audit Committee
	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	
	1st April, 2022	8th April, 2022	15th April, 2022	22nd April, 2022
F R I D A Y			BANK HOLIDAY	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd May, 2022	9th May, 2022	16th May, 2022	23rd May, 2022	30th May, 2022
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		10.00 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning)
	3rd May, 2022	10th May, 2022	17th May, 2022	24th May, 2022	31st May, 2022
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	4th May, 2022	11th May, 2022	18th May, 2022	25th May, 2022	
W E D N E S D A Y				4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	5th May, 2022	12th May, 2022	19th May, 2022	26th May, 2022	
T H U R S D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	
	6th May, 2022	13th May, 2022	20th May, 2022	27th May, 2022	
F R I D A Y			10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office)	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th June, 2022	13th June, 2022	20th June, 2022	27th June, 2022
M O N D A Y	10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)			
	7th June, 2022	14th June, 2022	21st June, 2022	28th June, 2022
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	1st June, 2022	8th June, 2022	15th June, 2022	22nd June, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Audit Committee	
	2nd June, 2022	9th June, 2022	16th June, 2022	23rd June, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	10.00 am Licensing Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	3rd June, 2022	10th June, 2022	17th June, 2022	24th June, 2022
F R I D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th July, 2022	11th July, 2022	18th July, 2022	25th July, 2022
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
T U E S D A Y	5th July, 2022 10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	12th July, 2022 10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	19th July, 2022 10.00 am Cabinet	26th July, 2022 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
W E D N E S D A Y	6th July, 2022 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	13th July, 2022 4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	20th July, 2022	27th July, 2022 10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel
T H U R S D A Y	7th July, 2022 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	14th July, 2022 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	21st July, 2022 10.00 am Audit Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	28th July, 2022
F R I D A Y	1st July, 2022	8th July, 2022	15th July, 2022	22nd July, 2022 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st August, 2022	8th August, 2022	15th August, 2022	22nd August, 2022	29th August, 2022
M O N D A Y					BANK HOLIDAY
	2nd August, 2022	9th August, 2022	16th August, 2022	23rd August, 2022	30th August, 2022
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	3rd August, 2022	10th August, 2022	17th August, 2022	24th August, 2022	31st August, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y					
	4th August, 2022	11th August, 2022	18th August, 2022	25th August, 2022	
T H U R S D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet				
	5th August, 2022	12th August, 2022	19th August, 2022	26th August, 2022	
F R I D A Y			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th September, 2022	12th September, 2022	19th September, 2022	26th September, 2022
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	6th September, 2022	13th September, 2022	20th September, 2022	27th September, 2022
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	7th September, 2022	14th September, 2022	21st September, 2022	28th September, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y		4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	1st September, 2022	8th September, 2022	15th September, 2022	22nd September, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	2nd September, 2022	9th September, 2022	16th September, 2022	23rd September, 2022
F R I D A Y			9.30 am Planning Site Visits	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd October, 2022	10th October, 2022	17th October, 2022	24th October, 2022	31st October, 2022
M O N D A Y					
T U E S D A Y	4th October, 2022 10.00 am Cabinet	11th October, 2022 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	18th October, 2022 10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	25th October, 2022	
W E D N E S D A Y	5th October, 2022	12th October, 2022	19th October, 2022 10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	26th October, 2022	
T H U R S D A Y	6th October, 2022	13th October, 2022 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	20th October, 2022	27th October, 2022 10.00 am Audit Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	
F R I D A Y	7th October, 2022	14th October, 2022 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	21st October, 2022	28th October, 2022	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th November, 2022	14th November, 2022	21st November, 2022	28th November, 2022
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
	1st November, 2022	8th November, 2022	15th November, 2022	22nd November, 2022
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions for Council	10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee 10.00 am Cabinet
	2nd November, 2022	9th November, 2022	16th November, 2022	23rd November, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y			1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	3rd November, 2022	10th November, 2022	17th November, 2022	24th November, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	4th November, 2022	11th November, 2022	18th November, 2022	25th November, 2022
F R I D A Y		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th December, 2022	12th December, 2022	19th December, 2022	26th December, 2022
M O N D A Y				BANK HOLIDAY
	6th December, 2022	13th December, 2022	20th December, 2022	27th December, 2022
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		BANK HOLIDAY
	7th December, 2022	14th December, 2022	21st December, 2022	28th December, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y				
1st December, 2022	8th December, 2022	15th December, 2022	22nd December, 2022	29th December, 2022
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		
2nd December, 2022	9th December, 2022	16th December, 2022	23rd December, 2022	30th December, 2022
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd January, 2023	9th January, 2023	16th January, 2023	23rd January, 2023	30th January, 2023
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	3rd January, 2023	10th January, 2023	17th January, 2023	24th January, 2023	31st January, 2023
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	10.00 am Cabinet
	4th January, 2023	11th January, 2023	18th January, 2023	25th January, 2023	
W E D N E S D A Y			4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	5th January, 2023	12th January, 2023	19th January, 2023	26th January, 2023	
T H U R S D A Y		9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 2.00 pm Audit Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	
	6th January, 2023	13th January, 2023	20th January, 2023	27th January, 2023	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits				

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th February, 2023	13th February, 2023	20th February, 2023	27th February, 2023
M O N D A Y				1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
	7th February, 2023	14th February, 2023	21st February, 2023	28th February, 2023
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee		10.00 am Cabinet
	1st February, 2023	8th February, 2023	15th February, 2023	22nd February, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	2nd February, 2023	9th February, 2023	16th February, 2023	23rd February, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
	3rd February, 2023	10th February, 2023	17th February, 2023	24th February, 2023
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th March, 2023	13th March, 2023	20th March, 2023	27th March, 2023
M O N D A Y				
	7th March, 2023	14th March, 2023	21st March, 2023	28th March, 2023
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet
	1st March, 2023	8th March, 2023	15th March, 2023	22nd March, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	2nd March, 2023	9th March, 2023	16th March, 2023	23rd March, 2023
T H U R S D A Y		9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
	3rd March, 2023	10th March, 2023	17th March, 2023	24th March, 2023
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd April, 2023	10th April, 2023	17th April, 2023	24th April, 2023
M O N D A Y		BANK HOLIDAY		
T U E S D A Y	4th April, 2023 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	11th April, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet	18th April, 2023	25th April, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet
W E D N E S D A Y	5th April, 2023	12th April, 2023	19th April, 2023	26th April, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	6th April, 2023 10.00 am Audit Committee 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	13th April, 2023	20th April, 2023 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	27th April, 2023
F R I D A Y	7th April, 2023 BANK HOLIDAY	14th April, 2023	21st April, 2023	28th April, 2023 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2021 to 31st May, 2023

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st May, 2023	8th May, 2023	15th May, 2023	22nd May, 2023	29th May, 2023
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	2nd May, 2023	9th May, 2023	16th May, 2023	23rd May, 2023	30th May, 2023
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	3rd May, 2023	10th May, 2023	17th May, 2023	24th May, 2023	31st May, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y				4.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	4th May, 2023	11th May, 2023	18th May, 2023	25th May, 2023	
T H U R S D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	
	5th May, 2023	12th May, 2023	19th May, 2023	26th May, 2023	
F R I D A Y			10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office)	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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SCR - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING



Present:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Garry Purdy	Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Alex Dale	NE Derbyshire DC

Officers in Attendance:

Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	SCR Executive Team
Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Principal Solicitor & Monitoring Officer	SCR Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	SCR Executive Team
Rob Harvey	Senior Programme Manager	SCR Executive Team
Emily Hickey	Governance and Compliance Officer	SCR Executive Team
Claire James	Senior Governance & Compliance Manager	SCR Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	SCR Executive Team
Melanie McCoole (Minute Taker)		

Apologies:

Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Steve Fritchley	Bolsover DC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC
James Muir	Chair of LEP Board

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and he introduced the Members present.

2 **Announcements**

The Mayor addressed the meeting in respect of the challenges faced as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The latest position on Covid-19 in South Yorkshire caused everyone significant concern. Despite the unstinting work of the NHS and local authorities, the situation remained precarious, with rates of infection rapidly heading in the wrong direction. Every local council was doing all that they could to limit the spread of the virus and to protect communities. It was unacceptable that people both across South Yorkshire and nationally, were unable to obtain a Coronavirus test. As the number of cases significantly increased across the North of England, the Government must ensure that sufficient tests were made available. The Mayor was pressing the Ministers to fix the problem before it became too late.

In relation to the economy, the Mayor stated that it was becoming increasingly clear that the impact of the virus meant that businesses were closing, jobs were being lost and investments were delayed. Government intervention had no doubt, helped mitigate the worst of this. As the Job Retention Scheme wound down in October 2020, and with the risk of further restrictions, it was imperative to have the funding locally to respond, and that the Government listened to businesses, local council leaders and Mayors to implement further measures of support. Over the coming months, the Mayor would push hard on the matter through submissions to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and in the Autumn Budget. He would continue to press the Government for the vitally needed investment in flood defences that South Yorkshire so urgently required. It was essential as winter approached, that all of the necessary preparations were made to protect both people and communities from the risk of further flooding.

The Mayor had recently met with the Environment Agency to understand their plans. As the climate changed, it was essential to secure in full the funding for the programme of investment to protect homes and businesses across the region for the long term.

3 **Urgent Items**

Members were informed of the means by which the meeting would be conducted, to be compliant with appropriate legislation and pursuant of SCR's own Constitution.

4 **Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press**

None.

5 **Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members**

It was agreed that agenda items 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 applied solely to South Yorkshire Members of the Combined Authority.

6 **Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda**

Councillor Dale declared a non-pecuniary interest in the matters to be discussed at agenda item 12 (Adult Education Budget) by virtue of being a Cabinet Member for the Children Services, and Chair of the Derbyshire Adult Community Education Board.

7 **Reports from and questions by members**

None.

8 **Receipt of Petitions**

None.

9 **Public Questions**

Two public questions had been received by Mr Nigel Slack and delivered as follows:-

Question 1 'Just before the country went into lockdown the Mayor announced a proposal to create the position of an Arts and Culture Commissioner for the City Region. What has happened to that proposal?'

Question 2 'With the city and indeed country sitting on the precipice of a second wave, what further plans do the Sheffield City Region have for mitigating the economic impact without risking the safety of our residents?'

In response to Question 1, the Mayor was pleased to report that an Art, Culture and Heritage Project Director would very soon be recruited, following on from the proposal presented earlier in the year. In recent months, focus had been given to advocating the theatres, venues, freelancers and artists, and to make sure that their voice was heard in Whitehall. The Mayor had met with key stakeholders from the Arts Council England and with local cultural organisations to better understand the affects of the lockdown measures. In partnership with the University of Sheffield, two South Yorkshire wide surveys had been undertaken on the impact of the crisis on art and culture, and the music sector. The results of which had fed into a submission to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport call for evidence on the impact of Covid-19.

The Mayor had written to the Department for Digital, Media and Sport to urge the Government to offer financial support specific to the sector. Close working had been undertaken with the local authority partners to create a business case for future growth and investment into the arts, culture and heritage, to unlock their economic and social potential on a city region wide level. Further details would be made available within the 'Unlocking the potential of Culture, Arts and Heritage in South Yorkshire report' which would be published on 22 September 2020. The Mayor had long believed that the arts, culture and heritage sector was not just vital for the economy, but also for our character and spirit. These sectors, were not a luxury, but a vital part of the region's recovery and renewal

which contributed to healthy and sustainable communities, strong local identities and vibrant places, together with the economic recovery. There was now an even greater need to level-up the North, to invest in our communities, and to build a stronger, greener and fairer South Yorkshire, to which culture, arts and heritage must be central to. Once in place the Project Director would add further capacity to work with culture stakeholders to identify creative solutions for the sector to re-open, captivate and offer much needed relief to audiences across South Yorkshire and the wider city region once more.

In response to Question 2, the Mayor stated that the Renewal Action Plan which had been submitted to Government, had outlined the proposals for mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our economy and on our people. It set out a number of projects and initiatives to deliver support to our businesses, safeguard jobs and invest in our infrastructure in order to adopt to the changing economic circumstances.

The Mayor commented that it was unacceptable that people were unable to obtain a Coronavirus test, which was a national priority when the Government wanted to reach their target set of 100,000 tests per day. It was vital for the Government to ensure that the necessary testing capabilities were in place, as the tests were now urgently needed, with the rate of cases significantly rising across the North of England. The medical professionals and those on the front line of fighting the virus were correct; the test and trace had descended into chaos. As the number of Coronavirus cases increased daily, and there were vast swathes of areas that were being forced into lockdown. It was now the time to act before more lives, jobs and businesses were put at risk.

As the rates of infection in South Yorkshire continued to head fast into the wrong direction, the Mayor urged all residents, young and old to play their part in slowing the spread of the virus through social distancing, the wearing of face coverings on public transport and in shops, and to isolate if they had Covid-19 symptoms or had been in contact with someone who had symptoms. He also urged the businesses to ensure that they had effective measures in place, to enable their employees to work safely.

The Mayor thanked Mr Slack for his questions.

10 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

11 **Integration Of The SYPTE With The MCA**

A report was presented to set out for the MCA Board a number of considerations and key milestones in progressing the integration of the PTE fully within the MCA, following agreement to progress the 7-point implementation plan of the Bus Review. There were no indicative timescales at the moment, but planning work would be progressed in advance.

Councillor Dore gave thanks to R Adams, the Mayor and everyone involved in the Bus Review. She welcomed the report and proposal. The current bus

operation showed severe deficiencies in the way that the current bus services operated. She fundamentally believed that the proposal would address those deficiencies. She requested that an update be provided to the South Yorkshire Leaders Board following 6 months of implementation.

The Mayor agreed with Councillor Dore's sentiments, and he agreed that a 6 month review would be undertaken by the South Yorkshire Leaders Board.

RESOLVED – That the MCA Board:-

1. Agreed the aim and objectives, as outlined in section 2.1 to the report, and whether these accurately captured Member's intentions following agreement to the 7-point plan (27.07.20).
2. Noted the proposed workstreams and outline for communication, and that a fuller work programme and risk register would be developed in the coming months.

12 **Adult Education Budget**

A report was submitted which provided a progress update to enable effective commissioning of AEB provision to SCR residents from 1 August 2021.

On 3 August 2020, the MHCLG had confirmed the enactment of the Devolution Order. As a result of which, the MCA would become responsible for c£36m of devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) from 1 August 2021, which would provide funding for the delivery of adult skills activities to the residents of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. During the interim year, the MCA had a series of responsibilities to prepare in readiness for the full implementation in 2021.

Mayor Jones sought assurance that the local authorities would continue to receive funding. She also urged that consideration should be given to those companies that worked hand in glove, especially due to the need to enable individuals to become fully involved and to enable people to return back into training.

Councillor Door endorsed Mayor Jones' comments. She stated that adult education was a very important issue throughout the roles within the local authorities, and was the main sole reason that the MCA was in existence due to the economy and the need for growth. She supported the proposal outlined within the report.

Councillor Dale queried the funding in relation to the South Yorkshire residents that undertook cross boarder learning into Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire and vice versa.

D Smith referred to the procurement of the grant system. The South Yorkshire local authorities and colleges would continue to receive a grant allocation. Independent providers and those outside of the region, would form part of the procurement process to openly bid for contracts in delivery of the adult education system. Support would be provided to the residents and learners in

South Yorkshire, and to ensure that the funding support followed within the contracts entered into with providers from South Yorkshire and beyond the borders.

Councillor Houghton stated that the immediate challenge was to ensure that the system continued under a new name, to ensure stability. The challenge in the medium to long term was to begin to consider the system, to ascertain whether it was the correct system and whether it was provided correctly moving forwards.

Councillor Greaves referred to the advancement of the Devolution Bill in relation to South Yorkshire. North Notts College was managed by the R&M Group with a key base in Worksop. He was concerned in terms of commissioning arrangements and training provision, as to whether there would be a framework which would result in individuals travelling from South Yorkshire into Worksop, to the disadvantage of the local provision for the North Nottinghamshire area.

D Smith reiterated Councillor Houghton's comments that the MCA did not envisage to make a radical change, but to devolve the system moving forward to ensure that the interests of all learners were protected, and to enhance the services available within the resources available. Opportunities for collaborative working would always be sought in the best interests of learners. The soft lab testing before entering into the formal procurement was to ensure that any issues had been uncovered and addressed through the Skills Board, where a policy position would be adopted in advance of the commencement of a formal procurement.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

1. Endorsed the areas for the MCA Commissioning Strategy and the proposed Commissioning Approach detailed in section 2.2 of the report.
2. Endorsed the Procurement Principles, set out in section 2.4 of the report.
3. Noted the approach to Soft Market Testing set out in section 2.5 of the report.
4. Noted the position regarding Implementation Funding, detailed in section 2.6 of the report.

13 **LGF Capital Programme Approvals**

A report was presented which sought approval of one scheme with a total value of £2.8m Local Growth Fund (LGF), a change request for an existing project, and approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Head of Paid service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to enter into a legal agreement for the schemes.

RESOLVED – That MCA Board considered and approved:-

1. Progression of Forge Island Enabling to full approval and award of £2.8m grant (which consisted of £1.5m existing loan being converted to a grant and an additional grant award of £1.3m) to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
2. Project change request from “DSAL Passenger Capacity Expansion” to agree an extension to works completion from September 2021 to September 2022 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
3. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered above.

14 **SCR MCA Budget Revision**

A report was submitted to detail the results of the budget revision exercise, which had been undertaken across the MCA’s revenue budgets and capital programme, following the significant disruption to activity as a result of Covid-19.

The Mayor commented that as with each of the authorities present at the meeting today, Covid has had and continued to have a significant impact on the MCA Group’s finances. With so much uncertainty before us, this was an issue which would need to continue to be kept under review.

Members’ attention was drawn to the following significant arising issues in relation to the commercial viability of the public transport system in South Yorkshire. Following the collapse of patronage on all modes of transport, there had been a requirement for ongoing public support from the Central Government grant and local support from the SCR budgets. In August 2020, the Government had extended the support for the tram into October 2020 and had committed to support bus on a 2 month rolling cycle; parity was still awaited from Government. There was a requirement for an ongoing contribution from Government to the costs, patronage of 55% for bus and 40% for tram. Matters would be undertaken to continuously press Government on the matter, and an internal plan would be devised on the exit strategy from the current funding package.

Income assumption testing had been undertaken, which had identified that the SCR was significantly below where it thought it would be on a number of income streams totalling approximately £1.3m. There were a number of further expenditure requirements that had not been budgeted for i.e. the fit out of Broad Street West, to enable efficient work during the pandemic and agile working whilst ensuring that the correct tools were in place to prevent future disruption. The total of which equated to approximately £2m. Members noted the pace of the Capital Programme, which always included challenging targets for spend over the financial year to meet Government targets. There was a need to pay close attention to the Transforming Cities Fund over the course of the year to develop plans.

On 15 September 2020, the first game share allocation had been received.

Councillor Dore expressed her thanks to G Sutton and everyone involved.

RESOLVED – That the MCA Board:-

1. Noted the disruption to the MCA's income streams and expenditure plans as detailed in the report.
2. Noted the ongoing concerns around the commercial viability of the transport network.
3. Adopted the revised budget estimates.
4. Noted the Section 73 officer's recommendations to not draw down on the Enterprise Zone retained business rate reserve as previously planned.
5. Approved the proposal to fund Bus Review activity from the MCA's SY Transport reserve.
6. Approved the proposal to draw down £500k from the MCA's earmarked Covid reserve to support the MCA Executive's revenue budget.
7. Approved the addition to the capital programme of £411k of new and accelerated capital activity required to support the MCA's response to Covid resilience to be funded from capital receipts unapplied.

15 **Cladding Remediation Of High Rise Buildings**

A report was presented for the MCA Board to consider progress since the Grenfell Disaster in replacing unsafe cladding on high rise buildings in the Sheffield City Region, and to discuss actions to ensure that the necessary building safety improvements continued.

Members recalled that earlier in the year, the Metro Mayors had made a commitment to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support progress to remediate cladding on high-rise tower blocks in the respective Combined Authorities, subject to it being safe to do so.

Following the Grenfell Tower incident in 2017, all of the SCR Local Authorities had immediately began to identify potential tower blocks with similar style aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding system, that could pose a health and safety risk. Barnsley and Rotherham Councils had established that they had no tower blocks of local authority, public sector or private ownership which had ACM cladding. Within Doncaster Council, only one high rise block out of a total of nine owned by the Authority had been identified as containing part ACM cladding and part High Pressure Laminate (HPL) cladding. The cladding had been replaced within six months. The removal costs had been funded by the contractor and the Government's Cladding Remediation Fund (CRF).

The Mayor expressed his thanks to Members for all of the work undertaken to identify and replace unsafe cladding on high-rise buildings in their local authorities, to ensure that they delivered on the pledge made to safeguard the health and safety of residents and those working to remediate those sites during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Dore gave thanks to C Blackburn and the SCR for collating the information from the local authorities. On behalf of Sheffield City Council, she referred to the clearly identified issues in relation to some of the privately owned developer perspective blocks and the Government's unwillingness to address the matter; whilst noting that it was a greater issue in other areas around the country. She considered that it needed enforcing that the main responsibility of each local authority, as a priority, was to keep its citizens safe. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Government had repeatedly stated that it would reimburse the local authorities to keep citizens safe. She considered that the Government's lack of responsibility to keep citizens safe was shameful, and she urged the Mayor to continue to pursue matters with the Government, through the Labour Party.

RESOLVED – That the MCA Board:-

1. Noted the Mayor's pledge to ensure necessary building safety improvements to high rise blocks continued at pace.
2. Noted the positive and rapid actions already undertaken by Local Authorities in the Sheffield City Region to deliver safety improvements to high rise blocks.
3. Discussed ongoing issues experienced in tackling cladding remediation, and further actions that needed to be taken to continue addressing the ongoing safety issues, including any supportive actions by the Mayor.

16 Governance Arrangements to Support the Leadership of Thematic Priorities

A report was presented to seek approval of governance changes (including changes to the Constitution) to the Thematic Boards which were first established by the MCA in early 2019.

Councillor Houghton requested that when decisions were required by the Thematic Boards, that they should be circulated to Members of the MCA Board prior to those decisions being made, and that once those decisions had been made, that they be reported back to the MCA Board.

Councillor Greaves acknowledged the devolution arrangements and the shift in emphasis in relation to the SCR and Combined Authority. He was mindful that the North Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Authorities were non-constituent Members. Earlier on in the year, the Chair had reached out to those overlap areas to discuss future matters. He would have expected those conversations to have taken place in advance of the MCA decision that was likely to be taken

today. He understood the shift in emphasis, but in his view, it was for Bassetlaw to represent its own interests. He sincerely hoped that meaningful arrangements would be considered in the future within the spirit of what had been embarked upon originally.

The Mayor commented that this did mark a shift in emphasis which had been forced upon the MCA by events, not least the Government's decision to reorganise the local enterprise partnership arrangements. From a South Yorkshire perspective, it was important to continue with the best possible working arrangements with non-constituent members. Ongoing conversations were required to ensure that the MCA met the standards set.

Councillor Purdy referred to the recent email conversations on the matter. He sought a good relationship with the MCA as the bulk of the North Derbyshire Dales was intrinsically linked with the Sheffield area. He considered that it was incorrect to have a boarder cut off. He was happy to continue attending the MCA Board meetings and liaison, and he considered that constructive relationship work was required to reach an agreement.

Members noted the importance for South Yorkshire to have the best possible relationship with its neighbours. Further conversations would take place amongst the Leaders to reach an agreement that was satisfactory to all parties.

Councillor Dale reiterated the points made. It was necessary to enable an ability to constructively work together in the future. North East Derbyshire had chosen to become a non-constituent Member of the MCA Board, and he did not want this to prevent the four South Yorkshire local authorities from making decisions in relation to a devolution deal which were South Yorkshire specific.

The Mayor would take Councillor Dale's comments away as an action point, with a view to reporting back to Members on proposals of how best to proceed.

RESOLVED – That the MCA Board approved:-

1. The changes to the Thematic Boards set out in sections 2.2 to 2.6 within the report.
2. The Monitoring Officer to make the consequential amendments to the Constitution by adopting the Terms of Reference at Appendices A-D.

17 **Delegated Authority Report**

Provided for information.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

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SCR - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION, 11 BROAD STREET WEST,
SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ



Present:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)	MCA Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Alex Dale	NE Derbyshire DC

Officers in Attendance:

Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	MCA Executive Team
Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Principal Solicitor & Monitoring Officer	MCA Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	MCA Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	MCA Executive Team

In Attendance

Melanie McCoolle (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Councillor Garry Purdy	Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Steve Fritchley	Bolsover DC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC
James Muir	Chair of LEP Board

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and he introduced the Members present.

Announcements

The Mayor addressed the meeting in respect of the latest position on the coronavirus pandemic. The country was now 12 days into a new national lockdown. Prior to the new national restrictions, South Yorkshire had been in the highest level of the regional tiered restrictions. There was no doubt that South Yorkshire, alongside much of the North of England was, and very possibly would remain, in an incredibly vulnerable and dangerous position in relation to the spread of the virus. On that basis, it had been agreed with the Government for South Yorkshire to enter into Tier 3. The same considerations of health and wellbeing for the communities would drive any future decisions about how South Yorkshire must respond as the national restrictions were eased in December 2020. These were difficult times for the communities, businesses and the public services across local government, together with social care and the health services.

It was hoped that the restrictions would start to bring down the case numbers and enable matters to resume back to normal as soon as possible. A coronavirus vaccine was now in sight, which for the first time in 2020 was a cause for optimism and hope. It was considered that science, technology and a great mobilisation of the public health system, army and local government would get us through this difficult time. The Mayor considered that it was perhaps now the time for the Government to acknowledge that it was indeed the experts, whether they be the scientists or local government, that they should listen to.

In relation to the coronavirus restriction support, the Mayor stated that setting aside the hope for 2021, focus was being given to the here and now. He was pleased to observe that today's meeting demonstrated the commitment to deliver real and tangible support to help the economy and weather the shock. This included extending the employment scheme Working Win to support a further 450 people with mental or physical health conditions to stay in or find work until March 2021, to put in place a £30m package of support for businesses that worked with the national support schemes, to support the local councils with financial support to deliver to the communities across South Yorkshire, to continue getting spades in the ground and cranes in the sky with the capital programme and to agree the investment of a further £45m of resources to deliver business support schemes, skills and employment support and a further programme of capital works to enable the economy to move.

The Mayor stated that in relation to the Flood Summit, that whilst COVID-19 had been a focus, the impact on the communities across South Yorkshire following the flooding that had occurred just 12 months ago had not been forgotten. The Government had been pressed hard at the long-awaited Flood Summit, on their commitment to South Yorkshire, and they had subsequently been challenged to match the new commitment of £5.5m to protect 860 homes across South Yorkshire and to help ensure that the transport system was more resilient.

In relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Mayor stated that he had kept up the pressure on the Government to help South Yorkshire build back better with a submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending

Review, whilst pressing the importance of a longer term funding settlement for the region. The Mayor recognised that this was an incredibly busy time for everyone. He believed that this was a moment where the value of the Mayoral Combined Authority was being demonstrated.

The Mayor was grateful to the Local Enterprise Partnership Board Members and all of the business groups that had contributed to the plans, together with the Members of the Mayoral Combined Authority that had worked long days and nights to make all of this happen.

3 Urgent Items

Members were informed of the means by which the meeting would be conducted, to be compliant with appropriate legislation and pursuant of SCR's own Constitution.

4 Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press

None.

5 Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members

It was noted that non-constituent Members were welcome to participate in the discussion of every item on the agenda.

6 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

Councillor Read declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund and Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council schemes, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Mayor Jones CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council scheme, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Councillor Houghton CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to any schemes relating to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Councillor Dore declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund and Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to Sheffield City Council schemes, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

The Mayor declared an interest at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund, by virtue of being a Barnsley MP.

7 **Reports from and questions by members**

None.

8 **Receipt of Petitions**

None.

9 **Public Questions**

None.

10 **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

11 **Covid Tier 3 Restrictions Support**

A report was presented to update the Board on the outcome of negotiations with Central Government together with an outline of how the funds received would be deployed.

The Mayor stated that on Saturday 24 October 2020, South Yorkshire had entered into Tier 3 of the Covid restrictions as set out by Central Government, which had been at the end of the negotiations with the Mayoral Combined Authority, South Yorkshire local authority leaders and the Government. The tier system had then been replaced by a month-long national lockdown for England from 5 November 2020. Nevertheless, there was a need for decisions to be made on the £41.3m support that had been secured comprising of £11.3m support for track and trace and public health related activities, together with a £30m package for businesses and residents to mitigate the economic and social effects of the restrictions.

Councillor Dore stated that this had been an incredibly difficult time for everyone. The £30m package was very welcome, but she considered that it was definitely not enough when looking at the individuals and organisations in particular the small businesses, freelance workers, sole traders and the self-employed that had fallen through the cracks in the Government's scheme. She considered that the work undertaken across South Yorkshire had been incredibly difficult, however she was really pleased that this had collectively and collaboratively concluded with a common scheme across South Yorkshire which would help those people that the Government had allowed to slip through the cracks in the scheme. She expressed her thanks to colleagues and officers who had worked incredibly hard to get South Yorkshire to this point.

The Mayor stated that he was sure that Councillor Dore's sentiments would be shared across the MCA.

Councillor Houghton CBE reiterated the positive nature of the Government's scheme and the help that was required by the businesses. However, prior to the national lockdown, South Yorkshire had been allocated £30m as a Tier 3

area, but the money had been utilised to support the impact of the national lockdown. At the same time, the Government had allocated equivalent amounts of funding to other areas within the country going into the national lockdown. Therefore, South Yorkshire would be no better off than other areas within the country. The Government had indicated that post lockdown, that the areas would move back into their tiers which would mean that those areas returning back into Tiers 1 and 2 would have a financial advantage over South Yorkshire, as the restrictions placed upon Tier 3 were much more severe than those in Tiers 1 and 2. It was important for South Yorkshire to receive additional funding to support the position in December 2020. He had raised the position with the Local Government Association who would address the matter with the Ministers.

Mayor Jones CBE concurred with the comments made by Councillor Dore and Councillor Houghton CBE. She emphasised the need to press the Government hard that South Yorkshire should not be put at a disadvantage, and that its businesses and residents deserved better. She was delighted to note that Councillor Houghton CBE had liaised with the Local Government Association who would press the Government.

The Mayor agreed with the comments made and the urgent need to continue to press Government for additional financial support for the businesses and communities within South Yorkshire. The Spending Review would take place next week, which would provide a further opportunity for the Government to invest into the region.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Noted the agreement reached with the Government to support public health activities and also businesses and residents and the subsequent work on the detail of those strands.
- ii. Agreed to accept the grant of £30m for the purposes set out above.
- iii. Delegated authority to the Section 73 Officer to accept the money and put in place sub arrangements.

12

Renewal Action Plan

A report was submitted which presented the priority interventions that had been endorsed by the Thematic Boards for implementing the Renewal Action Plan objectives in the immediate term.

The Mayor stated that in response to the social and economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the Renewal Action Plan had been published and submitted to the Government earlier this year. The Plan had laid out how £1.7bn of investment in the region's people, businesses and places could kick-start the fightback to the ongoing crisis. The Plan had also formed the core of the submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which later this month would be drawn down to a one-year review. He added that regardless of the Government's decisions, the process of prioritising and delivering some of the much-needed interventions must commence.

Councillor Read considered that it was correct to provide as much support as

possible within the MCA's gift to support the local economy through what was likely to be an incredibly difficult situation over the next few years, in particularly to help people get into work or to stay in work, and to support local businesses. He considered that it was correct to agree the report in principle, and he looked forward to helping to develop more detail around the schemes moving forward.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Considered the RAP interventions that had been prioritised by the Thematic Boards as set out in Annex 1 to the report.
- ii. Approved the use of £16.5m of gainshare revenue funding and £29m of gainshare capital funding to enable detailed development of the priority interventions.

13 **Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund**

A report was submitted which sought authority for the award of grant totalling £5.75m to the South Yorkshire local authorities in support of Covid economic recovery efforts, with a proposal that it be funded from gainshare resource. The report also outlined the proposal to release a further £0.74m of gainshare funding to resource MCA pressures, and sought approval to progress the development of a Project Feasibility Fund and an Investment Framework.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Approved the award of grant totalling £5.75m to the four South Yorkshire authorities to support local Covid economic recovery efforts.
- ii. Approved the release of £0.74m of gainshare resource to support MCA financial pressures related to Covid.
- iii. Approved the creation of a revenue 'Project Feasibility Fund' to enable pipeline Development.
- iv. Approved the continuing development of an 'Investment Framework'.
- v. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive and the Section 73 Officer to transact the grant awards to the South Yorkshire authorities in the most efficient means possible.

14 **Programme Approvals**

A report was presented which sought MCA approval in relation to the following items:-

- i) Approval of three schemes with a total value of £8.18m Getting Building Fund (GBF).
- ii) Approval of one Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Outline Business Case with a total value of £5,458,141 and early release of up to £546k development funding.
- iii) Approval of five change requests for existing Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects.
- iv) Approval for the acceptance of a grant totalling £40.16m for the A630 Parkway Widening Scheme and the onward award of that grant to Rotherham MBC.
- v) Approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Head of Paid service

in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreement for the schemes.

An award of £33.6m GBF had been made to the MCA on 30 June 2020 to invest in 'shovel-ready' projects that would provide stimulus to local economies, with the funds to be utilised by 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved:-

- i. The acceptance of a grant from the Department for Transport totalling £40.16m for the A630 Parkway Widening Scheme, and the onward award of that grant to Rotherham MBC.
- ii. Progression of Heart of the City Breathing Spaces to full approval and award of £4m grant to Sheffield City Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- iii. Progression of Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan to full approval and award of £2.18m grant to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- iv. Progression of Century BIC II to full approval and award of £2m grant to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- v. Progression of iPort Bridge to Full Business Case and award of up to £546k business case development costs to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- vi. Project change request from “Digital Engineering Skills Development Network” to agree an extension to works completion from September 2020 to September 2021, reprofile of £1.2m grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- vii. Project change request from “M1 J37 Phase 2” to agree a reprofile of up to £4.07m grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- viii. Project change request from “M1 J36 Phase 1 (Hoyland)” to agree an extension to works completion from 20/21 to 21/22, reprofile of up to £544k grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- ix. Project change request from “Greasbrough Road Corridor” to agree an extension to works completion from April 2021 to September 2021 and reprofile of £1.05m from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- x. Project change request from “First Group Customer Contact” to agree an extension to works completion from March 2021 to March 2022, reprofile of £406K grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- xi. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered above.

15 **Potholes and Challenge Fund Allocation**

A report was submitted to present the MCA with a proposal for the allocation of Transport Infrastructure and Investment Fund - Pothole and Challenge Fund Allocation from the Department for Transport (Dft).

In May 2020, the DfT had announced that it had awarded Sheffield City Region £13.605m from the £1.7bn Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF), to improve journeys for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers across England through repairs to local roads. Following a delay, the settlement letter for the award had been provided on 11 September 2020.

RESOLVED - That the MCA agreed to the proposal for distribution of the funding.

16 **2019/20 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement**

A report was presented to seek approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.

The MCA was required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts and to perform an annual review of the effectiveness of systems of internal controls through the publication of an Annual Governance Statement by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved:-

- i. The Annual Statement of Accounts.
- ii. The Annual Governance Statement.

17 **Budget Revision 2**

A report was submitted which provided revised budget forecasts to the end of the year, including the adoption of a number of new funding streams.

The economic disruption caused by coronavirus and the resultant fiscal response from the Government had resulted in a significant change to the MCA's capital and revenue budgets over the course of the year. The MCA's financial position had been reviewed by a second budget revision exercise that had been undertaken at the mid-year mark.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Adopted the revised budget estimates.
- ii. Approved the adoption into the capital programme of a gainshare capital fund totalling £18m.
- iii. Approved an increase in the revenue budget ceiling by £42m to accommodate gainshare funded activity and Covid Tier 3 Restriction funding.
- iv. Noted the slower than forecast pace of the capital programme.
- v. Approved the contracting arrangements to secure external support for the delivery of the Adult Education Budget Implementation Plan.

18 **2021/22 Budget and Business Plan Development**

A report was presented which outlined the process for developing the budget and the supporting business plan for the new financial year. The report noted the challenging environment in which the process was taking place, and the need for engagement with partners.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Noted the budget and business planning process being undertaken within the MCA.
- ii. Noted the significant uncertainties shaping the process.
- iii. Noted the proposed approval timeline.

19 **Scheme of Delegation: Contracts and Accounts**

A report was submitted which proposed an amendment to the threshold at which the MCA's statutory officers were authorised to take decisions under delegation from the MCA for certain types of contracting for goods and services. The proposal would align the MCA decision making processes to that of SYPTE and reduce the number of operational matters coming before the MCA Board.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved the increase in the delegation threshold under which statutory officers may accept a tender or quotation for the supply of goods, services, or materials to £200k for matters that could not be otherwise approved by a Thematic Board.

20 **Contract Procedure Rules**

A report was presented which proposed the adoption of a new suite of Contract Procedure Rules as part of the MCA's Constitutional documents. The adoption of the new Contract Procedure Rules would ensure that the MCA's core processes remained fit for purpose as its business evolved.

Mayor Jones CBE requested that wherever possible, the monies should be spent within the procurement processes to ensure value for money with the local authorities within South Yorkshire, in order to help to stimulate its economy, instead of looking further afield.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved the adoption of the proposed Contract Procedure Rules.

21 **Risk Management Policy**

A report was submitted which presented a new risk management policy and process, following a full internal Management Board review and an Internal Audit Report, which had enabled the risk management framework of the MCA to be revised and refreshed.

RESOLVED – That the MCA considered and approved the revised Risk

Management Policy.

22 **Delegated Authority Report**

A report was presented which provided the details of the delegations agreed by the MCA which were in addition to those made under the Scheme of Delegation, together with the details of the decisions taken under the delegation made to the Thematic Boards and the subsequent delegations made to officers where appropriate.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the decisions and delegations made.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

ALISCR - LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11.00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

**Sheffield
City Region**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**

Present:

James Muir (Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Lucy Nickson (Vice-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Alexa Greaves	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Professor Chris Husbands	Representative for Higher Education
Gemma Smith	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Neil MacDonald	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Angela Foulkes	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Peter Kennan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Richard Stubbs	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Bill Adams	TUC Representative
Dan Fell	Doncaster Chamber
Professor Dave Petley	University of Sheffield
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Reserve)	Sheffield City Council

Officers in Attendance:

Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	SCR Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	SCR Executive Team
Daniel Wright	Head of Communications & Marketing	SCR Executive Team
Colin Blackburn	Assistant Director - Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	SCR Executive Team
Andy Gates	Assistant Director - Strategic Corporate Affairs	SCR Executive Team
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Assistant Director Policy and Assurance	SCR Executive Team
Gareth Morgan	Senior Business Development Manager	SCR Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	SCR Executive Team

Guests in Attendance

Andrew Shirt (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Nigel Brewster	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Laura Bennett	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Owen Michaelson	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Tanwer Khan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Alison Kinna	Co-Optee LEP Member
Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Steve Davenport	SCR Executive Team

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest

None noted.

3 Notes of Last Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

4 AMRC Development Plan

A report and presentation was delivered to provide the Board with outline plans for the development of the AMRC.

The Board was reminded that the University of Sheffield had been a key stakeholder in the development of the SEP, especially around the focus on innovation. Through analysing the evidence for the SEP, it was clear that the LEP needed to ensure that a much wider set of businesses, supply chains and SMEs benefit from innovation. To boost productivity and accelerate the pace of growth, a greater focus on translational research is required. The benefits of this approach will only be realised if all partners work together to foster a culture of innovation, at scale, across the city region.

The Board noted that the MCA/LEP was working with MIT to develop the entrepreneurial ecosystem in South Yorkshire to enable the growth that the economy needs. The collaboration and focus of the MIT approach had been incorporated into the AMRC's new strategy.

Steve Foxley, Director of the AMRC delivered a presentation which provided background information and achievements made during Chapter 1 of the AMRC (2000 – 2019) where the AMRC's main purpose had been to "create sustainable wealth for all".

In developing an updated Strategy for the AMRC (Chapter 2, 2020-2030), the Board were provided details of the inclusive and transparent consultation process which had been undertaken to develop the updated Strategy.

The purpose of Chapter 2, would be focused upon we “make” things better:

- By creating sustainable wealth for all;
- By always looking ahead;
- By leading manufacturing towards a smart, sustainable and resilient future; and
- By being disruptive.

The Board were provided with details of the AMRC’s unique selling points, which included its proven track record of regeneration, creating eco systems and communities, taking a lead, taking a risk and by seeing things others don’t.

The goals of AMRC in Chapter 2 were presented and noted as follows:

1. To become the UK’s first fully connected, open access digital manufacturing testbed for any sector.
2. Create a world leading UK Circular Factory Demonstrator and Testbed.
3. Support global zero carbon goals – develop whole product lifecycle capabilities for future propulsion systems (hydrogen, high power density battery, bio-fuels).
4. Deliver a step change in productivity:
 - i) By ensuring collectively with our partners that 75% of MRLG projects make tangible impact to production.
 - ii) By levelling up the productivity in the North; regenerating other forgotten northern towns.
 - iii) By improving UK manufacturing resilience and thereby also improving productivity.

The Board were provided with the Strategy Focus Areas to be included in AMRC Chapter 2. This included details of work post Covid-19, the Core Strategy (where the AMRC assign 70% of its resources, efforts, funding and management time) and details on the Adjacent / Transformational Strategy.

The Chair asked if a summary note could be produced and circulated to the Board after today’s meeting setting out how high value manufacturing catapult systems work in the UK. **ACTION: D Smith**

D Fell noted that aviation was a key focus for the AMRC. He asked if there would be further opportunities for the AMRC to collaborate with Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA), who’s future growth was a key priority contained in the SEP.

S Foxley replied that there were natural links between DSA and the AMRC in relation to key manufacturing, engineering and its work on bio-fuels.

The Board discussed SME engagement and how the City Region could help AMRC businesses access consultancy services and business support. It was noted that there needed to be a joined-up approach for this area of work to be successful.

Councillor Iqbal asked if a briefing note could be produced and circulated to the Board with regards to how supply chain SME engagement will work.

The Board discussed transport connectivity issues to the AMRC site. It was highlighted this was a particular issue for young people living in Barnsley who were currently unable to access training and employment opportunities at the AMRC, due to poor transport links.

S Foxley replied that a 5G bid would be a fundamental enabler for improving transport connectivity in the City Region.

D Petley provided assurances that the University of Sheffield was fully committed to the AMRC and its training centre. The University of Sheffield were fully aware of trickle-down, which had been considered and discussed at the University of Sheffield's Executive Board.

The Board agreed that further discussions were needed with AMRC to address LEP resources which would enable the AMRC to make a footprint across the City Region.

The Board suggested that, to make the AMRC more visible, representatives from the AMRC should arrange to visit the four local authorities. Councillor Iqbal stated that AMRC representatives would be more than welcome to attend Sheffield's Business Recovery Group.

The Board received assurances from S Foxley that a Strategy was currently being developed which looked at succession planning, gender, equality and diversity and leadership opportunities for female employees at the AMRC.

The Chair thanked Steve Foxley for delivering an interesting and informative presentation. He asked that Steve be invited to a future LEP Board meeting to update Members on Chapter 2 progress.

The Board also requested that the Head of Training at the AMRC be invited to attend a future meeting.

The Board further agreed that it would be helpful to have a discussion at a later date around the AWRC.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted and discussed the progress made in developing the direction of the AMRC and its relationship with the SEP priorities.

5 Renewal Action Plan

A report was presented to provide the Board with an update on the SCR Renewal Action Plan.

The Board was reminded that the SCR Renewal Action Plan (RAP) was approved by the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) on 27 July 2020, following endorsement by the LEP Board.

The RAP focuses on three high-level objectives:

- People - we will invest to ensure local people have the opportunity to develop their skills, and to find, stay and progress in work.
- Employers - We will invest to ensure employers can survive, adapt and thrive.
- Places - We will invest to create jobs and thriving places, in a way that reduces inequality and enhances our environment.

Following approval by the MCA Board, the Thematic Boards were tasked with steering the development of Implementation Plans to deliver the RAP objectives and priorities.

The Skills and Employment Board is guiding the development of the People Implementation Plan; the Business Growth Board is leading the development of the Employers Implementation Plan, and the Housing, Infrastructure and Transport Boards are developing implementation plans for the Place interventions identified in the RAP and Purpose of Report.

F Kumi-Ampofo provided the Board with a verbal update on progress made to date in developing the Implementation Plans and challenges currently faced.

The Board noted that funding availability and capacity to deliver were currently presenting a challenge. Until additional resource from central Government is identified, the LEP and MCAs primary focus would need to be on delivering those interventions identified for the Relief phase (immediate and short-term) in the RAP, and which can be delivered with available resources.

The Board noted that the RAP Implementation Plans would be presented to the LEP and MCA Boards in November for approval and delivery would begin as soon as funds are available and allocated. Work was currently underway to secure more funds to deliver more of the RAP and the draft SEP.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted the progress made and provided any comments and suggestions they deem appropriate, on how the Renewal Action Plan should be implemented.

6 **Business Development Pipeline of Schemes**

A report and presentation was delivered to provide Members with an overview of the project pipeline in development; including indigenous business projects to support the growth of established South Yorkshire businesses and new investment projects from outside the Region and the UK.

The report also provided the rationale for the approach and considered what needed to be developed in order to secure both these investments and stimulate further opportunities.

G Morgan delivered a presentation which informed the Board that there were currently 29 live new Inward Investment projects in the pipeline. These investment projects had a value of £760 million and were forecast to create 6000 jobs in the region over the next few years if all are landed and successfully delivered.

The Board recommended that a targeted and systematic Strategy be developed to engage companies to invest in the City Region both in the short and long term. The Board considered that there was a need to attract other investors to create a cluster effect.

The Chair requested that future LEP Board agendas contain a standing item to provide the Board with updates on the pipeline of business growth schemes.

ACTION: E Hickey

The Board agreed that they would discuss indigenous businesses at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Board considered and discussed the approach to the development of the business growth pipeline.

7 **Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme**

NB. AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING, THE BOARD WAS NO LONGER QUORATE.

A report was presented to provide an update on the current LGF programme position and recommends selection of one scheme onto the LGF Programme in order that a Full Business Case may be developed.

The current programme position was noted as follows:

- £128.6m of projects have now completed.
- £193.7m of projects are currently in delivery.
- £5m has been approved for projects which are in the process of satisfying conditions prior to contract.

Cumulatively this gave a total commitment of £327.3m. In addition, there was a ringfenced scheme within the programme pipeline totalling a further £40.1m.

The Board was asked to consider giving preliminary approval for Company 0208 to enter into the LGF Programme to develop a Full Business Case.

The Board was informed that Company 0208 was seeking c£130k support from the LEP with regard to its growth plans including additional jobs and relocation from out of area into Barnsley.

The total cost of the project was £665k and the scheme would create 10-15 new FTE jobs. In order to evaluate the proposal and consider its value to the economy against any public sector investment the company would need to be adopted into the pipeline of the LGF programme.

The Board gave its preliminary approval for Company 0208 to enter into the LGF Programme to develop a Full Business Case.

It was noted that approval would also be sought from Board Members Councillor Sir Steve Houghton, Mayor Ros Jones, Mayor Dan Jarvis and Councillor Chris Read.

RESOLVED – That the Board gave its preliminary approval for Company 0208 to enter into the LGF Programme to develop a Full Business Case.

8 **MCA Thematic Boards**

A report was submitted to update Members of the proposed changes to the MCA Thematic Board arrangements.

The Board noted that the proposed new operating model would be based on the principle of the Thematic Board Co-chairs from the LEP and MCA, supported by cabinet members from the Districts, with Chief Executives providing advice to the Co-chairs.

Each Board will own and lead on a policy theme and will be supported by MCA Officers in order to shape, craft and direct positions early and in advance of formal decision making.

The proposed new Thematic Board structure and membership of each Thematic Board was set out paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.

Paragraph 2.4 of the report set out the initial LEP Board representation/Membership. It was noted that the MCA Meeting on the 27th September would determine the SCR Leader and Chief Executive representation.

The Board discussed the proposals and a consensus was reached that, the new Thematic Boards should not meet in the public domain and continue to hold meetings in private.

In the interests of openness and transparency, the Board agreed that the publication of agendas and minutes of the new Thematic Boards should continue to be published on the SCR website.

The Board considered that the frequency of Thematic Board meetings should be determined by each Board's Co-Chairs.

New LEP Board Members who were currently not assigned to a Thematic Board requested that they be kept up to date informally on the work of each Thematic Board's progress.

RESOLVED – That Board Members noted the proposed changes to the MCA Thematic Boards and provided comments on the proposals.

9 **Mayoral Update**

A report was presented to provide Members with an update on key Mayoral activity relating to the economic agenda.

Updates were provided on:

- The COVID pandemic and adapting to our 'new normal'.
- The South Yorkshire Devolution Deal now being enshrined in law.

- Securing additional powers and resources to deliver the Renewal Action Plan and build back better, and
- Details on a new Tree Planting Partnership.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted the update.

10 **Chief Executive's Update**

A report was presented to provide Members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.

Updates were provided on:

- The Strategic Economic Plan and Recovery Plan Consultation.
- The Skills Advisory Network.
- LEP Board recruitment.
- The Comprehensive Spending Review, and
- The Covid Economic Response - Business Group.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted the update.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

SCR - LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 11.00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Sheffield
City Region

LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

Present:

James Muir (Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Nigel Brewster (Vice-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Alexa Greaves	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Professor Chris Husbands	Representative for Higher Education
Gemma Smith	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Neil MacDonald	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Karen Beardsley	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Angela Foulkes	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Peter Kennan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Cathy Travers	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Richard Stubbs	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Joe Chetcuti	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Tanwer Khan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Bill Adams	TUC Representative
Michael Faulks	Co-opted LEP Board Member
Paul Leedham	Co-Opted LEP Board Member
Dan Fell	Doncaster Chamber
Professor Dave Petley	University of Sheffield
Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC

Officers in Attendance:

Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	MCA Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	MCA Executive Team
Andy Gates	Assistant Director - Strategic Corporate Affairs	MCA Executive Team
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Assistant Director Policy and Assurance	MCA Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	MCA Executive Team

Guests in Attendance

Andy Storer
Richard Deakin
Andrew Shirt (Minute Taker)

CEX of the Nuclear AMRC
Programme Director – Nuclear for UKRI

Apologies:

Lucy Nickson Private Sector LEP Board Member

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An extended welcome went to new Private Sector LEP Board Members Karen Beardsley, Joe Chetcuti and Cathy Travers, together with new co-opted LEP Board Members Dan Fell, Paul Leedham and Michael Faulks.

The Chair was pleased to note that Private Sector LEP Board Members Alexa Greaves, Richard Stubbs and Neil MacDonald had all accepted an extension to their appointments.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest

None noted.

3 Notes of Last Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

4 Renewal Action Plan Update

A paper was presented to provide the Board with an update on the SCR Renewal Action Plan.

The Board was reminded that the SCR Renewal Action Plan (RAP) provided the basis for the MCA's submission to the Government's 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR); providing a formal request for additional revenue funding for the next three years and additional capital funding for the next four years.

The Government had since announced that the 2020 CSR had been abandoned due to the Covid pandemic and that a one-year settlement would be announced in due course.

It was noted that the Thematic Boards had all considered how the agreed priorities in the RAP should be implemented and which interventions could be delivered. Each Thematic Board had also considered the interventions that require immediate financial resource; including the anticipated outputs and outcomes for each intervention, the investment required from the MCA, and the

use of new Government initiatives, including Getting Building Fund, Housing Fund (Brownfield) and Emergency Active Travel Fund.

The priority interventions were detailed in Annex A to the paper.

F Kumi-Ampofo provided the Board with a verbal update on the key interventions that had been identified in relation to the three high-level objectives of the RAP (People, Employers and Place) to be progressed immediately, using current resource. Further details were summarised in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 in the paper.

It was highlighted that the interventions did not represent the sum total of interventions under development. Instead, these were the first in a sequence of interventions selected on the basis of impact, cost and deliverability. More interventions were being developed and would be shared with the Board in future meetings.

The Board discussed and considered the key interventions. The following comments were provided by the Board:

Councillor Dore queried who the employer of the Apprenticeship Hub would be and what legal rights would be in place for employees.

The Board also discussed if the proposed enhanced Apprenticeship Training Agency/Broker would lead to displacement with the Further Education sector. The Board queried if any sensitivity analysis had been undertaken.

The Board also queried how the Apprenticeship Hub would work with training providers.

It was agreed that the MCA Skills Team would provide the Board with further information on the queries set out above. **ACTION: F Kumi-Ampofo**

The Board highlighted that marketing and communication would be very important over the coming months to ensure businesses were aware of the advice and support that is available to them.

It was agreed that a wider discussion would take place at the January LEP Board with regards to communications, engagement and providing awareness of the support available to businesses in the City Region.

It was felt that 'Digital Adoption' would be critical in the next 4 weeks to allow some businesses to progress with digital adoption.

The Board requested that they be provided with details to understand what the £1.7bn of funding ask have / had been covered within the RAP.

Furthermore, the Board requested details on which initiatives would be funded from existing resources. The Board also asked if details could be provided on the large scale initiatives where there were current funding gaps.

D Smith agreed to present a paper at the January meeting setting out an

audited assessment on funding, taking account of the announcements in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. **ACTION: D Smith**

The Chair requested that updates on the RAP continue to feature as a standing item on future LEP Board agendas.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted the progress made and provided comments and suggestions they deem appropriate, on how the Renewal Action Plan should be implemented.

5 **SEP Consultation**

A paper was delivered to provide the Board with an update on the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) following consultation.

The paper summarised the comments received as part of the consultation and presented a final version of the SEP for approval.

The Board noted that, following a 6-week period of public consultation, over 800 individual comments were received from the general public, voluntary sector, businesses and Local Government.

A presentation was delivered to present LEP Board Members with the comments received and outlined the changes made to the SEP in response to the comments received.

The comments received were broadly supportive of the SEP, with several useful suggestions, clarifications and additions recommended.

Following detailed consideration of the consultation responses a revised SEP had been developed reflecting the comments received. All comments received were categorised and responded to.

In summary, 274 (35%) showed direct or indirect agreement with the SEP ambition. 149 (19%) of responses received suggested changes that were actioned in more detail. Other comments (46%) were a mix of detail for implementation, wider than the SEP and SCR, points of detail, contradictory or had been rejected.

Following discussion, the Board requested that the Place priority submission with regards to Sheffield's Education and Skills Programme should be explicit, rather than implicit. **ACTION: F Kumi-Ampofo**

The Chair commented that, when the SEP moved to operationalisation, it would be imperative to have KPIs and targets which articulated into objectivities. He anticipated that, through the Thematic Boards this would be a subject that would be discussed and agreed in those thematic areas when the operational plans became operationalised.

J Chetcuti suggested that clarifying the benefits of the Commercial Creative Sector for the Region was a Strategy.

The Chair said that 'digital' needed to be uncoupled and articulated clearly; but, he was of the opinion not to amend the SEP.

The Board approved the SEP, acknowledging that there is still additional work to undertake to finalise the SEP. The final SEP would be presented at the January meetings of the LEP Board and MCA for final sign-off before publication.

During 2021, the Team would focus on implementation plans which would be required to deliver the SEP.

The Board thanked F Kumi-Ampofo and J Guest for the work which had been undertaken on the SEP.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members:-

1. Noted the consultation responses and changes made; and
2. Agreed to adopt the Strategic Economic Plan.

6 **The Nuclear sector and opportunities in South Yorkshire**

A paper was submitted setting out a potential UK Atomic Energy Authority opportunity for the region to position itself as central to the growth of the UK's Nuclear Industry, to create high value jobs, grow new businesses and support existing businesses to adapt.

The Board was informed that the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) had written to all Councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships setting out their intention later in autumn to publish a detailed site specification for the development of a new Nuclear Fusion Reactor prototype.

It was anticipated that a formal opportunity to bid would be announced shortly. This was part of the The Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) programme - a UKAEA and UK Government initiative to accelerate progress towards commercially viable fusion power, through design and construction of a prototype fusion reactor by 2040.

The Board noted that the UKAEA proposal was to establish a Nuclear Fusion Prototype Reactor somewhere in the UK and presented an opportunity for the region to establish itself as a key player in the UK nuclear sector.

It was expected that the proposal would align with the Government's anticipated Energy White Paper. This was expected to signal a commitment to expansion in renewables, including hydrogen and nuclear power through large scale reactors, small modular reactors, advanced reactors and fusion.

It was proposed that: -

- The LEP Board signal their support for this opportunity to be fully explored in the context of how it can deliver on the Strategic Economic Plan objectives; looking not just at the physical site opportunities but the

business, skills and productivity gains to be secured with the region playing a full part.

- A small working group with representation from across the four local council areas, the MCA Executive Team and the Nuclear AMRC be established with the objective of preparing a 'pitch' to the UKAEA.
- That the Business Recovery and Growth Board and the Infrastructure and Housing Boards' engage directly in the process from a supply chain, innovation, business growth and site selection perspective.
- That the region adopts an open position at the outset to working with places outside of South Yorkshire to build the best UK solution – with the region at the heart of that.

The Board received a presentation from Andy Storer, Head of the Nuclear AMRC, which provided the Board with an overview of the Nuclear AMRC's Strategy for Impact, details on current and potential new build UK reactor sites, government initiatives and future technologies and investments.

The Board noted that in relation to UK new build, there was current generation capacity of 10GWe, with most to be retired in 2023-30. New build of up to 19GWe new capacity had been proposed at 6 sites. Hinkley Point C was currently under construction.

The Board noted that the UK small modular reactors (SMRs) programme had the potential to deliver up to 16 power stations by 2050, 40,000 jobs, £52 billion economic value and £250 billion of export potential.

The UK bid to build the world's first commercial fusion power plant by 2040 was being led by the UKAEA. There were potential opportunities for the SCR to link with the UKAEA by establishing a test centre being located in Sheffield. A training centre, design centre and spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) siting.

The Board received a presentation from Richard Deakin, Low Cost Nuclear Challenge Director, ISCF, UK Research and Innovation. The presentation provided the Board with information on the future of low carbon nuclear energy with SMRs and the regional impact on meeting global demands.

Part of the Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund was to raise productivity and earning power in the UK. The UK has an ambitious target to increase its total R&D expenditure to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 (from 1.7%).

There had been increased funding in research and development by £4.7 billion over 4 years to strengthen UK science and business.

The presentation provided details on the Low Cost Nuclear Challenge programme phase 1 consortium which was responsible for delivering 11 innovative work packages over 5 years to explore options, routes to market and commercialisation. The business case for phase 2 had been approved by UKRI and BEIS. This was currently with Treasury for approval.

The potential benefits of the Low Cost Nuclear programme from 2030 onwards was presented. In summary, the programme had the potential of £100Bn GVA, £308m of exports, 40,000 jobs created, high value nuclear skills and training, new factories in regions, primarily a UK supply chain, new IP owned by UK companies and reinvigorate the UK nuclear industry.

The Chair thanked Andy Storer and Richard Deakin for their interesting and informative presentations.

The Board stated its support for the opportunity and discussed emerging opportunities around skills development and the skills pipeline. The Board asked what work was required to enable the SCR to be well-positioned to take advantage of the opportunity so that young people and businesses thrive as a result.

The Chair said that, via the Education, Skills and Employability Board and Business Recovery and Growth Board, it would be beneficial for the Boards' to look at supply chain growth in terms of scaling-up existing and potential supply chain providers and also attracting a compliment to the existing base.

M Lynam reported that the framework for forming the bid was currently being developed and would involve wider consultation with stakeholders. An update would be presented at a future LEP Board meeting.

It was noted that the parameters and timescales for the bid were expected to be announced shortly by Government. With regards to site selection for the Nuclear Fusion Reactor prototype, formal guidance was awaited.

Active discussions were taking place around site selection with local authorities. It was noted that there would be expectations around access to water, connectivity, national power grid links and a complex set of regulatory challenges.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted the opportunity and endorse early stage work to develop a submission to a UK Atomic Energy Authority proposal for South Yorkshire to be part of the Government's plans to commercialise and develop Nuclear Fusion technology.

7

Programme Approvals

A paper was delivered to inform LEP Board Members of the LGF current position noting that this was the final year of the current six-year LGF programme.

The Board noted that the LGF grant allocation for the 2020/21 financial year was £43.2m. Government required that the resource is used in full in year. To meet this expenditure target, and avoid resource being returned to Government, an over-programming position had been adopted. This position afforded a degree of protection against programme slippage.

Over three successive Growth Deals the MCA/LEP had been awarded £360m

for LGF schemes. However, within the £360m envelope, there was a ring-fenced amount of £40.1m, which was included for the A630 Parkway Widening Scheme. This scheme was 'retained' by the Department for Transport, meaning that the scheme was appraised outside of the MCA's usual Assurance Framework and could not proceed without DfT approval. The scheme had now been approved by the DfT, with a formal funding offer made to the MCA for acceptance at the MCA meeting on 16th November 2020.

The current programme position was noted as follows:

- To date, approximately £330.7m of schemes have been committed to with LEP approval.
- The schemes were in various stages of delivery, with some completed, some in delivery, and some finalising contracting. It was expected that, subject to governance, the Parkway Widening Scheme would commence imminently, bringing total commitments to £370.8m.
- Commitments at this level place the programme over the funding envelope by £10.8m. However, this was being managed through the repayments of loans granted to business and partners. There was no requirement to spend any recycled funding within the LGF funded window.
- The remaining funding headroom available for LGF projects across all thematic areas was now £6.6m.
- A further £1.2m of proposed expenditure, subject to appraisal, would be put forward for approval at a future MCA meeting. If approved, this would give a total spend or committed position of £372m thus reducing the available headroom to £5.4m.
- At the beginning of the year forecast LGF programme expenditure for 2020/21 stood at £52.4m, against the MHCLG spend target of £43.2m.
- Adjusting the projects recently approved, total forecast expenditure to the end of the programme had increased to £54m.
- Due to challenges of delivery during the pandemic, partners had submitted change control requests totalling £10.3m, the effect of which is to slip expenditure from the current financial year into 2021/22.
- The in-year expenditure was now forecast at £43.7m. This level of expenditure marginally exceeds the expenditure target for the year and secures the in-year funding.

Programme monitoring remains vigilant to the risk that this level of expenditure may fall below target, and approaches to contracting that could mitigate the risk of increased slippage and loss of the in-year grant were being actively considered.

The Chair noted that a further update paper on the LGF programme would be presented to the January Board meeting. He asked that the Co-Chairs of the Thematic Boards were appraised of the specific investments (informed by the MCA Team), so that they are able to provide advice and recommendations as to which programmes would be completed in the 2020/21 financial year and which new programmes would need to be brought forward and replaced by those schemes which were subject to funding slippage.

Mayor Jones suggested that work be undertaken to identify the schemes which had already been approved and where costs had increased to ascertain if funds had been spent.

S Sykes acknowledged the suggestion and confirmed that this exercise would be undertaken.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted the current programme position.

8 **Recruitment of Private Sector LEP Board Members**

A paper was presented detailing the appointments to the LEP Board of 4 private sector members following the recent recruitment campaign, run in compliance with the requirements of the LEP Review.

It was noted that the Board was fully compliant with the Government's requirements in relation to the structure and makeup of the Board, as a consequence of the continued recruitment undertaken during the year.

The Board noted that the summer recruitment campaign, whilst resulting in fewer applicants than the January 2020 campaign, 9 applications had been received in contrast to 18 received in the earlier campaign, for the first time a greater number of applications had been received from females than males.

The paper requested the LEP Board's ratification to appoint two new appointed Members and to appoint a further three Co-opted Members, and to amend the status of a current Co-optee as detailed below:

- Cathy Travers
- Karen Beardsley
- Michael Faulks – Co-opted Member
- Paul Leedham – Co-opted Member
- Dan Fell – Co-opted Member
- Angela Foukes - Amendment

A brief summary of the new appointees was set out in Appendix 1 to the paper.

Councillor Dore welcomed all the new Members to the Board. She added that, should any Members wish to have conversations with Sheffield City Council officers, then they should make contact with her, who in turn could put them in contact with the correct team.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted and approved the Private Sector Board Member appointments being made.

9 **Chief Executive's Update**

A paper was presented to provide LEP Board Members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.

Updates were provided on:

- Working Win, which had been extended to March 2021.

- Quarterly Economic Review.
- Mayor’s speech to Northern Conference.
- Comprehensive Spending Review, and
- Covid-19 Business Input Group.

The Board discussed the current jobs crisis resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. This included the issue of retaining jobs and the availability of potential new jobs.

Councillor Dore said that there was a real concern that all the jobs schemes would be competing against each other for the amount of jobs which may be available. Councillor Dore asked if the Education, Skills and Employability Board and Business Recovery and Growth Board could work together to examine where jobs are available and could be created in the immediate term.

D Smith said that there would be a challenge for the city region to create jobs and matching these jobs to those who had been affected by unemployment. In particular, the challenge would be around the matching process for individuals who are disadvantaged and whom would need support to access opportunities.

A number of the SCR’s jobs programmes did not only work with the unemployed, but also provided assistance to help maintain individuals in employment who had substantial health, physical and mental health challenges whilst in employment.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted the updates.

10 **Mayoral Update**

A paper was presented to provide LEP Board Members with an update on key Mayoral activity relating to the economic agenda.

Updates were provided on:

- The COVID pandemic and Tier 3 restrictions in South Yorkshire.
- Unlocking the potential of South Yorkshire through additional investment.
- Comprehensive Spending Review, and
- South Yorkshire Flooding Roundtable.

RESOLVED – That LEP Board Members noted the updates.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

12 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, R Frost, P Haith,
C Hogarth, P Price, S M Richards, C Ross and Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, S Booth and D Nichols
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, I Rooth, M McCoole and L Noble (Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime
Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor C Ransome, N Copley, S Loach, M Potter,
S Norman, ACO T Carlin and A Mullen

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

None.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Cave referred to the Equality and Inclusion Awareness Session that had been held for Members on 6 October 2020. He expressed his thanks to L Hayhurst and colleagues for the very useful, inclusive and interactive course that had been provided on a virtual platform.

Councillor Taylor echoed Councillor Cave's sentiments.

Councillor Damms referred to a telephone call he had received from a Councillor who had raised concerns regarding flooding at the Stocksbridge Leisure Centre. Councillor Damms had liaised with CFO Johnson, and the Service had provided the Councillor with the appropriate advice.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Councillor Ayris commented that he had not received the information regarding the number of disputes in relation to the staff grievance process, and whether there had been an increase in the number of disputes due to Covid-19.

L Noble stated that the information had been provided to Members via email on 29 September 2020. She would ensure that the information was resent to Councillor Ayris.

CFO Johnson reported that the collaborative LGA and NFCC submission on the Fire Spending Review proposal had been submitted to the Government. She had shared the document with the Joint Authorities Governance Unit and this would be forwarded onto Members. The detailed document covered the request for increased baseline funding, funding for flooding capability, precept flexibility regarding pay increases, detriment claims on McCloud and Sargent, the Fire Safety Bill and the Building Safety Programme etc. The Service continued to be informed that this would be 3 year settlement, although it was considered more likely to be a one year settlement. The overall funding settlement would be known just prior to Christmas 2020, and the Service would be informed of its actual funding settlement in the New Year.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 14 September 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE - A SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide a bi-annual update on Procurement Services, its activities and how it was effectively supporting the various aspects of SYFR businesses as well as a log of FS323 Request to Contracts Standing Orders (CSOs) Waiver activity in the preceding 6 months for the period October 2019 to April 2020.

Over the past 6 month period, the main focus of the Procurement Service had been in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Service had continued to maintain a stock of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including sanitising hand cleansers and equipment, and all of the fire stations had been adequately supplied at all times. A new pandemic stores had been established which stocked all essential items.

The SYFR structural firefighting kit had now been procured, with a regional award made to Ballyclare Ltd on 14 August 2020. This would achieve a saving of £26,600 for SYFR against the national framework for procurement of structural PPE, and the new kit will be rolled out for operational use in Quarter 3 of 2021. The rescue jackets had been purchased, and an after care service provision would be entered into to ensure that the kit was cleaned and returned within adequate time.

Members noted the stock check deficiency of -£591.51 for the year to April 2020.

Councillor Ayris suggested that it would be useful for Members to be informed of the number of tenders that were submitted under the various categories within the report. He queried the recommendations for improvements following the Compliance Review Audit. In relation to the end-to-end procurement review, he considered that it should be borne in mind that some of the previous practices had not initially been picked up by the previous internal or external auditors i.e. the roofing contracts and the servicing of the emergency stand-by generating plant. He queried whether a further explanation could be provided to the FS323 Request to CSO Waiver Log at Appendix A, together with further clarification of the discrepancies at Appendix C to the report.

D Nichols stated that a final audit report had not yet been issued. There had been some mismatch between the guidance documents, which had highlighted a need to ensure consistency across all of the documents. He would provide Members with a copy of the full request for waiver document. In relation to Appendix C to the report, there would be items within their own ticket i.e. catering, batteries and cleaning which would show both ups and downs against multiple items, and would achieve either a net loss or net gain.

S Booth highlighted that the Procurement Service report had been provided to the Authority on a six monthly basis for the last 3 ½ years. Over the past 3 year period, the audit recommendations had been subject to an annual audit from either KPMG, Deloitte or BMBC's Internal Audit. RSM UK Ltd, the new internal auditors, did not feel it necessary to undertake an audit this year given the conclusions derived from BMBC's Internal Audit. In relation to the recommendations, the outline detail had been presented to Members at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 14 September 2020, on the procurement audit and findings. Members had been informed that the final report was awaited from BMBC's Internal Audit. He reassured Members that a positive assurance had been given on the work undertaken by BMBC's Internal Audit. He would ensure that any inconsistencies in some of the paperwork did not continue moving forwards. In relation to the Waiver Log at Appendix A to the report, details on the current status of the waivers had been included within the reports for at least the past 2 years. In relation to Appendix C to the report, he considered that the stock discrepancies should be seen as a very positive position, given the amount of stores held by the Service and

the value of the issues that went through those stores. He considered that overall, the report presented a very positive position. He did not believe that there was another procurement service that had received sign off by the internal and external auditors, and had opened itself up for scrutiny like SYFR's Procurement Service.

Councillor Richards referred to the current stock availability which had returned to normal and the pricing which had begun to return to pre Covid-19 levels. She queried whether any predictions could be made, bearing in mind a potential second wave of the Covid-19 lockdown.

D Nichols referred to the exercise underway to achieve accurate pricing. FFP3 and Type 2R masks had recently been sourced, and the Service had just over 15,000 masks currently in stock which equated to approximately an 8 week supply for use on all front line vehicles. Adequate supplies were available within the supply chain and the pandemic stores.

Councillor Haith queried the latest position regarding the replacement of the three boiler systems.

D Nichols stated that currently two of the three boiler systems were currently out to tender and had been awarded. The Training and Development Centre's (TDC) heating system required a major upgrade and would be replaced shortly.

In relation to the Procurement Services savings between May 2020 to October 2020, a number of Members queried whether the £129,633 within Appendix E to the report was, in fact, real savings as it related to the savings between the highest and lowest tender bids. Members also queried whether they could be informed of the real savings that had been made by the Procurement Services.

Members were informed that this was the standard reporting procedure that had been adopted by the sector throughout the country. The total of £129,633 indicated that by conducting a tender exercise, the Service had been able to obtain better pricing. Savings in the region of £2m had been made over the past 2 years, some of which had been real negotiated savings. There was a degree of artificiality around the figures which could be misinterpreted. Some of the savings related to cost avoidance by undertaking a competitive process, whilst remembering that some of the amounts related to a mixture of capital investment and revenue money, together with genuine budgetary savings.

Councillor Taylor stated that the report presented was consistent with previous reports. He requested that future reports provided an explanation in order to eliminate discrepancies.

S Booth would liaise with D Nichols to provide further transparency to the figures in future reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.

Councillor Taylor requested that a vote be taken to determine whether the Procurement Service six monthly update report should become an annual update report.

Councillors Ayris and Damms voted against the proposal for the Procurement Services report to be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

All other Members voted in favour of the proposal for the Procurement Services report to be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

S Booth commented that any exceptional or extraordinary circumstances would be reported to the Authority as necessary.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and endorsed the ongoing positive work of the Procurement Services team.
- ii) Agreed that future Procurement Service update reports be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

11 COVID-19 UPDATE

DCFO Kirby gave an update on SYFR's response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past couple of months, the focus had predominately been to update staff on the latest guidance, to consider staff welfare arrangements, to protect the critical 999 response service and to deliver prevention and protection services in a risk based manner.

SYFR's Headquarters and TDC had progressed to become Covid-19 secure workplaces. This had enabled a number of support staff to return back into those premises where it was considered appropriate, in a risk approached manner and on a rotational basis, to ensure that none of the departments exceeded a specific level of occupancy and that the total building occupancies had significantly reduced in comparison to pre-Covid-19 levels. However, communication had recommenced with support staff in relation to the increased requirements to work from home wherever possible, to align with Government guidance.

A workplace safety video had been produced together with relevant guidance documents to assist the support staff returning back into the workplace which included information on the general directional flow of people within the buildings, use of relevant hand sanitising workstations and to try to limit and reduce the number of contact points within the buildings. The Pulse Surveys had provided good staff feedback, and feedback was that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) had taken their welfare and safety seriously to enable them to return back into the workplace.

Work had been undertaken with representative bodies and staff on the procedures to resume the broader prevention and protection work especially around home safety visits. The SLT had agreed a training plan to enable the safety critical training to resume, and two firefighter training courses had been successfully delivered.

The Government's recent increase in the Covid-19 threat level from 3 to 4 had started to potentially impose restrictions at a local level in an attempt to control the spread of the virus. A Government COBR meeting would be held today to discuss the current situation of increased community transmission, with an expected announcement on a new three tier alert level approach which would impose additional restrictions across the country. It was uncertain which tier South Yorkshire would come under. Operational activity parameters had been drafted to align to the three alert levels; it was also intended to align the Service's prevention and protection activity to these. The Service would continue to protect its 999 response service activity, which to date had not been impacted upon by the pandemic.

The Service was engaged with the Local Resilience Forums (LRF) which met twice weekly to focus on recovery and response to the pandemic, together with an LRF Compliance and Regulations Cell. The Service could also connect into the multi-agency communications cell that had been established to provide support on the broader communications across the local area. The Service's response to the pandemic has quickly evolved to respond to the rapidly changing situation, and the internal dedicated response meetings had been re-established. The Service would provide support to the increased compliance checks and enforcement activity throughout the county, provided that they were covered by the national tri-party agreement. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) was working at a national level with representative bodies to negotiate a potential extension to the national tri-party agreement to enable the continuation of work to support local partners into the New Year.

The Service would continue to communicate messages within the community regarding compliance with self-isolation and face coverings, which were aligned with the Local Resilience Plan process.

Since the re-opening of schools, there had been a slight increase in staff sickness levels, although this had not significantly impacted upon service delivery. A limit had been placed on the amount of time that the operational staff spent off station, with the exception of 999 response work and essential training at TDC. The 999 Control Room had been locked down to limit the number of visitors to protect those members of staff.

On 23 September 2020, the Senior Officers had taken part in an LRF strategic exercise in relation to the Service's response to Covid-19 together with additional Winter month challenges i.e. flooding incidents, which had tested the Service's plans and preparation.

The NFCC had been working with Public Health England in relation to the possibility of fire and rescue service staff being exempt from the requirement to self-isolate provided that the strict guidance was followed around compliance with

Covid-19 secure workplace arrangements. This presented a critical challenge when riding the fire appliances. The Service had followed guidance from the NFCC and had updated the internal guidance to enable firefighters to wear Type 2R face masks. Local PHE officials have confirmed that there is no guarantee that the Service's staff would be allowed to become exempt from the Track and Trace and isolation requirements.

Councillor Ayris expressed his thanks for the comprehensive update provided. He queried, ahead of the Government's imminent announcement, whether the Service would be presented with an issue in the event that the county was split into more than one tier.

DCFO Kirby commented that such a scenario would impact upon the Service's prevention and protection arrangements. Engagement had recently taken place with representative bodies on the potential issue. A request had been made from the LRF perspective and the four local authority Leaders, to apply a single tier across all of the local authority areas. The Service would continue to provide safety advice and information to people within their homes and businesses as undertaken since the initial lockdown period via electronic communication and telephone. Dedicated prevention staff would potentially undertake essential home visits to install vital safety equipment in order to protect the Service's dedicated 999 response, until the tier levels began to reduce.

CFO Johnson provided Members with an update on the hot debrief that she had attended on 25 September 2020, following the virtual HMI inspection during w/c 21 September 2020. The inspection had identified that the Service had up to date pandemic, flu and business continuity plans which had been activated and that the Service had been able to make an early response. The Service continued to provide its core statutory duty and the prevention and protection activities had continued in line with the NFCC guidance. The inspectors had commented that the Service's wholtime duty firefighters had not routinely been used for the additional Covid-19 activities, most of which had been carried out by non-operational staff. CFO Johnson had informed them that operational staff were on standby to drive ambulances to the Nightingale Hospital, and that a number of operational staff had assisted in the receipt and distribution of PPE. The inspectors had discounted the operational staff driving the ambulances as this had not been actively used. The inspectors had recognised that the Service had maintained its Control Room function despite staff shortages and had trained resilience staff. The inspectors had also recognised that the Service's finances had not yet been affected by the pandemic and that it had drawn down on the Covid-19 funding, but had not used reserves. The inspectors had been complimentary on the health and wellbeing of staff and the new ways of engagement with staff that had been introduced. The findings of the inspection were yet to be moderated, although CFO Johnson was cautiously optimistic of a positive result, which was expected in late December 2020/early in the New Year.

Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks for updates provided and for all of the work undertaken by the Service to protect its staff and to maintain the service provided to the people of South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

12 BID FOR SSCR FUNDING

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted for Members to consider the application for funding from the SSCR Sprinkler Fund by Sheffcare, which was a major provider of Dementia care in South Yorkshire, for a 50% contribution towards the cost of the sprinkler system installation. The estimated cost of the installation was £105,420 which would require the Authority to provide a contribution of £52,710. The funding would enable Sheffcare to develop their ambition to sprinkle all their buildings on a future programme, to be funded by themselves.

Members noted the following breakdown of costs:-

System with Pump and Tank	£67,650
Drawings of Building (unless suitable ones can be provided)	£5,700
Fire Stopping (mandatory requirement)	£4,000
Electrical Works for Alarm Systems and Pumps	£6,500
Extra's Decorating and making good	£4,000 (to be provided by another company therefore not included in contract)
Total	£87,850 + 20% vat = £105,420

Councillor Ross was very supportive of the application made to provide funding for these extremely vulnerable people within South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members accepted the application for joint funding for the installation of a fire sprinkler system in Knowle Hill Residential Dementia Care Facility in Sheffield.

13 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Members were presented with the key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 September 2020.

Councillor Buckley requested an update in relation to the Halloween and Bonfire Night period and the Dark Nights initiative.

DCFO Kirby stated that there was a legislative requirement for the Service to ensure the compliance around the rules and regulations for the sale of fireworks. The Service was working across the LRF partnership to send out clear messaging to deter people from hosting bonfire/firework events within their own gardens, which were unlikely to be undertaken in a risk assessed manner. In relation to the Dark Nights initiative, he would arrange for a specific briefing to be provided to

Members by the Area Manager for Prevention. He was aware that arrangements were in place to support the partners across each of the local authority areas. The Bonfire Night period this year was of specific concern to the Service, due to the fact that no organised events would be held due to the pandemic.

Councillor Buckley also expressed his thanks to L Hayhurst and her team for providing the Equality and Inclusion Awareness Session that had been held for Members on 6 October 2020.

CFO Johnson stated that the Service inspected those premises which stored / sold fireworks. The LRF had discussed the issue of fireworks in some detail. The licensing, quantity and size of fireworks that could be sold to members of the public would also be looked at to try to deter large fireworks being procured for use within gardens. She would pass on Councillor Buckley's thanks to L Hayhurst and her team.

RESOLVED - That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 September 2020.

14 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 14 September 2020.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To provide Members with feedback from the dedicated comprehensive spending review team for the sector.	When complete	CFO Johnson	Update 12-10-20 The collaborative LGA and NFCC submission of the Fire Spending Review Proposal was emailed to Members. ACTION DISCHARGED
2	To present information to Members over the next 12 months to enable the Performance Management Framework to be shaped, prior to Authority approval.	CAG	ACO Carlin	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i>

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
3	To provide Members with an update on Power Bi at a future CAG meeting.	CAG	J Patrick	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i>
4	To provide sufficient detail on apprentices within the Financial Performance Reports.		S Booth	
5	Digital and ICT Development Plan 2020-2021 Update.	FRA 11-01-21	S Locking	
6	Workforce Development Strategy Report.	Future FRA meeting		
7	To present the final version of the IRMP.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
8	To present a final Annual Service Plan to Members for approval.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
9	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.		M McCarthy	
10	To resend to Councillor Ayris the information in relation to staff confidence and the grievance process, to inform on the number of disputes and whether there had been an increase due to Covid-19.		M McCoole	<u>Update 12-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
11	To provide Members with a copy of the full request for waiver document.		D Nichols	<u>Update 20-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED
12	To provide further transparency to the figures in future Procurement Service reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.		S Booth and D Nichols	
13	To provide Members with a specific briefing in relation to the Dark Nights initiative.		Area Manager for Prevention	<u>Update 20-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

23 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, R Frost, P Haith,
C Hogarth, P Price, C Ransome, S M Richards, C Ross and
Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, ACO T Carlin and S Booth
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, M McCoole and I Rooth
(Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from N Copley, M Potter,
L Noble, S Norman and A Mullen

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the recent Business Continuity Institute's Global Awards Ceremony, the Service had been awarded the Most Effective Recovery Award for the support provided in the recovery arrangements to the South Yorkshire flooding incident that had occurred in November 2019. The award had been presented to the Service's Internal Resilience Planning and Contingency Team, whilst recognising the wide ranging support that had been provided by the Control staff, operational firefighters, support services and senior officers. It had been recognised that the Service had rescued more than 300 people during the incident and had pumped away an estimated 363 million litres of flood water.

Members acknowledged the significant challenges and hardship that had been encountered by those individuals effected by the flooding incident. The Service would release a communication on the matter today, via social media.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda item 19 entitled '2015 Trade Dispute' be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Frost expressed his thanks, on behalf of the BMBC Members, to DCFO Kirby for the virtual meeting held on 17 November 2020. At the meeting the IRMP had been presented and discussions had ensued in relation to the consultation on the proposed response strategy, together with other topics.

Councillor Taylor also gave his thanks to DCFO Kirby, on behalf of the RMBC Members.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12 October 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 COVID-19 UPDATE

Members were provided with an update on SYFR's response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Service and the communities within South Yorkshire continued to be effected by the local and national restrictions that had resulted from the rise in the number COVID-19 cases. In October 2020, the Service had published a set of operational parameters which had been aligned to the 3 tier system that had been introduced by the Government in terms of the local alert systems. This had enabled the Service to align its non-emergency response activity to the 3 tiers that the Service may operate in at any one time. The operational parameters had been communicated well with teams internally, whilst endeavouring to ensure that the Service continued to maintain some element of its core activities during the highest level of the restrictions. Physical visits would continue be made to commercial properties and homes, if it was warranted following thorough risk assessments from a fire safety perspective.

As a result of the increased restrictions, the Service had restricted the access to the 999 Control Room, which was a critical area of service. A compliance framework had been introduced across the Service to ensure that the guidance was being followed, and local managers undertook daily checks to ensure that the relevant arrangements were in place, to enable the workplace to be as safe as possible. Following the introduction of the new national restrictions, the support staff had been advised to continue to work from home wherever possible, unless it was essential to come into the workplace. The Service had observed the benefits of agile working, together with the experience and learning that had been gained from the first lockdown period.

The Service continued to play an active role in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which continued to meet twice weekly. CFO Johnson co-chaired the LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group. The meetings specifically focused upon the recovery and response arrangements. This provided an opportunity for agencies to seek support from across the LRF. The Service had been identified as an organisation which may be able to provide support within a number of areas. The Service continued to operate underneath a national tri-party agreement, which allowed fire and rescue services to apply their resources to a number of other areas to support the wider response and recovery efforts around the pandemic; an extension to this was being sought through the National Fire Chiefs Council. The Service had received very good feedback from partners in relation to its 'can do' attitude and the way in which the Service had responded to the pandemic.

The Service had observed a general reduction in the number of staff that had been effected by the pandemic, in comparison to the position a few weeks ago. On 20 November 2020 a total of 44 members of staff had been self-isolating, which on 23 November 2020 had reduced to 30 members of staff that were self-isolating and six confirmed COVID-19 cases.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2020/21

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented as the second in a series of reports that Members would receive throughout the financial year, to inform them as to the likely financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2021. The report included an estimated revenue outturn position when compared to the annual budget set on the 10 February 2020, together with an updated reserves position statement, an update on the capital programme, and a narrative commentary to explain the key financial changes that contributed to each of them.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Noted the emerging underlying estimated revenue performance which showed a potential operating underspend of £2.785m for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

- b) Noted the underlying and significant financial risks likely to be facing the Service and Sector and UK public services during the remainder of this financial year and into 2021/2022.
- c) Noted the latest estimated change in General and Earmarked Reserves as set out in Section C of the report and the proposed approach for using any operating underspend for the financial year ending 2020/21.
- d) Noted the adjusted capital programme for the financial year ending 2020/21, which was broadly in line with expectations due to Covid-19 restrictions.

12 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2022

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted which outlined the business cases that had been approved in principle by the Senior Leadership Team at the workforce planning event in July 2020, for Members to consider as an investment as part of the wider Service Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the business cases contained within the Workforce Investment Plan to support the Service’s strategic objectives and Service Improvement Plan.

13 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021 - 2024

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer was presented which provided an early insight and understanding as to the likely financial performance and position of the Service ahead of the Government’s Spending Review and Settlement (November/ December 2020), and the proposed Annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting report which was due to be considered by Members at the Authority meeting to be held on 22 February 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Accepted the updated MTFP for the financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24 noting the contents of this report, and in particular the likely implications of the different funding scenarios for the operational service and future financial position.
- b) Endorsed the proposed approach for managing reserves as set out in Section C of the report in particular, the proposal to increase the Generally Available Reserve by any in year (2020/21) operating underspend until such time as there was greater clarity on the funding position in relation to the Covid pandemic and/or the longer term Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and to note the likely use of those useable earmarked reserves over the term of the Plan.
- c) Noted the up to date approved capital investment programme spending and financing projections 2020/21 to 2023/24 (Section D of the report).

- d) Agreed to consider new, additional capital investment schemes for approval into the current capital programme as part of the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax Setting Report (Section D of the report).
- e) Noted the known financial risks, uncertainties and events that would need careful consideration and management in the run up to and when setting the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax (Section E of the report) and beyond this date.

14 REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an overview of the Service's collaboration with regional Fire and Rescue colleagues, notably the advancements of Command Support collaboration and the co-procurement of Personal Protective Equipment.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress of the current regional collaborations.

15 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION UPDATE

Members noted that the Service was working very closely with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) on a range of matters in relation to COVID-19 including the tripartite, information and intelligence sharing, and the Local Resilience Forum.

The Heads of Occupational Health at the Service and SYP were undertaking collaborative working in order to provide a more efficient and effective occupational health system. Both organisations continued to deliver training to each other whilst ensuring that the courses were at full capacity, and facilities continued to be shared. Work was underway across the board regarding equality, diversity and wellbeing to ascertain learning from SYP on the recruitment of a more diverse workforce. Rose Regeneration was in the process of undertaking an external evaluation of the collaboration programme, which would be presented to the Authority in the New Year. The Service's stores workshop at the Eastwood site was now up and running, which had a significantly reduced footprint and a more modern and professional racking system had been installed. The Joint Community Safety Department continued to operate as 'business as usual'. During the last calendar year, a total of 26,500 children had received fire school packages, 4923 home visits had been undertaken and almost 17,000 children had attended Crucial Crew.

A decision had been made at a recent Police and Fire Collaboration Board meeting, to commission work on the amicable uncoupling of the Estates joint management arrangements and to develop an accompanying exit strategy and plan.

CFO Johnson had produced a briefing note, which would be circulated onto the Members to provide further information.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

16 LOCAL PENSION BOARD KEY ISSUES AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2020

Members were presented with the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

The Local Pension Board and the Chair of the Authority had submitted a joint response to the McCloud/Sargent consultation which had closed on 11 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

17 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association Meeting held on 15 October 2020.

18 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.

19 2015 TRADE DISPUTE

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update provided in relation to the 2015 Trade Dispute.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To present information to Members over the next 12 months to enable the Performance Management Framework to be shaped, prior to Authority approval.	CAG	ACO Carlin	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i> <u>Update 24-11-20</u> Members received a presentation on the proposed revisions to the performance management framework.

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
				The Service will liaise with Cllrs Buckley and Cave on the detail with a view to a discussion at a CAG in the New Year.
2	To provide Members with an update on Power Bi at a future CAG meeting.	CAG	J Patrick	<p>On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i></p> <p><u>Update 24-11-20</u></p> <p>Members received an update on the roll-out of Power Bi and the training for Members. <i>NB: Training for 12 Members of the FRA fixed for w/c 23rd November 2020.</i></p>
3	To provide sufficient detail on apprentices within the Financial Performance Reports.		S Booth	
4	Digital and ICT Development Plan 2020-2021 Update.	FRA 11-01-21	S Locking	
5	Workforce Development Strategy Report.	Future FRA meeting		
6	To present the final version of the IRMP.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	

7	To present a final Annual Service Plan to Members for approval.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
8	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.	FRA 26-04-21 (Provisional)	M McCarthy	
9	To provide further transparency to the figures in future Procurement Service reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.		S Booth and D Nichols	
10	To provide Members with a briefing note in relation to the Police and Fire Collaboration Update		M McCoole	<u>Update 23-11-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

30 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M Stowe (Chair)
Councillor J Mounsey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: A Atkin, S Cox, J Gilliver, A Law, A Murphy, C Rosling-Josephs, A Sangar, A Teal, N Wright and T Yasseen

Trade Unions: D Patterson (UNITE) and G Warwick (GMB)

Investment Advisors: A Devitt and L Robb

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), N Copley (Treasurer), G Graham (Director), G Kirk (Monitoring Officer), G Richards (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and S Smith (Head of Investments)

J Firth and J Roberts (Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Ltd)

M Chaplin and C Scott (LPB observers)

Apologies for absence were received from N Doolan-Hamer and M McCarthy

1 APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that Cllr Paul Wray had resigned from the Authority as he had been appointed Civic Mayor of Doncaster MBC. He congratulated Cllr Wray on this appointment and welcomed his successor Cllr John Gilliver to his first Authority meeting.

The Chair also congratulated Will Goddard, a member of the Finance Team, who had won his second CIPFA prize for his performance in the Financial Management paper.

South Yorkshire Fossil Free had been due to give a five minute presentation to the Authority at the beginning of the meeting. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, this had not been possible. They would be invited to address members at the next Authority meeting.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That Item 13 ‘Review of Services Contract’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

None.

7 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

It was noted that there was a gap in the minutes at Item 13. Members agreed wording for this omission which was shown on screen.

With regard to item 12, the Future of the Agricultural Portfolio, Cllr Sangar requested that the update report should be submitted to the Authority in 12 months’ time and that the investigation into the possibility of developing affordable rural housing be included in the minutes.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the alterations detailed above, that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 be agreed as a true record.

8 QUARTER 1 2020/21 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members considered the Quarter 1 Corporate Performance report.

G Graham informed Members that following further government advice all staff were now back working remotely.

It was noted that a significant underspend against the budget was being forecast because the planned recruitment hadn’t been undertaken as quickly as had been expected.

There had been a clear impact on Pensions Administration productivity as a result of working remotely which had been difficult to address under present circumstances.

Members were reminded that it had been reported previously in a Member briefing that the treasury management limits had been breached, this was formally reported in the Corporate Performance report in line with the Treasury Management Strategy.

It was also noted that there had been changes to the Risk Register. The specific Risk Register around Covid-19 had been absorbed into the main Risk Register in recognition of the fact that there was now a ‘new normal’.

With regard to Pensions Administration performance, it was noted that staff found communications more difficult when working remotely, particularly when dealing with complex cases. Different ways of working with the technology were being developed which would help with the process.

Another issue which was affecting performance was the training arrangements for new staff, and how quickly they could be brought up to speed. At the beginning of the pandemic this issue had not been tackled head on as there had been other priorities but during the last few weeks a dedicated online training programme was being developed for all new staff; an improvement in performance was expected over the next two quarters.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9A RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT - QUARTER 1 UPDATE

A report was submitted which provided an update on responsible investment activity carried out during the April-June quarter.

Members were informed that the first quarter of the financial year generally represented “peak voting season” so, despite the impact of Covid-19 on the ability to hold meetings in person, the quarter had seen an increase in both the number of meetings and the number of votes, particularly in the developed markets fund.

Charts and graphs within the report indicated the degree to which votes were cast for and against management and detailed notable areas where votes were cast against management. The report also detailed engagement activity undertaken during the period.

Members were informed that, following consultation with the Chair, the Authority had signed up to support the Make My Money Matter campaign.

The campaign had a focus on educating Scheme members about how their pensions fund worked and what it was invested in. Financial education was an area which the Authority had a responsibility to support and engage with Scheme members.

Another element of the campaign was trying to align SYPA’s values with its investments. More work on reporting was needed on how all SYPA’s investments impacted on the world in environmental, social and other ways.

It was proposed that, over time, a stronger reporting framework would be developed, external help would be required in this area; procurement for this would be undertaken during the current financial year if Members supported this.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the voting and engagement activity carried out on behalf of the Authority during the first quarter of the financial year.
- ii) Note the Authority’s commitment to Make My Money Matter.
- iii) Endorse the development of more effective reporting of the impact of the Authority’s investments as set out in paragraph 5.15 of the report.

9B SYPA RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICIES - ANNUAL REVIEW

A report was submitted that presented the annual review of the Authority's own policies in relation to Responsible Investment for approval.

The main discussion focused on Appendix B and the proposed new goal that the Authority's investment portfolio should be 'net zero' in terms of carbon emissions by 2050.

However, it was acknowledged that it was important for Members to focus on the documents as a suite of policies and not concentrate on just one issue.

The Responsible Investment Policy at Appendix A increased focus on engagement with Scheme members and reporting and highlighted an increased focus on the 'S' in ESG which was even more important in current circumstances.

Appendix C concerned how SYPA would apply Responsible Investment principles to its commercial property portfolio. The rewrite of the policy focused on setting standards for the type of buildings SYPA would buy and the standards it would apply when involved in development projects.

There was a discussion around engagement versus divestment. It was generally agreed that both had their place at the right time but there needed to be a clearer process to determine when engagement had run its course.

There was a lengthy debate with regard to the Climate Change Policy with Members unanimously agreeing that SYPA's Goal should be that its investment portfolios should be "net zero" in terms of carbon emissions by 2030 rather than 2050 as stated in the draft policy.

It was felt that Partner Funds at Border to Coast would have similar views and that Members and officers should press senior officers at Border to Coast to refine their investment processes to ensure only suitable investments were made and to speed up the process of transition.

The Director explained that the November Member Seminar would be a workshop designed to give greater clarity to priorities across the Responsible Investment agenda.

The Director agreed to a request to develop a route map on how it was intended to reach the 2030 goal and present it to an Authority meeting in six months' time. Members requested that the Director arrange a press release in relation to the decisions made on these policies and circulate a draft prior to release.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the following updated policy documents subject to the goal that its investment portfolios should be amended to "net zero" in terms of carbon emissions by 2030:

- i) The Authority's Responsible Investment Policy.
- ii) The Authority's Climate Change Policy.

iii) The Authority's Policy on Responsible Investment for Commercial Property.

10 IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING (MCCLLOUD)

A report was submitted which sought approval for additional resource to ensure 'Business as Usual' activity was not adversely impacted by the administrative implications of recent court cases and legislative changes.

Members were reminded that the most significant new administrative challenge faced by LGPS funds was the forthcoming impact of the McCloud judgement.

SYPA had established a working group to plan for the anticipated workload that would impact when the remedy was finally agreed, expected to be later this year. The working group had estimated that over 40,000 records would have to be reviewed.

There was also other discrimination cases ongoing and in July 2020 the Treasury confirmed that the remedy required as a result of a Teachers Pension Scheme case would need to be applied to all public sector schemes.

With regard to GMP reconciliation, this was finally reaching Stage 3 (rectification) where the impacts would be felt directly by pensioners and beneficiaries and where the administration team would need to be involved in the recalculation of pensions.

To deal with this it was proposed to recruit up to three entry or junior level Pensions Officer posts. The additional costs would be up to £75,000 per year and, for the current financial year these costs could be met from forecast savings in the staffing budget from part-year vacancies.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the forthcoming administrative impacts that LGPS funds are facing.
- ii) Approve the allocation of additional funding for a maximum of three new Pensions Officer posts as part of corporate planning.

11A TPR CODE OF PRACTICE 14

Members considered a report which gave an update on current levels of compliance with TPR Code of Practice 14 and the intended next steps.

Members were reminded that although codes of practice were not statement of law they were intended to provide practical guidance in relation to the governance and administration of the Scheme. Code of Practice 14 was directed particularly at scheme managers and members of pension boards. The document covered four main areas:

- Governing the Scheme
- Managing Risks
- Administration
- Resolving Issues

Appendix A had been constructed by extracting the individual subject areas covered by the code of practice and providing commentary on existing SYPA levels of compliance.

The Appendix also included a proposed set of actions that may be required to either ensure compliance or to further develop improved governance and administration. It was proposed to create a more detailed Action Plan (with status updates and timescales for resolution) which then could be monitored routinely by the Local Pension Board. This should provide assurance that the main areas of best practice detailed in the Code were being complied with.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the existing compliance levels.
- ii) Approve the proposal to create an Action Plan for future monitoring by the Local Pension Board.

11B GOVERNANCE REVIEW

A report was submitted which presented the results of the Governance Review conducted by Hymans Robertson.

Members were informed that in general Hymans findings were positive and indicated that the Authority had effective arrangements and processes in place.

There were a number of areas where Hymans highlighted particular good practice, for instance in relation to the corporate planning process; there were no areas of significant weakness. There were however a number of recommendations which the Authority needed to address. In general the recommendations could be dealt with in the ordinary course of business, but there were two areas which were more difficult or which required a specific piece of work. These were:

- The issue of overlapping membership of the Authority and Local Pension Board in the case of two Trade Union Representatives. Further details of this was contained within the report.
- The recommendation that a review of the detailed requirements for the provision of statutory officers be undertaken. This would be a specific piece of work which would need to involve a range of stakeholder and political inputs.

With regard to overlapping membership and following discussions Members decided to continue with the current arrangements whilst recognising that there could be a perceived conflict of interest and requested that officers identify appropriate arrangements to manage any potential conflicts.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the contents of the Governance Review at Appendix A to the report.

- ii) Approve the Action Plan at Appendix B to the report.
- iii) Agree to continue with the current arrangements with regard to Trade Union representation on the Authority and Local Pension Board and request that officers identify appropriate arrangements to manage any potential conflicts of interest.

11C AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - TRADES UNION OBSERVERS

Members considered a report that addressed a gap identified in the Authority's Constitution.

A review of the Authority's updated Constitution and previous versions of the document, in light of the recommendations made by Hymans Robertson in relation to the Trade Union observers and overlapping membership with the Local Pension Board, had identified that the Constitution contained no mention of the role of the Trade Union observers.

To rectify this the Constitution required changes in a number of places as set out in Appendix A to the report. The proposed amendments reflect the current arrangements which have no term limits and with full access to participate in all aspects of meetings of the Authority and the Audit Committee but not in the Staffing, Appointments and Appeals Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix A to the report.

11D FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PUBLICATION SCHEME UPDATE

A report was submitted to secure approval of an update to the Authority's Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme.

Members were informed that over the last two years additional information had been published on the website and the structure of the website had been altered in order to make information more accessible. This was an ongoing process and further work was planned to improve the design and layout of the site. The provision of additional information in an easily accessible form meant that the current Publication Scheme had become outdated. An updated Scheme reflecting the current position was presented for approval at Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the updated Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme set out at Appendix A to the report.

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.

12 REVIEW OF SERVICES CONTRACT

A report was submitted to enable a review of a services contract.

RESOLVED – That Members agree to recommendations a) and b) as set out within the report.

CHAIR



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor D Nevett (Doncaster MBC) (Chair)

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), P Short (Rotherham MBC), J Steinke (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery, S Abbott, S Parkin, K Wright and F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, J Field, L Noble, A Shirt and M McCoolle
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor S Sansome (Rotherham MBC) and Councillor K Mitchell
(Barnsley MBC)

1 **WELCOME BY CHAIR**

Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

4 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

5 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

None.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

7 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

7A TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

8 TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

There were no questions to the Police and Crime Panel.

9 MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 20TH JULY 2020

Councillor Otten referred to the discussion around the Panel's Rules of Procedure at the July meeting. He asked if clarification could be provided around nominations for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel and the role undertaken by the South Yorkshire Leaders'.

J Field replied that the Panel's Rules of Procedure had been drafted to ensure that it was for the Panel to determine which Member should be appointed to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

M McCarthy informed the Panel that the South Yorkshire Leaders' had agreed in 2017 to rotate the positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each South Yorkshire Joint Authority/Body between the four local authorities every two years. He confirmed that, despite the decision on the rotation, it was ultimately a Police and Crime Panel decision as to which local authority Member acts as Chair and Vice-Chair.

L Noble provided Members with an update on the Panel's Action Log which had been updated and circulated to Members on 1st September 2020, following a meeting with the Performance Lead / Deputy Lead Members and K Wright from the OPCC. The following updates were noted:

- Action from Panel meeting held on 02.12.2019 – Health and Wellbeing was covered as part of the Chief Constable's private briefing with the Panel held on 20th July 2020.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

- Action from Panel meeting held on 02.12.2019 – Restorative Justice / Female Offenders. It was noted that the Panel is awaiting feedback from the OPCC around a session on Restorative Justice.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained on the Action Log as 'live'.

- Action from Panel meeting held on 06.04.2020 – Cyber Crime.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained on the Action Log as 'live'.

- Action from Panel meeting held on 06.04.2020 – Stop and Search.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained on the Action Log 'as live' until the December Panel meeting.

- Action from Panel meeting held on 06.04.2020 – Helping to shape future probation services.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained on the Action Log 'as live'.

- Action from Panel meeting held on 08.06.2020 – Lead / Link Members. It was noted that a report was contained on today's agenda for consideration and discussion.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 20th July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

10 MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (APRIL TO JUNE 2020)

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to present the Quarterly Report for the period April – June 2020, produced from the developing Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Police and Partners Performance Framework.

The report aimed to provide information about how the police and partners, as well as the Office of the PCC (OPCC) are working to achieve the outcomes and priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire.

A copy of the Quarterly Report was presented at Appendix A to the report for Members' information. The reporting period covered the time of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions imposed by the Government.

Members were reminded that the three priorities under the Police and Crime Plan for 2020/21 remained as:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Treating people fairly

The Commissioner reported that, during the period, there continued to be wide ranging changes to the ways of life for everyone and changes to the way businesses and organisations have had to operate. Page 3 of the report provided Members with a summary of where the Commissioner's focus had been during the period.

K Wright provided Members with an overview of the performance achieved throughout April to June 2020.

Councillor Steinke referred to under-reporting of hate crime during the quarter and the discussion that had taken place at the recent Public Accountability Board with regards to initiatives that could be used to improve under-reporting of Hate Crime in communities.

He added that the Panel should be feeding into the Sheffield Race Equality Commission and other similar Council bodies. He asked how the Commissioner envisaged the Public Accountability Board and the OPCC feeding into this work.

K Wright replied that the rise in hate crime reporting could be viewed as a positive. He explained that people now had the confidence to report a hate crime, knowing that the Force would take it seriously and that it would be investigated.

The Commissioner stated that he would produce a note for the Panel setting out the work he had been undertaking in relation to hate crime.

Councillor Otten commented that the section in the report relating to 'Treating People Fairly' did not report on the Black Lives Matter movement. He asked if the Commissioner could provide details of the scope he was looking for in the Force's response.

Councillor Otten also thanked the Commissioner for providing a response to his email around Stop and Search, but highlighted that the data was quite old and possibly needed to be looked at again in light of recent events. Additionally, Councillor Otten asked if the Force were employing enough officers from black and ethnic minorities.

The Commissioner replied that he had met with representatives of Black Lives Matter (at their request) to address issues which are important to them and they were supportive of the work which the Force was undertaking.

The Commissioner commented that the Force had experienced difficulty in recruiting people from the black and ethnic minority community. This had led to questions being asked around the pressures of training and once officers were recruited and trained how did the Force retain them. Furthermore, the Force had been looking at a range of issues to evaluate whether people feel that they have generally joined an organisation which welcomes and values them.

The Commissioner confirmed that issues in relation to Stop and Search were regularly examined by the Independent Ethics Panel and this is where he received his assurance that the Force were behaving ethically with regard to Stop and Search.

Councillor Otten asked if the Force were challenged on their performance and responses to Hate Crime.

The Commissioner replied that there were some groups where there was no disproportionality and others where the Force had identified BME disproportionality around Stop and Search.

Councillor Wilkinson noted that there had been an increase in domestic abuse reports to June 2019 totalling 19,957 and 22,569 to June 2020. She asked if there had been a gradual increase across all 4 quarters and how Quarter 1 2019/20, compared with Quarter 1 2020/21.

Additionally, Councillor Wilkinson asked if reporting during Quarter 1 2020/21 had been made by victims or by a 3rd party. She also asked if any work had been undertaken to determine whether there had been an actual increase in domestic abuse because of enforced tension during lockdown or if people had been more aware of their neighbours during lockdown and therefore had not noticed any issues.

The Commissioner replied that during lockdown, there had been a surge in phone calls to national Domestic Abuse helplines. However, in South Yorkshire reporting had been low during the period of lockdown. He explained that this could have been due to likely offenders keeping victims indoors and them being unable to report abuse to the Police.

The Commissioner asked K Wright to provide answers to Councillor Wilkinson's performance related questions outlined above.

In response to a question from Councillor Wilkinson regarding how the "silent solution" works, the Commissioner informed the Panel that the "silent solution" was a further channel for reporting Domestic Abuse. Victims could call 999 and then press 55 whilst on the call to allow the Police to listen in without the need for the victim to speak.

Professor James commented that, with regards to disproportionality, the figures presented in the dashboard showed that there had been a threefold increase in the number of Stop and Searches. He stated that he was pleased to note that Stop and Search data was available by district, age, gender and ethnicity, which he anticipated would be presented to the Panel, either directly, or through the Performance Lead Member meetings.

The Commissioner replied that the increase in the number of Stop and Search was partly due to the receipt of Central Government Grant Funding to increase activity in Stop and Search.

The Commissioner also acknowledged the request for Stop and Search data to be presented to either the Panel or through the Performance Lead Member meetings.

Professor James also wished to congratulate the Force for the efforts which had been made to improve the 101 call wait time. As suggested previously, Professor James stated that it would be helpful if 101 data could show both the median and mode.

The Commissioner agreed to undertake a review in relation to how 101 data is presented to the Panel.

Councillor Grocutt asked if Special Constables and Volunteers had been working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. If so, she asked that special thanks be passed onto them.

The Commissioner stated that he would ascertain with the Force if Special Constables and Volunteers had been working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He would also pass on Councillor Grocutt's thanks to them.

Councillor Grocutt asked the Commissioner to comment on the discussions he was having with the Force to deal with the rises in both residential burglaries and crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Commissioner replied that there had always been an issue around residential burglaries in South Yorkshire; he was determined to try and understand why this should be and what the Force were going to do about it.

He added that the Force were currently setting up a Specialist Burglaries Team in the Eastern Sheffield District to investigate why residential burglaries were taking place.

In relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, the Commissioner commented that the rise was largely linked to Government Restrictions in place during the Covid-19 lockdown. For example, people gathering and the Force dealing with breaches of the restrictions.

Councillor Grocutt asked how effective the Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Protection Orders were. Additionally, she asked whether or not the Force were using the Notices and Orders as a means of dealing with domestic violence instead of actually dealing with any potential crimes.

The Commissioner replied that the Force had a specialist team who dealt with Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Protection Notices. The Force's whole approach to domestic abuse during lockdown had increased and improved.

K Wright added that every Domestic Violence Protection Order and Protection Notice were signed-off by a Superintendent who would check that there was no other possibility of charging and prosecuting a perpetrator.

A Carter asked if the Force's Community Alerts could be produced in a different format for school children and for people with a learning disability. He also asked if Community Alerts could be produced in alternative languages.

The Commissioner agreed to discuss A Carter's questions with the Force and provide a response after today's meeting.

Councillor Nevett asked if there was a reason why call volumes to 101 had increased significantly during the May to June period. Furthermore, he asked if the recommendations from the review of Atlas Court had been fully implemented.

The Commissioner replied that the Force had received a large variety of requests from people using the 101 system. He added that, although there were a number of options in place to contact the Force, a large majority of people still preferred to call 101.

It was noted that the recommendations from the review of Altas Court was yet to be fully implemented and would be embedded over the next 6 to 12 months. The Force had recruited extra switchboard operators who were set to commence in post later this month.

Councillor Steinke commented that the Force's Community Alerts system was invaluable in terms of publicising information on a local level. He added that, the real challenge was the publication of misinformation through social media, which had occurred several times in his ward area.

The Commissioner acknowledged that this was a very important issue and commented that he had discussed options with the Force. Unfortunately, officers were limited as to what they could do, as they did not wish to do anything which could prejudice a subsequent trial.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Noted that the Commissioner would produce a note for the Panel setting out the work he had been undertaking in relation to Hate Crime.
- iii) Noted that K Wright would provide answers to Councillor Wilkinson's performance related questions in relation to Domestic Abuse.
- iv) Noted that the Commissioner had acknowledged the request for Stop and Search data to be presented either directly to the Panel or through the Performance Lead Member meetings.
- v) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to undertake a review in relation to how 101 data is presented to the Panel.
- vi) Noted that the Commissioner would ascertain with the Force if Special Constables and Volunteers had been working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.
- vii) Noted that the Commissioner would pass on Councillor Grocutt's thanks to the Force's Special Constables and Volunteers.
- viii) Noted that the Commissioner would ascertain if the Force's Community Alerts could be produced in a different format for school children and for people with a learning disability and also if Community Alerts could be produced in alternative languages.

The Commissioner introduced a report to provide Panel Members with information on the draft financial position based on the period 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020.

The report provided Members with a consolidated position on the budget managed by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police force and budgets managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Members noted that, based on current assumptions, the forecast outturn position for the revenue budget was an overspend of £2.484k.

As at 30th June 2020, the projected year end outturn position was a £2.558m overspend on the Chief Constable's budget, net of external funding.

Based on information as at 30th June 2020, the PCC and OPCC budget forecast year end position was an underspend of £74k. The main reasons for the underspend were presented within the report for Members' information.

As at the end of June 2020, the Capital Programme reflected the PCC's approved programme of £22.2m, which did not include the unapproved capital slippage of £6.1m from 2019/20.

Paragraph 7 of the report set out a number of risks and uncertainties in the reported financial position in addition to Covid-19 expenditure. Members noted that the Government had indicated that the Comprehensive Spending Review would go ahead in 2020/21, and regular meetings were being held with the Home Office to ensure that the Commissioner is fully sighted on the issues arising within policing in South Yorkshire.

Councillor Garbutt asked if the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) would continue beyond March 2021.

S Abbott replied that the Commissioner had not received notification to suggest otherwise. The Commissioner was currently making an assumption that the Force would receive a £1.6m Home Office grant to continue the VRU in South Yorkshire.

The Force's Budget Monitoring report provided Members with a detailed update on Covid-19 expenditure. It was noted that expenditure of £1.46m had been incurred to the end of June 2020, with expenditure of £2.59m being forecast to the end of the year.

Councillor Steinke asked if the Force needed to clarify its financial position in terms of committed Covid-19 expenditure in order to plan for any future developments within the epidemic.

The Commissioner replied that he was having regular meetings with Ministers around Covid-19 expenditure. However, there had been no guarantee of funding to cover expenses. Returns were being submitted to the Home Office on a monthly basis, who in turn were in negotiation with HM Treasury.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

12 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Commissioner was presented to provide Members of the Panel with information on the decisions taken by the Commissioner since the last meeting.

Councillor Nevett queried why the Commissioner had approved a decision to obtain an additional ten Call Back Assist Licenses, instead of just purchasing one license.

M Buttery explained that there had been an uplift in staff at Atlas Court and each operator who was using Call Back Assist would require a license. The additional ten Call Back Assist Licenses was the optimum number of licenses currently required.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

13 AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

Following discussion, the Panel agreed that the report be withdrawn from today's agenda to enable officers to undertake further amendments to the Panel's Rules of Procedure.

The amended Rules of Procedure would be presented at the December Panel meeting.

14 LEAD MEMBER: RACE RELATIONS - DISCUSSION PAPER

A discussion paper was presented which reminded Members' that, at the Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 8th June 2020 there had been a discussion around the current Lead Member arrangements.

At the meeting, Councillor Otten had raised the issue of the Panel introducing an additional Lead Member to cover Race Relations. The Panel's Support officer provided a response which was included on the Action log for the Panel meeting of 20th July 2020.

The response suggested that any Lead Member role should cover all nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 – age, disability, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity. The Commissioner also reminded the Panel that the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) considers all such characteristics in providing him with assurance around the Force's activities.

The Panel agreed at the meeting on 20th July 2020 that further research should be undertaken by the Support Officer into Lead Member arrangements (or similar) in this area across other Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels, and provide a report back to the September meeting.

The report submitted provided a summary of those findings for discussion / consideration. It was noted that, due to the fact that almost all Panel Support staff are working from home, and the increased workload and priorities to support the pandemic, not all Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels have been contacted. That said, Frontline Consulting – who support all Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels, together with the LGA – have provided their views, as well as the Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP).

Paragraph 14 of the report presented four options for the Panel's consideration.

M Buttery requested that, prior to discussion around Option 3, she wished to remind Members that the Commissioner and the Chief Constable had statutory responsibilities around the Equality Act 2010.

The Commissioner had implemented an assurance framework and a set of assurance arrangements to ensure that he is discharging his statutory responsibilities around equality and inclusion. The Chief Constable was held to account via the Independent Ethics Panel. In addition, the Chief Constable chaired a Diversity Board at which the Commissioner is represented. There was also a Trust and Confidence Group that sometimes had involvement in these issues.

M Buttery highlighted that there were concerns for the OPCC and Commissioner around Option 3, due to there being a danger that, if this was the favoured option and the Commissioner was asked to consider her advice, this would lead to confusion in governance terms and assurance activity could be inaccurate. There could also be a situation arising around resources at the expense of covering off the Commissioner's statutory responsibilities and the Chief Constable would, in effect, be reporting to the Panel on arrangements which the Panel had asked the OPCC to undertake.

After a lengthy discussion and consideration of the four options, the Panel agreed to obtain assurance from the Commissioner's Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) via a report to the Panel setting out its role and remit and the work it was undertaking with regards to Hate Crime (and wider equality and inclusion).

Prior to the request being submitted to the Independent Ethics Panel (via the OPCC), Councillor Nevett requested L Noble liaise with Councillor Otten around the areas he would wish to see included in the report to enable the IEP to provide their comments, and to ensure the report satisfies Councillor Otten's concerns.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Considered the information provided.
- ii) Requested that assurance be obtained from the Commissioner's Independent Ethics Panel via a report to the Panel setting out the role and remit of the Independent Ethics Panel and the work it was undertaking with regards to Hate Crime (and wider equality and inclusion).

- iii) Noted that L Noble would liaise with Councillor Otten around the areas he would wish to see included in the report to enable the IEP to provide their comments, and to ensure the report satisfies Councillor Otten's concerns.

15 HOME OFFICE GRANT - POLICE & CRIME PANEL

A report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance was submitted to remind Members that, Police and Crime Panels receive a Grant from the Home Office, reimbursed retrospectively, to cover the administration of the Panel and Member expenses etc.

For 2019/20 the Panel was allocated a Grant of £64,340. This included £11,040 for general Member Expenses (£920.00 per member basic allowance), and £8,072 for Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chair and Vice-Chair which were agreed following an Independent Review in December 2018.

Appendix A to the report provided further information on the final 2019/20 year claim submitted to the Home Office by the required deadline of 31st July 2020.

As in previous years, the Panel's expenditure has been published on the PCP website to comply with openness and transparency.

The Grant Agreement for 2020/21 was received on 15th June 2020 and the acceptance form signed and returned. The amount available remained the same – £64,030.

L Noble wished to place on record her thanks to Audrey Winstanley from Barnsley MBC's Finance Team for keeping track of the Panel's expenditure, and ensuring that returns were completed for submission to the Home Office.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the Panel's expenditure for 2019-20.

16 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A report was submitted to update Members on current events – national, regional and local, together with future plans in respect of learning and development for the Panel. Given the current circumstances and restrictions on physical meetings, updates within the report were provided in red.

L Noble reported that a virtual interim session with Frontline Consulting, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Lead and Deputy Lead Performance Members and representatives from the OPCC would take place on 11th September 2020.

The session would cover scrutiny of performance and how this is being developed, along with work programming and how topics are selected.

In relation to the Panel session with Leads from the four District Community Safety Partnerships. L Noble reported that an email had been sent out on behalf of the Chair, with positive responses received from all. Sheffield Community Safety

Partnership had advised that they would make a nomination shortly for a representative to join the session.

A Carter commented that he had been concerned for some considerable time that there had been inadequate links and representation from the Police and Crime Panel and the Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership. He urged Elected Members from Sheffield City Council to use their influence to ensure that the most appropriate representative from the Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership attends the session.

Councillor Steinke made a commitment to the Panel that he would follow-up A Carter's concerns around representation with the Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership.

The Panel noted that the Ninth Annual Conference for Police, Fire and Crime Panels organised by Frontline Consulting would be held on 23rd to 24th November 2020.

Frontline Consulting had confirmed that it was the intention for the conference to be a physical event, however, Government advice and local authority advice regarding Member travel and attendance at meeting would need to be ascertained before travel arrangements are made and expenditure incurred.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to provide suggestions for future learning and development.
- iii) Noted that Councillor Steinke had made a commitment to the Panel that he would follow-up A Carter's concerns around representation with the Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership.

17 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2020/21 Work Programme and were reminded that they could submit issues for the Work Programme that fall within the Panel's Statutory role in supporting and scrutinising the Commissioner.

All issues would be given full consideration by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Commissioner at the pre-agenda planning meetings.

Additionally, Members were encouraged to attend the meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge. These are currently being held virtually and Members can obtain details to 'dial in' to the meeting.

Councillor Steinke informed the Panel that he had 'dialled into' the August PAB meeting.

A Carter reported that he was very appreciative of an email he had received from the Commissioner stating that, he was now able to advocate monies being allocated from the Proceeds of Crime Fund to assist community led developments across South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2020/21 Work Programme.

18 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Monday 14th December 2020 and Members notified of the arrangements for this meeting nearer the time.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD VIRTUALLY

10 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor D Nevett (Doncaster MBC) (Chair)

Councillor S Sansome (Rotherham MBC) (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), P Short (Rotherham MBC) - (part attendance due to technical issues), J Steinke (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, J Field, L Noble and A Shirt
(Barnsley MBC)

Guest in attendance: S Abbott (Candidate)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council)

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

3 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That the Confirmation Hearing be held in public with exception of the deliberation by the Panel in respect of the proposed appointment which would take place at the end of the Confirmation Hearing in the absence of the public and press.

4 **CONFIRMATION HEARING - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Police and Crime Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner in regard to his proposed appointment of Ms Sophia Abbott to the post of Chief Finance Officer.

The Chair, Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the Hearing. He reminded Members that the Confirmation Hearing process was a requirement under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, that the Police and Crime Panel holds Confirmation Hearings for the appointment of the Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, PCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.

Councillor Nevett outlined the process to be adhered to as stated in the LGA Confirmation Hearings Guidance document which had been circulated to all Members. He reminded the Panel that, this was not a re-run of the interview process, but the opportunity for the Panel to review the appointment and make their recommendation to the Commissioner.

Councillor Nevett invited the Commissioner to address the meeting to explain the recruitment process which had been undertaken to select the Commissioner's preferred candidate, Ms Abbott.

The Commissioner gave a short overview of the process followed to select his preferred candidate, Ms Abbott. He was satisfied that Ms Abbott has all the professional qualifications which he was looking for in accountancy. Ms Abbott also had a background in audit and commissioning.

Furthermore, Ms Abbott had been undertaking the role as Interim Chief Finance Officer since March 2020, which she had performed very well. The Commissioner was pleased that the candidate, Ms Abbott, was able to effectively carry out horizon scanning, which was a quality he was looking for. Furthermore, Ms Abbott was able to inform him of issues which would impact policing and the services which the Force provide.

Crucially, Ms Abbott was a good team worker; she was able to challenge the Commissioner, but would work with him, his office and South Yorkshire Police Force and their finance department, which he had seen been demonstrated. The Commissioner concluded that Ms Abbott was an excellent candidate and commended her to the Panel.

Panel Members then questioned Ms Abbott regarding her suitability for the role. Ms Abbott was asked questions relating to the challenges faced, professional competence, personal independence and measures of success.

At the conclusion of the Panel's questions and responses from Ms Abbott, Councillor Nevett thanked Ms Abbott for attending and answering the questions from the Panel.

At this point in the Hearing, Ms Abbott, Dr Billings and M Buttery were asked to leave the virtual meeting so that the Panel could deliberate its decision.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

6 PANEL DELIBERATIONS ON THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Panel, having gone into exempt session, considered the statements and answers provided by Ms Abbott to their questions, in addition to the introduction provided by the Commissioner and all relevant paperwork provided.

In light of the responses given relating to the professional competence and personal independence required of the post of Chief Finance Officer, the Panel unanimously endorsed the Commissioner's appointment of Ms Abbott to the post of Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Reviewed the proposed appointment of Ms Abbott as the Commissioner's permanent Chief Finance Officer.
- ii) Agreed to make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed appointment of Ms Abbott in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Act.

CHAIR

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