

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2022

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2022, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Richard A Jones
Vice-Chair - Councillor Ian Pearson
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Daniel Barwell, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Glenn Bluff, Nigel Cannings, Bev Chapman, James Church, Gemma Cobby, Phil Cole, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Aimee Dickson, Susan Durant, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, Martin Greenhalgh, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Barry Johnson, Jake Kearsley, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Rob Reid, Andrea Robinson, Dave Shaw, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Iris Beech, Laura Bluff, Jane Cox, John Healy, Sue Knowles, Sophie Liu, Thomas Noon and Glynis Smith.

48 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

49 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th November, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday, 18th November, 2021, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50 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 made the following announcement:-

“On behalf of the Council, I would like to send our congratulations to Doncaster resident, Lynne Wade, who has been awarded the MBE in the New Year’s honours list for services to Prisoner Education.

Lynne is a Prison Educator at H.M. Prisons Lindholme, Moorland and H.M. Young Offenders.

During the Covid pandemic, Lynne has helped members of the public set up laptops and tablets remotely to keep them in touch with their families while visits were not allowed. In her role as a Prison educator, Lynne has helped those who never excelled or even attended school regularly in childhood, and enabled those with learning difficulties to enjoy learning.

She has also devised a specific course for Entry Level Learners at the lower end of the academic scale for IT qualification, and she has a commitment to the mental health of those in her charge.

Congratulations Lynne on this well-deserved honour in recognition of the fantastic work that you do.

That concludes my announcement today.”

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, Communities and Equalities, made the following announcement:-

“As part of the Council’s commitment to treat everyone fairly, our status as a disability confident employer has been reviewed and renewed. We have a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and I am proud we have received this recognition.”

Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste, made the following announcement:-

“Following on from Councillor Blake’s announcement, I am proud to declare that this Council has once again achieved a Gold Award in the Defence-Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme.

We first achieved this in 2016 and it is the highest level an employer can achieve, and recognises that we have demonstrated and advocated support to the defence and armed forces community, and that our values are aligned with the Armed Forces Covenant.

These schemes not only demonstrate our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, but also help the Council to:-

- draw from the widest possible pool of talent we have in Doncaster and the surrounding area; and
- secure and retain high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working.

Doncaster is a Borough immensely proud of our armed forces and our long standing links with them. As Armed Forces Champion, I will continue to promote and work with our wide ranging Armed Forces community. I am immensely proud that we have once again achieved this recognition.”

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

- (a) Question from Mr Doug Wright, on behalf of “Keep Our NHS Public”, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SYICB) will take responsibility for all health and care decision making from all South Yorkshire local areas in July.

SYICB membership should, amongst others, include Councillors from each Local Authority, representatives from Social Care, Mental Health, Public Health, Community Health, Primary Care, Acute Health, Carers and Trade Union representatives. Private Sector providers of NHS funded health services should be ineligible for SYICB membership.

Will Doncaster Council support the above proposals to demonstrate there is accountability to the public, patients and staff, to ensure openness and transparency in the SYICB decision making, including public access to Board papers and Board meetings, and allow public questions?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Wright. Yes, the Health and Care Bill will allow for the establishment of Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships across England. This will be done at the same time as abolishing Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Integrated Care Boards will take on the NHS commissioning functions of Clinical Commissioning Groups as well as some of NHS England’s commissioning functions. Decision on care services will still rest with Local Authorities.

The Integrated Care Board will, as a minimum, include a Chair, the Chief Executive and representatives from NHS providers, general practice and Local Authorities.

Beyond that, Integrated Care Boards will have the flexibility to determine governance arrangements in their area. This will be described in the constitution, which is in draft and is proposed by the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

NHS England will agree Integrated Care Boards constitutions and will hold them to account for delivery, subject to the detail in the Health and Care Bill. The Council has not been formally consulted on the proposed constitution for the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Boards.

However, Doncaster Council expects the Integrated Care Boards to be a meeting held in public and to maintain the openness and transparency that there is currently with the Clinical Commissioning Groups. This should include allowing public questions.”

52 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

The Council considered the 2021 Director of Public Health Annual Report, which was introduced by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning, and presented by Dr Rupert Suckling.

The report, which was the seventh Annual Report authored by Dr Suckling, detailed the course of the global COVID-19 pandemic in Doncaster and included a rapid

assessment of whether health was improving locally. The report also demonstrated how the Public Health grant was being used locally and referred to the need to implement the new Borough Strategy, Doncaster Delivering Together.

Members were informed that the immediate lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic included:-

- Local communities had worked hard throughout the course of the Pandemic and continued to pull together to support families, businesses and groups;
- Existing inequalities in society had been highlighted further as a result, particularly poverty and social inclusion;
- The long-term effects of the pandemic were wide and far reaching, and the long-term impacts on both physical and mental health were still unknown, both in terms of the virus itself, but also as a result of overwhelmed Health Services, the impacts of lockdown and the increased demand on services across communities;
- The pandemic had further highlighted how health and the economy were intrinsically linked, and there needed to be a balance across the two areas to achieve positive results in both; and
- Pandemic preparation needed to be an area of work moving forward to ensure any response to future pandemics was well managed.

Following the presentation of the report, Members in the Chamber were afforded the opportunity to comment on the report or ask any questions of Dr Suckling. Members conveyed their thanks to Dr Suckling and the Public Health Team, for their continued efforts and hard work throughout the duration of the pandemic, and for offering comprehensive guidance.

The Chair of Council echoed the comments made in the Chamber, and on behalf of Council, paid tribute to the work of Dr Suckling, his Team and Mayor Ros Jones, for their unwavering efforts, and the information and guidance provided during the period.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2021, be noted and published.

53 Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - Gambling Act 2005

The Council considered a report, which was presented by Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, which sought approval for the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - Gambling Act 2005, following its triennial review. The route and timetable for adoption were attached as Appendix A to the report for Members' information.

Members were informed that the Licensing Authority was required under the Gambling Act 2005, to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review the Policy at least every 3 years and must be effective by the 31st January, 2022. There were three licensing objectives set out in the Act and these must be addressed within the

Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy, namely:-

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

Members noted that the changes made to the Policy were minor in nature, and remained largely unchanged from the previous version.

RESOLVED that the reviewed Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 - Gambling Act 2005, be adopted and take effect following the statutory advertisement period of four weeks to commence following this meeting.

54 Community Safety Strategy 2022/25

The Council considered a report, which was presented by Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities.

Members were informed that the Community Safety Strategy was a Statutory Plan owned by the multi-agency Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership. The Strategy was produced every 4 years and refreshed annually, and had been produced following consultation in respect of the partnership priorities. The consultation undertaken identified that a number of priorities needed to remain in place in order to meet the needs of residents and partners, as well as a number of new and emerging issues, and those priorities were reflected in the Strategy and included the following:-

- Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse;
- Reducing antisocial behaviour;
- Reducing crime and re-offending;
- Tackling serious and organised crime;
- Reducing substance and alcohol misuse; and
- Reducing violence and violent crime.

Councillor Blake concluded her presentation by stating that the Strategy would address not only the obvious impact, but also the underlying issues which drove crime and disorder within neighbourhoods. The Partnership was committed to doing as much as possible to improve safety in local communities and build a stronger and more confident Doncaster.

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to speak and expressed their concerns about a number of issues, particularly in relation to the absence of a Police presence across the Borough. Members were advised that

this was an issue that was raised frequently and more Police Officers were indeed needed. However, there had been additional staff recruited within the Council, and whilst it would not resolve all the issues faced across the Borough, it was hoped that Officers would work more effectively to address the problems faced, and it was hoped that next year, there would be some improvements seen.

RESOLVED that the content of the Community Safety Strategy for 2022-25, be endorsed.

55 Support for Elected Members - Parental Leave Policy and Index Linking of Allowances

The Council considered a report, which was presented by Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, that outlined the introduction of a Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members, which was a positive step forward for the Council, as it would ensure a more modernised approach was taken in allowing flexibility to Councillors to take time off if they became a parent whilst continuing to receive financial support.

It was reported that the Policy was based on a best practice model from the Local Government Association and had already been adopted by a number of other local authorities. The Policy aimed to remove barriers that many individuals had previously faced, and provided a modern and flexible approval for those looking to serve their local communities.

The report also sought Members approval for the continuation of an annual increase linked to the National Joint Council (NJC) pay award. The Council has had this arrangement in place for a number of years and was common practice across the Country with regard to Member Allowance Schemes. Members were advised that if they did not wish to accept the annual increase, they may do so by writing to the Director of Corporate Services.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the Parental Leave Policy, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
- (2) Approval be given to the continuation of an annual increase on Members Allowances, index linked to the NJC Pay Award for Local Government employees for the period 1st April, 2022 to 31st March, 2026.

56 Arrangements for the Appointment of External Auditors

The Council considered a report, which was presented by Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance and Trading Services, which outlined the arrangements for appointing External Auditors and made recommendations in terms of the future appointment of External Auditors by Doncaster Council.

It was reported that regulations relating to External Audit appointments required any decision to opt-in to a sector-led procurement option, had to be made by Full Council and that the appointment must be made before the start of the 2023/24 financial year.

The recommendation before Council, which was supported by the Audit Committee, was to continue to take part in the national procurement undertaken by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd, for the benefits outlined in the report, and if agreed, the Council must advise the Public Sector Audit Appointments of the intention to take part in the national procurement by Friday 11th March, 2022.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the options for appointing External Auditors from April 2022, resulting from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and the advantages and disadvantages of each option, be noted; and
- (2) Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd be appointed to negotiate and appoint the External Auditor for Doncaster Council.

57 Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2022/24

The Council considered a report which outlined the draft diary of meetings for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Years.

Members were informed that in approving an advanced calendar of meetings that encompassed two Municipal Years, it provided Members and Officers with advanced notification of meetings, training or seminars and other key dates, which was particularly helpful for those who needed to organise their time due to other commitments.

It was reported that whilst the proposed calendar covered a two-year period, there would be the opportunity to review the meeting dates for 2023/24, when the 2023/24 to 2024/25 Diary of Meetings was considered by Full Council in May, 2023.

Members noted that the final version of the diary would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2022 and any amendments between consideration of the draft diary and this meeting, would be incorporated.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Years, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (2) the final version of the Diary of Meetings be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2022, for final approval.

58 Overview and Scrutiny Update - May to December 2021

The Council considered a report, which was presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), Councillor Jane Kidd, which provided a summary of the key work undertaken by the OSMC and its four Standing Panels, during the period of May to December 2021, and also any future issues to be considered.

Councillor Kidd referred to various issues considered throughout the past 6 months as well as looking forward to 2022, and highlighted some of the major areas of focus for scrutiny which included:-

- Budget Proposals;
- Crime and Disorder;
- The Corporate Plan;
- The ongoing impact of COVID; and
- Carers Strategy

Councillor Kidd conveyed her thanks to all Members, the Executive, Officers, partners, stakeholders and the public, who had taken the time to attend meetings and engage in the Overview and Scrutiny process. Additionally, Councillor Kidd paid tribute to the newly elected Members who had brought a positive impact to the scrutiny process with fresh ideas and new perspectives.

RESOLVED that the work of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and its four Standing Panels for the period May to December, 2021, be noted.

59 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Andy Pickering and Seconded by Councillor Rob Reid, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Andy Pickering and Seconded by Councillor Rob Reid:-

Better Buses

“That this Council:-

- (a) agrees with the former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Prof. Philip Alston, that “abandoning people to the private market” by deregulation of bus services “is incompatible with human rights requirements.”;
- (b) understands that the Government's impact assessment of the Bus Service Act (2017) highlighted that bus franchising (public control) would better address six out of seven local transport authority objectives compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a “significant increase in patronage.”;
- (c) understands that the South Yorkshire Combined Authority intends to establish an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, leaving final say over the network in their hands, despite the evidence that, according to the Centre for Cities, partnerships are a “fudge which stops mayors from delivering the quality bus networks their electorate rightly expect” while a former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty called for them to be “phased out.”;

- (d) welcomes the recommendations of the “South Yorkshire Bus Review,” published in June 2020, that the “legal and financial investigation of franchising in South Yorkshire begin immediately” and that “a decision be made no later than 3 years after publication of this report.”;
- (e) notes that a legal and financial investigation, as outlined in the Bus Services Act 2017 and National Bus Strategy has not yet been launched and requires the release of a statutory “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment.”;
- (f) welcomes the plans of the Combined Authority to bring forward “proposals for the January MCA meeting to consider starting the formal process of investigating bus franchising;”
- (g) acknowledges that the costs of franchising cannot be estimated accurately until a “notice of intent” has been released and the associated statutory powers to access bus operators' commercial data employed;

Therefore requests the Administration to request the Doncaster representative on the Combined Authority:-

- (i) request the Combined Authority hold a vote to release a “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment” at its meeting on the 24th of January, or the earliest date thereafter;
- (ii) vote in favour of releasing a notice of intent;
- (iii) inform the Combined Authority of its support for taking a final decision within the timescales set out by the Bus Review.”

Following the Chair affording Members in the Chamber the opportunity to speak on the Motion, an amendment was MOVED by Councillor Joe Blackham and Seconded by Councillor John Mounsey, that the Motion read as follows:-

That this Council:-

- (a) agrees with the former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Prof. Philip Alston, that “abandoning people to the private market” by deregulation of bus services “is incompatible with human rights requirements.”;
- (b) understands that the Government's impact assessment of the Bus Service Act (2017) highlighted that bus franchising (public control) would better address six out of seven local transport authority objectives compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a “significant increase in patronage.”;
- (c) understands that the South Yorkshire Combined Authority intends to establish an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, leaving final say over the network in their hands, despite the evidence that, according to the Centre for Cities, partnerships are a “fudge which stops mayors from delivering the quality bus networks their electorate rightly expect” while a former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty called for them to be “phased out.”;

- (d) welcomes the recommendations of the “South Yorkshire Bus Review,” published in June 2020, that the “legal and financial investigation of franchising in South Yorkshire begin immediately” and that “a decision be made no later than 3 years after publication of this report.”;
- (e) notes that a legal and financial investigation, as outlined in the Bus Services Act 2017 and National Bus Strategy has not yet been launched and requires the release of a statutory “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment.”;
- (f) recognises the plans of the Combined Authority to bring forward “proposals for the January MCA meeting to consider starting the formal process of investigating bus franchising;”
- (g) acknowledges that the costs of franchising cannot be estimated accurately until a “notice of intent” has been released and the associated statutory powers to access bus operators' commercial data employed;

Therefore requests the Administration to request the Doncaster representative on the Combined Authority:-

- (i) notes the report to the Combined Authority on 24th January entitled ‘Governance of Bus Services’;
- (ii) requests that details of this report be considered at a future Full Council meeting in order that a formal response be provided to the Combined Authority, ensuring that the response:-
 - (a) recognises and notes the work undertaken to progress an Enhanced Partnership and the proposed timeline for its implementation;
 - (b) requests that the Combined Authority determines at a future meeting if a statutory assessment of franchising should be undertaken so that any associated costs can be more accurately estimated; and
 - (c) that this assessment has no financial implications for Doncaster Council.

A vote was taken on the amendment to the Motion proposed by Councillor Joe Blackham, which was declared as follows:-

For - 47

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

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

Following the Chair affording Members of Council the opportunity to speak on the Substantive Motion, a vote was taken on the Substantive Motion which was declared as follows:-

For - 47

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The Substantive Motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED that this Council:-

- (a) agrees with the former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Prof. Philip Alston, that “abandoning people to the private market” by deregulation of bus services “is incompatible with human rights requirements.”;
- (b) understands that the Government's impact assessment of the Bus Service Act (2017) highlighted that bus franchising (public control) would better address six out of seven local transport authority objectives compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a “significant increase in patronage.”;
- (c) understands that the South Yorkshire Combined Authority intends to establish an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, leaving final say over the network in their hands, despite the evidence that, according to the Centre for Cities, partnerships are a “fudge which stops mayors from delivering the quality bus networks their electorate rightly expect” while a former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty called for them to be “phased out.”;
- (d) welcomes the recommendations of the “South Yorkshire Bus Review,” published in June 2020, that the “legal and financial investigation of franchising in South Yorkshire begin immediately” and that “a decision be made no later than 3 years after publication of this report.”;
- (e) notes that a legal and financial investigation, as outlined in the Bus Services Act 2017 and National Bus Strategy has not yet been launched and requires the release of a statutory “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment.”;
- (f) recognises the plans of the Combined Authority to bring forward “proposals for the January MCA meeting to consider starting the formal process of investigating bus franchising;”
- (g) acknowledges that the costs of franchising cannot be estimated accurately until a “notice of intent” has been released and the associated statutory powers to access bus operators' commercial data employed;

Therefore requests the Administration to request the Doncaster representative on the Combined Authority:-

- (i) notes the report to the Combined Authority on 24th January entitled ‘Governance of Bus Services’;

- (ii) requests that details of this report be considered at a future full Council meeting in order that a formal response be provided to the Combined Authority, ensuring that the response;
 - (a) recognises and notes the work undertaken to progress an Enhanced Partnership and the proposed timeline for its implementation;
 - (b) requests that the Combined Authority determines at a future meeting if a statutory assessment of franchising should be undertaken so that any associated costs can be more accurately estimated; and
 - (c) that this assessment has no financial implications for Doncaster Council.

60 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Majid Khan and Seconded by Councillor Sarah Smith, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Majid Khan and Seconded by Councillor Sarah Smith:-

Banning the release of Balloons and Sky Lanterns on land owned by Doncaster Council

“Many organisations have drawn attention to the problem of sky lantern and balloon releases and the call to ban such releases nationally is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, RSPCA, RSPB, BASC and the National Farmers’ Union.

Releasing of sky lanterns may appear an impressive sight, but they can be dangerous and there is no way of predicting where they will land.

Some of the main dangers include:-

- Lanterns have caused fires on an industrial scale; destroying acres of crops, farm buildings and stored food supplies as well as killing or injuring farm animals;
- Lanterns and balloons cause significant litter problems on land and in our rivers, posing a risk to livestock and marine animals which mistake balloons for food; and
- Lanterns and balloons causing injury or death to animals through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment.

Numerous UK local authorities have agreed to implement a ban on balloon and lantern releases on their land as a result of increasing concerns relating to the dangers highlighted above.

There is currently no national UK legislation available to control this issue, but in order to demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to improving the attractiveness of the Borough and tackling the detrimental impact of debris resulting from such releases, I propose that Council supports the following Motion.

That Doncaster Council resolves:-

- To ban the release of sky lanterns and balloons on all Council-owned land and public open space;
- To discourage the release of Sky Lanterns and Balloons at any events licensed by Doncaster Council and ensure any third parties who lease Council property observe the ban on balloon and sky lantern releases;
- To delegate authority to the Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement to make any consequential changes to Council policies and agreements in relation to the use of Council land as a result of this motion; and
- To promote information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage balloons and sky lanterns have on our environment.”

Following the Chair affording Members in the Chamber the opportunity to speak on the Motion, a vote was taken on the Motion which was declared as follows:-

For - 39

Against - 1

Abstain - 6

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

RESOLVED that Doncaster Council notes that:-

Many organisations have drawn attention to the problem of sky lantern and balloon releases and the call to ban such releases nationally is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, RSPCA, RSPB, BASC and the National Farmers' Union.

Releasing of sky lanterns may appear an impressive sight, but they can be dangerous and there is no way of predicting where they will land.

Some of the main dangers include:-

- Lanterns have caused fires on an industrial scale; destroying acres of crops, farm buildings and stored food supplies as well as killing or injuring farm animals;

- Lanterns and balloons cause significant litter problems on land and in our rivers, posing a risk to livestock and marine animals which mistake balloons for food; and
- Lanterns and balloons causing injury or death to animals through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment.

Numerous UK local authorities have agreed to implement a ban on balloon and lantern releases on their land as a result of increasing concerns relating to the dangers highlighted above.

There is currently no national UK legislation available to control this issue, but in order to demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to improving the attractiveness of the Borough and tackling the detrimental impact of debris resulting from such releases, I propose that Council supports the following motion.

Doncaster Council resolved:-

- To ban the release of sky lanterns and balloons on all Council-owned land and public open space;
- To discourage the release of Sky Lanterns and Balloons at any events licensed by Doncaster Council and ensure any third parties who lease Council property observe the ban on balloon and sky lantern releases;
- To delegate authority to the Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement to make any consequential changes to Council policies and agreements in relation to the use of Council land as a result of this motion; and
- To promote information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage balloons and sky lanterns have on our environment.

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

A. Questions on Notice

There were no questions from Elected Members for the meeting.

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 Dave Shaw asked the following question:-

“In recent days, there has been a lot in the press regarding the Prime Minister and the parties held in the garden at 10 Downing Street, and it seems he was guilty of breaking his own rules which other people followed to protect the NHS. Will you join me and the people of Doncaster, to call out the Prime Minister for breaking his own rules?”

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

“Thank you for your question Councillor Shaw. I would like to thank the people of Doncaster who did follow the rules. Sue Gray is investigating these events and she will establish if the law has been broken. If he did break the law, then the Prime Minister should resign for breaking the Ministerial Code, but I will wait to see the outcome. Our Leader however, should lead by example and follow the rules set.”

Q. Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“Would the Mayor release a brief statement regarding the ongoing sale of land at Rose Hill to Miller Homes?”

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

“This land is still in the early stages of a planning application and it is inappropriate for me to comment on this matter. This site was identified for housing in 1998 when the land was reallocated for housing. When I know more on this, I will let you know.”

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

Q. “I understand that Miller Homes promised they would make a statement in the New Year, but still no statement has been made and that the application would be submitted in a few weeks. In due course is not acceptable. When will a statement be made?”

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

“I will repeat what I have just said. The Planning application is in the very early stages. A statement will be released in due course.”

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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Last Saturday lunchtime, I sat in a Town Centre restaurant with some friends. The restaurant was empty and we were seated in the window. We were feet away from a full rubbish bin and next to it was a young beggar. Five people stopped and gave him money. Someone drove up and gave him a package. How can we encourage people to return to the Town Centre if this is what they are faced with?”

- A. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business, gave the following response:-

“People persistently beg in the Town Centre and it is up to us to try and get communities to engage, and get people back on the straight and narrow. This question however is not just within my remit, and falls under Public Health. We need input from businesses to let us know where and when this is happening, and it would be helpful if people could call through to the Central Control to see if they can help. I know the litter bins are emptied regularly so if they are overflowing, this also needs reporting. In terms of helping businesses, the levelling up fund, Doncaster Town Deals, have lots of initiatives to help businesses recover and help them thrive, and the use of these initiatives are to be encouraged.”

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

- Q. “My main point of the question was that this restaurant is usually busy, and it was not. These businesses are paying rates, but if they are not busy they will not thrive; do you agree?”

- A. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business, gave the following response:-

“I agree; we have got to encourage businesses and people to come back into the Town Centre. I do not know why the restaurant was not full, most I see are full. All these initiatives individually matter and play a part in the whole situation. It is important that we continue to report any issues; it will encourage people to come back into the Town Centre who might be disillusioned. So if we all report these issues then we stand a better chance of getting people to use our local businesses.”

- C. Questions to Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People

There were no questions put to Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People.

- D. Questions to Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning

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

- E. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement

There were no questions put to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement.

- F. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, Communities and Equalities

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities.

G. Questions to Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance and Trading Services

There were no questions put to Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance and Trading Services.

H. Questions to Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste

There were no questions put to Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste.

I. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources

There were no questions put to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources.

J. Questions to Councillor Andrea Robinson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

There were no questions put to Councillor Andrea Robinson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

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

In the absence of Councillor Austen White, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing and a written response would be provided.

L. Questions to Councillor Ian Pearson, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee

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

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

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

N. 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.

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

- A. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 15th November, 2021.
- B. South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 4th November, 2021.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 11th October and 22nd November, 2021.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 9th December, 2021.
- E. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Local Pension Board held on 14th October, 2021.
- F. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 13th December, 2021.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____