



Doncaster Council

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

Agenda

To all Members of the **COUNCIL**

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

Venue: Council Chamber, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster

Date: Thursday, 20th January, 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

PLEASE NOTE VENUE FOR THIS MEETING

Please Note: Due to current restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be very limited capacity in the public gallery for observers of the meeting. If you would like to attend to observe in person, please contact Governance Services on 01302 737462 / 736723 / 736716 / 736709 to request a place, no later than **12.00 noon on Wednesday, 19th January, 2022**. Please note that the pre-booked places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis and once pre-booked capacity has been reached there will be no further public admittance to the meeting. If you do not notify the Governance Team in advance you may still be able to attend the meeting on the day if there are spaces available, however, this cannot be guaranteed. You are therefore strongly encouraged to contact us in advance if you wish to attend to avoid any disappointment or inconvenience. **Anyone attending the meeting must wear a face covering throughout the meeting and when using all communal areas in the Civic Office, including washrooms and lifts, unless they are exempt or experience discomfort. Face coverings can be removed when speaking.**

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Damian Allen'.

Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Wednesday, 12 January 2022

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 18th November, 2021. 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 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?"

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

For Decision

7. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021. 15 - 48
8. Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - Gambling Act 2005. 49 - 102
9. Community Safety Strategy 2022/25. 103 - 164
10. Support for Elected Members - Parental Leave Policy and Index Linking of Allowances. 165 - 176
11. Arrangements for the Appointment of External Auditors. 177 - 184
12. Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2022/24. 185 - 214

14. 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:-

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 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.”
15. 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:-

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;
- 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;
- To promote information to local people, leading to better understanding of the damage balloons and sky lanterns have on our environment.”

16. 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

17. To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities.

225 - 308

- 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.

Agenda Item 4

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, on THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Daniel Barwell, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, Glenn Bluff, Laura Bluff, Nigel Cannings, James Church, Gemma Cobby, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, Martin Greenhalgh, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Barry Johnson, Jake Kearsley, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Sophie Liu, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Thomas Noon, Andy Pickering, Rob Reid, Andrea Robinson, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith and Gary Stapleton.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Aimee Dickson, John Healy, Cynthia Ransome, Dave Shaw and Austen White.

39 Minute's Silence for the recent death of former Councillor Barbara Hoyle

Prior to the commencement of formal business, Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and remembrance in relation to the recent death of former Councillor Barbara Hoyle.

40 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

41 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd September, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd September, 2021, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

42 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:-

"I would just like to highlight two special events that have taken place in the past few days.

On 4th November, His Royal Highness, the Earl of Wessex, visited the new Danum Gallery, Library and Museum. His Royal Highness was given a tour of the new facility and spent over an hour talking to staff who had been involved in the design, building and running of the new building, as well as spending time with local schoolchildren.

It was a great honour for our Town and afterwards, we received a letter from the Royal household saying how much His Royal Highness had enjoyed the visit.

Last Sunday we held our annual Remembrance Observance at the Cenotaph. Following the removal of restrictions, we were able to welcome a large contingent of regular and reservist members of our Armed Forces, veterans and cadets to the war Memorial at Bennetthorpe, to pay our respects to those men and women who gave their lives in two World Wars and other conflicts.

Members of the public turned out in large numbers to pay their respects too. It was a very moving occasion and one that I will long remember.”

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

“I would like to make a statement in relation to the Integrated Rail Plan for the Midlands and the North, which has been published today.

The new rail plan includes major changes to the proposals for HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail. It will have significant implications for Doncaster and our communities.

This Council has long since had disagreements in relation to the planned route of HS2 through Doncaster, which would destroy family homes, split communities and blight a number of areas in the West of the Borough.

Despite today’s headlines, I should make clear to Council that the Government is still committed to looking at options on how best to take HS2 services to Leeds. As a consequence, safeguarding of the previously proposed high speed route North of East Midlands Parkway will remain in place, pending conclusion of this work.

That does not give certainty to our residents and businesses. In the short to medium term, it continues to leave people facing an uncertain future. In my view, this is not acceptable and our position on the previous HS2 route has of course not changed.

I do welcome the Government announcement to deliver significant further investment in the East Coast Main Line as part of the plan. However, we do need to take time to understand the full implications of the new proposals.

Ultimately, what I want to see is certainty for our communities and improvements to our local rail network, with more services and better trains. We need a safe and reliable public transport network in order to encourage higher usage, which will support our ambitions to combat climate change.

That is what I will be working with local partners to achieve.”

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

“Many had great hopes, but few had great expectations of an agreement being made in Glasgow, which sets out a plan to a 1.5 degree pathway.

Under the Glasgow Climate Pact, nations have been requested to consider, formulate and publish updated Nationally Determined Contributions (the amount of emissions generated by each country), by the time COP27 begins in Egypt next year.

The UK, for example, updated its NDC after exiting the European Union, targeting a 68% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Doncaster made a Borough-wide commitment to achieve 85% reduction in emissions by 2030, and so we continue to set a high level of ambition for our contribution to the national and global response to climate change.

As a reminder of the pledges and commitments made by Doncaster Council:-

1. Borough-wide commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 85% by 2030 and achieve net zero carbon by 2040;
2. To plant 1 million trees across Doncaster with both public and private sector landowners;
3. To allocate £5m for the initiation of environment and sustainability activities;
4. To move to a zero emission Council fleet;
5. To support the creation of habitat banks for developers to deliver on their biodiversity net gain obligations;
6. To pilot a naturalisation approach to the management of greenspaces; and
7. Allocation of Doncaster Council resources to co-ordinate and drive activities to support carbon reduction and nature recovery across Doncaster.

In response to publishing our new Environment & Sustainability Strategy and Net Zero Carbon Masterplan, and in response to these pledges, we have initiated a number of projects and developments:-

1. We now have 25 electric vehicles in the Council fleet and 25 on order;
2. We are developing our charging infrastructure with 34 fleet charging bays installed and a further 20 approved for development including a solar carport at the rear of the Civic Office;
3. Funding approved for 80 new public charging bays for development before March 2022, doubling the current public charging offer in Doncaster across all public and private car parks;
4. Planning approval given for developing Scarborough House car park providing a further 50 charging bays for fleet and public use;

5. £18.8m has been approved for housing retrofit, to insulate over 2,000 homes, with a further £3m that we have bid for;
6. Funding secured and works underway to decarbonise the heat supply at Askern Leisure Centre; one of only 2 remaining coal heated Leisure Centres in England. Bids submitted for the same works at 2 more Leisure Centres;
7. £2.6m approved for lighting upgrades and solar installations on 11 Council buildings; and
8. Tree planting; we are now in the main season for tree planting. We have plans in place to plant 50,000 over the next couple of months. We are currently receiving reports every week from residents and businesses of planned tree planting. Together, we can and we will meet the pledge to plant a million trees across Doncaster.

Finally, I must pay a special vote of thanks to the three Rotary Clubs of Doncaster and our Street Scene Team who will start planting over 1,500 trees this weekend at Sandall Park, to create a Covid Memorial Woodland to remember those that we have lost at the hands of the pandemic.”

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

- (a) Question from Mr Gary Wilson to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement:-

“Why does Doncaster Council allow the Assets of Community Listing process to be detrimental and biased against community applications?”

Councillor Joe Blackham, gave the following reply:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Wilson.

The listing of Assets of Community Value is determined by a process set down in the 2011 Localism Act; this is national legislation which we have to follow.

The process is not biased for or against any party; but follows the legislation and is based on the evidence provided in the application. The Council provides resources on its website to explain what an Asset of Community Value is, how to make an application and how an application is determined; and the management of all applications follows this process.

I would encourage any individual or group wanting to put forward a listing for Asset of Community Value, to ensure that the application is as detailed as possible, consult with residents, Parish Councils, community groups and if at all possible, the legal owners.

In relation to Brodsworth Miners Welfare, I am pleased to see that dialogue is ongoing and I know our Director of Economy and Environment is reviewing the initial decision in respect of its nomination as an Asset of Community Value.

I am also aware that Ward Councillors and Ed Milliband MP, are engaging with a range of organisations and the trustees, to see what can be done to help preserve and retain the Asset, and I would urge you to continue to be part of this dialogue. Hopefully, by the relevant parties working together, a solution can be found and agreement reached.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Mr. Wilson asked Councillor Joe Blackham, the following supplementary question:-

“I have two additional questions. Regarding the refusal, is it appropriate for Strategic Asset Management to copy and paste objections to a community listing as a refusal from the owner who wants to sell an asset? What due diligence did Strategic Asset Management undertake to check the veracity of the assertions about the Welfare Hall’s use both past, present and future, and its community use?”

In response, Councillor Joe Blackham gave the following reply:-

“I am quite surprised that there has been a deferral of the auction which was scheduled to take place. Mr Wilson will be aware of that. The Director of Economy and Enterprise has directly intervened, on a good will basis, with the owners of the property, and agreed that they will defer the planned auction of the property. We can only make decisions on the evidence presented and regrettably, there was not sufficient evidence to prevent the owner from disposing of the property. The onus is always on the people wishing to have the listing, not the owner who was wishing to sell.”

- (b) Question from Mr Christopher Nowak to Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance and Trading Services:-

“Regarding Wool Market traders, on two separate visits only three non-food traders were open at 2.30 pm. I have since been told by a trader that the reason for this is that all non-food traders have been given notice to quit after Christmas by Market Asset Management. Was the Council aware of this when they gave MAM nearly £1m recently, and if true, what are MAM going to replace the non-food traders with?”

Councillor Phil Cole, gave the following reply:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Nowak.

You will have seen the announcement we made about the planned changes to the Wool Market, which I sent you last week, but for the record, since the Wool Market re-opened in 2019, it was designed to be a mixed-use development of both hospitality and retail, to provide a varied offer that would complement the Market and Town Centre.

The hospitality element of the Wool Market has done incredibly well and we are building on this strength. With minimal disruption to the existing traders, we will be able to create a new family leisure and hospitality space which will hopefully bring new people into the Wool Market as a new family destination.

In relation to retail units in the Wool Market, these will move to the Corn Exchange. No retailers are being asked to quit our Town Centre Market.

Your question referred to £1m to MAM, Market Asset Management, the Council's chosen partners to run and promote our markets. The Council provided temporary investment in September 2020, during the depths of the Covid pandemic.

This was outlined in a report to Cabinet and duly considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, whose minutes are publically available. The temporary investment supported the costs of running the day to day operations of the market without which, the current trading activity would not have been possible.

We are proud of our market traders, selling top class produce, and we are equally pleased to have niche and specialist retailers from selling art to collectables, mainly at the Goose Hill end of the market, in addition to the traditional fruit, veg, flowers and dairy traders.

Since the Council partnered with MAM to run the markets, Doncaster Market occupancy has risen by 9% to 86%, and is currently 85% at Mexborough, which has just 5 vacant stalls.

We are incredibly proud of our markets and committed to supporting them as we bounce back from the pandemic. There will be further announcements of improvements to our Town Centre and Mexborough Markets in the coming months.

The buildings that house our markets are wholly owned by Doncaster Council and we will continue to invest to make them safe, modern and fit for purpose.

We are investing in our markets at the time when High Street retailers have taken a battering. The long period of lockdown only reinforced the rise of online retail, reaching around one third of sales in 2021.

In the face of those challenges, the Council will do everything in our power to improve the offer and variety our markets provide, to complement our Town Centre retail and hospitality. For 800 years, Doncaster Town Centre has been home to a market and long may that continue."

Mr Nowak asked why his submitted question had been amended without his knowledge and then, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Mr. Nowak asked Councillor Phil Cole, the following supplementary question:-

"Where is the consultation for the new proposal for the Wool Market and I presume Market Asset Management will be paying for the renovations and if not, then DMBC will be keeping any profit and pay MAM a management fee. I would hate to think, as I am sure we all would, that a private company will be profiting from public money?"

In response, Councillor Phil Cole gave the following reply:-

"Thank you for your supplementary question Mr Nowak.

In relation to the improvements, I tried to draw a distinction in my first reply. If there are any changes made to the buildings at Doncaster Council that house Doncaster Council Markets for whatever reason, we own these buildings, those are our decisions and we will make the necessary investments. We have a partner firm that manage and promotes the Markets, it collects the rents and sorts out the day to day running. The Council will arrange any works, just as we have done at Mexborough Market; we will do that as Doncaster Council as they are our buildings. We value them, we want them to be modern, safe and fit for purpose.”

Councillor Cole invited Mr Nowak to contact him further with any other concerns.

44 Proposal to appoint additional Independent (Co-Opted) Member to the Police and Crime Panel

The Council considered a report which sought approval to endorse the Police and Crime Panel’s decision to commence the process to appoint a third Independent (Co-opted) Member.

It was reported that as the Police and Crime Panel had a significant turnover of Members in May 2021, one of the current Independent Members suggested that the Panel consider an application to the Secretary of State (Home Office) for an additional Independent (Co-opted) (non-voting) Member. The proposal to appoint a third Independent Member was a necessary means of ensuring there was some critical mass to secure consistency in the membership of the Panel. A third Independent (Co-opted) Member would give a membership of 12 Elected Members from across the four South Yorkshire Districts and 3 Independent (Co-opted) Members recruited by advertisement. This proposal would not impact on Doncaster Council’s current representation on the Police and Crime Panel.

It was noted that in addition to an application to the Secretary of State, an extra Co-opted Member required a change to the Police and Crime Panel’s arrangements, and those changes had to be approved by the four District Councils which must be unanimous across all four Districts to proceed.

RESOLVED that the Police and Crime Panel’s decision taken on 20th September, 2021 to commence the process to appoint a third Independent (Co-opted) (non-voting) Member to the Police and Crime Panel, be endorsed.

45 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor James Church and Seconded by Councillor Gemma Cobby, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor James Church, and Seconded by Councillor Gemma Cobby:-

“Doncaster Council notes that:-

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire', told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms or conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at

twice the rate of white workers. Since March 2020 (TUC research January 2021), a quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions since the pandemic began.

- That whilst the Prime Minister has called the practice ‘unacceptable’, he and his Government have continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that they will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors abuse our weak employment protections to force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers, 3.8 million people, were already insecure, meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will, including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers.

Doncaster Council therefore resolves to:-

- Support local residents, through their Trade Unions, against such unprincipled employers and write to the Prime Minister demanding the Government outlaw fire and rehire, and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions.
- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to prevent its use by Council contractors, by ensuring the Council has a procurement practice that ensures we are working with contractors that have good employment, trade union, equality, environmental records and appropriate policies.
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employee’s standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this.
- Support the TUC campaign for a New Deal for working people.”

Following the Chair affording Members in the Chamber the opportunity to speak on the Motion, an amendment was MOVED by Councillor Glenn Bluff and Seconded by Councillor Jane Cox, that the paragraphs at bullet points 2 and 7, be deleted.

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

For - 11

Against - 32

Abstain - 1

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

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

For – 43

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

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

RESOLVED that Doncaster Council notes that:-

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire', told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms or conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers. Since March 2020 (TUC research January 2021), a quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions since the pandemic began.
- That whilst the Prime Minister has called the practice 'unacceptable', he and his Government have continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that they will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors abuse our weak employment protections to force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers, 3.8 million people, were already insecure, meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will, including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers.

Doncaster Council therefore resolves to:-

- Support local residents, through their Trade Unions, against such unprincipled employers and write to the Prime Minister demanding the Government outlaw fire and rehire, and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions.
- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to prevent its use by Council contractors, by ensuring the Council has a procurement practice that ensures we are working with contractors that have good employment, trade union, equality, environmental records and appropriate policies.
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employee's standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this.
- Support the TUC campaign for a New Deal for working people."

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 Jake Kearsley asked the following question:-

“The Prime Minister was in Doncaster today. Can I ask if Doncaster Council knew of his planned visit.

Also, Nick Fletcher MP, has celebrated the funding that has been given to Doncaster over the last couple of years. Can you give me a rough total of how much we have received into Doncaster and how much has been taken from Doncaster Council funding since 2010?”

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

“Thank you for your question Councillor Kearsley.

I can inform you that this Council was completely unaware of the Prime Ministers planned visit to Doncaster; we found out by a ‘tweet’ after the visit had happened.

Now, of course we are happy to host the Prime Minister as the Leader of this country, but it would have been good to have been made aware of his visit and even to meet with him to discuss the challenges being faced by Doncaster, and how he can support the levelling up of Doncaster through properly funded public services.

Over the past 18 months, we have been awarded the following funding from Government:-

Doncaster Town Deal - £24.8m;

Stainforth Town Deal - £21.6m;

Doncaster Levelling Up Fund - £18.6m;

Community Renewal Fund – £2.2m;

These mentioned figures add up to just over £67m.

These investments are of course welcome and will support some key projects across the Borough. To see real levelling up in Doncaster will require significantly more than what has currently been pledged.

We must also remember that Doncaster Council is now £119m per year worse off since Austerity began in 2010. So the £67m from Government is but a fraction of what has been taken away from this borough.

What we are now facing is a constant competition with neighbouring Local Authorities for funding. This does not provide best value for money and is not the best way of 'levelling up' Doncaster and the North.

If this Government is serious about 'levelling up' in Doncaster, then we need a new Hospital for Doncaster, properly funded Council services, Police Officers on our streets, affordable and reliable public transport, supporting the most vulnerable of our society, and a national settlement to tackle the nationwide backlog of highway works."

Q. Councillor Andy Pickering asked the following question:-

"In view of the announcement today that the great white elephant that is HS2 will not come through Mexborough, can you assure us that you will look into the current situation which appears to us to leave the area blighted. Now that the railway is not going ahead, we need to get blight removed as soon as possible?"

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

"Thank you for your question. I'm not certain if you heard my earlier announcement which actually states that at this moment in time, the route that has been identified is still in the process and it is still therefore blighted, but we will continue to press for this to be lifted, but my initial statement said this including:-

'Despite today's headlines, I should make clear to Council that the Government is still committed to looking at options on how best to take HS2 services to Leeds. As a consequence, safeguarding of the previously proposed high speed route North of East Midlands Parkway, will remain in place, pending conclusion of this work.'

So we will continue to press as always, but that is how it stands at the moment."

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

There were no questions put to the Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business.

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.

47 To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities

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

- A. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 20th September, 2021.
- B. South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 9th September, 2021.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13th September, 2021.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 9th September, 2021.
- E. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 20th September, 2021.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

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Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 20th January 2022

To the Chair and Members of the Council
 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The 2021 Doncaster Director of Public Health Annual Report is the seventh authored by Dr Rupert Suckling.

This report describes the course of the global COVID-19 pandemic in Doncaster in 2021 and includes a rapid assessment of the state of health in Doncaster in 2021. The report also demonstrates how the public health grant is used locally. Finally the report points to the need to implement the new borough strategy Doncaster Delivering Together.

There are a number of lessons that continue to be learnt from the COVID - 19 pandemic including

- Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, groups and institutions have all still pulled together really well. In the second year of the pandemic, the numbers of people able to volunteer has reduced as people return to work, although many have found ways of continuing.
- The importance of 'Key workers' was reinforced during the first national lockdown, but abuse and aggression to key workers has increased as the pandemic as continued.
- Not everyone was impacted equally or is still being impacted equally. Existing inequalities, poverty and social exclusion were highlighted and the following impacts were felt differently locally
 - Impacts directly from COVID-19
 - Long term physical and mental health impacts of COVID-19 infection (long COVID)

- Impacts of overwhelmed health services and delays to treatment
 - Impacts of changes to health services
 - Impacts of lockdown and other measures
 - Impacts on particular communities and groups including women, people from ethnic minorities and carers
 - Ongoing impacts on accessing health and care services due to the initial disruption and now increased demand on health and care services (especially people with diabetes, or suffering with poor mental health, self-harm or depression).
- Many of the working practices that the health and care system developed at the start of the pandemic have continued, but workforce shortages and staff ‘burnout’ are bigger challenges for the system now than money.
 - National decision makers are still too remote and lack the local knowledge needed for many decisions including the implementation and relaxation of lockdowns, supporting local schools and the return of elite sporting events.
 - Pandemic preparation should still 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. Local surveillance, responding to new threats (or variants), communication that avoids polarisation and politicisation, and planning on how to support people through ‘infodemics’ of overwhelming amounts of information all need review. This could involve health and media literacy, fact checking websites, critically looking at media sources and reviewing the role of the curriculum.
 - Health and the economy are still intrinsically linked and the best way to address the pandemic is good for both health and the economy.

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

- Continue to recognise, celebrate and support the roles of ‘Key workers’, local people, groups, institutions, businesses and communities in the way Doncaster works
- Maintain sufficient local capacity and capability to respond to and learn from the continued COVID-19 pandemic
- Implement Doncaster Delivering Together, including updating and publishing a set of Impact Assessments to continue to guide and shape local recovery and renewal

- Secure long term locality working including asset based, community centred approaches to improve health and wellbeing working with and for communities, in the present and for future generations
- Revitalise approaches to health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion taking into account the new Geneva Charter for Wellbeing and establish a Fairness & Wellbeing Commission
- Develop new relationships with the Office of Health Improvement and the UK Health Security Agency, the successor bodies to Public Health England and establish a new method for assurance of local public health services

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> <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>Good health and wellbeing is a contributor to improved learning outcomes. Equally good learning outcomes contribute to good health and wellbeing.</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>Universal and targeted prevention approaches can improve health and reduce burdens on health and care services.</p>
	<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 	<p>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.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF... Date...23.12.21.....]

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 22/12/21]

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

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials EL Date 06/01/2022]

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 21/12/21]

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

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials.....RS.....Date ...21/12/2021.....]

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...RS..... Date...21/12/2021.....]

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 2021.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Dr Rupert Suckling
Director of Public Health

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

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

Introduction

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2021

The State of Health in Doncaster 2021

Use of the Public Health Grant

The Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services

Call to action – Doncaster Delivering Together

Conclusion

Recommendations

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

2021 has continued to be a challenging year for all of us in Doncaster, Britain and indeed worldwide. As with 2020 Covid 19 and our response to it has remained a constant struggle and has continued to test our resilience and perseverance among the work we do as a council, but also the people of Doncaster and our communities.

Coronavirus and our response continues to be the main focus of our Public Health activity and this includes the ongoing work our Public Health Team have undergone working with staff, citizens and communities in Doncaster to try and keep them mindful and safe over the last 12 months. Our workers, officers and teams are still at the forefront of the pandemic response in Doncaster and I want to take this opportunity to again thank them all for their incredible service, hard work and resilience over the last 12 months.

At this time this annual report is published during perhaps the most testing time of the pandemic with Omicron cases rising rapidly I would like to pay tribute to our Public Health team led by Dr Rupert Suckling for their tireless work and guidance in troubling times. As last year it is these people who have remained steadfast, resilient and held the line on hand to offer support at the most difficult of times.

I also would like to thank the continued 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 continued to show the strongest elements of resilience, determination hardship and who have done their bit in following the advice we all have had to follow.

Whilst we accept that the Coronavirus response has been at the forefront of our work here in Doncaster we must also recognise that a good deal of work has taken place to identify and concentrate on our great areas of need and indeed how we recognise that 'back to normality' will not be enough to make lasting social change in these areas or localities. By addressing poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity in these places we understand that real community action needs to take place and the key to this will be in the empowerment, enabling of the people and the communities in which they live. This will drive positive lives and indeed provide the impetus for hope, happiness, and ownership and in turn improve health inequalities.

This annual report again, 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 continues to take place and I am proud to see that happening.

Again on a personal note we all face challenges in our day to day lives and it's been again a very rough year for all of us. We all need to be mindful of this in our day to day interactions with people. So please be good to each other, take care of yourselves, your families and communities.

Regards,

Cllr Nigel Ball

Introduction

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

2021 has continued where 2020 left off with all of us living with, through and under the COVID-19 pandemic. At start of 2021 the country went into a national lockdown in response to the Alpha variant of COVID-19. A Delta variant followed in the summer and as we prepare to go into 2022 the Omicron variant is here.

The direct impacts of COVID are still felt, as people are still catching COVID-19 and despite a successful vaccine programme there are still too many avoidable infections, hospitalisations and deaths. My thoughts are with all those who lost loved ones or have been impacted by the pandemic in other ways. The disruption to people's lives, livelihoods, the services and institutions we rely on has been profound. The pandemic has unearthed and exacerbated long standing inequalities experienced by older residents, those in key worker roles, those in poverty and those from ethnic minorities. Women have borne the brunt of the pandemic as formal caring, informal caring, childcare and home schooling roles all needed to be fulfilled, at the same time as working shifts or working remotely.

This report continues the story of the COVID-19 pandemic in Doncaster. 2021 felt different to 2020, the vaccination programme was a cause for hope, some people felt the benefits from hybrid working but the 'claps for carers' had disappeared, for many life was increasingly lonely and many Doncaster people didn't have the resources or choices to 'make the best' of it.

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. This year I've been unable to show the performance of locally commissioned public health services as the national report that I have previously used is no longer produced.

Finally I've commented on the need to implement the new Borough strategy. It is fantastic that Team Doncaster partners have been able to develop the plan over the last year, but delivery is going to be a real test as this new wave of the pandemic looks set to cause disruption for the early part of 2022. And yet, there is still the need to move quickly to adapt to and address climate change and biodiversity loss, whilst at the same time reducing health inequalities.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2021

Last year's annual report described the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, how pandemics are characterised by a number of peaks or waves and how the COVID-19 pandemic would be no different. Last year's annual report was written as the impact of the third wave was being seen and was quickly followed by another national lockdown in January 2021. The positive news, at the time was that the COVID-19 vaccination programme had started, with the first COVID vaccine given in Doncaster on the 15th December 2020.

This year's annual report picks up the story of the pandemic and describes the third wave, the subsequent fourth wave and finally describes the start of a fifth wave of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant.

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% 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 with continued symptoms 12 weeks on from the initial diagnosis, some people may continue to experience severe on going health issues.

All viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, change over time. Most changes have little to no impact on the virus' properties. However, some changes may affect the virus's properties, such as how easily it spreads, the associated disease severity, or the performance of vaccines, therapeutic medicines, diagnostic tools, or other public health and social measures. During late 2020, the emergence of variants that posed an increased risk to global public health prompted the characterisation of specific Variants of Interest (VOIs) and Variants of Concern (VOCs). It was these VOCs that set the tone for 2021.

January 2021 – May 2021 -The third wave and the roadmap

January 2021 began with the UK seeing rising case rates, increasing hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19. At the start of January there had been 15,355 confirmed COVID cases in Doncaster and at the time the case rate was 314/100,000 (359/100,000 in people aged 0-59 and 241.6/100,000 in those aged 60 or over). There had been 2,348 COVID related admissions to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) and there had been 666 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

The UK alert level was increased from level 4 to level 5 and the country went into a third national lockdown from the 6th January 2021 in response to the an increase in hospitalisations of 30% in one week across the country. Non-essential retail, hospitality and personal care services closed and schools moved to deliver remote learning apart from for children of key workers. Where possible

people worked from home but there was a recognition that people could leave home to shop for basic necessities and to care for someone in their support bubble.

The national COVID vaccination programme picked up pace, with two additional vaccines (AstraZeneca and Moderna) joining Pfizer on the UK approved list. The priority groups for vaccination were issued starting with residents in care homes for older adults and their carers.

It became clear in January that one of the contributing factors to the increase in cases seen across the UK was the emergence of a new variant, initially called 'Kent' or B1.1.7 and finally classified as the alpha variant. This variant was more transmissible than the original 'wild-type' COVID-19 virus.

At the same time as the national lockdown Ros Jones, the Mayor of Doncaster announced a Response Plan, including

- Support to the NHS mass vaccination programme and to scale up targeted testing
- Enhancing the national £500 Test, Trace and Isolate support grant with an additional local discretionary £250
- Supporting people made most vulnerable by the pandemic in our communities
- Supporting businesses to survive and thrive and
- Helping residents get back to work

Team Doncaster, the Borough's strategic partnership, implemented all the government measures, established the ways to support businesses with grants and to administer the Test, Trace and Isolate support grant. The capacity for testing was increased with additional PCR testing for people with symptoms in Thorne and next to Doncaster College. Community testing sites for people without symptoms using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) were set up in Conisbrough, Hexthorpe and Stainforth. Many businesses established their own LFD testing sites too.

Over the next 6 weeks Doncaster saw almost another 5,500 confirmed cases, almost 700 hospital admissions and 145 deaths from COVID. Confirmed cases in Doncaster had increased to 20,824, with 3,044 admissions to DBTH and 811 deaths. But the national lockdown was working as the numbers of cases, hospitalisations and deaths started to fall. In Doncaster by mid-February, the case rate had fallen to 186.9/100,000 (195.4/100,000 in 0-59 year olds and 125.2 in people aged over 60).

This meant that by the 22nd February the Government was able to publish the COVID-19 Response-Spring 2021 (Roadmap). This Roadmap set out a number of tests and steps to exiting the 'lockdown'. The tests included

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS
- The assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern

The roadmap also set out a number of steps

- Step 1a not before 8th March included the return of face-to-face education for everyone and the ability for people to meet with one person outside their bubble and this included 1 visitor for care home residents.

- Step 1b not before 29th March included the rule of 6 or 2 households to meet outdoors, outdoor sports could reopen and the end of the 'stay at home rule' for workers.
- Step 2 not before 12th April included the opening of non-essential retail, personal care and public buildings. Hospitality could serve people outside and the numbers of people who could attend weddings increased to 15.
- Step 3 not before 17th May included allowing social gatherings outdoors of up to 30 people, indoor hospitality could reopen (serving a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks), indoor entertainment venues could reopen alongside hotels, hostels and B&Bs. Events such as weddings could accommodate up to 30 people.
- Step 4 not before 21st June included the removal of all legal limits on social contact and the reopening of all remaining businesses including nightclubs.

Over the next 4 months with the addition of asymptomatic testing, the focus shifted from the overall cases rates to the case rates in the over 60s, and the impact of the pandemic on hospitalisations and deaths. Increased focus was placed on increasing vaccine uptake through the five Primary Care Network sites in the Borough.

As the number of cases of COVID-19 fell a very local approach was adopted to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on local people and local communities. This was an intelligence-led, multi-agency, coordinated approach using existing staff and teams and working with and alongside local community groups and organisations. It included

- Stronger prevention including increasing vaccination uptake
- Spotting COVID-19 early through testing
- Stopping COVID-19 through local contact tracing working alongside NHS Test and Trace
- Supporting people who need to self isolate as a result of COVID-19, or those who were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
- Embedding safe practices, hands, face, space, ventilate as part of 'Let's Do it For Doncaster'
- Ensuring COVID-19 secure premises

In April 2021 the national shielding programme was paused as cases and impacts were reducing as the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine programme increased. In May, COVID-19 secure, national and local elections were held, fewer restrictions on people visiting 'in' and 'out' of care homes were brought in and face to face learning returned for all university students.

By the end of May 2021, in those next 15 weeks, Doncaster saw almost an additional 3,400 confirmed cases, another 247 admissions to hospital and 33 deaths. These were staggering reductions, with almost half the number of new cases, a third the number of hospitalisations and a fifth the number of deaths in those 15 weeks from mid-February to the end of May as there had been in the first 6 weeks of the year. The Doncaster rates for new confirmed cases was 21.5/100,000 (24.9/100,000 in 0-59s and 5/100,000 in over 60s), total confirmed cases stood at 24,208, 3,291 admissions to DBTH and 844 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

This improvement and progress along the roadmap meant focus was turning to recovery. Concerns were high about the long term consequences of COVID-19 on people's health, the culmination of restrictions and disruptions on people's health and especially the impact on emotional health and wellbeing and especially the impact on children and young people.

June – August 2021 - the fourth wave begins

Despite this optimism for recovery, the beginning of June 2021 was marked by the arrival of a new COVID-19 variant - delta. This led to a delay to step 4 of the roadmap of 4 weeks. By the end of June 2021 case rates in Doncaster had started to rise again, in fact sevenfold to 143.3/100,000 (317.3/100,000 in under 60s and 40.1/100,000 in over 60s), yet this led to only 19 additional admissions to DBTH and 1 additional death. It looked like the vaccine programme was breaking the link between infections, hospitalisations and deaths. However, it wasn't only COVID-19 that was creating pressure on the health and care system. As people started to mix socially again there were more respiratory infections, which had not been seen during the lockdown. The NHS also saw the impact of the lockdown through the growing backlog in people needing and waiting for routine and elective care.

Step 4 of the roadmap was paused to allow the ramping up of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. By 17th June, 80% of UK adults had had first dose, and by the 24th June 60% of UK adults had had their second doses. This was followed up with a commitment to give all adults aged over 50 their second vaccine dose by 19th July. The success of the vaccination programme came at the same time as a switch from community based asymptomatic testing with LFDs to self testing at home. The three local community based asymptomatic testing changed to assisted testing sites, to help people learn how to do a LFD and then closed.

Step 4 of the 'Spring roadmap' happened on the 19th July 2021. This included asking people who had been 'shielding' to follow the same guidance as the rest of the population. For many, this was welcome news but for some this marked the start of a very unsettling time as they could no longer rely on working from home or priority home shopping to reduce their risk of coming into contact with people possibly infectious with COVID-19.

In August, the Government published an updated COVID-19 contain framework, giving guidance to local authorities about the steps they should take to continue to manage COVID-19. This was followed by guidance on the 16th August changing the self-isolation guidance for close contacts working in health and care, so that they no longer needed to self isolate if they were a contact of a case if they had a negative PCR test. The summer also saw all 16-17 year olds become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Widespread travel restrictions 'the traffic-light system' were implemented, so many people decided to holiday at home in the UK. The warmer weather, people meeting up outdoors, the school holidays and high vaccination rates gave the appearance that the UK was coping with this wave of the epidemic.

Nationally an Events Research Programme began to assess how best to reopen events including nightclubs, festivals and sporting events. Whilst these events were 'successful' there had been a spike in cases at the end of June related to social gatherings at the European Football championships held in the UK. This showed that the delta variant was still both very transmissible and infectious. This gave a sense of what was to come as children prepared to return to school in September.

At the end of August the government's COVID-19 response: summer 2021 was published including:

- Reinforce the country's vaccine wall of defence through booster jabs and driving take up
- Enable the public to make informed decisions through guidance, rather than laws
- Retain proportionate test, trace and isolate plans in line with international comparators
- Manage risks at the border and support a global response to reduce the risk of variants emerging globally and entering the UK

- Retain contingency measures to respond to unexpected events, while accepting that further cases, hospitalisations and deaths will occur as the country learns to live with COVID-19

In the three months of June, July and August 2021 Doncaster saw just under another 15,000 confirmed cases, 372 hospital admissions and 26 deaths. So by the end of August in Doncaster there had been over 39,000 confirmed cases with the case rate climbing to 413.7/100,000 (468.9/100,000 in those under 60 and 249.1 /100,000 in those over 60) 3,663 admission to DBTH and 870 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

September 2021 – December 2021 – the fourth wave continues and the fifth wave starts

At the start of September the health and care system was still busy. Although many people had had a summer holiday, the health and care system had been operating as if it was winter with high levels of demand on A&E, large numbers of people needing admission with respiratory problems – not all of it COVID-19 and people requiring domiciliary and residential care. Fortunately, although the rates of COVID-19 infections were high, the vaccine programme continued to break the link between infection rates, hospitalisations and deaths.

This was a period of learning to live with COVID-19, this wasn't the same as pretending COVID-19 didn't exist as COVID-19 was still circulating and basic public health measures such as hands, face, space and ventilation all reduced the risk of catching COVID-19. There was a sense that COVID-19 was gradually becoming a disease of the unvaccinated, those unable to work from home and those with severe underlying health conditions.

Schools became the focus of attention and activity. Secondary schools were instructed to organise COVID-19 testing for all pupils as part of the return to school. Schools were also asked to accommodate the extension of the COVID-19 vaccine programme to all 12-15 year olds, when that was announced on the 13th September. Finally schools were contending with ensuring their buildings had sufficient ventilation, although no additional national capital was forthcoming. As the term went on rates of new cases of COVID-19 in primary school, secondary school pupils, teachers and other staff reached some of the highest levels seen in whole pandemic. This led to local advice to reinstate face coverings after the half term holiday.

In keeping with the latest roadmap, at the end of September the national furlough scheme and the £20 universal credit top up finished. It is still too early to tell what the impacts of those schemes and the timing of their termination are. The loss of the universal credit top up in a period where the cost of living is increasing due to a rise in global energy prices and inflation is especially concerning.

On the 9th November the Government published the next iteration of the contain framework the COVID -19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021. This restated the government's approach

- Building our defences through pharmaceutical interventions: vaccines, antivirals and disease modifying therapeutics
- Identifying and isolating positive cases to limit transmission: Test, Trace and Isolate
- Supporting the NHS and social care: managing pressures and recovering services
- Advising people on how to protect themselves and others: clear guidance and communications
- Pursuing an international approach: helping to vaccinate the world and managing risks at the border

Within the plan was a description of Plan B (controlling the transmission of the virus while seeking to minimise economic and social impacts), if the NHS came under unsustainable pressures. Possible actions included

- Communicating clearly and urgently to the public that the level of risk has increased, and with it the need to behave more cautiously
- Introducing mandatory vaccine-only COVID-status certification in certain settings
- Legally mandating face coverings in certain settings

Over the autumn, the number of countries on the travel 'red' list gradually reduced and then by November no countries were on the red list. However, a range of COVID-19 testing was still required for travellers before and after travel. At the start of November the 'shielding' programme was finally concluded.

By November 2021 it was clear that England was 'opening up' with fewer restrictions than other parts of the UK or the world. Whilst high vaccine uptake was clearly the cornerstone of the national approach, the approach also relied on the health and care system being able to absorb increasing demand including from people with COVID-19 infections. This was in stark contrast to the rest of Europe where national restrictions and lockdowns were being brought back in in the Netherlands, Austria and Germany in response to their own delta wave.

Through September, October and November 2021, Doncaster saw slightly more confirmed cases than the previous 3 months with just under another 17,000 new confirmed cases, but almost double the hospital admissions at 584, and triple the number of deaths with 76 deaths. So by the 25th November in Doncaster there had been over 55,952 confirmed cases with the case rate climbing to 551.4 /100,000 (419.5/100,000 in those under 60 and 152.7/100,000 in those over 60) 4,247 admission to DBTH and 946 deaths.

However on the 26th November the WHO announced that there was a new global VOC – omicron. As with all new VOCs there is considerable uncertainty to begin with about transmissibility, severity of disease and the potential to escape current vaccines. Scientists were particularly concerned about the number of mutations on the area of the virus that the current vaccines target so immediate actions were taken, not just in the UK but globally. These measures included reinstating the travel Red list, travel bans and managed quarantine hotels for those returning from abroad. Self isolation and PCR tests on day 2 for all new entrants (followed by quickly by adding pre-departure testing), mandatory face coverings in retail and public transport and a further scaling up of the vaccine programme so that boosters would be offered to all adults by the end of January 2022.

On December the 8th in response to increasing concern about the Omicron variant, the national alert level was raised back to 4 and Plan B was implemented. Advice from the UK Health Security Agency suggested that Omicron was doubling every 2-3 days and there was evidence that two doses of a COVID-19 were insufficient to give sufficient protection. On the 10th December face coverings became mandatory in most indoor public places, at large venues and events and on public transport and from the 13th December working from home if possible was reinstated. The NHS COVID pass became mandatory from the 15th December and on that day all countries were removed from the travel red list and changes were made to visiting care homes. All contacts of COVID-19 cases if double vaccinated were encouraged to take daily lateral flow tests in place of self isolation. The government also announced a major vaccine drive to bring forward the offer of COVID-19 boosters to all adults by the end of December 2021.

As Christmas 2021 drew near, it was clear that there was a high likelihood of a large wave of the new omicron variant affecting Doncaster. Although the delta wave of COVID -19 was being brought under control by the week of the 13th December there were already 10 confirmed and another 112 possible omicron cases in the Borough. Vaccine centres increased their opening hours and throughput, thanks to support from redeployed staff, local volunteers and the military. However, the health and care system were preparing for a large surge in demand, potentially the largest seen in the entire pandemic.

All data is available at

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

Ongoing Issues

As I mentioned last year there are still to be global, national and local reviews as to how the pandemic was managed, but there are still a number of immediate lessons. In year two these include:

- Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, groups and institutions have all still pulled together really well. In the second year of the pandemic, the numbers of people able to volunteer has reduced as people return to work, although many have found ways of continuing.
- The importance of 'Key workers' was reinforced during the first national lockdown, but abuse and aggression to key workers has increased as the pandemic as continued.
- Not everyone was impacted equally or is still being impacted equally. Existing inequalities, poverty and social exclusion were highlighted and the following impacts were felt differently locally
 - Impacts directly from COVID-19
 - Long term physical and mental health impacts of COVID-19 infection (long COVID)
 - Impacts of overwhelmed health services and delays to treatment
 - Impacts of changes to health services
 - Impacts of lockdown and other measures
 - Impacts on particular communities and groups including women, people from ethnic minorities and carers
 - Ongoing impacts on accessing health and care services due to the initial disruption and now increased demand on health and care services (especially people with diabetes, or suffering with poor mental health, self-harm or depression).
- Many of the working practices that the health and care system developed at the start of the pandemic have continued, but workforce shortages and staff 'burnout' are bigger challenges for the system now than money.
- National decision makers are still too remote and lack the local knowledge needed for many decisions including the implementation and relaxation of lockdowns, supporting local schools and the return of elite sporting events.
- Pandemic preparation should still 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. Local surveillance, responding to new threats (or variants), communication that avoids polarisation and politicisation, and planning on how to support people through 'infodemics' of overwhelming amounts of information all need review. This could involve health and media literacy, fact checking websites, critically looking at media sources and reviewing the role of the curriculum.
- Health and the economy are still intrinsically linked and the best way to address the pandemic is good for both health and the economy.

The State of Health in Doncaster 2021

It is difficult to understand the true state of health in Doncaster in 2021. As the previous section describes the pandemic has still been the biggest health challenge faced in the Borough in 2021. But focusing solely on the pandemic misses the fact that there are still a number of other health and wellbeing issues that affect the overall state of health in Doncaster. Some of the annual data that is routinely used to assess the state of health still precedes the pandemic and will only be updated in the years to come. Local data may still not reflect the true picture of health but may give a better indication on the health of local people and the pressures on the local health and care system.

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.

This year, Team Doncaster has updated the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). As well as the three headline measures, an assessment of the changes to the size and makeup of the population, we have grouped data in terms of 3 key life stages; starting well, living well and ageing well. The JSNA is available at <https://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/jsna>.

Health needs are also changing and as well as Life Expectancy, there is increased concern about maternal and infant mortality, mental health, oral health, multi-morbidity the impact on carers and how the inequalities across these areas often coalesce in the same people. Future JSNAs should consider this in more detail.

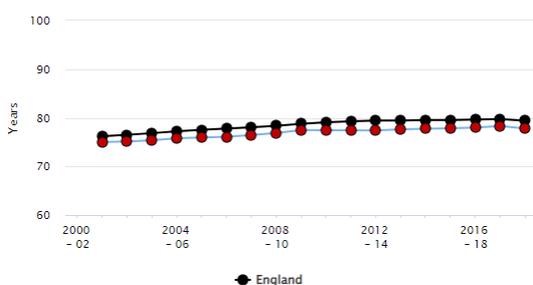
Life Expectancy

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. In the last year the impact of the pandemic has reduced Life Expectancy by 0.5 years in men and 0.7 years in women. It remains to be seen if this is a temporary situation or the indication of future challenges.

For 2018-2020 Life Expectancy at birth in men is 77.8 years in Doncaster compared to 78.4 years for men in Yorkshire and the Humber and 79.4 years for men in England. Life Expectancy at birth for women for 2018-2020 was 81.0 years in Doncaster compared to 82.3 years in Yorkshire and the Humber and 83.1 years in the England.

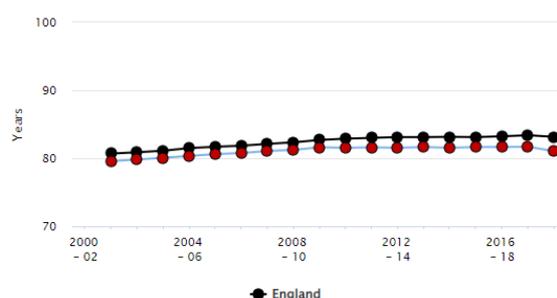
Life expectancy at birth (Male) New data

Show confidence intervals Show 99.8% CI values



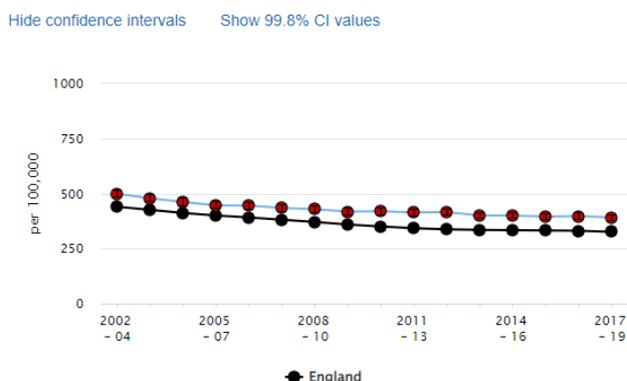
Life expectancy at birth (Female) New data

Show confidence intervals Show 99.8% CI values



The contributors that make the biggest impact on Life Expectancy in Doncaster are deaths from COVID-19, deaths in childhood, deaths from overdose, violence and suicide, and premature deaths from heart disease, respiratory diseases and cancer.

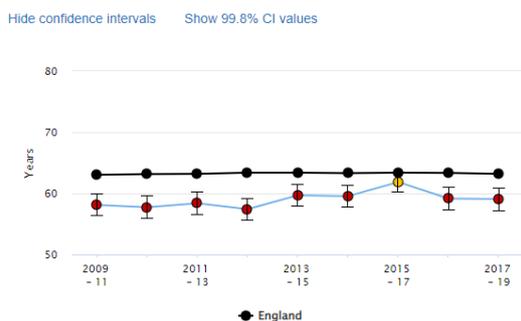
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes



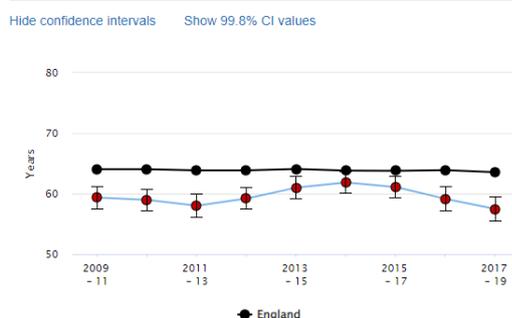
Healthy Life Expectancy

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 in 2019 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 2017-19 Healthy Life Expectancy for men is 59.1 years compared to the England rate of 63.2 years, a difference of 4.1 years. The latest data shows a Health Life Expectancy for women of 57.5 years compared to the England rate of 63.5 years a difference between Doncaster women and England of 6 years. Although this is self-reported data, these differences are worthy of further investigation especially in terms of obvious inequalities.

A01a - Healthy life expectancy at birth (Male)



A01a - Healthy life expectancy at birth (Female)

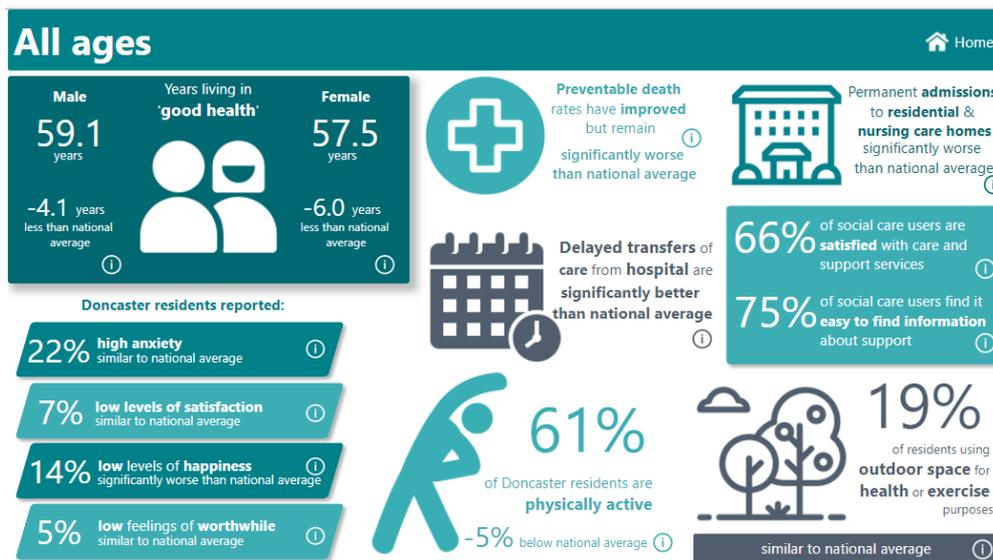


Health Inequalities

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. It is time to reassess whether there is more that can be done or new approaches employed to bridge this gap. In fact the gaps are getting wider.

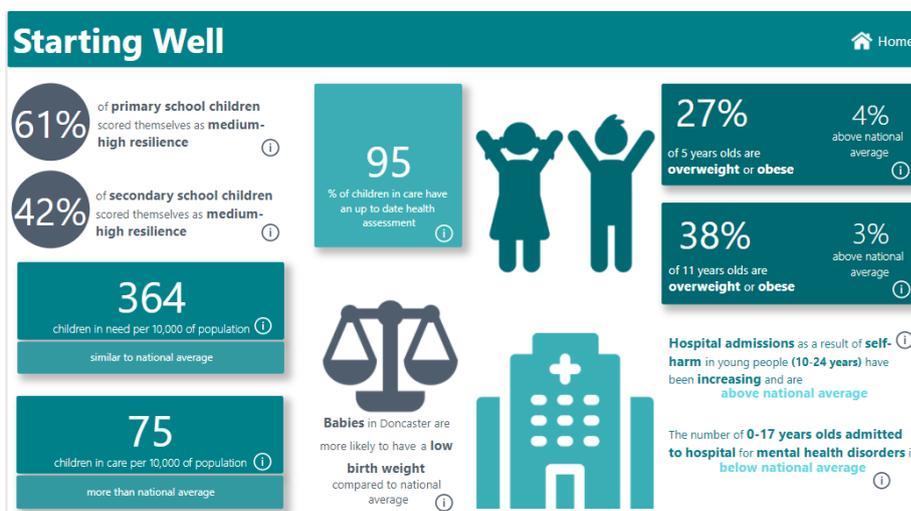
All Ages

As well as the data on Healthy Life Expectancy and the large difference between Doncaster and national averages the All Age section of the JSNA comments on preventable death rates, levels of wellbeing, physical activity, use of outdoor space for exercise as well as data on discharges from hospital and admissions to residential and nursing care. Preventable mortality is falling but not quickly enough to close the gap with national data. Doncaster people show low levels of self-reported satisfaction compared to other areas and levels of physical activity are still lower than other areas.



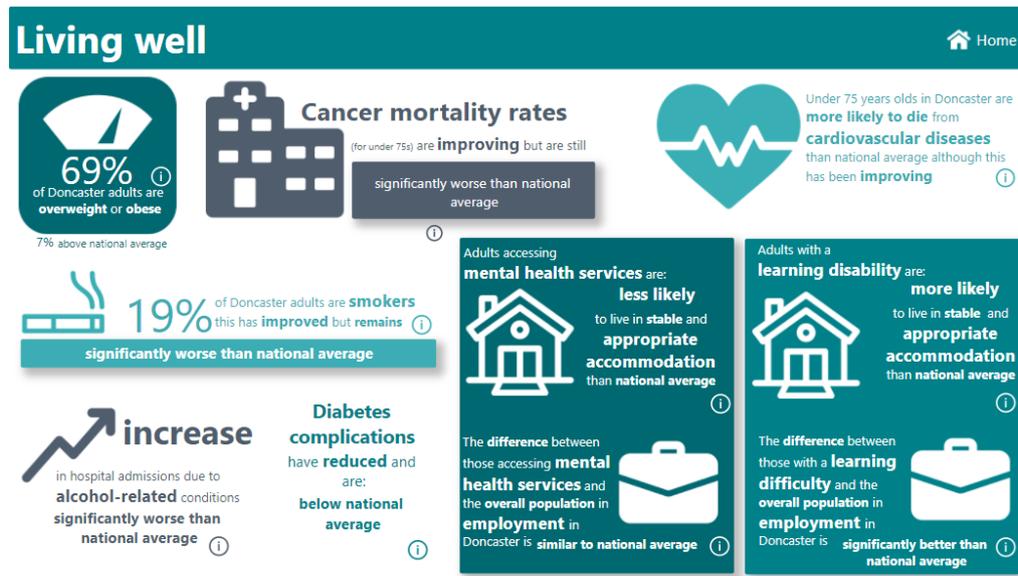
Starting well

For children and young people resilience in both primary and secondary school age children is falling, and this corresponds with an increase in hospital admissions for self harm, although it's reassuring to see the numbers of children admitted for mental health disorders is below the national average . The numbers of Children in Care and Children in Need are falling and are similar to the national average. 95% of those children in care have an up-to-date health assessment. However Doncaster babies are more likely to be born at a low birth weight and there are high levels of childhood obesity.



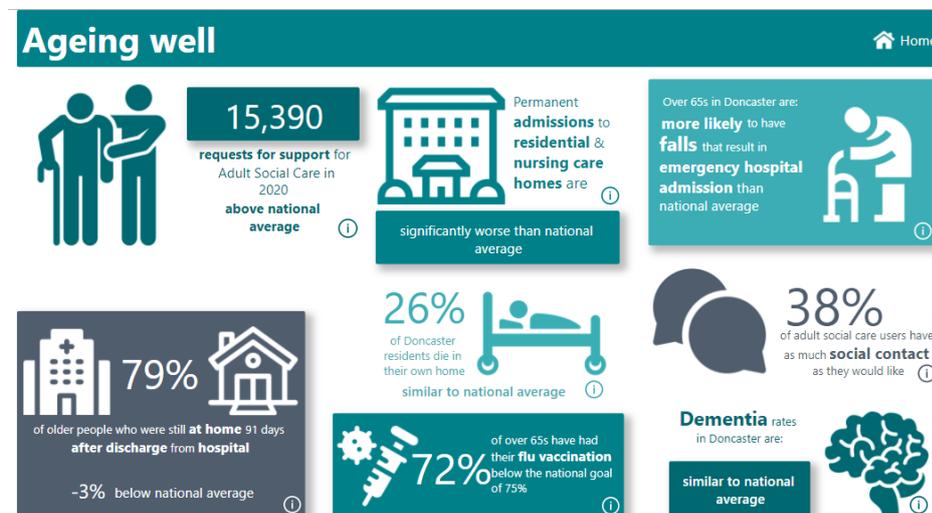
Living Well

Deaths from cancer and cardiovascular disease are falling but are still significantly worse than the national average. A number of key risk factors including smoking, alcohol and obesity are still significantly higher than the national average. Housing particularly for people who use mental health services is less likely to be stable although housing for people with a learning disability is more stable than the national average as is the employment rate in Doncaster for people with a learning difficulty. The impact of any increase in the cost of living may be felt by this group including the impact on housing and homelessness.



Ageing Well

For older adults in Doncaster whilst the numbers of people with dementia are similar to the national average, more people are at risk of falling, request social care support and fewer people are able to remain at home 91 days after discharge from hospital than other areas. Supporting people to stay active and connected in their communities could make a big difference to these outcomes.



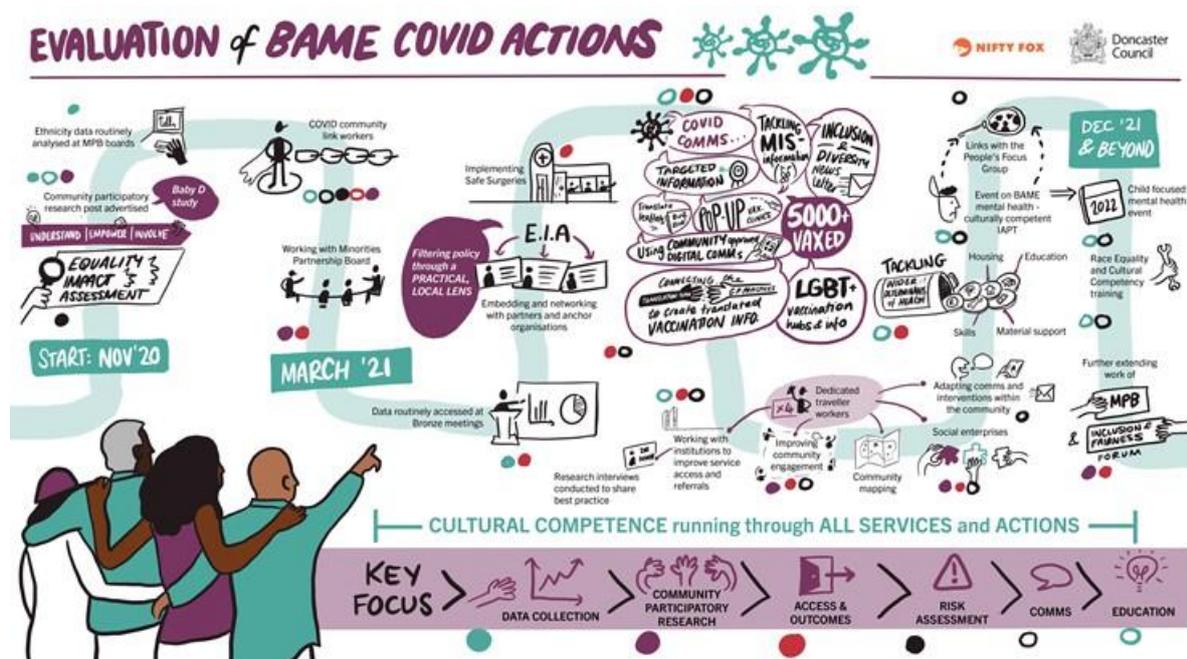
Longer Term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic

As the pandemic has shown, not everyone has been impacted the same and there is a risk that as well as the spread of the pandemic being along fault lines in wealth, health and social protection, there are concerns that COVID-19 could become a disease of the unvaccinated, the poor, those with chronic health conditions and those unable to access health services. A purely biomedical approach based on vaccination alone may be insufficient to help us recover. No pandemic is just a health emergency and there are a wide range of societal impacts. The British Academy (Shaping the Covid Decade) describes 9 significant areas of long-term societal impact of COVID -19

1. The importance of local communities
2. Low and unstable levels of trust
3. Widening geographic inequalities
4. Exacerbated structural inequalities
5. Worsened health outcomes and growing health inequalities
6. Greater awareness of the importance of mental health
7. Pressure on revenue streams across the economy
8. Rising unemployment and changing labour markets
9. Renewed awareness of education and skills

As a result of this hunger, food insecurity, economic meltdown, climate related disasters and globally large scale involuntary migrations are all more likely. The economic impacts of the exit from the European Union, the move to more online retail, permanent changes to shopping patterns and the use of town centres and communities, homeworking, hybrid working will continue. The importance of being digitally connected will not go away either.

The pandemic has not created new inequalities, but has both uncovered existing inequalities and exacerbated them. The impact on existing inequalities between people from different ethnic groups is particularly stark. A range of actions were undertaken in Doncaster to address these inequalities.



Spotlight on Primary Care engagement with the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community in Doncaster

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic it's clear that some groups of people have experienced worse health outcomes than others. Often this is not a new finding but the impact of longstanding structural inequalities. Access to health services is one of the most common barriers. The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community face many barriers when accessing primary health care services. These are clearly articulated in the recent 'Locked Out' report (<https://tinyurl.com/244yujkp>).

The Askern Medical Practice in Doncaster has taken steps to address this reducing its Did Not Attend rate for this group from 60% to almost zero. Prof Kumar is the lead GP and whilst passion to address these issues is important it needs to be balanced with some hard edges including fostering a strong anti-racist environment, including a zero-tolerance policy to any anti traveller racism and attitudes that would prevent them engaging with your service. Training is essential to make front line staff aware of the issues that the particular community face when trying to access services.

Prof Kumar said 'There are a number of relatively simple things that can be done at a practice level to make them 'Gypsy, Roma and Traveller friendly', for example having a named member of staff who acts as 'Practice Champion' is a way of bridging the gap and facilitating an environment of engagement. Being explicit that you are a Gypsy Roma and Traveller friendly practice by stating this on posters in the waiting areas. Ensuring you allocate sufficient time for appointments as scheduling a double appointment for new patients is a way of gaining people's trust and giving them time to properly open up. Making allowances for other barriers that this group may face, for example assisting with completing forms for those with low levels of literacy. Allowing sign up to be conducted within the practice and ensure those patients without a fixed address are able to register by either using the surgery's address or the address shown on a UK driving licence.'

He continued 'There must be a willingness for healthcare staff to be innovative and adopt new approaches'. 'Many travellers have a driving licence. They may not have an address but a British driving licence shows they do have an address somewhere and that is good enough for me'.

Prof Kumar strongly believes that it is important to be proactive in order to engage and understand the community to build their trust. There are a number of ways to achieve this including interacting with the community in settings in which they feel comfortable, such as churches or community venues. Encourage engagement by visiting traveller sites and getting to know people. This may be particularly useful for new doctors as it is a way of establishing trust. Supporting members of the community to act as liaison workers to encourage engagement. Religious and community leaders can be beneficial in promoting health checks and routine screening such as cervical smears.

'We got in touch with the Pastor at the Pentecostal church and asked him to talk in his ceremony to encourage women to come in for a cervical smear'

Finally, it is important to be inclusive and ensure the GRT community have a voice in health care decision making by encouraging representation on the Patient Participation Group (PPG). Organisations such as the Traveller Movement (<https://travellermovement.org.uk/>) provide a wealth of information and resources on which to draw.

Although COVID-19 is a significant reason for the reductions in Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy, there is a worrying sign that deaths from other conditions are above the levels usually seen. This excess mortality and impact on other health outcomes will put many of the NHS long term plan targets at risk. The numbers of cancers diagnosed early is falling from 44% to 41%, deaths from alcohol are up 18% in 2020, mental health presentations are increasing, there's the highest cardiovascular disease mortality in a decade, and fewer GP appointments to look after people with multiple long term conditions. The next pandemic is already developing as the impacts of the lockdowns and restrictions are leading to high levels of physical deconditioning and mental health. Health and Care Systems will need to be able to think through and agree approaches to become more resilient. ¹ The emerging Integrated Care System, place based partnership and locality working model will need to take this on board.

Fig. 1: Determinants of health systems resilience framework.

From: [Health systems resilience in managing the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from 28 countries](#)



¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-021-01381-y>

Recovery and Renewal

If 2021 has taught us anything it is that recovery and renewal will not be linear. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that inequalities are still present nationally and locally. There are other societal challenges that will affect the shape of recovery and renewal including climate change and locally the continued recovery from the 2019 floods. The pandemic has also raised the issue of our own emotions. All of us have experienced a range of emotional responses at different points in the journey through the pandemic, different triggers will have triggered different emotions in different people. As we move forward we will need to be aware of our emotions and try to avoid the extremes of triumphalism and resignation.

To that extent recovery and renewal needs to be thought of community by community, linking into the density of social networks and social capital with a focus on health in all policies. Spatial planning including 20 minute neighbourhoods, access to parks and green spaces, access to health hubs and the public sector and replacing no longer needed commercial real estate with healthy housing could all be important. A particular focus on children will be crucial alongside investing in social infrastructure as much as physical infrastructure.

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic a range of impact assessments were undertaken covering a range of issues.²

Communities	Economic	Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vulnerable people ▪ Volunteers ▪ Community participation ▪ Public protection ▪ Emergency housing (incl homelessness) ▪ Welfare (incl social care) ▪ Education and skills ▪ Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic strategy (national & local) ▪ Business regeneration/ rejuvenation ▪ Public sector support mechanisms ▪ Voluntary, community and social enterprise sector ▪ Personal finance ▪ Innovation ▪ Labour and workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrastructure providers ▪ Infrastructure customers ▪ Energy (utilities) ▪ Telecommunications (incl digital) ▪ Urban & rural infrastructure ▪ Transport ▪ Waste management ▪ Supply chain & logistics
Environment	Health	Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spatial planning (incl public spaces) ▪ Environmental health ▪ Living sustainably ▪ Resilience to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthcare ▪ Public health and wellbeing (incl psycho-social supports) ▪ Excess death management ▪ Connectivity between health and the wider system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legislation, policy, guidance ▪ Information & data ▪ Resourcing & financial frameworks ▪ Partnerships & coordination (national, subnational, local) ▪ Strategic communications ▪ Governance of delivering Recovery and Renewal

Team Doncaster established a Renewal Board to focus on five key areas.

- Economic recovery
- Housing delivery
- Environment and the path to net zero
- Addressing poverty
- Locality operating model development

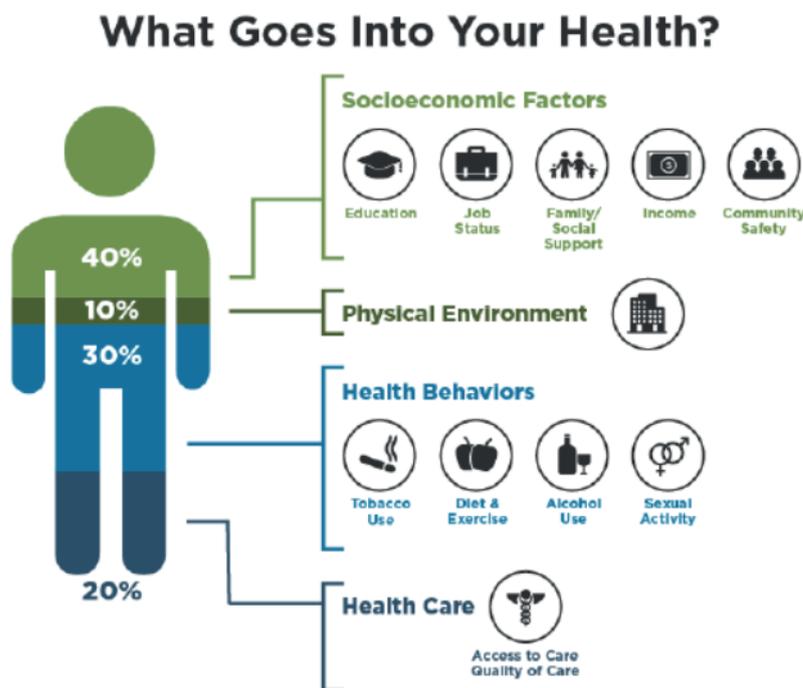
² <https://www.alliancembs.manchester.ac.uk/media/ambs/content-assets/documents/news/the-manchester-briefing-on-covid-19-b42-wb-17th-september-2021.pdf>

Team Doncaster should ensure that the progress on these 5 areas is communicated widely. The ongoing renewal with people, of place and of process needs to be informed by updated impact assessments so that there can be transparency in any engagement, assessment, alignment of planning that leads to acceleration and accountability for the actions being taken.

It's clear that human health is connected to environment, economic as well as social health and wellbeing. These broader socio-economic factors, the physical environment, health behaviours as well as health and care services all contribute to improving health. Together these factors all contribute to how local people respond to both short term and chronic stress. Perhaps it is time for the economy to be 'nested' within social and environmental hopes and planning as opposed to the economy driving social and environment outcomes.

The World Health Organisation's new health promotion charter the Geneva Charter for Well-being has five key areas for action

- Design an equitable economy that serves human development within planetary boundaries
- Create public policy for the common good
- Achieve universal health coverage
- Address the digital transformation to counteract harm and disempowerment and to strengthen the benefits
- Value and preserve the planet



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

Adapted from The Bridgespan Group

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 2021 the Public Health Grant was allocated as set out below. This includes bringing £2,903,640 in additional income into Doncaster from other external funding sources including research grants. Over £1.6 m in non-recurrent funding was secured from Public Health England for substance misuse, weight management and to improve public mental health, unfortunately this is only for the year 21/22.

	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	£000's	£000's
Public Health Grant	-24,412	-24,609
Public Health Other income	-716	-2,904
Public health Corporate recharges	-720	-735
Total PH income	-25,848	-28,248
Expenditure: Commissioned Services		
Sexual Health	2,397	2,405
NHS Health Check programme	375	375
Health protection	82	87
National Child Measurement Programme	68	68
Obesity	180	513
Physical Activity	169	80
Substance Misuse	5,399	6,320
Smoking and Tobacco	694	694
Children 5-19 public health programmes	1,845	1,930
Children 0-5 Health visiting	6,381	6,106
Mental Health	139	415
Other public health services misc H&WB	303	1,038
Income - expenditure (base budget) nb this contributes to the overall AH&WB budget position	167	34
Sub-total Commissioned Services	18,199	20,065
Public Health Advice (including Salary costs)	1,694	2,139
Support services	735	735
Sub-total Central and Support Services	2,429	2,874
Expenditure (wider determinants)		
Realignment	4,957	5,046
Growth	263	263
Sub-total wider determinants	5,220	5,309
Total Expenditure (commissioned + central & support + Wider determinants)	25,848	28,248

One off money for Tier 2 weight management from PHE

One off money for residential rehabilitation on behalf of Y&H from PHE

One off money for public mental health from PHE

Additional funding for Well North, Be Well, Community Wealth Builder and Shaping Staniforth

Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services

In previous years I have reported on the performance of Public Health commissioned services through the Public Health England produced public health dashboard. This compared 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>

However, this national dashboard is no longer being updated. This will need to be addressed in next year's report as understanding how services benchmark is important to provide assurance as well as guiding service improvement activity and any future commissioning decisions.

The majority of public health commissioned services including health visiting, school nursing, sexual health and substance misuse use services have modified their delivery methods during the pandemic and have been able to maintain their performance. The only exception to this is the NHS Health Check service, where NHS England requested this service was stood down to release capacity in primary care and this service is still not yet back operating.

Public Health teams have provided leadership, support and manpower to the Team Doxaster COVID-19 response including local testing and contact tracing.

Call to Action - Doncaster Delivering Together

The next decade present massive opportunities and challenges not only for Doncaster, its people, places and businesses but for the whole planet. Team Doncaster's ability to respond to challenges such as how we build back fairer and better from COVID-19 and how we tackle climate change will be key for the 2020s. Doncaster Delivering Together is that plan³ and sets out what the partnership wants to achieve in the longer term up to 2030.

Team Doncaster has set out a central mission of **'Thriving People, Places and Planet'** with six well-being goals setting out a future vision and the key indicators for the Borough to be achieved by 2030. The 'Fair and Inclusive' and 'Greener Cleaner' goals are cross cutting and impact everything.



Team Doncaster needs to set out what will be done to achieve these long term visions. Many of the things that need to be delivered can address a number of the well-being goals. For example tackling climate change will impact on both the Greener and Cleaner Goal but also on Health and Compassionate for example. For this reason eight cross cutting priorities have been set out to act as the guiding lights to deliver the well-being goals. These Great 8 priorities are:

- Tackling climate change
- Developing the skills to thrive in life & work
- Making Doncaster the best place to do business & create good jobs
- Building opportunities for healthier, happier & longer lives for all
- Creating safer, stronger, greener & cleaner communities where everyone belongs
- Nurturing a child & family-friendly borough
- Building transport & digital connections fit for the future
- Promoting the borough & its cultural, sporting & heritage opportunities

Implementing Doncaster Delivering Together

Each of these priorities will need a high level action plan, drawing upon existing agreed strategies, setting out key important deliverables and targets. They will also set out how residents and employers can contribute to achieving these priorities as these priorities will need the collective efforts of everyone.

Team Doncaster will need to refresh the Performance Management Framework and Governance model to support the delivery of these priorities. This could include:

- Refreshing Team Doncaster Operating Model to ensure a focus on delivery
- Aligning key action plans and projects with the Great 8 priorities
- Setting out a spatial map of investment and initiatives linked to the Great 8 Priorities
- Setting out Locality plans aligned to the Borough Strategy and locally important priorities
- Developing an interactive dashboard on the key indicators that will be accessible to all
- Exploring how decisions are made and explicitly linked to the well-being goals

³ <https://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-delivering-together>

Doncaster Delivering Together Priority 4: Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all

Doncaster Delivering Together sets out the long term direction for the Borough but also gives some clear actions for partners.

One of the Great 8 priorities is Priority 4 'Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all'.

A number of actions are outlined but one in particular is worthy of note, the development of a '**Wellbeing and Fairness Commission**'.

The proposed commission would be an independent body tasked by the Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board. It will work to produce a report with some clear areas of focus that will help to improve wellbeing for residents and ensure no one is left behind.

Using Doncaster Delivering Together as a framework the commission will;

- Examine existing data, best practice, engage with subject matter experts and the lived experiences of people across the borough
- Make an assessment as to the current situation of each of the wellbeing essentials, including identifying any changes required.
- Make suggestions on areas of focus based in the form of a public 'Commission Report'. This will inform a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Produce ways of checking and measuring the impact to address poverty and inequality including a headline 2030 target and a suggested review period.

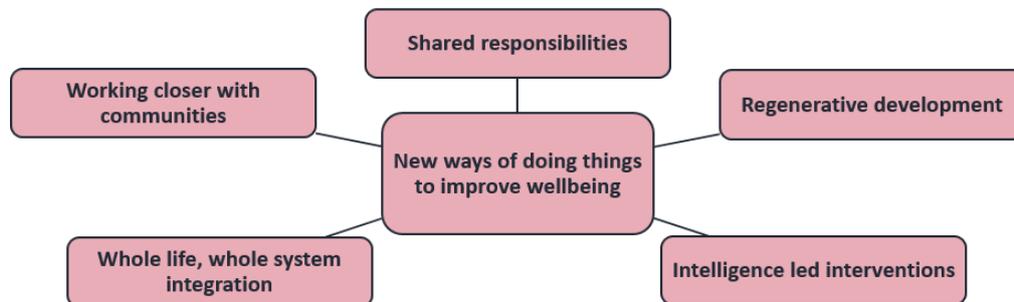
Actions:

- Catch up on the services impacted by COVID.
- Explore undertaking a Wellbeing Commission.
- Progress a fully integrated health and care system, which includes the third sector.
- Embed 'Health in all Policies' and prevention to close health gaps through everything we do.
- Develop an even more compassionate approach to health and care and improve the social conditions for better health.
- Improve all-age mental health support, including support and prevention for a zero-suicide borough.
- Support residents to live independent and rewarding lives in the place they call home.
- Develop our Social Care Futures approach to work with residents on the support they need.
- Push for a new hospital and develop Doncaster as a Health Research and Innovation Centre.
- Support rewarding careers in health and care.
- Promote and invest in accessible, good quality physical activity and leisure opportunities.
- Implement our Ageing Well Delivery Plan to become an even more Age-Friendly borough.
- Work towards becoming an even more Disability-Friendly borough.

*Figure 1: Doncaster Delivering Together
Actions for Priority 4*

Challenges to delivering Doncaster Delivering Together

Delivering the Doncaster Delivering Together Strategy will require innovation, new perspectives and new ways of working. There are six key approaches that must guide how the strategy is implemented.



Six Approaches to Delivery

Many of these approaches are already in use and the requirement now is to embed and mainstream them. Their relative importance will vary depending on the particular actions, projects or programmes being developed; but they should all be considered.

The six approaches to delivery are explained in more detail below:

1. New ways of doing things - to improve wellbeing:
 - Supporting innovation and behaviour change - to move from 'business as usual' to new approaches to improving wellbeing
 - Using the 'Three Horizons' model to develop a vision and consider the innovation required to achieve it
2. Regenerative development:
 - Pushing beyond recovery and renewal through sustainability (i.e. 'doing no harm') to regenerative development that renews and improves, including our biodiversity and waterways. Also moving from a linear 'take-make-dispose' economic system to a circular one that keeps finite resources in a loop of use and reuse
 - 'One catchment' joint working across boundaries, e.g. to consider whole river systems and flood risks
3. Working closer with communities:
 - Local Solutions for People, Places and Planet ("thinking local / acting personal" to help Doncaster people, Doncaster places and our planet"
 - Place-based collaboration to improve wellbeing and greater residents' participation in decision-making
 - Asset-based community development as part of localities working, building on distinctive local strengths and opportunities
4. Shared responsibilities - locally and regionally:
 - Residents, businesses and organisations all contributing to improvements in wellbeing
 - A leading role for Team Doncaster's anchor institutions
 - Working with regional partners, including those in the Mayoral Combined Authority, to deliver

shared priorities.

5. Intelligence led interventions:

- Using data to understand the factors driving relatively poor outcomes for different population groups and communities
- Combining different local data and insights to target services and interventions
- Using data to measure the impact of interventions on the wellbeing goals
- Broadening access to information, knowledge and emerging technologies

6. Whole life, whole system integration:

- Considering all life stages and the transitions between them - starting well, living well and ageing well
- Integrating whole systems and considering the relationships and trade-offs between different actions.
- Early intervention and prevention - identifying and addressing concerns, risks and opportunities early
- In everything we do, we need to seek other benefits too

There will be a strong focus on managing the delivery of Doncaster Delivering Together, with a programme management approach linked to resource and budgetary cycles.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic is still not over and 40% of people think it will last into 2023. However, the vaccination and booster programme should be a cause for hope especially if it can be rolled out globally. 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. 2022 will be another year where we continue to learn to live with COVID-19.

In addition to the continued 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. Some of these needs will be the result of the national lockdowns or restrictions especially. Many people will show signs of trauma or have other emotional or mental health needs. These health impacts will also be clustered in some groups more than other and these inequalities need to be addressed and if possible prevented. Community centred approaches are becoming even more important and they should be secured for the long term and not just for the pandemic. Poverty, long term inequalities and a lack of resilience not just in Doncaster but in the UK more generally must be addressed.

2022 will need a recovery that doesn't only renew but regenerates Doncaster with investment in social as well as economic infrastructure, 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.

A recovery that not only addresses the COVID-19 pandemic but also tackles the long standing challenges we had before the pandemic including homelessness, poverty, climate change, racism or inequality, now that's a recovery worth being part of.

Recommendations

Team Doncaster and partners should:

- Continue to recognise, celebrate and support the roles of 'Key workers', local people, groups, institutions, businesses and communities in the way Doncaster works
- Maintain sufficient local capacity and capability to respond to and learn from the continued COVID-19 pandemic
- Implement Doncaster Delivering Together, including updating and publishing a set of Impact Assessments to continue to guide and shape local recovery and renewal
- Secure long term locality working including asset based, community centred approaches to improve health and wellbeing working with and for communities, in the present and for future generations
- Revitalise approaches to health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion taking into account the new Geneva Charter for Wellbeing and establish a Fairness & Wellbeing Commission
- Develop new relationships with the Office of Health Improvement and the UK Health Security Agency, the successor bodies to Public Health England and establish a new method for assurance of local public health services



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 20/01/2022

To the Chair and Members of the Council

Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 – Gambling Act 2005

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr J Blackham	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To request that the members of the Council note and consider the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - Gambling Act 2005 following its 3 year review. For information, the route for adoption is attached as Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Council approve the reviewed Statement of Policy 2022 – Gambling Act 2005 and, following consideration of the response received during the consultation and the resolutions by the Licensing Committee and Cabinet, 25 November 2021 and 15 December 2021 respectively, resolve that the Policy be adopted to take effect following a statutory advertisement period of 4 weeks which will commence following this meeting.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Doncaster Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review its Policy every 3 years. This is the Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council under the Gambling Act 2005, which will set out the basis for all relevant licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next three-year period.

BACKGROUND

4. The Licensing Authority is required, under the Gambling Act 2005 (The Act), to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review the Policy at least every 3 years. The existing Policy comes to the end of its 3-year period on 31st January 2022.

5. There are 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.
 - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
6. The Policy sets out, under these three objectives, the steps that need to be taken by applicants to address these issues. It also addresses how the Licensing Committee will conduct hearings for applications that cannot be resolved. The delegation of work to the Licensing Committee is prescribed within the Gambling Act 2005 and members of that Committee and any Sub Committee will have to have a detailed knowledge of the Policy and its implications for applicants. Decisions of the relevant committees must state how decisions have been made and how the relevant parts of the Policy have been used to make that decision.
7. This is the sixth Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council under the Gambling Act 2005, which will set out the basis for all licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next three years. The statement has been produced following public consultation including those bodies and persons set out in section 1.10 of the Policy document.
8. The Gambling Act 2005 implemented a comprehensive structure of gambling regulation, which modernised previous gambling regulation and was designed to face the challenges of today and the future.
9. The Policy creates a regime of firm but fair regulation, which encourages residents and visitors to enjoy gambling and recognises the contribution of this sector to the economic development of the Borough. It also takes account of the Council's significant duty to protect children, young people and the vulnerable and to reduce the potential risks that gambling can bring.
10. The Council, in its role of licensing premises for gambling, recognises the importance of involving all residents and stakeholders in creating and enforcing this Statement of Policy and will seek to balance all the different aspirations and needs of businesses, local residents and the many visitors to the Borough.
11. We will continue to encourage the development and use of a Local Area Profile of the Borough in this Policy. We hope that this will bring a clearer understanding of local issues. Unlike alcohol control, where some of the harms are readily apparent, for example anti-social behaviour, gambling harms are usually less visible. Problem gambling can have devastating impacts on the individual, their family and their relationships with others. These impacts are not confined to debt but also include detrimental effects on an individual's health.
12. We expect operators of gambling premises to have regard to the local area when undertaking their own risk assessment on their premises and when they make licence applications.
13. The Policy continues to allow for the Licensing Authority, in its capacity as a responsible authority under the Gambling Act 2005 (The Act), to actively seek the

views of the Director of Public Health on all applications that the Licensing Authority are required to be notified of. Where applicable, these views will be used to make informed decisions regarding any representation the Licensing Authority may be minded to make.

14. This Policy will be reviewed and revised by the Council as and when required.
15. Where applicable, any matters arising out of the consultation and the actions taken are summarised at Appendix B.
16. The Draft Policy is attached as Appendix C.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

17. The Policy has been reviewed to ensure it is relevant to Doncaster in 2022 and beyond, taking account of the latest Guidance to Local Authorities produced by the Gambling Commission. The Policy remains largely unchanged from the existing version.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

18. The Licensing Authority is required, under the Gambling Act 2005 (The Act), to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review the Policy every 3 years. The Policy has been the subject of a full consultation.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

19.

	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>It is recognised that gambling premises are, quite often, businesses, places of employment and potential assets to the community. The Council, via its Licensing Committee/Sub-Committee, subject to the general principles set out in the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy will have regard to this priority when making licensing decisions.</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 	<p>It is recognised that gambling premises are, quite often, businesses, places of employment and potential assets to the community. The Council, via its Licensing Committee/Sub-Committee, subject to the general principles set out in the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy will have regard to this priority</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	when making licensing decisions.
	<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 	None
	<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 	The Council, via its Licensing Committee/Sub-Committee, subject to the general principles set out in the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy will have regard to this priority when making licensing decisions.
	<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 	None

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. Failure to adopt and or review a statement of licensing policy would create a risk by exposing the Council to a legal and financial liability brought about by the Council's inability to discharge its functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
21. However, by preparing and publishing a statement of policy, in accordance with

the Gambling Act 2005, that has regard to the licensing objectives of the 2005 Act, the Guidance to Licensing Authorities and the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the statement the risk is substantially reduced.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: NC Date: 19/10/21]

22. Section 349 Gambling Act ('the Act) requires the Licensing Authority (the Authority) to prepare a statement of the principles they propose to apply in exercising their functions and publish it in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Policy must be reviewed at least every 3 years. When reviewing the policy, the Authority is required by the Act to consult the chief officer of police, those who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Authority's area, and those who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the Authority's functions under this Act. The Act also requires the Licensing Authority, when reviewing its policy, to take account of guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. Full Council must approve the Policy for adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: RT Date: 20/10/2021]

23. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Any costs involved with the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Policy are met by the fees paid by new applicants and existing licence holders.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: DK Date: 18/10/2021]

24. 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 [Officer Initials: PW Date: 26/10/21]

25. There are no anticipated technology implications in relation to this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: RS Date: 19/10/2021]

26. Problem gambling is increasingly being cited as a public health issue and the continuation of the invitation to comment on licensing applications is a significant step forward in ensuring public health considerations are included in the decision making process.
27. Problem (or harmful) gambling is defined as any type of gambling that damages personal, family or recreational pursuits. The impact can be on the individual's physical and mental health, relationships, housing and finances and affects a range of people such as families, colleagues and wider local communities.
28. Licensing Objective 3: Protecting children and other vulnerable people/persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling describes vulnerable people as:
- People who gamble more than they want to,
 - People who gamble beyond their means,

- People who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, or because of the influence of alcohol and drugs.
29. Public Health and Licensing will continue to together to look at measures to minimise harmful and problem gambling within Doncaster.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: DDS Date: 18/10/2021]

30. Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report. However, any activities arising from this report will need to be the subject of separate 'due regard' assessments.

CONSULTATION

31. The Gambling Act 2005 requires formal consultation with:
- The Chief Officer of Police;
 - Representatives of one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
 - One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Act.
32. In addition to the statutory consultees, the Council has consulted widely on this Policy during the review. Full details of the consultation process and those consulted with can be found in section 1.10 of the Policy.
33. All responses received have been acknowledged and given due consideration. Where applicable, any matters arising out of the consultation and the actions taken are summarised at Appendix B.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

34. The Draft Policy, with any revisions that have arisen out of the consultation, is attached as Appendix C.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Dan Swaine
Director of Economy and Environment

**Statement of Licensing Policy 2022 - Gambling Act 2005
Adoption Route**

Formal Consultation took place from 17 September 2021 to 15 October 2021

Meeting / Committee	Date of Meeting
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	04/11/2021
Licensing Committee	25/11/2021
<p>Cabinet –</p> <p><i>Recommend that on Page 6 of the Policy, under the heading THE BOROUGH OF DONCASTER – that the introductory text contained in this section be amended to reflect:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(paragraph 1) update the figures for the population of Doncaster residents with the latest figures available</i> <p><i>And,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(paragraph 5) to include the cinema, library and museum in the list of significant developments within the borough.</i> <p>The above changes have been made to the Policy.</p>	15/12/2021
Council	20/01/2022

Summary of matters arising out of the Consultation on the Draft Policy

The Betting and Gaming Council (Gosschalks Solicitors acting on behalf of)

1. *On behalf of the BGC we welcome the acknowledgment of the contribution of the gambling sector to the economic development of the Borough contained in the foreword to the draft policy and the statement in paragraph 1.7 that the starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application without additional conditions.*
 - No action required.
2. *There are a number of references throughout the draft policy to promoting or the promotion of the licensing objectives. These references (paragraphs 1.4, 1.7, 2.5, 4.1 and 4.4) should be amended to reflect the requirements of Gambling Act 2005. The Act requires applications to be “reasonably consistent” with the licensing objectives. There is no duty on any person other than the Gambling Commission to promote the licensing objectives and to avoid confusion with the requirements of Licensing Act 2003, these references to promotion of the licensing objectives should be removed.*
 - Paragraphs 1.4, 1.7, 2.5, 4.1 and 4.4 have been amended to reflect the requirement to be ‘reasonably consistent with’ rather than ‘the promotion of’ the licensing objectives.
3. *Paragraph 1.7 contains a statement that “All applicants for Premises Licences will be required to set out how they will promote the licensing objectives, as specified in section 1.4, and what measures they intend to employ to ensure compliance with them.” This paragraph then goes on to refer to the applicant’s risk assessment. This paragraph should be redrafted in order that it is clear that the policies, procedures and measures proposed by the applicant to ensure consistency with the licensing objectives are to be contained within that risk assessment rather than within the application. Otherwise, there is a suggestion that like Licensing Act 2003 applications, an applicant is being invited to “suggest” conditions for imposition on the licence.*
 - The specified paragraph has been reorganised to clarify that the information should be included as part of the risk assessment and not the application form.
4. *Paragraph 4.3 explains the licensing authority’s approach to the imposition of conditions on premises licences. This section would be assisted by a reiteration of the statement referred to above in paragraph 1.7 that the starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application without additional conditions and further that the mandatory and default conditions that attach to all premises licences are intended to be sufficient to ensure operation that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. This section should also state that additional conditions will only be considered where there is clear evidence of a risk to the licensing objectives in the circumstances of a particular case that is not adequately addressed by the policies, procedures and mitigation measures contained within the applicant’s risk assessment.*
 - Paragraph 4.3 has been amended to include two additional sentences covering

the points raised.

5. *Paragraph 4.9 refers to the Licensing Authority's power to limit the number of betting machines an operator wishes to offer. This section would be assisted if it was redrafted to make a clear distinction between betting machines (where the Licensing Authority has the power to limit numbers) and gaming machines (where it does not.) The holder of a betting premises licence may make available for use up to four gaming machines of categories B, C or D.*
- An additional paragraph has been added to this section to clarify the difference between the types of machines.
6. *Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 contain lists of matters that the licensing authority recommends are considered by operators when conducting risk assessments. These lists should be redrafted to delete matters that are not relevant to any assessment of risk to the licensing objectives.*

SR Code Provisions 10.1.1 and 10.2.2 provide for "relevant matters identified in the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy" to be taken into account. The examples of matters that the licensing authority recommends be considered needs therefore only to reflect matters that are relevant to the licensing objectives.

It is impossible to see how issues such as "known problems in the area such as problems arising from street drinkers, youths participating in anti-social behaviour, drug dealing activities etc." could pose a risk to the licensing objectives. Similarly, "Areas that are prone to issues of youths participating in anti-social behaviour, including such activities as graffiti tagging, underage drinking etc." and the reference to "matters of faith" should both be removed.

Finally, the references to, "Gaming trends such as increased levels of gambling activity which, for example, correspond with pay days or benefits payments" in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 should be removed as these can only be relevant to an assessment of risk to the licensing objectives if the authority's view is that anyone in receipt of benefits or indeed paid employment is deemed vulnerable or likely to commit crime as a result of gambling.

- Section 7.2 of the policy refers to the publication 'Tackling gambling related harm – A whole council approach', which identifies groups that are considered more vulnerable. The Council believes that it is important for operators to consider the local area and identify in their risk assessment the steps they will take to prevent these vulnerable groups from being harmed or exploited by gambling. For these reasons, no amendment to the policy is proposed.
- The reference to gaming trends corresponding with paydays or benefit payments was added to the Policy in 2018 following comments received on behalf of a nationwide trade operator during consultation at that time. It was suggested that the previous reference to 'gaming trends' was too vague and examples should be included in the policy. For these reasons, no amendment to the policy is proposed.
- The inclusion of 'matters of faith' and places of worship were commented on during the 2018 consultation. The response given at that time stated that the Gambling Commission's guidance to licensing authorities states that it is

expected that the types of organisations that may be considered to have business interests will be interpreted broadly to include for example, partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices. On this basis that faith groups are considered to have business interests and thereby fall within the definition of interested party it is appropriate that the location of such premises are considered in local risk assessments. The authority considered this point in 2018 and has done so again during this consultation but in light of the above, no amendment to the policy is proposed.



**Doncaster
Council**

www.doncaster.gov.uk

Statement of Licensing Policy 2022

Gambling Act 2005

Further advice and guidance can be obtained from:

Licensing
Doncaster Council
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU
Tel: 01302 737590

Email: licensing@doncaster.gov.uk
Web: www.doncaster.gov.uk/licensing

FOREWORD

This is the sixth Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council under the Gambling Act 2005, which will set out the basis for all licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next three years. The statement has been produced following consultation with those bodies and persons set out in section 1.10.

The Gambling Act 2005 implemented a comprehensive structure of gambling regulation, which modernised previous gambling regulation and was designed to face the challenges of today and the future.

The Policy creates a regime of firm but fair regulation, which encourages residents and visitors to enjoy gambling and recognises the contribution of this sector to the economic development of the Borough. It also takes account of the Council's significant duty to protect children, young people and the vulnerable and to reduce the potential risks that gambling can bring.

The Council, in its role of licensing premises for gambling, recognises the importance of involving all residents and stakeholders in creating and enforcing this Statement of Policy and will seek to balance all the different aspirations and needs of businesses, local residents and the many visitors to the Borough.

We will continue to encourage the development and use of a Local Area Profile of the Borough in this Policy. We hope that this will bring a clearer understanding of local issues. Unlike alcohol control, where some of the harms are readily apparent, for example anti-social behaviour, gambling harms are usually less visible and insidious in nature. Problem gambling can have devastating impacts on the individual, their family and their relationships with others. These impacts are not confined to debt but also include detrimental effects on an individual's health.

We expect operators of gambling premises to have regard to the local area when undertaking their own risk assessment on their premises and when they make licence applications.

The Licensing Authority, in its capacity as a responsible authority under the Gambling Act 2005 (The Act), will actively seek the views of the Director of Public Health on all applications that the Licensing Authority are required to be notified of. Where applicable, these views will be used to make informed decisions regarding any representation the Licensing Authority may be minded to make.

This Policy will be reviewed and revised by the Council as and when required.

The Council will seek, through the licensing process and the decisions it takes, to make Doncaster a safe and welcoming place for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

Doncaster Council
Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005)

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1 Statement of Licensing Policy

1.1 Introduction

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council is the Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005 and is responsible for granting premises licences and receiving notifications in the Borough of Doncaster in respect of:-

- Casino Premises
- Bingo Premises
- Betting Premises, including Tracks
- Adult Gaming Centres
- Family Entertainment Centres
- Travelling Fairs
- Club Gaming Permits
- Prize Gaming and Prize Gaming Permits
- Temporary Use Notices
- Occasional Use Notices
- Registration of Small Society Lotteries

Unless stated otherwise, any reference, in this policy, to the Council is to the Licensing Authority and vice versa.

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy that sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

In producing this statement, the Licensing Authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the Guidance to Licensing Authorities and the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the statement.

It should be noted that this statement of licensing principles will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Policy was approved at a meeting of the Council on **DATE TBC** and was published and advertised on **DATE TBC**. Notice of the Policy was published on the Council website and posted at the Civic Office, Doncaster and Doncaster Central Library along with a copy of the Policy available for inspection. This Policy takes effect on the **DATE TBC** and will be further reviewed / revised as necessary. Statute currently requires this Policy to be reviewed every three years.

1.2 The Borough of Doncaster

The Doncaster Metropolitan Borough, extends over 224 square miles, has a population of 312,785 and is the largest metropolitan borough by area. A plan of the Borough is attached as Appendix A.

The Borough consists of the Doncaster town centre and the urban areas that surround it, the more rural villages and includes the towns of Mexborough, Consibrough, Thorne, Bawtry and Tickhill. Around 80% of the Borough is classed as green space, with a significant proportion being agricultural land.

Due to its geographical location and excellent rail, road and air links, Doncaster attracts many visitors attending local, regional and national events and activities.

Since 1776 Doncaster has been home of the 'St Leger', the oldest classic horse race.

Doncaster has seen significant developments in recent years with the opening of Robin Hood Airport, FARRS scheme, Transport Interchange, Doncaster College's Waterfront campus, the Keepmoat Stadium, Lakeside, redevelopment of Doncaster racecourse and the creation of a Civic and Cultural Quarter in the town centre which is home to the Doncaster Council Civic Office, the Cast theatre, a new cinema and the Danum Gallery Library & Museum.

Doncaster has diverse leisure and entertainment facilities which provide facilities for residents and visitors. It is regarded as an important provider of leisure and entertainment within South Yorkshire.

Team Doncaster is ambitious for the Borough and its people, business and communities. Together we have pulled together collective thinking, experience skills and resources to develop Doncaster Growing Together (DGT). DGT is a set of concrete plans for now and big ideas for the future. Further details can be found in section 2.4 of this policy and on our website www.doncaster.gov.uk.

Each area of the Borough has its own character and challenges. The Council has provided general advice in this policy to assist applicants in preparing applications. Applicants are also expected to demonstrate knowledge of their local area when describing the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives (see section 9). Applicants may consult with the Licensing Office to ensure they have as much information as possible before making their application.

1.3 Glossary of Terms

Within this Statement of Policy, the following words and terms are defined as stated:

Act:	The Gambling Act 2005
Application:	Applications for licences and permits as defined in section 1.5
Borough:	The area of South Yorkshire administered by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (Map appended at Appendix A)
Code of Practice:	Any relevant code of practice under section 24 of the Gambling Act 2005
Default Condition:	Means a specified condition provided by regulations to be attached to a licence, unless excluded by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Gaming Machine:	A gaming machine is defined by the Gambling Act 2005 as a machine that is defined or adapted for use by individuals to gamble. Gaming machines fall into categories depending on the maximum stake and prize available. Details of the categories, stakes and prizes are available on the Gambling Commission website www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk
Interested Party:	For the purposes of this Act, a person is an interested party in relation to a premises licence if, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, the person:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities; b) Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities; c) Represents persons who satisfy a) or b) above.
Licences:	As defined in section 1.5
Licensing Authority:	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Licensing Objectives:	As defined in section 1.4
Mandatory Condition:	A specified condition provided by regulations to be attached to a licence
Notification:	Notification of temporary and occasional use notices

Premises: Any place, including a vehicle, vessel or moveable structure

Regulations: Regulations made under the Gambling Act 2005

Responsible Authority: For the purposes of this Act, the following are Responsible Authorities in relation to premises:

1. The Licensing Authority - Doncaster Council;
2. The Gambling Commission;
3. South Yorkshire Police;
4. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service;
5. Planning Authority - Doncaster Council;
6. Enforcement Team (Environmental Health) - Doncaster Council;
7. Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board;
8. HM Customs and Excise;
9. Any other person prescribed by regulation made by the Secretary of State;
10. In the case of vessels:
 - the Environment Agency,
 - the British Waterways Board, and
 - the Secretary of State for Transport.

1.4 Licensing Objectives

The Gambling Act 2005 sets out the licensing objectives, which are:-

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

1.5 Types of Licence

This document sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will apply when making decisions upon applications or notifications made for:

1. Premises Licences;
2. Temporary Use Notices;
3. Permits as required under the Act;
4. Registrations as required under the Act.

1.6 Licensable Premises and Permits

The Licensing Authority is required under the Act to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*

- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits* to *Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Issue *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines
- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*
- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

It should be noted the Licensing Authority is not responsible for the licensing of remote gambling this is regulated by the Gambling Commission.

1.7 General Principles

Nothing in this Statement of Policy will:-

1. Undermine the rights of any person to apply, under the Act, for a variety of permissions and have the application considered on its individual merits; or
2. Override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or permit where they are permitted to do so under the Act.

The Council is aware, as per Section 153 of the Act, that in exercising its functions it must aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as the Authority thinks it is:

- (a) in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- (b) in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- (c) reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- (d) in accordance with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application without additional conditions. Conditions will only be considered where they are needed to meet the requirements of the licensing objectives, and any conditions

applied will not be overly onerous and will be proportionate to the scale of the application and the risks involved. Conditions will generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation.

The Licensing Authority will also expect to receive a copy of the applicant's local risk assessment in accordance with the LCCP and Social Responsibility Code. All applicants for Premises Licences will be required to set out how they will be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives, as specified in section 1.4, and what measures they intend to employ to ensure compliance with them. When determining an application to grant a Premises Licence or review a Premises Licence, regard will be taken to the proximity of the premises to schools, vulnerable adult centres or residential areas where there may be a high concentration of families with children. The proximity of premises taken into consideration will vary depending on the size and scope of the gambling premises concerned. Each case will, however, be determined on its individual merits. Therefore, if an applicant can effectively demonstrate how they might overcome licensing objective concerns, this will be taken into account.

Licensing is concerned with the control of licensed premises, temporary use notices or occasional use notices within the terms of the Act. Conditions may be attached to licences that will cover matters that are within the control of individual operators.

When considering any conditions to be attached to licences, the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. The Secretary of State may, by regulation, provide for specified conditions to be attached to a premises licence as either "mandatory" or "default" conditions. In determining an application, the Licensing Authority may not have regard to the expected demand for the facilities, which it is proposed to provide.

The Licensing Authority recognises that, apart from the licensing function, there are a number of other mechanisms available for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that can occur away from licensed premises, including:-

1. Planning controls;
2. On-going measures to create a safe and clean environment in these areas in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other Council departments;
3. Regular liaison with the Police on law enforcement issues regarding disorder and anti-social behaviour;
4. The power of the Police, other responsible authorities or local residents and businesses to seek a review of the licence.

Any person making a representation in respect of a licence application will be required to relate their representation to one or more of the Licensing Objectives, as specified in section 1.4, before the Licensing Authority will be able to consider it.

The Licensing Authority, in undertaking its licensing function, will have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality and good relations between persons of different ethnic and minority groups (see section 1.12).

The Licensing Authority, in undertaking its licensing function, will have full regard to the Regulators' Code.

1.8 Responsible Authorities

The responsible authorities are identified in Section 1.3. The contact details for the responsible authorities are published on the Licensing Authority's website www.doncaster.gov.uk/licensing

The Licensing Authority is required to designate in writing a body that is competent to advise it about the protection of children from harm. In making this designation the following principles have been applied:

- the competency of the body to advise the Licensing Authority,
- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the Licensing Authority's area, and
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons rather than particular invested interest group etc.

In accordance with the Gambling Commissions Guidance to Local Authorities the Council designates the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board for this purpose.

Another body which, whilst not listed as a responsible authority, can also help to inform the strategic picture and approach as well as inform the local area profile, is Public Health. Given the range of comorbidities associated with addictions it is likely that some of those presenting with one specific condition may be experiencing gambling related harm as well, for example those with a mental health issue or an addictive behaviour. The Licensing Authority, when acting in its role as a responsible authority, will actively seek the views of the Director of Public Health on all applications that the Licensing Authority are required to be notified of. In so far as they relate to the licensing objectives, these views will be used to make informed decisions regarding any representation the Licensing Authority may be minded to make.

1.9 Interested Parties

See definition of Interested Parties in Section 1.3

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected, such as Councillors and MPs. Where appropriate this will include parish and town councillors.

Other than persons mentioned above, the Licensing Authority will require some form of confirmation that a person, representing an interested party, is authorised to represent that party.

The Licensing Authority considers that trade associations, trade unions and resident and tenant associations qualify as 'Interested Parties' where they can demonstrate that they represent persons listed in a) or b) of section 1.3 of this policy (Interested Party).

The Licensing Authority deems that the types of organisations that may be considered to have business interests will be interpreted broadly to include, for example, partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices.

In determining if a person lives or has business interests sufficiently close to the premises that they are likely to be affected by the authorised activities, the Licensing Authority will consider the following factors:

- The size of the premises
- The nature of the premises
- The distance of the premises from the location of the person making the representation
- The potential impact of the premises (e.g. number of customers, routes likely to be taken by those visiting the establishment)
- The circumstances of the complaint. This does not mean the personal characteristics of the complainant but the interest of the complainant, which may be relevant to the distance from the premises.
- The catchment area of the premises (i.e. how far people travel to visit)
- Whether the person making the representation has business interests in that catchment area that might be affected.

1.10 Consultation

This Statement of Policy was subject to formal consultation with:-

1. The Chief Officer of Police for the Doncaster District.
2. Representatives of persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses within the Borough.
3. Persons/bodies that appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons likely to be affected by the exercise of Authority's functions under the Act.

Doncaster Council has consulted widely upon this policy statement and the list of some of those consulted is provided below:

- The Gambling Commission
- Local Elected Members
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- HM Customs and Excise
- Doncaster Council Development Control
- Doncaster Council – Public Health
- Doncaster Council - Environmental Health Department

- Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board
- Local Tenants' and Residents' Association groups
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- Doncaster Chamber
- British Beer and Pub Association
- Association of British Bookmakers
- Bingo Association
- The Racecourse Association
- Gamcare
- Local Licensing Solicitors
- Trade Unions
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Samaritans
- Doncaster Advice Services Partnership
- The Environment Agency
- British Waterways – Canal and River Trust

The consultation commenced on the 17 September 2021 and, as far as practicable, the Council followed the Consultation Principles issued by central government in 2018. The consultative document was also published on the Council's website for public comment.

1.11 Information Exchange

In fulfilling its functions and obligations under the Act, the Licensing Authority will exchange relevant information with other regulatory bodies and will establish protocols in this respect. In exchanging such information, the Licensing Authority will conform to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation in accordance with the Licensing Authority's existing policies.

Details of those persons making representations will be made available to applicants to allow for negotiation and, in the event of a hearing being required, will form part of a public document. Anyone making representations or applying for the review of a premises licence will be informed that their details will be disclosed.

1.12 Promotion of Equality

The Council recognise that the Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations, between persons with different protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

At Doncaster Council we use a range of data and information when we develop policies, set strategies, design and deliver our services. By using equality information we can make sure we have thought about opportunities to promote equality, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations across all the protected

groups when making decision. Equality information is used when we develop our corporate plans and it gives us an understanding of what our equality objectives should be.

We continuously review and provide equalities information in line with our commitment to the Equality Act and Transparency Code of Practice

Equality data and information is published on the Council website www.doncaster.gov.uk. The Doncaster Data Observatory aims to provide information and intelligence that:

- informs the development of policies and plans across Doncaster;
- increases understanding to support the main population based needs assessment reports;
- improves the sharing of research, best practice, data and intelligence among partners and minimises duplication;
- improves the commissioning of Public Services.

2. Legislation, Policies and Strategies

2.1 Legislation - Duplication with other Regulatory Regimes

This Licensing Authority seeks to avoid duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems wherever possible, including planning controls. This Authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will, however, listen to and consider carefully any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should the situation arise.

When dealing with a premises licence application, the Authority will not take into account whether those buildings have to comply with the necessary planning or building consents (see section 2.2). Fire or health and safety risks will not be taken into account, as these matters are dealt with under other relevant legislation and must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence.

It should be noted that, unlike the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act does not include as a specific licensing objective relating to the prevention of public nuisance. Any nuisance associated with gambling premises should be tackled under other relevant legislation.

Non-compliance with other statutory requirements may be taken into account in reaching a decision about whether to grant a licence, but only if relevant representations are received.

2.2 Relationship with Planning Policies

When determining an application, the Licensing Authority has a duty to take into consideration all relevant matters and not to take into consideration any irrelevant matters, i.e. those not related to gambling and the licensing objectives. One example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building regulations approval for their proposal.

When dealing with a premises licence application, the Licensing Authority will not take into account whether those buildings have or comply with the necessary planning or building consents. Those matters should be dealt with under the relevant planning and building regulation powers. Section 210 of the 2005 Act prevents licensing authorities taking into account the likelihood of the proposal by the applicant obtaining planning or building consent when considering a premises licence application. Equally the grant of a gambling premises licence does not prejudice or prevent any action that may be appropriate under the law to planning or development.

An applicant can apply for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she expects to be constructed, expects to be altered or expects to acquire a right to occupy. Such an application is again a separate and distinct process to the granting of planning permission or building regulation approval.

2.3 National Strategies

The Licensing Authority will also seek to discharge its responsibilities identified by other Government Strategies, in so far as they impact on the objectives of the licensing function.

2.4 Local Strategies and Policies

Where appropriate, the Licensing Authority will consider applications with reference to other relevant local strategies and policies. In particular it will have regard to Doncaster Growing Together (DGT), available on the Council's website www.doncaster.gov.uk.

2.5 Integrating Strategies

The Licensing Authority recognises there are many stakeholders involved in the leisure industry. Where the Licensing Authority is aware of stakeholders' plans and strategies linked to matters related to the licensing objectives it will aim to consider them.

Whilst the Licensing Authority recognises the importance of the co-ordination and integration of this policy with other policies and strategies, applicants will not be required to demonstrate a requirement to fulfil criteria not in keeping with the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Decision Making

3.1 Licensing Committee

The Council appoints a licensing committee and licensing functions will often be delegated to a licensing sub-committee or, in appropriate cases to officers of the Council. Further details on the administration, exercise and delegation of functions can be found in section 3.2 of this policy.

When required, a Licensing Sub-Committee of not less than three Councillors will sit to hear applications where representations have been received from interested parties and/or responsible authorities.

Committee members will have regard to the Council Code of Conduct for Members. Where a Councillor, who is a member of the Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee, discloses a pecuniary interest in the application before them, in the interests of good governance, they will disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision making process in respect of that application.

Where a Councillor who is a member of the Licensing Committee is making or has made representations regarding a licence on behalf of an interested party, in the interests of good governance, they will disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision making process affecting the licence in question.

The Licensing Sub-Committee will also refer to the Licensing Committee any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.

The Licensing Committee will refer to the Council any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.

Subject to the prevailing scheme of delegation, the Council's licensing officers will deal with all other licensing applications where either no representation has been received, or where representations have been received and subsequently withdrawn.

Decisions as to whether representations are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious will be made by Council officers, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, who will make the decisions on whether representations or applications for licence reviews should be referred to the Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee. Where representations are rejected, the person making that representation will be given a written reason as to why that is the case. There is no right of appeal against a determination that representations are not admissible.

3.2 Administration, Exercise and Delegation of Functions

The Licensing Authority is involved in a wide range of licensing decisions and functions and has established a Licensing Committee to administer them.

The 2005 Act provides that the functions of a licensing authority (including its determinations) are to be carried out by its licensing committee (except those relating to the making of its Statement of Licensing Policy). The licensing committee may delegate these functions to sub-committees or in appropriate cases, to officers of the Licensing Authority. It is recognised that many of the decisions and functions will be purely administrative in nature and it is, therefore, Council policy that the delegation of functions will be determined in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

In general, where, under the provisions of the 2005 Act, there are no relevant representations on an application for the grant of a premises licence, these matters will be dealt with by officers. This form of delegation is without prejudice to officers referring an application to a Sub-Committee or Committee if considered appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

Membership and the terms of reference for the Licensing Committee will be established at the Annual General Meeting of the Council.

The Licensing Committee will agree the appointment of a Licensing Sub-Committee and the delegation of functions annually at its inaugural meeting. The prevailing scheme of delegation will be attached to this Policy as Appendix B

Details of all committee meetings, agendas and minutes including the delegation of functions will be published on the Council's website.

3.3 Giving Reasons for Decisions

Every determination of a licensing decision by the Licensing Committee or a Licensing Sub-Committee shall be accompanied by clear and relevant reasons for the decision. The decision and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the applicant and those who have made relevant representations as soon as practicable and, in all cases, within the statutory time frames. A summary of the decision shall also be posted on the Council's website as soon as practicable after the decision has been confirmed.

3.4 Licensing Reviews

The Licensing Authority will carry out a review of a premises licence either of its own volition or following receipt of an application for review in accordance with the Act that is relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives. It is for the Licensing Authority to decide whether the review is to be carried out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below;

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the Authority's statement of licensing policy.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they fit the following:

- a) The grounds are frivolous;
- b) The grounds are vexatious;
- c) The grounds are irrelevant;
- d) The grounds will not cause the Licensing Authority to revoke or suspend a licence or to remove, amend or attach conditions on the premises licence;
- e) The grounds are substantially the same as the grounds cited in a previous application relating to the same premises; or
- f) The grounds are substantially the same as representations made at the time the application for a premises licence was considered.

The Licensing Authority can also initiate a review of a particular premises licence, or a particular class of premises licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks appropriate.

In particular, the licensing authority may also initiate a review of a premises licence on the grounds that a premises licence holder has not provided facilities for gambling at the premises. This is to prevent applications for licences in a speculative manner without intending to use them.

4 Local Standards

4.1 Applications

An application for a premises licence can only be made by a person who either holds an operating licence authorising him to carry on the activity in respect of which a premises licence is sought, or has made an application for an operating licence which has not yet been determined. (Note: Race Tracks do not require an operating licence in order to apply for a premises licence.)

Applications for the grant, transfer or variation of a premises licence must be accompanied by an assessment that demonstrates how the applicant will operate the premises to be reasonably consistent with all the licensing objectives in the form of a written operating schedule and a local risk assessment in accordance with the Social Responsibility code (LCCP). The applicant may ask the Licensing Authority for advice as to the scope of information to be provided. (See section 9)

The level of detail to be provided will be advised by the Licensing Office and will be proportional to the scale and nature of the application made.

Definitions of “Responsible Authorities” and “Interested Parties” who are able to make representations under this Act can be found in sections 1.3, 1.8 & 1.9.

4.2 Assessment of Need

In accordance with Section 153 of the 2005 Act, when deciding whether or not to grant a licence, the Licensing Authority will not have regard to the expected demand for gambling premises that are the subject of the application.

4.3 Conditions

The starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application without additional conditions. The mandatory and default conditions that are attached to all premises licences are intended to be sufficient to ensure operation that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

Conditions will be applied to licences that are proportionate and appropriate to the business, organisation or individual concerned. The Licensing Authority will draw upon the advice issued by the Gambling Commission and attach conditions relative to the given circumstances of each individual case.

Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- Relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- Directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- Fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises; and
- Reasonable in all other respects.

The Licensing Authority expects applicants to offer their own suggestions as to ways in which the licensing objectives can be effectively met. In order to inform such suggestions, applicants will be expected to prepare risk assessments based on the location and range of clientele of the premises, and to take account of any local area profile produced by the Council. For further details see section 9.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of measures this Licensing Authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of supervisors, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. (See section 7)

The Council will also consider specific measures, which may be required for buildings, which are subject to multiple premises licences. Such measures may include the supervision of entrances; segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children; and the supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises in order to pursue the licensing objectives. These matters are in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

Conditions attached to Premises Licences will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies. For example, closed circuit television (CCTV) may be appropriate in certain premises.

Additional conditions will only be considered where there is clear evidence of a risk to the licensing objectives in the circumstances of a particular case that is not adequately addressed by the policies, procedures and mitigation measures contained within the applicant's risk assessment.

In order to avoid duplication with other statutory regimes, the Licensing Authority will not attach conditions to a licence unless they are considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Conditions will generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation.

It is noted that there are conditions, which the Council cannot attach to premises licences, which are:

- Any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- Conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- Conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated); and
- Conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

4.4 Enforcement

The Licensing Authority is committed to the principles and approach to enforcement set out in the Regulators' Code, and will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities and will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects.

As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, the Licensing Authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes as far as possible.

The Licensing Authority will adopt and implement a risk-based inspection programme, based on;

- The licensing objectives
- Relevant codes of practice
- Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- The principles set out in this statement of licensing policy

The main enforcement and compliance role for the Licensing Authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 is to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission is the enforcement body for the operating and personal licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines are not dealt with by the Licensing Authority but should be notified to the Gambling Commission.

This Licensing Authority also keeps itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.

The Licensing Authority intends to use appropriate enforcement to ensure premises are operated in a manner which is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. Once licensed, it is essential that premises are monitored to ensure that they are run in accordance with their operating schedules, in compliance with the specific requirements of the Act and in compliance with any licence conditions. It will also be important to monitor the Borough for unlicensed premises.

The Licensing Authority will seek to work actively with the Police in enforcing licensing legislation and facilitates programmed liaison with South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire's Fire and Rescue Service on enforcement issues to ensure the efficient deployment of resources.

4.5 Casinos

The Gambling Act states that a casino is an arrangement whereby people are given the opportunity to participate in one or more casino games, whereby casino games are defined as a game of chance, which is not equal gaming. This means that casino games offer the chance for multiple participants to take part in a game competing against the house at different odds to their fellow players.

Casinos are specifically limited, by national regulations, as to their number, size and geographical location. Doncaster Council, under the existing law, cannot issue a casino licence due to it not being one of specified locations.

Notwithstanding the above, the Licensing Authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should the Licensing Authority decide in future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be taken by the Full Council.

4.6 Adult Gaming Centres

Adult Gaming Centres are a category of premises introduced by the Act. They are allowed to have limited numbers of Category B and any number of Category C & D gaming machines and are not allowed to admit under-18s.

The Licensing Authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the Authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. (See section 7)

4.7 (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres

Licensed Family Entertainment Centres are permitted to provide both Category C & D gaming machines and must ensure that under 18s have no access to Category C machines.

The Licensing Authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the Authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas. (See section 7)

4.8 Bingo Premises

The Act does not define Bingo, but previous legislation divided this category into Cash Bingo, played in commercial Bingo Halls and Prize Bingo, traditionally played in arcades or travelling funfairs. As Bingo premises can provide Category B, C & D Gaming machines, under 18s must not be allowed access to Category B & C machines, if provided.

The Licensing Authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the Authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to any adult only gaming machine areas. (See section 7)

4.9 Betting Premises

Betting premises are premises such as high street betting shops where various types of gambling are allowed to take place. The Council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the Authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. (See section 7)

Betting machines - The Licensing Authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer. (See section 7)

Gaming machines – In addition to the above, the holder of a betting premises licence may make available for use up to four gaming machines of categories B, C or D.

4.10 Tracks

Tracks are sites (including racecourses and dog tracks) where races or other sporting events take place. Betting is a major gambling activity on tracks, both in the form of pool betting (often known as the 'tote'), and also general betting, known as 'fixed-odds' betting.

These premises may be subject to one or more premises licence. The Licensing Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that persons under 18 do not have access to adult only gaming facilities and will take into account any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission in relation to these premises. (See section 7)

It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, but that they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided. (See section 7)

Gaming machines - Where the applicant holds a pool betting operating licence and is going to use the entitlement to four gaming machines, machines (other than category D machines) should be located in areas from which persons under 18 are excluded. (See section 7)

Betting machines - This Licensing Authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator proposes to offer. (See section 7)

4.11 Travelling Fairs

Travelling fairs have traditionally been able to provide various types of low stake gambling without the need for a licence or permit, provided that certain conditions are met. Travelling fairs have the right to provide an unlimited number of category D gaming machines and / or equal chance prize gaming (without the need for a permit) as long as the gambling amounts to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair.

The Licensing Authority, through its enforcement activities, will endeavour to ensure that any fair complies with the requirements of the regulations.

4.12 Prize Gaming Permits

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may 'prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule' which 'may, in particular, specify matters that the licensing authority proposes to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit'.

The Licensing Authority requires the applicant to (a) set out the types of gaming that they are intending to offer, (b) submit a plan of the building indicating the location of the gaming and (c) be able to demonstrate:

- That they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations;
- That the gaming offered is within the law;
- Clear policies that outline the steps to be taken to protect children from harm.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the Licensing Authority does not need to, but may, have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the Licensing Authority cannot attach as conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be

played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;

- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

4.13 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres (FEC)

Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres will cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young persons. As they operate on a permit they will only be allowed to have Category D Gaming machines, which can be played by young people.

It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use and would, therefore, exclude any premises primarily used for any other purposes, e.g. canteens, fast food takeaways, garages and petrol filling stations, taxi offices or non-arcade premises.

The Licensing Authority will, in relation to applications for unlicensed family entertainment centres, take into account the following statement of principles when determining the suitability of the applicant:

The Licensing Authority will expect the applicant to submit a plan of the building and show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include appropriate measures / training for staff as regards suspected truant school children on the premises, measures / training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises. (See section 7)

This Licensing Authority will also expect, as per Gambling Commission Guidance, that applicants demonstrate a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs; that the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act); and that staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

4.14 (Alcohol) Licensed Premises

Premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises have an automatic right to have two machines of categories C and/or D. Any increase on these limits will require a permit. These applications will be considered on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited. The applicant will be expected

to ensure that under 18s do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. This could include being in sight of the bar or in sight of the staff who monitor that such machines are not used by those under 18. In relation to vulnerable persons the applicant could consider the provision of information for support services that offer advice. (See section 7)

4.15 Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits

Members Clubs are defined as having more than 25 members and being established for purposes other than gambling and Miner's Welfare Institutes are defined as associations established for recreational or social purposes.

Members Clubs and Miners' Welfare Institutes may apply for these. A Club Gaming Permit will enable premises to provide three machines of either categories B, C or D and equal chance and other forms of gaming, as set out in regulations. A club gaming machine permit if applied for will enable premises to provide three machines of categories B, C or D only.

4.16 Temporary Use Notices

Temporary Use Notices allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling. Premises that might be suitable for a Temporary Use Notice, according to the Gambling Commission, would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues

These notices should not be used to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises. The Licensing Authority expects to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises, as recommended in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities.

4.17 Occasional Use Notices

The Licensing Authority has very little discretion with regard to these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of eight days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The Licensing Authority will though consider the definition of 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

4.18 Small Society Lotteries

The Council will adopt a risk based approach towards its enforcement responsibilities for small society lotteries. The Council considers that the following list, although not exclusive, could affect the risk status of the operator:

- submission of late returns (returns must be submitted no later than three months after the date on which the lottery draw was held)
- submission of incomplete or incorrect returns
- breaches of the limits for small society lotteries

Non-commercial gaming is permitted if it takes place at a non-commercial event, either as an incidental or principal activity at the event. Events are non-commercial if no part of the proceeds is for private profit or gain. The proceeds of such events may benefit one or more individuals if the activity is organised:

- by, or on behalf of, a charity or for charitable purposes
- to enable participation in, or support of, sporting, athletic or cultural activities.

5. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime

The Licensing Authority places a considerable importance on the prevention of crime and disorder, and will do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough. A high standard of control is therefore expected to be exercised over licensed premises.

The Licensing Authority will, when determining applications, consider whether the grant of a Premises Licence will result in an increase in crime and disorder.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss the crime prevention procedures in their premises with the Council's Licensing Office and South Yorkshire Police before making a formal application.

In considering licence applications, the Licensing Authority will particularly take into account the following:-

- The design and layout of the premises;
- The training given to staff in crime prevention measures appropriate to those premises;
- Physical security features installed in the premises. This may include matters such as the position of cash registers or the standard of CCTV that is installed;
- Where premises are subject to age restrictions, the procedures in place to conduct age verification checks;
- The likelihood of any violence, public order or policing problem if the licence is granted.

The Licensing Authority is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors, for example whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it, so as to make that distinction.

6. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

The Licensing Authority has noted the Gambling Commission states that it generally does not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business (and therefore relevant to the Operating Licence), or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual (and therefore relevant to the Personal Licence). Both of these options fall under the control of the Gambling Commission.

However, the Licensing Authority will familiarise itself with operator licence conditions and will communicate any concerns to the Gambling Commission about misleading advertising or any absence of required game rules or other matters as set out in the Commission's Code of Practice.

The Licensing Authority is also aware of the differences between track premises licences and most other premises licences. In Essence, tracks admit third-party operators to provide betting facilities, whereas other premises licence holders e.g. betting shops, bingo clubs etc. provide gambling facilities themselves and are subject to the conditions of the operating licence as well as the premises licences.

7. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

7.1 Access to Licensed Premises

With limited exceptions, the access of children and young persons under 18 to those gambling premises, which are adult only environments, will not be permitted.

The Licensing Authority will seek to limit the advertising for premises so that gambling products are not aimed at children or advertised in such a way that makes them particularly attractive to children.

The Licensing Authority will consult with the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board and with other relevant bodies, on any application that indicates there may be concerns over access for children or vulnerable persons.

The Licensing Authority will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether to impose conditions to protect children on particular categories of premises. This may include such requirements as:-

- Supervision of entrances;
- Segregation of gambling areas from areas frequented by children;
- Supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises.

The Licensing Authority will work closely with the Police to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law.

7.2 Vulnerable Persons

The Licensing Authority does not seek to prohibit particular groups of adults from gambling in the same way that it seeks to prohibit children, but it will assume for regulatory purposes, that “vulnerable persons” include:

1. People who gamble more than they want to;
2. People who gamble beyond their means;
3. People who may not be able to make an informed or balanced decision about gambling due to impaired capacity resulting from mental health or disability problems, alcohol or drugs.

The Licensing Authority is aware of the Local Government Association and Public Health England publication ‘Tackling gambling related harm – A whole council approach’ published July 2018 and the research which found evidence to support suggestions that the following groups are more vulnerable:

- children, adolescents and young adults (including students)
- people with mental health issues, including those experiencing substance abuse issues (problem gambling is often ‘co-morbid’ with these substance addictions)

- individuals from certain minority ethnic groups, such as Asian/Asian British, Black/Black British and Chinese/other ethnicity
- the unemployed
- the homeless
- those with low intellectual functioning
- problem gamblers seeking treatment
- people with financially constrained circumstances
- those living in deprived areas.

The Licensing Authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis having regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. Whilst the Licensing Authority acknowledges that it may be difficult for gambling premises staff to identify vulnerable persons, (especially in the case of persons who may have a mental illness) in the first instance the Licensing Authority would expect staff members to try and maintain an awareness of how much (e.g. how long) customers are gambling. If it is perceived that any particular persons may be gambling excessively or are showing other obvious signs of being unwell then further investigation should follow to try and identify if the person may fall within the category of vulnerable.

7.3 Measures for Protecting Children and Vulnerable Persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

This Licensing Authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer their own suggestions as to ways in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

Applicants may consider measures to meet the licensing objective for protecting and supporting children and other vulnerable persons such as:

- Operators should demonstrate their understanding of best practice issued by organisations that represent the interests of vulnerable people.
- Proof of age schemes.
- CCTV.
- Supervision of entrances/machine areas.
- Physical separation of areas.
- Location of entry to premises: Windows, entrances and advertisements to be positioned or designed not to entice passers-by.
- Specific opening hours.
- Self-exclusion schemes.
- Notices/signage:
 - stickers or notices on gaming machines to identify the stakes/prizes
 - Fixed Odds Betting Terminals should clearly display the odds
- Provision of information leaflets/helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
- ATMs and cash terminals located separately from gaming machines and displaying GamCare Helpline information.
- Training for staff which develops their ability to maintain a sense of awareness of how much customers are gambling, as part of measures to detect persons who may be vulnerable.

- Training for staff for the purpose of identifying and providing support to vulnerable persons
- Measures/training for staff on how to deal with children on the premises, for example suspected truancy from school.

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

The Licensing Authority may consider any of the above or similar measures as licence conditions should these not be adequately addressed by any mandatory conditions, default conditions or suggestions proposed by the applicant.

Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and follow the principles set out in Section 4.3

This Authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines are on offer in premises to which children are admitted:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises which is separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- only adults are admitted to the area where these machines are located;
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- the area where these machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by the staff or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to and inside any such areas there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.

This Licensing Authority is aware that tracks may be subject to one or more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, this Licensing Authority will consider the impact upon the third licensing objective and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

The Licensing Authority will seek to ensure that operators are following conditions laid down by the Gambling Commission to provide information on how to gamble responsibly and how to access information about problem gambling. Information should be made available in accessible form e.g. large print.

7.4 Door Supervisors

The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance to Licensing Authorities that if a licensing authority is concerned that a premises may attract disorder or be subject to attempts at unauthorised access (for example by children and young persons) then it may require that the entrances to the premises are controlled by a door supervisor, and is entitled to impose a premises licence condition to this effect.

Where it is decided that supervision of entrances/machines is appropriate for particular cases, a consideration of whether these need to be SIA licensed or not will be necessary. It will not be automatically assumed that they need to be licensed, as the statutory requirements for different types of premises vary.

8. Complaints against Licensed Premises

The Licensing Authority will investigate complaints against licensed premises in relation to matters relating to the licensing objectives for which it has responsibility. In the first instance, complainants are encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the licence holder or business concerned to seek a local resolution.

Where an interested party has made either a valid representation about licensed premises or a valid application for a licence to be reviewed, the Licensing Authority may initially mediate to address and clarify the issues of concern.

This process will not override the right of any interested party to ask that the Licensing Committee consider their valid representation or application.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they fit the exceptions detailed in section 3.4 of this policy.

9. The Local Risk Profile and Risk Assessments by Operators – Licensing Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP)

The Gambling Commission publishes the general licence conditions and codes of practise which apply to licensed gambling operators in Licensing Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) which is revised from time to time. The code strengthened the social responsibility code (SR) requirements. Details regarding the LCCP and SR code can be accessed via the Gambling Commission website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk.

The code requires operators:

- To supervise customers effectively on gambling premises and identify customers who are at risk of gambling related harm.
- To have in place schemes to allow customers to self-exclude themselves from all operators of a similar type in the area where they live and work.
- To have a range of measures with regard to marketing to ensure social responsibility that are transparent and not misleading.
- To produce a risk assessment on individual premises, and have policies and procedures and control measures in place to mitigate local risks to the licensing objectives.

9.1 Risk Assessments

Such risk assessments are required from new applicants, and from existing premises licence holders seeking to vary a licence. The LCCP strongly encourages all operators of Casino's, Adult Gaming Centres, Bingo Premises, Family Entertainment Centres, Betting shops and remote betting intermediaries to assess local risks to the licensing objectives, and to have policies, procedures and control measures in place to mitigate those risks.

Operators are expected by the SR code to make the risk assessment available to licensing authorities when an application is submitted either for a new premises licence or variation of a premises licence, or otherwise on request, and this will form part of the council's inspection regime and may be requested when officers are investigating complaints.

Any failure to provide a competent risk assessment will be taken into account by the Council in determining the application, and such inferences will be made about potential harm to the licensing objectives as appear appropriate.

The Council considers that these local risk assessments are a key component of the overall assessment and management of the local risks. The code requires the Council to set out matters they expect the operator to take account of in the risk assessment in its statement of policy and the Council expects the Local Area Risk Profile and the following matters to be considered by operators when making their risk assessment:

- Information held by the licensee regarding self-exclusions and incidences of underage gambling;
- Gaming trends such as increased levels of gambling activity which, for example, correspond with pay days or benefits payments;
- Arrangement for localised exchange of information regarding self-exclusions and gaming trends;
- Urban setting such as proximity to schools, commercial environment, factors affecting footfall;
- Range of facilities in proximity to the licensed premises such as other gambling outlets, banks, post offices, refreshment and entertainment type facilities;
- Known problems in the area such as problems arising from street drinkers, youths participating in anti-social behaviour, drug dealing activities, etc.;
- The ethnicity, age, economic makeup of the local community.

The risk assessment should cover the risks and character of the local area, the gambling operation and the design of the premises.

9.2 The Local Area

The Council expects the following matters to be considered by operators when making their risk assessment.

Matters relating to children and young persons, including:

- The footfall in the local area, for example, does it predominately comprise residents, workers or visitors, is it a family orientated area, popular with children and young people;
- Significant presence of young children;
- Institutions, places or areas where the presence of children and young persons should be expected such as schools, youth clubs, parks, playgrounds and entertainment venues such as bowling alleys, cinemas etc.;
- Any premises where children congregate including bus stops, cafés, shops, and any other place where children are attracted;
- Areas that are prone to issues of youths participating in anti-social behaviour, including such activities as graffiti/tagging, underage drinking, etc.;
- Recorded incidents of attempted underage gambling;
- Transport links and parking facilities;
- Community centres;
- High crime area;
- Other gambling premises in the vicinity.

Matters relating to vulnerable adults, including:

- Information held by the licensee regarding self-exclusions and incidences of underage gambling;
- Gaming trends that may mirror days for financial payments such as pay days or benefit payments;
- Arrangement for localised exchange of information regarding self-exclusions and gaming trends;
- Proximity of premises which may be frequented by vulnerable people such as hospitals, mental health providers, residential care homes, medical facilities, doctor's surgeries, council housing offices, addiction clinics or help centres, places where alcohol or drug dependant people may congregate, etc.;
- Homeless or rough sleeper shelters, hostels and support services;
- Transport links and parking facilities;
- Community centres;
- High crime area;
- High unemployment area;
- Pawn broker/pay day loan businesses in the vicinity;
- Other gambling premises in the vicinity.

Other issues that may be considered could include:

- Matters of faith, including all religious or faith denominations including proximity to churches, mosques, temples or any other place of worship.

9.3 The Gambling Operation

In assessing the risk factors associated with a gambling operation the assessor should take into account the local risks which are commonly accepted by broader stakeholders and how that gambling operation may affect that risk.

The assessor may wish to consider:

- How the gambling operation will relate to how the operator conducts its business;
- What gambling products it provides in the premises;
- The facilities to enable gambling within the premises;
- The staffing levels within the premises;
- The level and requirement for staff training;
- Whether loyalty or account cards are used or not;
- The policies and procedures it has in place in relation to regulatory requirements of the Act or to comply with the LCCP;
- The security and crime prevention arrangements it has in place;
- How it advertises locally and on the premises;
- The marketing material within the premises;
- The display and provision of information, etc.

9.4 The Design of Premises

The design and layout of the premises is a key consideration as this could have a significant impact on the risk to the licensing objectives. In assessing the risk factors associated with the premises design and layout reference is needed to the local area risks factors already identified to ensure the design doesn't add to that risk. The design, both internal and external should be considered and specific risk factors identified and noted. For example:

- The premises may have a number of support pillars which the assessor identifies as obstructing the view of the gaming machines from the cashier counter.
- The assessor may identify that the design of the entrance to the premises is not sufficiently covered by CCTV to enable the identification of offenders.
- Premises which are located within an area which has a high number of children and young people present throughout the day may identify that their standard external design means that children and young people can see into the premises and see gambling taking place.
- If the premises have a large amount of glass frontage in an area prone to criminal damage, the assessor may consider the risk of damage to the standard toughened glass to be high.

These would be identified risk factors that would need to be documented.

This list is not exhaustive and other factors not in this list that are identified may also be taken into consideration.

9.5 Local Area Risk Profile

The Gambling Commission guidance advises that licensing authorities provide a risk profile of their borough. This will assist operators undertaking the risk assessments of their premises, and will also be taken into account when considering applications for new and variations to licences and reviews of licences.

The Licensing Authority will endeavour to ensure an up to date Local Area Risk Profile for the Doncaster Borough is published and readily available.

Whilst not forming part of this policy, the Local Area Risk Profile for the Doncaster Borough should aim to include data and maps which show the distribution of gambling premises and sensitive locations and vulnerable communities. For example:

- Educational establishments;
- Relevant leisure facilities;
- Medical facilities, care homes, and temporary accommodation etc.;
- Places of worship;
- Hot spot areas combining the educational establishments/leisure facilities/medical facilities
- Areas of deprivation;

- Areas of unemployment;
- Areas where residents claim working age benefits;
- Areas of poor mental health;
- Violence hot spots;
- Drug and alcohol hot spots.

If an application for a new licence or variation is submitted that is within 400 metres of a sensitive building or vulnerable community, operators are encouraged to provide details of the measures to be implemented that would overcome any risks relating to one or more of the licensing objectives, namely:

- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 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.

10. Further information

Further information about the Gambling Act 2005, this Statement of Licensing Policy or the application process can be obtained from:-

Licensing
Doncaster Council
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Tel: 01302 737590
E-mail: licensing@doncaster.gov.uk
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk/licensing

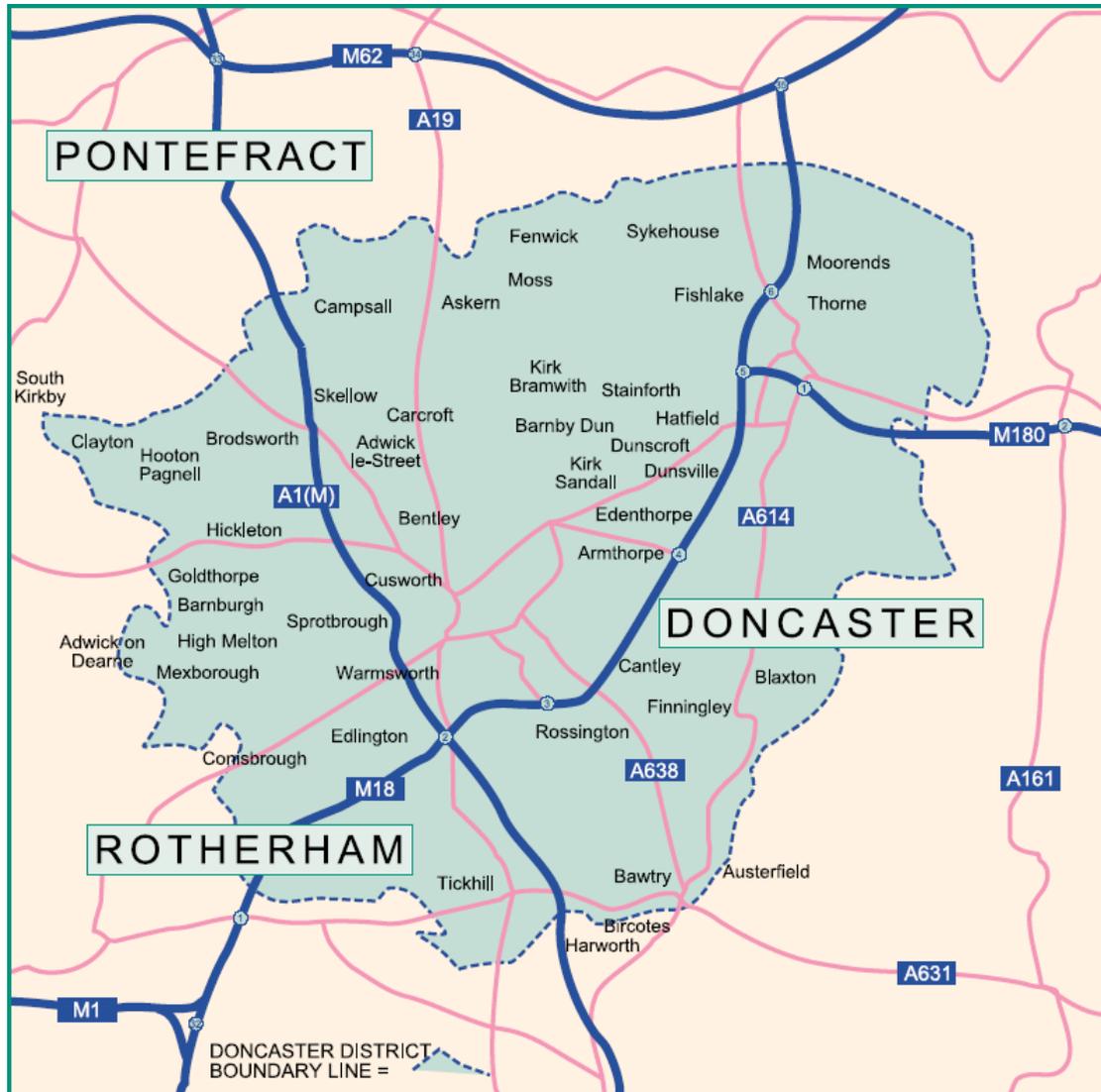
Information is also available from:-

Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BP

Tel: 0121 230 6666
Email: info@gamblingcommission.gov.uk
Website: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

The area of South Yorkshire administered by Doncaster Council



APPENDIX B**Delegation of Functions - Gambling Act 2005**

Matters to be dealt with	Sub-Committee	Officers
Application for premises licences	Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a variation to a licence	Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a transfer of a licence	Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a provisional statement	Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Review of a premises licence	All cases	
Application for club gaming /club machine permits	Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Cancellation of club gaming/ club machine permits	All cases	
Applications for other permits		All cases
Cancellation of licensed premises gaming machine permits		All cases
Consideration of temporary use notice		All cases
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice	All cases	

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Doncaster Council

Report

To the Chair and Members of the Full Council

Date: 20th January 2022

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022 - 25

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Rachael Blake	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update regarding the 2022-25 Community Safety Strategy. The Strategy is a statutory plan which requires endorsement by Council but is produced and owned by the multi-agency Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), acting as Doncaster's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The SSDP has a legal duty to work together to: tackle crime and disorder, including serious and organised crime; reduce re-offending; tackle anti-social behaviour and to tackle alcohol and substance misuse. The SSDP has a wider remit to address any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment, and to produce a plan outlining how this will be achieved.
2. In Doncaster this plan is known as the Community Safety Strategy which is produced every 4 years and refreshed annually. The Strategy has been produced following consultation in respect of the partnership priorities and includes a summary of key achievements and outcomes we are seeking to achieve with, and for, the people of Doncaster. The Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan also gives an overview of how we plan to address these priorities.

EXEMPT REPORT

3. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Members of the Full Council are asked to comment on and endorse the content of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. The review of the Community Safety Strategy ensures the priorities remain relevant and responsive to important issues for citizens and the borough, for the next 4 years. The public consultation process has been far-reaching with responses being welcomed from residents; elected members; community groups; the youth council; key partners; staff and businesses across the Borough. Communications have also been publicised in a variety of forums including Council social media platforms; Directorate newsletters; Chief Executive blog; Voluntary Action Doncaster newsletter and the Doncaster Talking Newspaper.
6. The survey has been offered in alternative formats, including braille, and alternative methods of consultation have also been offered, to help reach new and emerging communities and harder to reach groups. An 'Easy Read' version of the strategy will also be produced and launched alongside the full document.

BACKGROUND

7. The content of the Community Safety Strategy has been identified through cross referencing the data captured within the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and through a robust and comprehensive process of community consultation.
8. This consultation has identified that the strategic current priorities should remain, as they continue to meet the needs of residents and Partners, but has identified a number of emerging issues, which are reflected in the strategy and delivery plan.
9. The strategic priorities reflected within the strategy are:
 - Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
 - Reducing anti-social behaviour
 - Reducing crime & re-offending
 - Tackling serious & organised crime
 - Reducing substance & alcohol misuse
 - Reducing violence and violent crime
10. This strategy will result in closer partnership working in respect of the identified priorities and will have a positive impact on the citizens of Doncaster who will see improved outcomes in terms of feeling safer; being safer and getting the support they need with access to improved services. We will also be taking a strong enforcement approach to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, supported by early intervention and prevention, stopping issues from escalating at an early stage and targeting resources where they are most needed.
11. Crime reduction and community safety are not the sole responsibility of any one agency, organisation or group and it is important that we draw together all agencies and communities in a joint agenda to combine our shared resources, creativity and effort within a common framework and plan. This plan is owned by all agencies within the Partnership and the Community Safety Strategy provides an outline of this work and importantly how we as a partnership set out our ambitions to address local issues, whilst recognising the needs of our communities.

12. The results of the community consultation are encouraging and demonstrate that in general, residents feel safe in Doncaster. When asked about the crime and disorder themes that were most important, results indicated a relatively even priority across the strategic priorities detailed above. However, reducing anti-social behaviour accounted for 88.37% of the community safety themes most important to those surveyed.
13. When asked what could be done to improve the partnership and its services, responses included: more visible presence from officers within communities/neighbourhoods; simpler and faster Police reporting services; increased engagement with young people; increased support for offenders; closer working with community organisations; improved communications/social media presence; targeted work in hotspot areas; increased CCTV coverage; better support for victims of crime; additional resources for outlying areas. These areas will remain a focus for the SSDP in the forthcoming year and we will be examining how all partners can increase visibility and our response to incidents.
14. It must be recognised that the strategy does not seek to describe all the activities undertaken by each of the partners involved in community safety but highlights the key priorities for the partnership for the next 4 years. It also does not duplicate the work delivered through other structures such as children's and adult safeguarding. In each of the priority areas the community safety strategy is underpinned by a dedicated strategy and delivery plan to drive activity in that area.
15. An overview of each of the strategic themes and a summary of their respective key achievements are detailed below.

Overarching Principle: Leaving Nobody Behind

16. Some people are more at risk than others in our communities, perhaps because of their age, disability, ethnicity or other distinguishing characteristics that can link to increased vulnerability.
17. For children and young people, and for adults with care and support needs, cross-cutting work is delivered through other structures including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding board. Each of these structures has their own priorities and strategies supporting. The Community Safety Strategy will not seek to duplicate their work here.
18. However, ensuring we engage with and support people who are at higher potential risk than others is a key overarching principle which runs as a cross-cutting theme throughout the partnership structure. Understanding and addressing vulnerability was identified as a key issue in the consultation process informing this strategy, resulting in the ongoing commitment to deliver improved services to communities across Doncaster.
19. Having also considered the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, there are some key areas that have been considered and included, as detailed within each of the priority group sections and Delivery Plan. Overall, through the Strategy and accompanying actions we will show our commitment to equality and good outcomes for all Doncaster people, regardless of situation or background.

Tackling Domestic & Sexual Abuse

20. During the pandemic increases have been seen particularly in the reporting of domestic abuse. People seeking support has also increased. This is not surprising since families have been spending more time together which increases the time victims are spending with their perpetrators, whilst also being impacted by the wider stresses of life. A new domestic abuse strategy for 2021-2024 has been developed following extensive consultation with communities, survivors and practitioners. This will be closely followed by a new sexual abuse strategy.
21. The new domestic abuse strategy builds on the extensive work already undertaken and reemphasises that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and that it will only be tackled by everyone working together. There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. The strategy seeks to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse as well as promoting trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour.

22. Key Achievements:

- A co-ordinated response to prevention, early identification and intervention work for victims and perpetrators that ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in the Domestic Abuse Bill and a desire to strive for excellence.
- Established Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub to provide a single point of contact for victims of domestic abuse to access information and support.
- Funding from Doncaster Council, the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit and the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership to tackle domestic abuse.
- Funding secured to support statutory requirements on the Local Authority to produce a needs assessment and strategy to tackle domestic abuse, as well as provide safe accommodation and secure tenancies for victims.
- Established senior officer group to oversee continuous improvement in delivery of Domestic Abuse practice across the partnership

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

23. It can be seen from the consultation undertaken that anti-social behaviour is the area that most respondents were concerned about. It is likely that this is due to anti-social behaviour affecting more people on a daily basis than the other priorities and it being more visible to the wider community.
24. Anti-social behaviour impacts on community resilience and people's quality of life often impacting day after day. Anti-social behaviour plays a significant role within the localities-based approach which seeks to improve our communities.
25. Recognising the feedback from communities is important for the partnership, in particular improving confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour, updating the public on our actions and increasing visibility of partnership resources in those areas affected by anti-social behaviour. Some of these actions will form part of our Rapid Improvement Plan and from this we will communicate with the public the improvements and successes that have been achieved.

26. As a Partnership we have invested heavily in CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour, both in terms of providing reassurance and using footage to support prosecutions. Over the last 3 years we have expanded our CCTV network in Doncaster using capital funding and Government Safer Streets funding to expand our networks and benefit more Communities across Doncaster.

27. The monitoring of CCTV has also improved and we are now more productive in terms of active enforcement, seeing a large increase in footage being used as evidence in fly-tipping prosecutions and combating other forms of anti-social behaviour.

28. Key Achievements:

- Increased the deployment of the dedicated SYP Off Road Bike Team resources. as part of our response to off-road bikes in key areas affected by this issue.
- Implemented successful plans around tyre burning and fly tipping across the borough in partnership with the Fire service.
- Using Fire data around deliberate and secondary fires, we have developed a mechanism to improve the response to this issue by targeting resources into the area affected and developing early intervention and prevention plans.
- Developed new ways of engaging with young people during lockdown via social media platforms and targeted detached youth work.
- Monitored hate crimes and incidents across Doncaster to ensure an effective multi-agency response to reports, monitored patterns and trends to determine areas of higher activity and an appropriate response.
- Improved the multi-agency processes to monitor and respond to community tensions across the Borough. The Doncaster model continues to be widely regarded as one of the most positive examples of tension monitoring, which includes inputs from Elected Members, key partners and neighbourhoods.
- Significant capital investment in CCTV across the Borough to improve public realm and re-deployable CCTV, which can be used to tackle anti-social behaviour through reassurance, proactive monitoring and improved evidence gathering capability.
- Instigated a campaign to lobby the Home Office for a change in legislation to tackle nuisance off road motorbikes and quad bikes used in organised crime.

Reducing Crime And Reoffending

29. The partnerships ability to reduce reoffending relies heavily on strong multi-agency working. This helps us to share information and resources to unblock barriers, reduce reoffending and reduce harm to victims. Reducing crime, the fear of crime and reducing re-offending are inextricably linked. Representatives from many agencies including the Council, Police, Probation Service, business sector and the voluntary/community sector work collectively to tackle the root causes of crime and re-offending. This collective effort drawing on best practice, resource and expertise to rehabilitate offenders will contribute to reducing the fear of crime and the impact in our communities.

30. Managing repeat offenders remains a key priority. A high number of offences are committed by a very small group of individuals, termed Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs). The model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is used in the management of offenders. This model brings together all agencies, including police, probation, local authority, substance misuse treatment services and a range of third sector providers, to reduce reoffending through the targeted management of youth and adult offenders.

31. Key Achievements:

- Significant reductions in the number of Serious Acquisitive Crime offences.
- Low rates of reoffending in young people as first-time entrants into the criminal justice system.
- Using crime pattern analysis, developed local responses to increased levels of crime, which has led to the deployment of additional resources into areas leading to the arrest and conviction of prolific offenders.
- Using the Integrated Offender Management process to prioritise the management of the highest risk and most prolific offenders, leading to increased focus on offenders who present the greatest harm to victims.
- Successful deployment of Smartwater into residential areas affected by high levels of residential burglary leading to improved reassurance of victims and a deterrent to offenders.

Tackling Serious And Organised Crime

32. Serious and organised crime has a significant impact on communities especially in relation to peoples fear of crime. Organised crime impacts significantly on young and vulnerable people whether through exploitation or on young people's future ambitions. Much organised crime also relates to drug supply which further impacts on wider offending. Often reinforcement of organised crime involves the use of high levels of violence.

33. Though this often takes place between those involved in organised crime, it also impacts on the broader community. In order to deliver a partnership response, the serious and organised crime theme group brings together a number of key partners working to a strategy based around the 4 themes of prevent, protect, pursue and prepare.

34. Key Achievements:

- Carried out targeted interventions against geographically based organised crime groups. Achieved significant custodial sentences against mapped OCG members, which equates to combined sentencing of 90+ years imprisonment.
- January-March 2021 seized 5 criminally held firearms, recovered £64,325 in cash, executed 18 warrants, recovered significant quantities of drugs.
- During 2020 carried out in excess of 30 partnership interventions to disrupt organised crime activities.
- Undertaken several high-profile publicity campaigns with crimestoppers, using a blend of social media, posters and ad-vans in one area alone this led to a 20% increase in reports.
- Held a targeted 'day of action' operation to disrupt OCG activity, leading to the recovery of 500 cannabis plants, £40k in cash and 8 arrests.
- Expanded our terms of reference to include work to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, being aware this is a vastly under-reported problem.
- Built upon our multi-agency arrangements to respond to all aspects of the prevent agenda, providing support services to those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Reducing Substance And Alcohol Misuse

35. Substance and alcohol misuse impacts on all of the key priorities within the Community Safety Strategy. It is fair to say that reductions in peoples misuse of substances would significantly impact not only on crime and anti-social behaviour but would also lead to healthier relationships, more productive futures, improved individual wellbeing and better outcomes for children, families and communities. There is also an impact on economic cost to Doncaster from lost productivity and cost to health, social care and the criminal justice system.
36. Doncaster has higher than national average rates of alcohol related hospital admissions, which makes significant demands on the hospital and creates a major cost pressure on the local health system. Costs to the local health economy is estimated £17.2m each year.
37. As alcohol and drug misuse are often symptoms of complex underlying factors, Doncaster partner agencies support individuals to overcome stigma and embark on their own recovery journeys, to live substance misuse free lives. This includes supporting the annual Recovery Games in Doncaster, which is a nationally and internationally recognised event.
38. The Substance Misuse Theme Group is a multi- agency group of professionals which tackles the health and crime impacts of substance misuse through the development and performance management of an integrated substance misuse plan for the Partnership. The effectiveness of the drug / alcohol treatment and care system is monitored against the 2021-24 treatment plan, which oversees actions relating to Public Health and Police and Crime Commissioner funds. These funds are invested to address addiction and substance misuse related offending, by the delivery of an integrated range of addiction services.
39. Key Achievements:
 - Secured additional resources from Public Health England and the local Public Health Allocation to further develop inpatient detoxification, criminal justice treatment services, family/ parental interventions and early interventions for alcohol.
 - Increased public awareness and knowledge about the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.
 - Identified and supported people who want to change their alcohol and/or drug using behaviour.
 - Reduced the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of alcohol and other legal substances.

Reducing Violence And Violent Crime

40. Reducing violence and violent crime, including that linked to the night-time economy crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership. The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) was established in August 2019 to develop the South Yorkshire-wide public health approach to tackling violent crime and is supporting this theme with a dedicated Partnership Manager working directly with the SSDP.

41. SYVRU activity supports a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence which is embedded and delivered locally and Community Safety Partnerships are the agreed lead mechanism for local delivery. The SYVRU look at the causes of violence and work with partners to stop violence before it starts, halts its progression once its already begun and provide ways out for people already entrenched in violent behaviour.

42. Key Achievements:

- Gap analysis completed, based on information from the SYVRU area profile and survey analysis, as well as local knowledge.
- A working Local area action plan created linked to SSDP and SYVRU priorities.
- Funded and supported the development of initiatives such as One of a Kind family Domestic Abuse programme.
- Ensure referral mechanisms are in place and utilised to support programmes that offer ways out of crime i.e. Plan-B Navigator custody programme.
- Undertaken work with the youth council in relation to tackling knife crime.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

43. The following options were considered:

- To not produce a Community Safety Strategy – this would mean that the Council are not complying with legal requirements;
- To produce a new Community Safety Strategy – enables the Council and partners to meet statutory requirements as well as focus partnership priorities over the coming years on issues that matter to the community and are based on evidence of needs.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

44. There is a statutory requirement to produce a local plan setting out how the Council and its partners are working together to tackle crime and disorder; reduce re-offending; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse, and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

45. The Community Safety Strategy meets this requirement and will inform the Local Authority’s priorities and ensure the service meets the requirements for all Communities within the Borough.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

46.

	Outcomes	Implications
1.	<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>The priorities within the Community Safety Strategy, particularly those of reducing crime (including serious and organised crime), anti-social behaviour and re-offending will help support the economy and businesses within the Borough to flourish and attract new investment.</p>

2.	<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>It is important that residents feel safe within Communities and key areas such as the Town Centre.</p> <p>Residents who feel part of vibrant communities are more likely to enjoy spending living and spending time in these areas.</p>
3.	<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>The Partnership works closely with the Doncaster Youth Council in respect of Community Safety campaigns and initiatives to provide greater engagement and experience.</p>
4.	<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>Delivery of the Community Safety priorities contributes to the improved safeguarding of all residents.</p> <p>Many of our priorities have a direct impact on families and vulnerable individuals.</p>
5.	<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 and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The services provided as outlined within the Strategy are reviewed to ensure they are efficient, effective and deliver value for money. This includes working in Partnership with other agencies to tackle cross cutting issues in a co-ordinated way.</p> <p>The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership provides strong and effective leadership to the Partnership agenda through effective governance.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

47. The main risk to the delivery of this strategy would be pressures upon partnership resources and the ability to remain focused on the priorities identified. This will be addressed through regular discussions with partners and strong performance management.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (Initials: NC 25.08.21)

48. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a duty on local authorities, the Police and other partners to exercise their functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behavior and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and re-offending in its area.

49. Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the local authority and the other responsible authorities forming the SSDP to formulate and implement a strategy for:

- (i) the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behavior and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment);
- (ii) combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- (iii) the reduction of re-offending in the area.

50. The Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and therefore the adoption or modification of the strategy is a decision for full Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Initials: HR 25.08.21)

51. There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Initials: EL 26.08.21)

52. There are no specific Human Resource implications within this report. However, through implementation of the Strategy, should any staffing resources be identified these must be coordinated through Human Resources and be established and recruited to in line with the relevant policies and procedures.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (Initials: PW 31.08.21)

53. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the strategy and accompanying delivery plan should be discussed at the earliest opportunity with Digital and ICT, with a further report for consideration by the Technology Governance Board (TGB), where applicable.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (Initials: HC 24.08.21)

54. The strategy will reduce the harms of crime on individuals and communities, and particularly address therefore the associated health inequalities of vulnerable people, and the wider public.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

55. A Due Regard Statement accompanies the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

CONSULTATION

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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Safety Strategy 2022-25
Due Regard Statement

ACRONYMS LIST

SSDP	Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
PPOs	Prolific and Priority Offenders
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
OCG	Organised Crime Group
SYVRU	South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit
TGB	Technology Governance Board

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DONCASTER

Community Safety Strategy

2022 - 2025

www.doncaster.gov.uk



Doncaster Community Safety Strategy

2022 - 2025

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The Doncaster Community Safety Partnership is pleased to present our four-year Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2025.

The strategy outlines our priorities for the next 4 years and how we as a partnership will deliver a service to address them. Our priorities are:

- Tackling domestic and sexual abuse
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing crime and re-offending
- Tackling serious and organised crime
- Reducing substance and alcohol misuse
- Reducing violence and violent crime

It is important that we acknowledge the impact COVID-19 has had. The pandemic has affected the way we all live our lives. It has also meant that the way we deliver services has changed significantly.

As a partnership we have continued to deliver services throughout the pandemic. We have adapted, finding new ways of working in changing environments whilst also absorbing daily challenges and risk. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the resilience and dedication of our services.

Now we look forward to reintroducing the face to face contact that has been missed, and also embracing the learning and efficient practices developed in the midst of the most challenging working conditions many of us have ever experienced.

It is difficult to assess crime and antisocial behaviour over the last 18 months as trends have changed so much during the pandemic. There has been a small decrease in crime and significant fluctuations in antisocial behaviour.

It is recognised that there will always be an element of under reporting and that this occurs for a number of reasons. We welcome the feedback from our communities and acknowledge their comments about how they sometimes find difficulties in reporting.

We are committed to improving the confidence of the public including their ability and willingness to report.

We have seen an increase in demand in relation to domestic abuse and safeguarding services. It is encouraging to note that there is a renewed national focus on tackling violence against women and girls.

Over the last year there have been several incidents relating to organised criminality in Doncaster. This impacts not only those involved directly, but also the wider community. We are committed to tackling organised crime by investing resources in this area and protecting vulnerable young people from being exploited.

Demand in relation to supporting people with complex needs and dependencies has grown. Some of these individuals and their behaviour can lead to wider concern, with antisocial behaviour and the confidence of those who live and work in our communities affected. As a partnership we continue to seek bespoke solutions to meet the needs of these individuals whilst also challenging inappropriate behaviours.

As we deliver our new Community Safety Strategy, we will work hard to maximise our effectiveness as a partnership. We will tackle not only the obvious impact, but also the underlying issues which drive crime and disorder within our neighbourhoods. We understand that the ability to report concerns in relation to crime and disorder issues is important, as well as our response to these issues, providing communities with the confidence that we take these concerns seriously and importantly provide feedback on the actions that we have taken. Our communities can be assured that as a partnership we will do all we can to build a safer, stronger, and more confident Doncaster.



Melanie Palin

Chief Superintendent, Doncaster District Commander,
Doncaster Community Safety Partnership Chair

As the elected member responsible for oversight of Community Safety in Doncaster, I am delighted to endorse this strategy.



Councillor Rachael Blake

Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care,
Communities and Equalities

It is the result of a well informed and proactive partnership approach; utilising our intelligence assessments to better understand the needs of our communities and consulting with residents; professionals and partners.

It is a continuation of the multi-agency crime reduction work that has been happening locally for many years.

As a partnership, we recognise that Doncaster people experience community safety in different ways, depending on their own individual situations and circumstances. We will continue to work with all our communities to recognise and address their needs, to help build community confidence in agencies to respond to concerns and to tackle inequality. We are committed to the belief that everybody in Doncaster has the right to be safe and to feel safe.

At a time when all agencies are experiencing increased pressures and demands for services, we will continue to be ambitious and proactive in our approaches to tackling all forms of crime and disorder, recognising the damaging effect these experiences can have on victims and communities.

Together with colleagues across the partnership, I will ensure that this strategy drives forward improvements in the reduction of crime and disorder; responses to victims and their families, and efforts to hold perpetrators to account.

Our communities can be assured that as a partnership we will do all we can to build a safer, stronger, and more confident Doncaster.

Thank you,
Rachael

Key facts about crime in Doncaster

4.5% DECREASE

in overall crime during 2020 compared to 2019.

The RethinkYourDrink campaign has been funded by Public Health for another year, with a focus on messages for those aged 50+. An Alcohol Alliance has been formed in Doncaster to reduce alcohol related harm.



Operations against Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) in Doncaster have continued throughout Covid restrictions with some significant successes. The majority of OCG criminality is drug related.

10.9% INCREASE

in ASB during 2020. The highest number of reports related to nuisance off-road bikes/quads; nuisance neighbours and rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour.

7497

incidents of domestic abuse were reported to South Yorkshire Police in 2020.

Domestic abuse is one of the 16 South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Priorities.

The Violence Reduction action plan for 2021/22 has been drafted with focus on the night-time economy, violence and young people (both as victims and perpetrators) and delivering a trauma informed approach.

The Covid Pandemic

Since March 2020, we have worked hard to respond to the demands of the Covid pandemic and have continued to operate as a partnership.

We have significantly changed the way we deliver our services whilst continuing to respond to challenges and risks.

We have continued to support the most vulnerable people in our communities, with an increase in demand in relation to domestic abuse and safeguarding services.

We have experienced changes in reported crime and anti-social behaviour patterns and acknowledge there is a degree of under-reporting which may not reflect the true impact of these issues in our communities. Therefore, we will strive to improve our reporting and communication mechanisms with the public, recognising the damaging effect these experiences can have on victims and communities.

We have embraced the learning that Covid has created and are looking forward to reintroducing face-to-face contact with our communities.

CORONAVIRUS

PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR COMMUNITY

Community safety in Doncaster

– a partnership approach

In Doncaster, we have an established Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) that has worked successfully, for over twenty years, in a collective effort to make Doncaster a safer place to live, work and visit.

Its primary role is to set the strategic direction of work to reduce crime, disorder, the fear of crime, drug and alcohol misuse and to build strong and resilient communities and families in Doncaster.

The SSDP is made up of statutory and non-statutory partners and responsible authorities who share a collective duty through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work together to develop and implement local crime reduction strategies. The partnership is accountable for the delivery of numerous strategies, including the Community Safety Strategy; the Drug and Alcohol Strategy; the Youth Justice Plan; the Domestic Abuse Strategy; the Sexual Abuse Strategy and Domestic Homicide reviews.

The overarching Community Safety Strategy is one of several key strategies that will support the delivery of the Borough Strategy and achievement of our collective wellbeing goals.

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership works to 6 strategic priorities, underpinned by 5 strategic 'theme groups' and a violence reduction cross-cutting theme, to tackle issues across the full crime and disorder spectrum. The 6 strategic priorities are:

- Tackling domestic and sexual abuse
- Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Reducing crime & re-offending
- Tackling serious & organised crime
- Reducing substance & alcohol misuse
- Reducing violence and violent crime

The SSDP is made up of statutory and non-statutory partners and responsible authorities, a full list of members can be found below:

- Doncaster Council
- Doncaster Children's Services Trust
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit
- The Probation Service
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- South Yorkshire Fire Authority
- Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Doncaster
- St Leger Homes
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Doncaster Prisons Representation
- South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board
- Elected Members and Portfolio Holders

The SSDP also has close links to other Partnership Boards, including the Safeguarding Board which incorporates safeguarding issues for both children and adults and the Health and Well-Being Board, which has shared agendas around Domestic and Sexual Abuse, substance misuse and mental health. This strategy does not aim to repeat the content of other strategies covering these agendas.

In addition to the established local links described above, there are also strong partnership arrangements in place across the 4 Community Safety Partnerships in South Yorkshire, to support cross-area work and share good practice.

Local Solutions for People and Places

How Doncaster people experience community safety will be greatly determined by their own individual situations, including where they live and where they go in the Borough. Different towns, villages and neighbourhoods contain different strengths, histories and concerns.

Our Community Safety Strategy is sensitive to this. The organisations within the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership will work with all of our Doncaster communities according to their individual needs, building on their strengths and listening to the experiences and ideas of local people. We will also work to address inequalities between different areas, recognising that everybody in Doncaster, whatever their age, background or address, has the right to be safe and to feel safe.

We will actively engage with local people and businesses to understand what matters to them. Our aim is to strengthen and improve existing reporting mechanisms to make it easier for the public and businesses to raise issues which need to be addressed. We will build on existing media channels to raise awareness of how to report, ensuring that there are timely feedback processes in place.

We acknowledge the feedback raised as part of the consultation process and recognise that building confidence and assurance is critical. Strengthening relationships and connections with local people through community engagement mechanisms will be a key area of focus for the partnership.

As a partnership we will strive to continually improve public experience through actively listening and engaging with people in communities to gain a true picture of crime and disorder and importantly those with 'lived experience', ensuring that the concerns being raised are responded to and that people are kept informed.

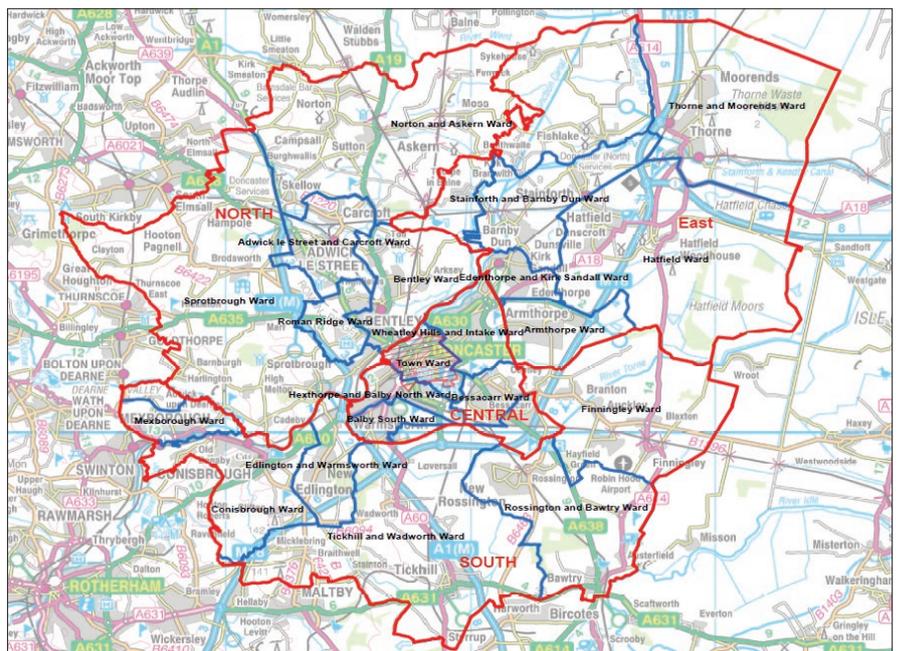
As part of the locality model, we will support communities to identify their priorities and to put in place actions that help them build on opportunities and address gaps.

We will make sure these local priorities and actions to increase community safety across different Doncaster neighbourhoods are prominent in the Locality Plans that Team Doncaster partners are putting together. The boundaries of the North, East, South and Central localities are set out below.

These plans will be produced with actions tailored to each Locality that will start in April 2022. Just as the Community Safety Strategy will set out the standards and actions required across the whole of the Borough; the Locality Plans will tailor specific actions to the expressed needs of local communities.

To help address inequality, the SSDP also works closely with the local Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to help build further insight into the needs and wants of groups who may be under-represented across our communities. This insight helps us to further shape our services for the benefit of all our communities and helps to increase trust and confidence.

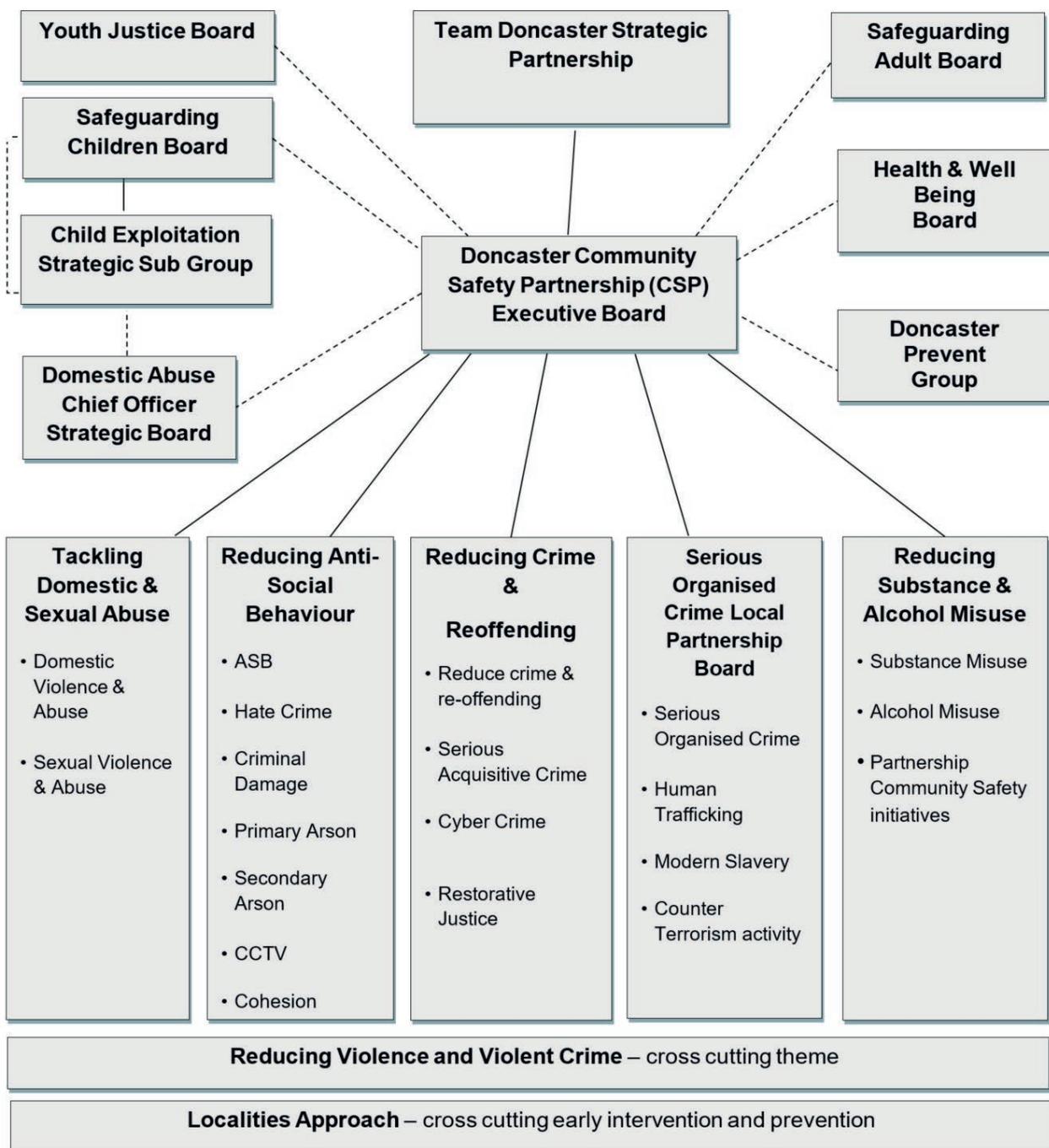
Key :
 Neighbourhood Boundary
 Ward Boundary
 Central: Urban Centre



Aims

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the Police and Local Authorities to work together with key partners and organisations to develop and implement local crime reduction strategies. The act states that before developing such strategies, it is important to identify key local crime and disorder priorities through consultation and by analysing crime and disorder levels and patterns in the area.

The below diagram illustrates how the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership links to other delivery structures.



Team Doncaster

– our vision for the town

Local strategic context

A revised Doncaster Borough Strategy – ‘Doncaster Delivering Together’ (DDT), is being launched in 2021. It will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan and focus on improving the wellbeing of everyone in the borough over the next 10 years, whilst ensuring that we leave a better place for future generations. It is a strategy for everyone who has a stake in Doncaster’s future.

It has **one** central mission:

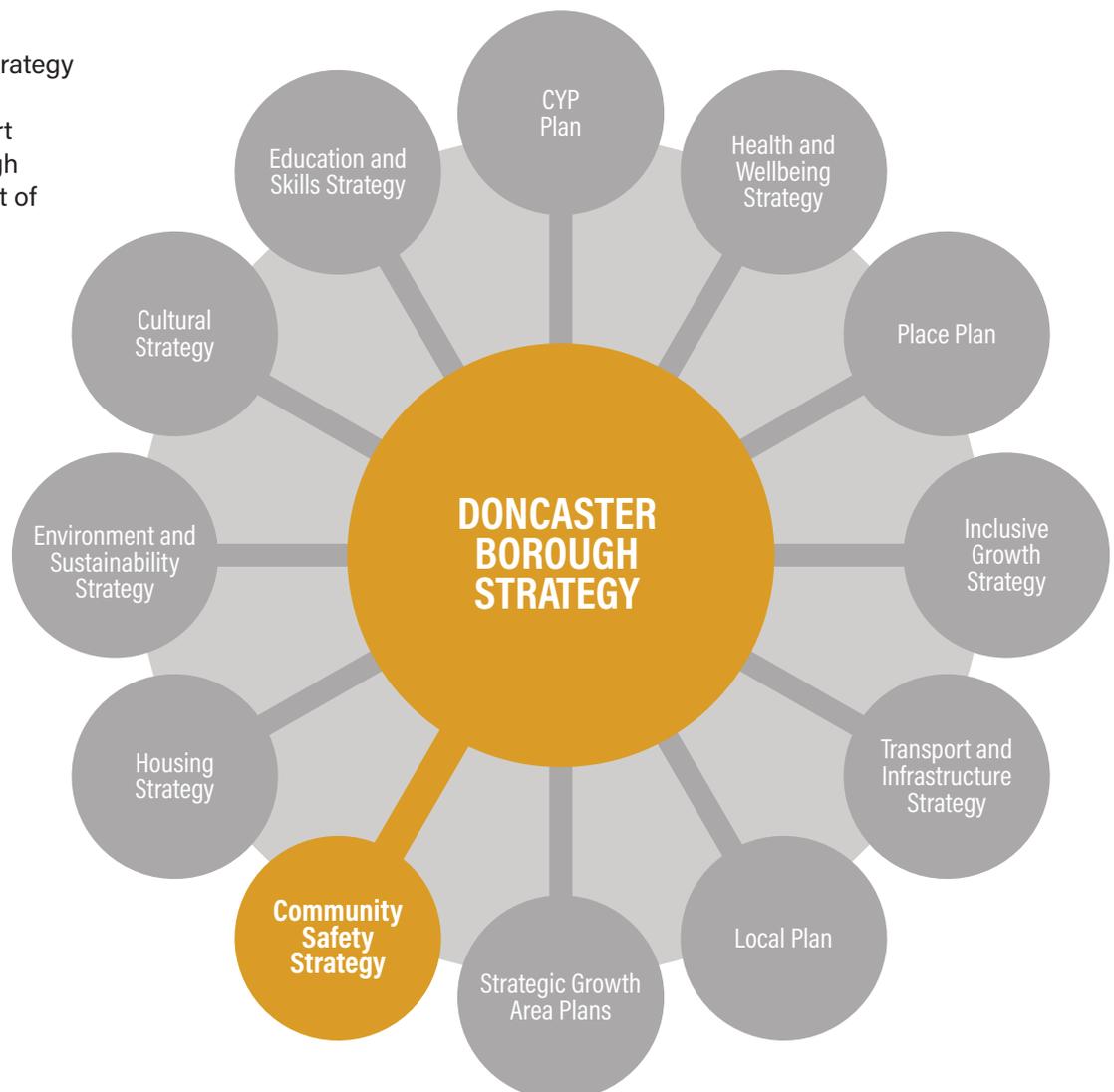
- Thriving People, Places & Planet.

Delivering DDT will require closer working with communities, new approaches, shared responsibilities, a ‘whole-system’ perspective, better use of data and knowledge and a more regenerative approach to development.

There are **six** wellbeing goals to work towards:

- Greener & Cleaner Doncaster
- Fair & Inclusive Doncaster
- Prosperous & Connected Doncaster
- Safe & Resilient Doncaster
- Healthy & Compassionate Doncaster
- Skilled & Creative Doncaster

The Community Safety Strategy is just one of several key strategies that will support the delivery of the Borough Strategy and achievement of the wellbeing goals.



The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment

To ensure that the Partnership is proactive and well informed, we carry out an annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment in order to review existing priorities and identify any new or emerging priorities that the Partnership should focus on.

We are mindful that the JSIA is largely based upon reported crimes and incidents and with many of the key issues there is a degree of under-reporting, which we have taken into account as part of the analysis of this data. We have sought to cross-reference the JSIA with other assessments which include the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Community Safety Strategy consultation findings.

The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) recommends what the strategic priorities for the Safer Doncaster Partnership should be, based on the evidence provided. Below are summaries of the key issues identified from the JSIA.



Domestic Abuse

Increased reports of domestic abuse, domestic homicide is a UK emerging risk



Child Exploitation

Small increase in reported child exploitation.



Cannabis Cultivation

Identified emerging issue across the region, linked to organised criminality



Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Reported rises in rowdy / inconsiderate behaviour particularly during lockdown periods



Fly Tipping

One of the highest categories of reported incidents. Significant increased incidents of fly tipping during the covid pandemic



Violent Crime

High levels of recorded crime, often linked to organised criminality



Cyber Crime

Significant increase in reported cyber-crime, particularly fraud



Organised Crime

The majority of organised criminal activity is driven by drug supply and involves coercion, violence and intimidation



Acquisitive Crime

Increased reports of burglary, particular focus remains on tackling domestic burglary



Violence Against Women and Girls

Encouraging to note a renewed national focus on tackling Violence against Women and Girls



Sexual Offences

Small increase in reported sexual offences, including domestic offences and online offending.



Nuisance Vehicles

Nuisance motor vehicles including motorcycles and quad bikes account for the largest volumes of reported ASB in Doncaster



Alcohol and Drug Misuse

Levels of alcohol consumption and referrals for alcohol treatment have increased during lockdown periods



Hate Crime

Small increase in reported hate crimes – rises linked to national / international issues such as terror attacks, the covid pandemic and the EU exit



Begging / Vagrancy

Multi-agency operations to tackle this key issue

Consultation and findings summary

In addition to the JSIA, the Community Safety Team on behalf of the SSDP, commenced a full consultation to inform the content of this strategy.

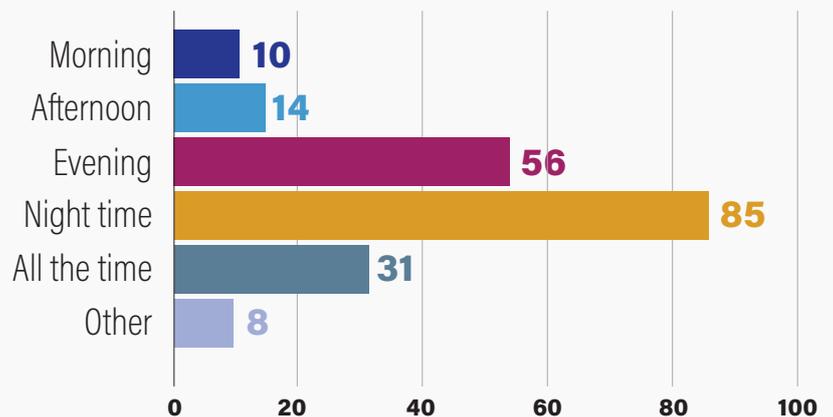
This involved discussions with key networks and groups, as well as an online questionnaire, which has been made available in paper form for those individuals without access to a computer.

Through this exercise we asked our communities about their perceptions of feeling safe, the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities, what they saw as the future priorities of the partnership and importantly how our services could be focused to meet their needs.

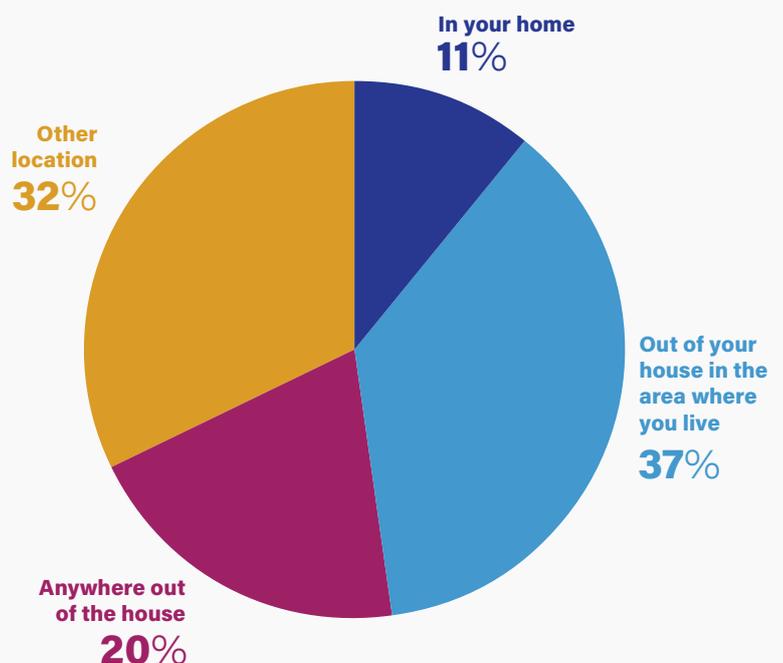
A summary of the results is below:

- The vast majority (91.38%) of surveys were from people who lived in Doncaster, 59.2% worked in Doncaster, 6.32% study in Doncaster and 4.6% have a business in Doncaster.
- The majority of people surveyed said they feel safe living in Doncaster most or all of the time (63.79%).
- Only 3.45% of those surveyed said they never feel safe living in Doncaster.
- People felt most unsafe at night-time (62.50%) or in the evening (41.18%).
- The majority of those who stated they didn't feel safe identified the Town Centre as the place they didn't feel safe. Other areas identified included Lakeside (4.44%), Doncaster Bus Station (2.22%), certain villages (4.44%) and rural locations (4.44%).

When do you feel most unsafe?



Where you feel most unsafe?



- When asked about the reasons for feeling unsafe, crime accounted for 16.19% of responses, with general comments around crime and reported crime along with burglary, thefts and organised crime.
- Police visibility and reduced Police funding accounted for all 6.34% of responses.
- Anti-social behaviour accounted for 67.60% of responses. Drinking alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness and aggressive begging, particularly in the town centre were the main issues raised.
- Large groups of people gathering and quad and/or motorbike nuisance were also issues raised.

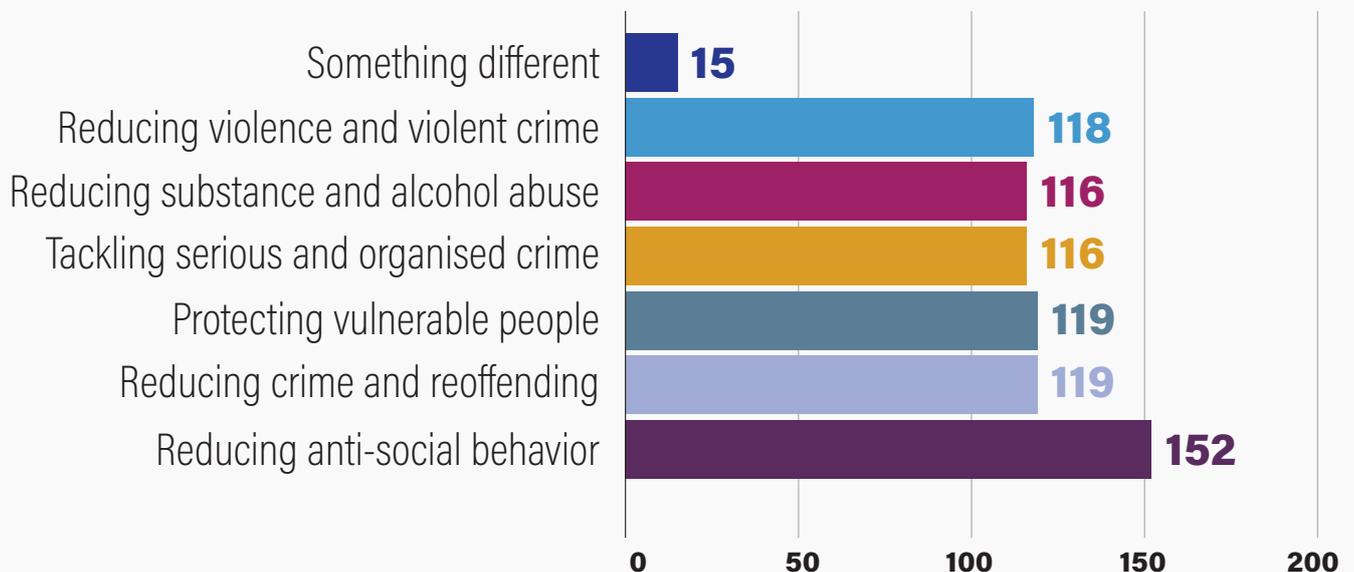
- When asked about the crime and disorder themes that were most important, results indicated a relatively even priority across the agendas detailed below.

However, reducing Anti-Social Behaviour accounted for 88.37% of the Community Safety themes most important to those surveyed

Nearly 40% of those surveyed said they felt agencies are very effective or effective at tackling crime and disorder in Doncaster.

- 19% of those surveyed said agencies were neither ineffective nor effective.
- 31% said they felt agencies were not very effective.

- Additional comments in respect of areas of concern included a lack of agency resources and a need for increased engagement with communities; begging and large groups in the town centre; organised criminality; online crime; speeding traffic/dangerous driving; vehicle theft; young people and anti-social behaviour; dog theft; substance misuse in public spaces e.g. parks; women's safety and domestic abuse.



34.5% of respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months.

- 75% of those had been victims of anti-social behaviour and 28.33% had been victims of damage to property.
- Damage to property, vehicle crime and hate crime also accounted for significant proportions of crime respondents experienced.
- The vast majority (67%) reported crime they experienced, however, 33% did not.
- The majority (79%) reported such crimes to the Police and 14% reported issues to the Council. Of those who said they reported it to other agencies, comments identified those agencies as Housing Associations, Education staff and Domestic Abuse agencies.
- Reasons provided for not reporting included: being unable to identify the offender; long waiting times on the 101 service; previous negative experiences when reporting / lack of confidence that positive action will be taken; lack of resources across agencies to tackle issues.
- When asked what could be done to improve the partnership and its services, responses included: more visible presence from officers within communities/neighbourhoods; simpler and faster reporting services; increased engagement with young people; increased support for offenders; closer working with community organisations; improved communications/social media presence; targeted work in hotspot areas; increased CCTV coverage and lighting; better support for victims of crime; additional resources for outlying areas.



Overarching principle

Leaving Nobody Behind

Some people are more at risk than others in our communities, perhaps because of their age, disability, ethnicity or other distinguishing characteristics that can link to increased vulnerability.

For children and young people, and for adults with care and support needs, cross-cutting work is delivered through other structures including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding board.

Each of these structures has their own priorities and strategies supporting. The Community Safety Strategy will not seek to duplicate their work here.

However, ensuring we engage with and support people who are at higher potential risk than others is a key overarching principle which runs as a cross-cutting theme throughout the partnership structure. Understanding and addressing vulnerability was identified as a key issue in the consultation process informing this strategy, resulting in the ongoing commitment to deliver improved services to communities across Doncaster.

Also acknowledging the feedback from the community safety consultation, which highlights the frustrations in being able to report concerns either through telephone or online reporting mechanisms, we will

develop a Rapid Improvement Plan to increase public confidence in reporting crime, anti-social behaviour or community concerns. This Improvement Plan will involve all agencies and people with lived experience working together to develop solutions which address the issues that have been raised. It will also focus on taking positive action where required, the results of which can be fed back to our communities using social media, press campaigns or individual updates.

Having also considered the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, there are some key areas that have been considered and included, as detailed within each of the priority group sections and Delivery Plan. Overall, through this Strategy and accompanying actions we will show our commitment to equality and good outcomes for all Doncaster people, regardless of situation or background.

Our priorities

It must be recognised that this strategy does not seek to describe all the activities undertaken by each of the partners involved in community safety but highlights the key priorities for the partnership for the next 4 years.

It also does not duplicate the work delivered through other structures such as children's and adult safeguarding.

In each of the priority areas the community safety strategy is underpinned by a dedicated strategy and delivery plan to drive delivery in that area.

1. Tackling domestic and sexual abuse

During the pandemic increases have been seen particularly in the reporting of domestic abuse. However, we are aware from National research this is a vastly under-reported issue. We have also seen an increase in people affected seeking support.

2. Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour impacts on community resilience and people's quality of life often impacting day after day and is the area that most respondents were concerned about. Concerns were also highlighted in relation to reporting and responding to anti-social behaviour, which will form part of our new priorities to address this issue.

3. Reducing crime and re-offending

Reducing crime, the fear of crime and re-offending are inextricably linked. Representatives from many agencies including the Council, Police, Probation Service, business sector and the voluntary/community sector work collectively to tackle the root causes of crime and re-offending. This collective effort will contribute to reducing the fear of crime and the impact in our communities.

4. Tackling serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime has a significant impact on communities especially in relation to peoples fear of crime. Organised crime impacts significantly on young and vulnerable people whether through exploitation or the impact on young people's future ambitions.

5. Reducing substance and alcohol misuse

Substance and alcohol misuse impacts on all of the key priorities within the Community safety Strategy.

6. Reducing violence and violent crime

Reducing violence and violent crime, including that linked to the night-time economy crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership.

Priority One: Tackling domestic and sexual abuse

During the pandemic increases have been seen particularly in the reporting of domestic abuse. People seeking support has also increased.

This is not surprising since families have been spending more time together which increases the time victims are spending with their perpetrators whilst also being impacted by the wider stresses of life.

A new domestic abuse strategy for 2021-2024 has been developed following extensive consultation with communities, survivors and practitioners. This will be closely followed by a new sexual abuse strategy.

The new domestic abuse strategy builds on the extensive work already undertaken and re-emphasises that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and that it will only be tackled by everyone working together.

There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. The strategy seeks to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse as well as promoting trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour.



Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A co-ordinated response to prevention, early identification and intervention work for victims and perpetrators that ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in the Domestic Abuse Bill and a desire to strive for excellence. ○ Established Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub to provide a single point of contact for victims of domestic abuse to access information and support. ○ Funding from Doncaster Council, the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit and the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership to tackle domestic abuse. ○ Funding secured to support statutory requirements on the Local Authority to produce a needs assessment and strategy to tackle domestic abuse, as well as provide safe accommodation and secure tenancies for victims. ○ Establish senior officer group to oversee continuous improvement in delivery of Domestic Abuse practice across the partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prevent and ultimately end domestic and sexual abuse. ○ Support and keep victims, survivors and families safe. ○ Hold abusers to account. ○ Improve leadership, governance and quality assurance of domestic and sexual abuse work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Domestic Abuse Strategy and delivery plan. ○ Sexual Abuse Strategy and delivery plan. ○ A multi-agency protocol to help organisations hold abusers to account whilst also supporting them to change their behaviour. ○ Increased safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. ○ More awareness campaigns and work with communities and employers to ensure that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility. ○ Work to reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse. ○ Increased consultation and collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse. ○ Additional support for children that have experienced domestic abuse. ○ A longer term financial and commissioning strategy to ensure there are specialist services for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

Priority Two: Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB)

It can be seen from the consultation undertaken that anti-social behaviour is the area that most respondents were concerned about.

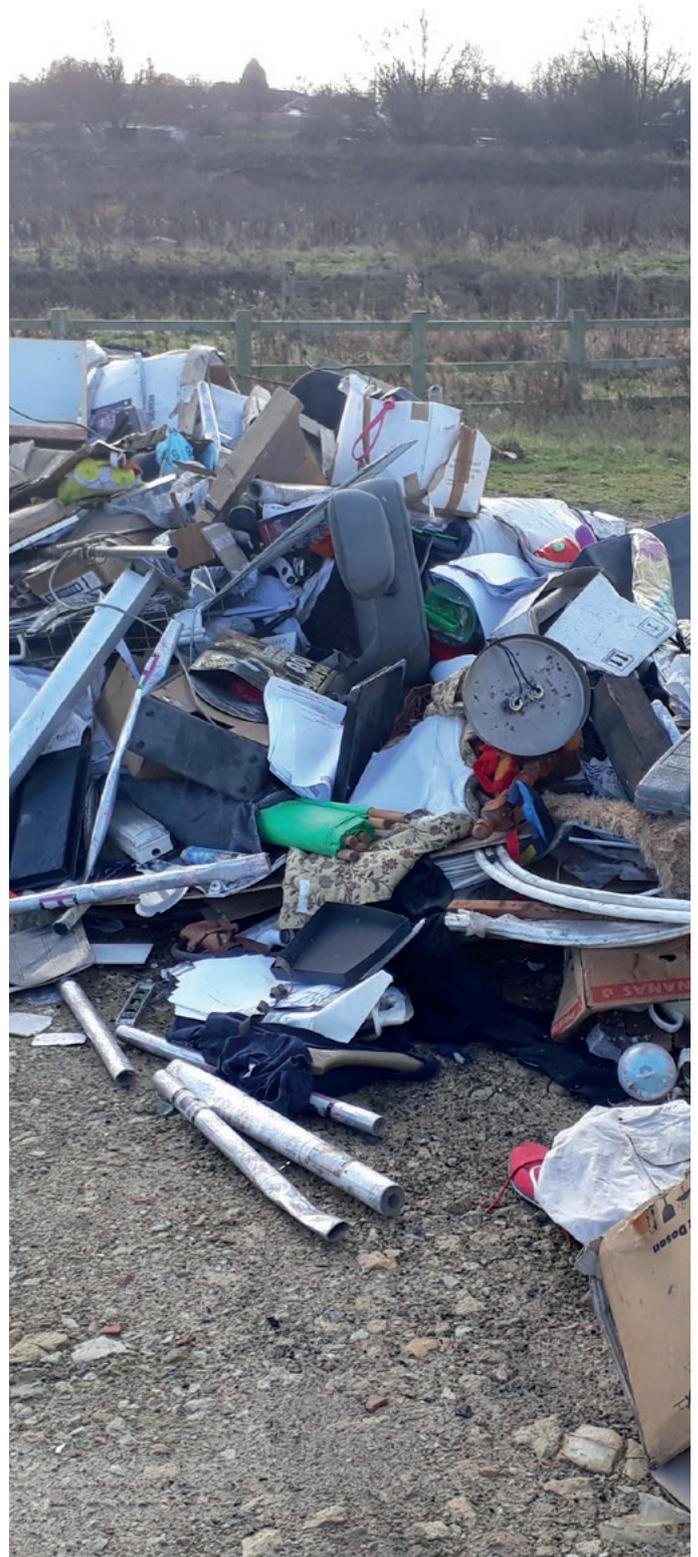
It is likely that this is due to the fact that anti-social behaviour affects more people on a daily basis than the other priorities and is more visible to the wider community.

Anti-social behaviour impacts on community resilience and people's quality of life often impacting day after day.

Anti-social behaviour plays a significant role within the localities-based approach. Recognising the feedback from communities is important for the partnership, in particular improving confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour, updating the public on our actions and increasing visibility of partnership resources in those areas affected by anti-social behaviour. Some of these actions will form part of our Rapid Improvement Plan and from this we will communicate with the public the improvements and successes that have been achieved.

As a Partnership we have invested heavily in CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour, both in terms of providing reassurance and using footage to support prosecutions. Over the last 3 years we have expanded our CCTV network in Doncaster using capital funding and Government Safer Streets funding to expand our networks and benefit more Communities across Doncaster.

The monitoring of CCTV has also improved and we are now more productive in terms of active enforcement, seeing a large increase in footage being used as evidence in fly-tipping prosecutions and combating other forms of anti-social behaviour.



Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased the deployment of the dedicated SYP Off Road Bike Team resources. ○ Implemented successful plans around tyre burning and fly tipping across the borough in partnership with the Fire service. ○ Using Fire data around deliberate and secondary fires, we have developed a mechanism to improve the response to this issue by targeting resources into the area affected and developing early intervention and prevention plans. ○ Developed new ways of engaging with young people during lockdown via social media platforms and targeted detached youth work. ○ Monitored hate crimes and incidents across Doncaster to ensure an effective multi-agency response to reports, monitored patterns and trends to determine areas of higher activity and an appropriate response. ○ Improved the multi-agency processes to monitor and respond to community tensions across the Borough. The Doncaster model continues to be widely regarded as one of the most positive examples of tension monitoring, which includes inputs from Elected Members, key partners and neighbourhoods. ○ Significant capital investment in CCTV across the Borough to improve public realm and re-deployable CCTV, which can be used to tackle anti-social behaviour through reassurance, proactive monitoring and improved evidence gathering capability. ○ Instigated a campaign to lobby the Home Office for a change in legislation to tackle nuisance off road motorbikes and quad bikes used in organised crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective proactive and responsive management of anti- social behaviour, focused on an early intervention and prevention approach. This will be further supported through education and communication messages. ○ To improve community confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour providing reassurance that we will listen, understand and build relationships to develop a clear picture of lived experiences. ○ Tackle the issue of illegal off-road bikes and quads utilising a partnership approach, effective information sharing and improved deployment of resources. ○ Reduce the impact of criminal damage within our communities, particularly damage linked to anti-social behaviour e.g. graffiti, street furniture. ○ Reducing the impact of arson through joint working with key partners using analysis and data to identify key locations where prevention plans can be implemented through locality working. ○ Tackle the issue of street homelessness and begging through joint locality working, recognising this is an issue affecting many areas of the borough. ○ Monitor hate crimes, incidents and community tensions to provide an accurate picture of community cohesion across the borough and within communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review existing reporting mechanisms and implement a Rapid Improvement Plan to increase public confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour and communicating the effectiveness of our actions. ○ Using the locality approach, developing an improved partnership response to anti-social behaviour ensuring we build effective relationships, understand clearly the experience of victims and show we have followed through with an effective outcome. ○ Communicate the successful use of CCTV through local media and newsletters to demonstrate the benefits and value of our CCTV deployment. ○ Review multi-agency processes to support the needs of vulnerable victims and victims who are fearful to report anti-social behaviour, with an outcome to provide effective support for victims, improve confidence in reporting and reduce the potential for repeat victimisation. ○ Utilise all available Tools and Powers to tackle the issue of illegal off-road bikes and quads, and publish the results of deployment activity. ○ Utilise effective problem-solving approaches to prevent and reduce the impact of criminal damage, fly tipping and arson, ensuring that local communities are updated on the action taken. ○ Using the localities model, partners will work together to effectively monitor and respond to reported hate crime and community tensions to ensure community cohesion is maintained. ○ Seek all available opportunities to gain additional funding for CCTV, for the benefit of communities. Improving our capabilities to gain evidence and reassure the public. ○ Partners work together to ensure people presenting as street homeless are supported to access services and enforcement action is taken when appropriate.

Priority Three: Reducing crime and re-offending

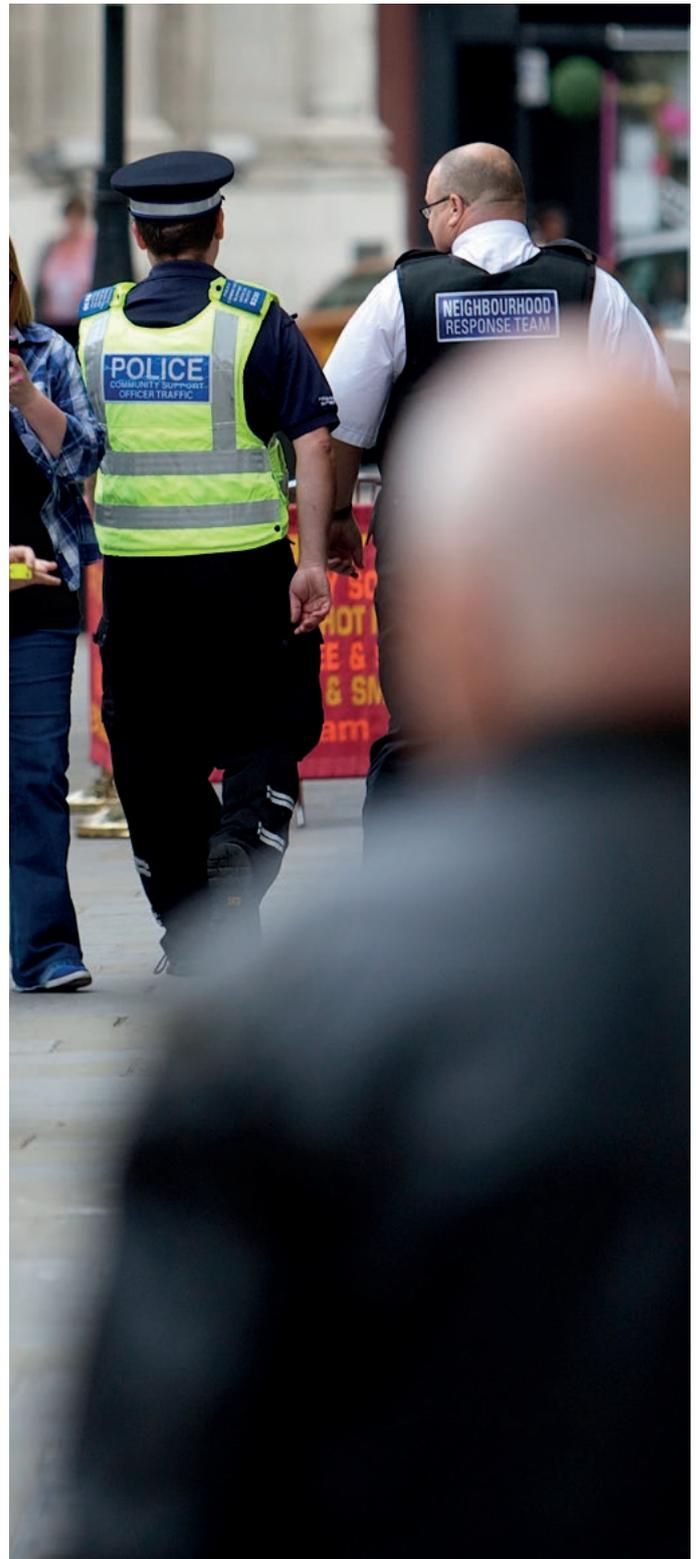
The partnerships ability to reduce reoffending relies heavily on strong multi-agency working. This helps us to share information and resources to unblock barriers, reduce reoffending and reduce harm to victims.

Reducing crime, the fear of crime and reducing re-offending are inextricably linked. Representatives from many agencies including the Council, Police, Probation Service, business sector and the voluntary/community sector work collectively to tackle the root causes of crime and re-offending. This collective effort drawing on best practice, resource and expertise to rehabilitate offenders will contribute to reducing the fear of crime and the impact in our communities.

Managing repeat offenders remains a key priority. Statistics estimate that around half of all crime is committed by individuals with previous convictions, with an estimated cost to the taxpayer of up to £13 billion per year.

A high number of offences are committed by a very small group of prolific individuals. The model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is used in the management of offenders.

This model brings together all agencies, including police, probation, local authority, substance misuse treatment services and a range of third sector providers, to reduce reoffending through the targeted management of youth and adult offenders.



Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant reductions in the number of Serious Acquisitive Crime offences. ○ Low rates of reoffending in young people first time entrants into the criminal justice system. ○ Using crime pattern analysis, developed local responses to increased levels of crime, which has led to the deployment of additional resources into areas leading to the arrest and conviction of prolific offenders. ○ Using the Integrated Offender Management process to prioritise the management of the highest risk and most prolific offenders, leading to increased focus on offenders who present the greatest harm to victims. ○ Successful deployment of Smartwater into residential areas affected by high levels of residential burglary leading to improved reassurance of victims and a deterrent to offenders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To further reduce the reoffending rate and average number of reoffending offences. ○ Work closely with key partners to improve the public experience of reporting crime. ○ To further reduce the rates of Serious Acquisitive Crime across the borough through targeted interventions in high crime areas. ○ Implement the new National IOM strategy for managing the most prolific offenders in our community. ○ Review the governments national crime plan and develop implementation priorities for Doncaster. ○ Develop our pathways to support transition from the youth offending teams into probation services for those identified as prolific offenders. ○ Effective management of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system to ensure low levels are maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tackle prolific offenders through a new Integrated Offender Management service. ○ Using the Rapid Improvement Plan to improve the public experience of reporting crime, which enables the partnership to understand the true picture of crime in communities and importantly respond to community concerns. ○ Integrate partnerships across the borough to support offenders and promote rehabilitation with improved access to employment, training and health services. ○ Further reduce the rates of Serious Acquisitive Crime across the borough to reduce the impact on victims and communities. ○ Deliver an implementation plan for the government's national crime plan. ○ Develop new processes for the transition of prolific youth offenders into adult services. ○ Maintain delivery of our youth diversion schemes to ensure that young people where appropriate avoid criminal convictions and are supported in the community.

Priority Four: Tackling serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime has a significant impact on communities especially in relation to peoples fear of crime. Organised crime impacts significantly on young and vulnerable people whether through exploitation or the impact on young people's future ambitions.

Much organised crime also relates to drug supply which further impacts on wider offending.

Often reinforcement of organised crime involves the use of high levels of violence. Though this often takes place between those involved in organised crime it also impacts on the broader community.



In order to deliver a partnership response, the Serious and Organised Crime theme group brings together a number of key partners working to a strategy based around the 4 themes:

Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Prepare.

Using these themes there are a number of key approaches which are summarised below:

- Work in partnership to identify and safeguard vulnerable adults and children exploited by Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs).
- Tackle child sexual exploitation, especially where there is clear organised criminality.
- Protect communities from cyber enabled crime such as fraud.
- Use local regulations, licensing and powers to disrupt OCGs.
- Use existing networks such as taxis/private hire vehicles, licensed premises and industry sector groups to share essential community intelligence.
- Tackle those offenders selling counterfeit or illicit goods which may be linked to wider, organised criminality.
- Build closer links with locality teams to improve intelligence and the sharing of information, encouraging the public to share information without fear of reprisal.
- Tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Tackle organised criminality within prison establishments.
- Oversee the counter terrorism agenda, recognising that radicalisation is an alternative form of exploitation.

Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carried out targeted interventions against geographically based organised crime groups. ○ Achieved significant custodial sentences against mapped OCG members, which equates to combined sentencing of 90+ years imprisonment. ○ January-March 2021 seized 5 criminally held firearms, recovered £64,325 in cash, executed 18 warrants, recovered significant quantities of drugs. ○ During 2020 carried out in excess of 30 partnership interventions to disrupt organised crime activities. ○ Undertaken several high-profile publicity campaigns with Crimestoppers, using a blend of social media, posters and adverts to encourage community intelligence. In one area alone this led to a 20% increase in reports. ○ Held a targeted 'day of action' operation to disrupt OCG activity, leading to the recovery of 500 cannabis plants, £40k in cash and 8 arrests. ○ Expanded our terms of reference to include the important area of work to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking being aware this is a vastly under-reported problem. ○ Built upon our multi-agency arrangements to respond to all aspects of the Prevent agenda and providing support services to those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation as another form of exploitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop closer links with locality teams to improve intelligence and the sharing of information, encouraging the public to share information without fear of reprisal. ○ Identify and safeguard adults and children at risk of criminal exploitation. ○ Use the full range of powers, local regulation and licensing powers to disrupt organised crime groups. ○ Introduce a 'Clear Hold and Build' Strategy which will continue over a significant period. ○ Monitor and disrupt the growth in firearms enabled crime and serious violence, linked to OCG activity. ○ Tackling the growth in cannabis cultivations linked to organised crime, which are impacting on vulnerable communities. ○ Developing effective responses to prevent the criminal exploitation of Children and Young People, which has been recognised as a growing issue during the Covid pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop closer links with locality teams to improve intelligence and the sharing of information, to ensure staff recognise the signs of organised criminality and action is taken. ○ Through Locality Teams, develop closer links with the community to improve reporting and sharing information in relation to organised crime and providing reassurance and support where appropriate. ○ Use the full range of powers, local regulation and licensing powers to disrupt organised crime groups so less people are affected by organised criminality. ○ Introduce a 'Clear Hold and Build' Strategy, to provide disruption activity across communities and diversionary activities to reduce the number of people being exploited into organised criminality. ○ Monitor and disrupt the growth in firearms enabled crime and serious violence to reduce the number of incidents and the effect on victims and communities. ○ Tackle the growth in cannabis cultivations linked to organised crime to reduce the frequency of incidents and to robustly manage perpetrators. ○ Protect communities from cyber enable crime such as fraud – inform communities of the risks and reduce the opportunities for criminality. ○ Seek to increase resources dedicated to preventing and minimising the criminal exploitation of children and young people, allowing services to be targeted into areas where they are most needed.

Priority Five: Reducing substance and alcohol misuse

Substance and alcohol misuse impacts on all of the key priorities within the Community safety Strategy.

It is fair to say that reductions in peoples misuse of substances would significantly impact not only on crime and anti-social behaviour but would also lead to healthier relationships, more productive futures, improved individual wellbeing and better outcomes for children, families and communities. There is also an impact on economic cost to Doncaster from lost productivity and cost to health, social care and the criminal justice system.

Doncaster has higher than national average rates of alcohol related hospital admissions, which makes significant demands on the hospital and creates a major cost pressure on the local health system. Costs to the local health economy is estimated £17.2m each year.

As alcohol and drug misuse are often symptoms of complex underlying factors, Doncaster partner agencies support individuals to overcome stigma and embark on their own recovery journeys, to live substance misuse free lives. This includes supporting the annual Recovery Games in Doncaster, which is a nationally and internationally recognised event.

The Substance Misuse Theme Group is a multi- agency group of professionals which tackles the health and crime impacts of substance misuse through the development and performance management of an integrated substance misuse plan for the Partnership.

The effectiveness of the drug / alcohol treatment and care system is monitored against the 2021-24 treatment plan, which oversees actions relating to Public Health and Police and Crime Commissioner funds. These funds are invested to address addiction and substance misuse related offending, by the delivery of an integrated range of addiction services.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, substance misuse services have remained open, utilising virtual means where possible but face to face delivery in a Covid secure way where clinically indicated.

There is some local evidence that levels of alcohol consumption and referrals for alcohol treatment have increased during lockdown periods, and in response to this an alcohol early interventions team has been put in place, to support higher risk drinkers.

The Substance Misuse Theme Group has a strategic focus on reducing alcohol related harms, and during 2021 worked with the University of Huddersfield on action research to improve local services responses to the impact of parental alcohol misuse on children and young people.

Public Health England estimates that 20% of adults in England with alcohol dependence have children living in the household. If this figure is applied to the number of dependent drinkers in Doncaster, over 850 children could be negatively affected.



Reducing substance and alcohol misuse

Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secured additional resources from Public Health England and the local Public Health Allocation to further develop inpatient detoxification, criminal justice treatment services, family/parental interventions and early interventions for alcohol. ○ Increased public awareness and knowledge about the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. ○ Identified and supported people who want to change their alcohol and/or drug using behaviour. ○ Reduced the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of alcohol and other legal substances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of people choosing not to misuse drugs and/or alcohol. ○ Reduce the number of children, young people and families affected by drug and/or alcohol misuse. ○ Reduce the number of people who experience crime and disorder related to the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol. ○ High prevalence of people using drugs and drinking alcohol at harmful and hazardous levels with significant health and crime impacts on individuals, families and communities. ○ Increased levels of alcohol consumption and referrals for alcohol treatment during the covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop and build the Doncaster recovery community and support the annual Recovery Games events. ○ Deliver the 'Rethink Your Drink' alcohol communications campaign to reduce alcohol related harms. ○ Provide a comprehensive, accessible, high quality drug and alcohol treatment service across Doncaster Borough in order to reduce associated crime and health harms. ○ In partnership with Huddersfield University, undertake action research to improve multi agency responses to the impact of parental substance misuse in children and young people.

Priority Six: Reducing violence and violent crime

Reducing violence and violent crime, including that linked to the night-time economy crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership.

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) was established in August 2019 to develop the South Yorkshire-wide public health approach to tackling violent crime and is supporting this theme with a dedicated Partnership Manager working directly with the SSDP. SYVRU activity supports a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence which is embedded and delivered locally and Community Safety Partnerships are the agreed lead mechanism for local delivery.

The SYVRU look at the causes of violence and work with partners to stop violence before it starts, halts its progression once its already begun and provide ways out for people already entrenched in violent behaviour.

Two pieces of work were developed by the SYVRU to aid Community Safety Partnerships in reducing violence and violent crime: an area profile and a response strategy for South Yorkshire. The strategy highlighted 16 priorities for each Partnership to work towards when developing a local response to reducing violence. These documents have been approved by the Home Office.



Achievements since the last strategy	New priorities	What we will deliver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gap analysis completed, based on information from the SYVRU area profile and survey analysis, as well as local knowledge. ○ A working Local area action plan created linked to SSDP and SYVRU priorities. ○ Funded and supported the development of initiatives such as One of a Kind family Domestic Abuse programme. ○ Ensure referral mechanisms are in place and utilised to support programmes that offer ways out of crime i.e. Plan-B Navigator custody programme. ○ Undertaken work with the youth council in relation to tackling knife crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the development and implementation of a strategic Doncaster Evening and Night Time Economy Group to achieve Purple Flag status for Doncaster. ○ Work to support all organisations and professionals working with children and young people to work towards becoming trauma informed. ○ Support the development of a dedicated Trauma Informed working group in Doncaster. ○ Ensure evidence based good practice from National and Regional sources is applied to Doncaster. ○ Developing an effective multi-agency response to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the development and implementation of a strategic Doncaster Evening and Night-Time Economy Group, providing regular updates to the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership. ○ Support the development and implementation of a strategic Partnership Trauma Informed working group. ○ Delivery of the Violence Reduction Action Plan to take a public health approach to preventing and tackling violence and violent crime. ○ Implement an effective action plan, with wide-ranging actions which provide reassurance of our response to tackling violence against women and girls.

Delivery 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 organisations, communities or individuals will identify their own targets and measures of success; but as a partnership, we utilise robust performance management measures to assess our progress.

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership Executive Board adopts responsibility for performance management oversight and manages a framework by which board members can collate and analyse performance data.

Performance management is discussed as a standing agenda item at each Executive Board meeting.

All partners are open to the appropriate sharing of data to tackle crime and disorder, and as such this is accumulated to determine our collective impact/progress towards our shared goals.

The Delivery Plan accompanying this Strategy provides further details regarding the key actions required to respond to our new and emerging priorities and will be performance managed as described above.

We will also assess the impact of the actions on the overarching Wellbeing Goals and use them to shape future activity.

Communications

The partnership will continue to engage with communities to understand concerns, and importantly, raise awareness of our work. We will also strengthen our reporting mechanisms to increase community confidence and provide effective feedback of our actions.

This will be supported through the localities approach and as part of the ongoing communications strategy and Rapid Improvement Plan.

This Improvement Plan will involve all agencies and people with lived experience working together to develop solutions which address the issues that have been raised. It will also focus, through different and smarter ways of working, on increased visibility of partnership resources within communities and taking positive action where required. Results can be fed back to our communities using social media, press campaigns or individual updates.

Through this work, we aim to increase our media activity to better represent the work of the partnership and to improve the visibility of our partnership resources within communities.

Conclusion

At a time when all agencies are experiencing change and increasing demands for services, the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership is adapting to these challenges to ensure that we listen, understand and build relationships with communities to develop a clear picture of their experiences and respond effectively to their concerns.

Our future work through this strategy is aimed at streamlining systems and processes, working more effectively together, reducing duplication and keeping the public safe. This will continue to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and will play our part in ensuring that Doncaster and its people thrive.

We will tackle not only the obvious impact, but also the underlying issues which drive crime and disorder within our neighbourhoods. The Partnership is committed to doing all we can to improve safety in our communities to build a stronger and more confident Doncaster.



[Priority 01] Tackling domestic and sexual abuse

Action	Outcome
<p>Improving awareness of domestic and sexual abuse throughout Doncaster, particularly with young people.</p>	<p>Residents of Doncaster will be better informed about what domestic and sexual abuse is, how to spot it and what to do about it. It will help to create a culture where abuse is not tolerated and where domestic and sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility.</p>
<p>Managing the increase in demand. Secure funding for specialist domestic and sexual abuse services to meet the needs of victims and survivors.</p>	<p>A full assessment of need will provide the evidence for a longer term financial and commissioning strategy for tackling domestic and sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Improve collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse with a commitment to learning from their experiences.</p>	<p>Survivors will be better supported by a Survivor Liaison Worker who will provide an important link to the strategic partnership groups.</p>
<p>Increased amount of safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse, including people with complex needs.</p>	<p>People are supported to stay in their own home safely or helped to access alternative safe accommodation in Doncaster or out of the area resulting in reduced risk of harm to victims and their families. Barriers to people with complex needs are removed and they are able to access safe accommodation.</p>
<p>Secure additional funding to support for children that have experienced domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Improved health and well-being for children and an opportunity to break the cycle of abuse and prevent children being victims or perpetrators in the future.</p>
<p>Production of a Doncaster multi-agency domestic abuse perpetrator protocol.</p>	<p>Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse are robustly managed through trauma informed practice and the criminal justice system, behaviour is challenged and support offered to reduce repeat offending and victims are more confident to report. This includes management of serial perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Prevention of repeat incidents of domestic abuse through multi -agency working, information sharing, and proactive engagement with victims, providing longer term support for survivors of domestic abuse and management of perpetrators.</p> <p>To also prevent people from becoming a victim of abuse again having ended one abusive relationship.</p>	<p>A reduction of repeat incidents of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Helping survivors to rebuild their lives and thrive following the trauma of domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Produce a new Domestic Abuse strategy and a new Sexual Abuse Strategy.</p>	<p>Greater awareness of domestic and sexual abuse. Prevention and early identification of domestic abuse and sexual abuse. Victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse are supported. Perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse are held to account. A reduction in domestic and sexual abuse in Doncaster.</p>

[Priority 02] Reducing anti-social behaviour

Action	Outcome
Effectively manage anti-social behaviour through proactive and responsive approaches, supported by improved mechanisms to report and respond to incidents.	Reporting mechanisms are reviewed, community confidence and reporting is increased. Agencies are informed of the true picture of activity to ensure services respond to the needs of Doncaster residents.
Improve community confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour by providing reassurance that we will listen, understand and build relationships with victims and communities.	Communities are more confident to report, relationships are strengthened, agencies have a greater understanding of the lived experiences of residents.
Tackle the issue of illegal off-road bikes and quads through a partnership approach, utilising all available Tools and Powers. Results of deployment activity are published.	Issues are reduced, legislative powers are maximised, public confidence is increased.
Review multi-agency processes to support the needs of vulnerable victims and victims who are fearful to report anti-social behaviour.	Effective support is provided to victims and confidence is improved. The potential for repeat victimisation is reduced.
Implement effective problem-solving approaches to reduce the impact of fly tipping and criminal damage within communities, particularly damage linked to anti-social behaviour e.g. graffiti.	Partners work together to understand the picture of activity to reduce the number of incidents.
Monitor hate crimes, incidents and community tensions to provide an accurate picture of community cohesion within communities across Doncaster.	Victims are informed of how to report and receive comprehensive advice and support. Community cohesion is monitored and maintained.
Reduce the impact of arson through joint locality working with key partners – utilising data analysis to identify key locations where prevention plans can be implemented.	Proactive approaches and diversionary activities result in a reduction in reported incidents. Communities are updated on action taken.
Tackle the issue of street homelessness and begging through joint locality working, recognising this is an issue affecting many areas of the borough.	Partners work together to ensure people are supported to access services and enforcement action is taken when appropriate. Fewer people are presenting as homeless.
Seek all available opportunities to gain additional funding for CCTV, for the benefit of communities. Improving our capabilities to gain evidence and reassure the public.	Evidence capability and community reassurance is increased.
Communicate the successful use of existing CCTV through local media and newsletters to demonstrate the benefits and value of our CCTV deployment.	Communities are better informed regarding our approaches and reassurance is increased.

[Priority 03] Reducing crime and re-offending

Action	Outcome
Further reduce the reoffending rate and average number of reoffending offences within the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort.	Fewer people are re-offending once they leave the IOM cohort for good progress and the impact on victims and communities is reduced.
Work closely with key partners to improve the public experience of reporting crime.	Reporting mechanisms are improved and therefore better utilised. The partnership are able to understand a more accurate picture of crime in communities and respond to concerns.
Further reduce the rates of Serious Acquisitive Crime across the borough through targeted interventions in high crime areas.	Fewer people are committing incidents of serious acquisitive crime and the impact on victims is reduced.
Implement the new National IOM strategy for managing the most prolific offenders in our community.	Improved understanding of offender needs and access to support services. Close management of licensing conditions. Development of 3 local IOM cohorts 'Fixed, flex and free'
Review the governments national crime plan and develop implementation priorities for Doncaster.	Priorities for Doncaster are identified and progressed to ensure all requirements are met.
Deliver youth diversion schemes to ensure young people avoid criminal convictions and are supported in the community, where appropriate.	Young people are diverted away from criminality and receive access to supportive community-based interventions.
Develop our pathways to support transition from the youth offending teams into probation services for those identified as prolific offenders.	Offenders are supported, re-offending rates are reduced.
Effective management of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system to ensure low levels are maintained.	Fewer people are entering the criminal justice system and fewer victims are affected by crime.

[Priority 04] Tackling serious and organised crime

Action	Outcome
Develop closer links with locality teams to improve intelligence and the sharing of information, encouraging the public to share information without fear of reprisal.	Organised criminal activity is better understood. Staff recognise the signs of organised criminality and can take timely, robust action to activity across localities. Communities feel supported to report incidents.
Develop effective responses to prevent the criminal exploitation of children and young people, which has been recognised as a growing issue during the Covid pandemic.	Fewer people are exploited, support is available and accessed by vulnerable people at the earliest possible stage. Services are targeted into areas where they are most needed.
Use the full range of powers, local regulation and licensing powers to disrupt organised crime groups.	Less people are affected by organised criminality. Conviction rates are increased for perpetrators of organised crime.
Introduce a 'Clear Hold and Build' Strategy across the Borough to reduce the number of people being drawn into organised criminality.	Disruption activity is in place across communities alongside diversionary initiatives to reduce the number of people exploited into organised criminality.
Monitor and disrupt the growth in firearms enabled crime and serious violence, linked to OCG activity.	Activity is understood and robustly tackled to reduce the frequency of firearm incidents and serious violence.
Tackle and disrupt the growth in cannabis cultivations linked to organised crime, which are impacting on vulnerable communities.	Fewer cannabis cultivations are established. Perpetrators are robustly managed through the criminal justice system.
Protect communities from cyber enabled crime such as fraud.	Communities are informed of risks and opportunities are reduced for criminality.

[Priority 05] Reducing substance and alcohol misuse

Action	Outcome
Develop and build the Doncaster recovery community and support the annual Recovery Games events, developing and supporting networks in communities and among those in treatment and recovery.	More people have sustained recovery from substance misuse.
Increase the number of people choosing not to misuse drugs and/or alcohol, including delivery of the 'Rethink Your Drink' alcohol communications campaign to reduce alcohol related harms.	Fewer people are affected by problematic substance misuse.
Reduce the number of children, young people and families affected by drug and/or alcohol misuse. In partnership with Huddersfield University, undertake action research to improve multi-agency responses to the impact of parental substance misuse in children and young people.	The impact of substance misuse on children young people and families is reduced.
Reduce the number of people who experience crime and disorder related to the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol through the delivery of a comprehensive, accessible, high quality drug and alcohol treatment service across Doncaster.	The impact of substance misuse related crime and disorder is reduced.
Monitor and respond to increased levels of alcohol consumption and referrals for alcohol treatment during the covid-19 pandemic.	Maintain capacity of treatment services to respond to referrals.

[Priority 06] Reducing violence and violent crime

Action	Outcome
Support the development and implementation of a strategic Doncaster Evening and Night-Time Economy Group, providing regular updates to the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership.	Progress work towards achieving the Association of Town and City Management Purple Flag Accreditation to support a safe and welcoming town centre.
Support the development and implementation of a strategic Partnership Trauma Informed working group.	Increased understanding of existing trauma informed practice, promotion of training and supporting organisations across Doncaster to work towards becoming trauma informed.
Develop and implement an effective multi-agency response to tackling violence against women and girls.	Incidents are reduced, communities feel reassured.
Delivery of the Violence Reduction Action Plan.	A multi-agency, public health approach is taken to preventing and tackling violence and violent crime.

[All Priorities]

Action	Outcome
Increase communications and social media activity to represent the work of the Partnership and its resources (including all available reporting options) to improve awareness and community confidence.	The work of the partnership is more visible to communities, engagement and community confidence is improved.
Engage with communities to understand their experiences and concerns and provide reassurance and feedback regarding actions taken.	The Partnership has an improved understanding of community need. Communities are better engaged and feedback is strengthened.
Develop a Rapid Improvement Plan to increase public confidence in reporting crime, anti-social behaviour or community concerns.	All agencies and people with lived experience will work together to develop solutions which address the issues that have been raised. Increased visibility of partnership resources within communities. Positive action is taken, the results of which can be fed back to our communities using social media, press campaigns or individual updates.
To support the development of locality plans to identify and deliver community safety priorities in local areas.	Community Safety priorities are clear and deliverable in local areas across the borough.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**Due Regard Statement
Community Safety Strategy 2022-25**

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 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>Development of the 2022-25 Community Safety Strategy, which is a statutory plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.</p> <p>The strategy outlines the priorities of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership over the next four years and the methods we will use to achieve them. The strategic priorities/themes are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse • Reducing anti-social behaviour • Reducing crime & re-offending • Tackling serious & organised crime • Reducing substance & alcohol misuse • Reducing violence and violent crime <p>In addition to the above priorities, the strategy also details an overarching principle of ‘Leaving Nobody Behind’. This principle recognises that some people are more at risk than others in our communities, perhaps because of their age, disability, ethnicity or other distinguishing characteristics that can link to increased vulnerability.</p> <p>For children and young people, and for adults with care and support needs, cross-cutting work is delivered through other structures including the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding board. Each of these structures has their own priorities and strategies supporting. The Community Safety Strategy will not seek to duplicate their work here.</p> <p>However, ensuring we engage with and support people who are at higher potential risk than others is a key overarching principle which runs as a cross-cutting theme throughout the partnership structure. Understanding and addressing vulnerability was identified as a key issue in the consultation process informing this strategy, resulting in the ongoing commitment to deliver improved services to communities across Doncaster.</p> <p>Having also considered the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, there are some key areas that have been considered and included, as detailed within each of the priority group sections and Delivery Plan. Overall, through the Strategy and accompanying actions we will show our commitment to equality and good outcomes for all Doncaster people, regardless of situation or background.</p> <p>Our aim through consultation with all communities is to understand what is important to them and for them to be part of the solution, working with us as an active partner in creating a safer, stronger Doncaster.</p>
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2	Service area responsible for completing this statement.	Community Safety Team – Adults, Health and Well Being Directorate.
3	Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.	<p>Protected user groups as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 are:</p> <p>age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.</p> <p>The review of the Community Safety Strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this, our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns. Overlaid with this is key information from data sources such as the census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data.</p> <p>The JSIA and our local community intelligence have identified a number of issues relating to those with protected characteristics. These are summarised as follows:</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour and Vulnerable Victims:</p> <p>During the covid pandemic, we have seen an increase in reported anti-social behaviour, particularly in the categories of nuisance bikes/quads and rowdy/nuisance behaviour. These types of incidents have been of particular concern to those members of the community who are isolated and/or vulnerable, for example the elderly and those with mental health concerns and other health conditions.</p> <p>In response we have continued to secure the regular deployment of resources as part of our tactical response to nuisance illegal off-road bikes and have led on a successful campaign to lobby the Home Office for a change in legislation to tackle illegal off road motorbikes and quad bikes used in organised crime. Operations carried out by the off-road bike team have been highly successful and have been publicised, sending a strong message of our approach and importantly providing reassurance to vulnerable members of our communities.</p> <p>Our Partnership approach to tackling ASB includes the completion of vulnerable victim risk assessments which gathers information across a variety of factors, including the protected groups. This information is then used tailor an appropriate response to effectively meet the needs of the individual concerned.</p>

In terms of community cohesion, strong links and mechanisms are in place across the partnership to effectively measure community tension levels in Doncaster. This reporting cycle allows us to identify issues and trends and respond accordingly.

Hate Crime:

General reporting of hate crime is increasing at a steady pace, which can be interpreted as a good thing in that trust and confidence in reporting is improving. During the last 12 months, the covid pandemic has resulted in a small spike in hate crime reports, with a particular focus on victims from Asian communities. It is also evident that hate crime figures rise in the aftermath of any terror attack. It is also not unusual for reports to rise during periods of warm weather or high-profile events where large crowds gather, although covid restrictions since 2020 have limited the opportunity for this type of incident to occur.

We continue to work in a changeable environment where opportunities for collective working are more important than ever before. We have operated within an integrated, partnership-focused structure for many years to effectively address hate crime. The strategic management of hate crime is located within the Anti-Social Behaviour Theme Group of the partnership structure. At an operational level within the SSDP, hate crime cases are managed by the Council's Communities Service, through established multi-agency mechanisms. These groups are populated by agencies who manage all actions and interventions relating to victims and offenders, to ensure early intervention for those reported cases and the prevention of any repeat cases, wherever possible. Every hate crime or incident reported through the partnership receives a multi-agency response to ensure that vulnerable victims are supported and offending behaviour is challenged. We aim to always provide a thorough, co-ordinated, partnership response to reports of hate crimes or incidents which facilitates the development of tailored action plans to address the specific needs of each case.

Hate crime victims are offered a choice of reporting agency and location, with Doncaster Council hosting a number of hate crime reporting locations across the Borough. At these locations, staff have received training to take and process hate crime reports sensitively and confidentially, in line with the victim's wishes. Whilst our Council services are robust and co-ordinated, the majority of hate crime reports continue to be made directly to the Police. As a partnership, we continue to recognise that that reported incidents to the Police as a single agency are only a part of the hate crime story, and that this crime type is historically highly under-reported. As a Council, we also offer further reporting options in the form of a dedicated Hate Crime telephone line and an on-line reporting service for any victim of a hate crime or incident.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse:

An estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020, according to Crime Survey for England and Wales (1.6 million women, 757,000 men). The majority of victims of domestic homicides recorded between April 2017 and March 2019 were females (77%).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 773,000 adults aged between 16 and 74 experienced sexual assault (including attempts) in the year ending March 2020. There were almost four times as many female victims (618,000) as male victims (155,000). Only around 16% of those who experience sexual violence and assault choose to report to the police. Almost half (49%) had been a victim more than once. Almost 90% of people who are raped know the perpetrator prior to the offence.

At a local level, domestic abuse remains a priority for the Borough and during the year to March 2021 we have seen increases in the number of reports, we are aware that this issue still remains largely un-reported.

In addition to risk management by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy service and MARAC, there is also the Domestic Abuse Hub and Domestic Abuse Caseworker team. There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. This is to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse and to promote trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour. By addressing adverse childhood experiences and trauma, the aim is to prevent people becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future.

Domestic Abuse staff support victims of sexual abuse when the incidents occur in a domestic abuse setting, working in collaboration with specialist support services including Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (DRASACS). ISVAs and DRASACS support victims and survivors of sexual and violence and abuse that is not domestic related.

All work to support victims, survivors, children and young people is undertaken in collaboration with South Yorkshire Police and other partners across the borough and beyond.

In September 2021 the new Countywide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme will be launched. The programme will receive referrals from Perpetrators to change their behaviour. Doncaster has been pivotal in developing this programme, modelled on our own successful approach. The programme will again be managed by Doncaster on behalf of all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The programme will accept referrals from male and female perpetrators and is a key component to reducing and preventing Domestic Abuse, which directly impacts predominantly on females and children.

Serious and Organised Crime / Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking:

The issues of modern slavery and human trafficking have been highlighted within the annual joint strategic intelligence assessment and research indicates that modern slavery and human trafficking can disproportionately affect under-represented groups of a particular nationality and also females, who may be victims of sex trafficking. Therefore it is important that our Community Safety Strategy addresses these issues, ensures that victims are aware of the support available and professionals receive training on identifying the signs and reporting mechanisms.

Child criminal exploitation is a further area which has been identified as a concern, both during our consultation and our strategic intelligence assessment. The partnership has responded to this issue by improving training and investment in resources to provide support to victims and families. The referral process for persons at risk of criminal exploitation has highlighted this predominantly affects young males and therefore our support services are able to provide support based upon levels of risk.

Our outreach services for victims have been adapted to be highly mobile and can be deployed into areas and locations to engage with affected groups. This may include youth clubs, local parks and open areas where young people may congregate.

Substance and Alcohol Misuse:

The Local Authority based Public Health is responsible for commissioning drug and alcohol services (Aspire via RDasH and ADS). This provides a platform for a more integrated approach to improving public health outcomes. This approach addresses the root causes and wider determinants of drug dependence and alcohol misuse and the harm and impact they have on communities and troubled families (such as mental health, employment, education, crime and housing). It also delivers the greatest gains for individuals and the community.

As of May 2021 Aspire currently has 1,178 clients receiving structured treatment across the Borough of Doncaster. The service has hubs in strategically placed parts of Doncaster based on need, Bentley with 138 clients, Mexborough with 186, Thorne 123, a central base in Doncaster town centre with 678, criminal justice clients of 172 and New Beginnings 29. Aspire also has a dedicated midwife.

According to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, in the period 1st of April to 30th of September 2019 males made up 68.5% of clients and females 31.5%. Between the ages of 18 to 40 years of age there are 41.1% of clients and 59.1% over the age of 40. 95% of clients identified as White/British, 94% Heterosexual, 1.7% Gay/Lesbian, 1.7% Bi-Sexual, 2.5% missing/not stated.

Between the period 1st of April to 30th of September there were 234 clients starting new treatment of which 85% of clients stated no disability. 66% stated no religion and 23% Christian, 1.8% Muslim/Sikh/Buddhist and 7.3% stated other.

This data is monitored on a regular basis by commissioners via NDTMS and yearly by PHE Commissioning Support Packs.

Violent Crime:

Reducing violence and violent crime, including alcohol related crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership. The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) was established in August 2019 to develop the South Yorkshire-wide public health approach to tackling violent crime and has produced two pieces of work to aid Community Safety Partnership in reducing violence and violent crime: an area profile and a response strategy for South Yorkshire. The strategy highlighted 16 priorities for each Partnership to work towards when developing a local response to reducing violence. These documents have been approved by the Home Office.

SYVRU activity supports a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence which is embedded and delivered locally and Community Safety Partnerships are the agreed lead mechanism for local delivery.

In March 2020 Doncaster's Partnership Manager from the SYVRU worked with the SSDP and other partners (e.g. Doncaster Children's Services Trust, Youth Offending Teams, Health and Wellbeing Board etc.) to identify gaps, based on information from the area profile and survey analysis, as well as local knowledge, and created a working action plan that could be under taken against the SYVRU priorities.

The action plan has been reviewed and updated for 2021/2022 and includes a continued focus on the night-time economy with the view to achieving Purple Flag status for the Borough. This will enable people to quickly identify Doncaster's night-time economy as an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out. Other actions are focused around violence and children and young people (both as victims and offenders of violent crime) and a focus on a trauma informed approach.

4	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<p>In addition to utilising those data sources described above, an extensive and broad-reaching consultation exercise was undertaken during June 2021 to collect as wide a range of views and experiences as possible.</p> <p>This consultation requested the input of a broad range of community and faith groups across Doncaster; the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership; the Youth Council; Elected Members (with an additional dedicated briefing note); external social media communications and internal communications, including a Directorate Newsletter and the Chief Executive column. The consultation was posted on the Doncaster Talks consultation platform, with support from the Policy, Innovation and Change Team and the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Offers to facilitate consultation in different ways and formats (including audio and braille) was made and an article was featured in the Doncaster Talking Newspaper. An 'Easy Read' version of the strategy will also be produced and launched alongside the full document.</p> <p>The consultation period received 175 responses during the month, the findings of which were analysed and used to inform the strategy content.</p>
5	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The Community Safety Consultation:</p> <p>The review of the community safety strategy begins from the statutory Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which is a comprehensive analysis of crime and community safety data across Doncaster. In addition to this our Strategy is informed by an understanding of our communities, their demographics, needs and concerns.</p> <p>Overlaid upon this is key information from data sources such as census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and local crime and anti-social behaviour data. The Community Safety Consultation identified a number of prominent issues. The community consultation identified that the strategic current priorities should remain, as they continue to meet the needs of residents and Partner and identified a number of emerging issues.</p> <p>The strategic priorities reflected within the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse • Reducing anti-social behaviour • Reducing crime & re-offending • Tackling serious & organised crime • Reducing substance & alcohol misuse • Reducing violence and violent crime

The emerging issues identified as part of the consultation include those detailed below – these are addressed within the strategy and delivery plan:

- Increased community engagement and officer visibility
- Increased/simplified reporting services and support for victims
- Begging and homelessness
- Online crime
- Targeted work in geographical locations

This strategy will result in closer partnership working in respect of the identified priorities and will have a positive impact on the citizens of Doncaster who will see improved outcomes in terms of feeling safer; being safer and getting the support they need with access to improved services. We will also be taking a strong enforcement approach to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, supported by early intervention and prevention, stopping issues from escalating at an early stage and targeting resources where they are most needed.

What the Evidence Shows:

- The vast majority (91.38%) of surveys were from people who lived in Doncaster, 59.2% worked in Doncaster, 6.32% study in Doncaster and 4.6% have a business in Doncaster.
- The majority of people surveyed said they feel safe living in Doncaster most or all of the time (63.79%).
- Only 3.45% of those surveyed said they never feel safe living in Doncaster.
- People felt most unsafe at night-time (62.50%) or in the evening (41.18%).
- The majority of those who stated they didn't feel safe identified the Town Centre as the place they didn't feel safe. Other areas identified included Lakeside (4.44%), Doncaster Bus Station (2.22%), certain villages (4.44%) and rural locations (4.44%).
- When asked about the reasons for feeling unsafe, crime accounted for 16.19% of responses, with general comments around crime and reported crime along with burglary, thefts and organised crime.
- Police visibility and reduced Police funding accounted for all 6.34% of responses.
- Anti-social behaviour accounted for 67.60% of responses. Drinking alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness and aggressive begging, particularly in the town centre were the main issues raised.
- Large groups of people gathering and quad and/or motorbike nuisance were also issues raised.
- Nearly 40% of those surveyed said they felt agencies are very effective or effective at tackling crime and disorder in Doncaster.
- 19% of those surveyed said agencies were neither ineffective nor effective.

- 31% said they felt agencies were not very effective.
- When asked about the crime and disorder themes that were most important, results indicated a relatively even priority across the strategic themes. However, reducing Anti-Social Behaviour accounted for 88.37% of the Community Safety themes most important to those surveyed.
- Additional comments in respect of areas of concern included a lack of agency resources and a need for increased engagement with communities; begging and large groups in the town centre; organised criminality; online crime; speeding traffic/dangerous driving; vehicle theft; young people and anti-social behaviour; dog theft; substance misuse in public spaces e.g. parks; women's safety and domestic abuse.
- 34.5% of respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months.
- 75% of those had been victims of anti-social behaviour and 28.33% had been victims of damage to property.
- Vehicle crime and hate crime also accounted for significant proportions of crime respondents experienced.
- 48% of victims were women and 40% were men.
- 62.2% of those who experienced crime were in the 45-64 age group and 22.2% in the 25-44 age group, 11.1% were over 65 and only 2.2% under 18.
- The vast majority (67%) reported crime they experienced, however, 33% did not.
- The majority (79%) reported such crimes to the Police and 14% reported issues to the Council. Of those who said they reported it to other agencies, comments identified those agencies as Housing Associations, Education staff and Domestic Abuse agencies.
- Reasons provided for not reporting included: being unable to identify the offender; long waiting times on the 101 service; previous negative experiences when reporting / lack of confidence that positive action will be taken; lack of resources across agencies to tackle issues.
- When asked what could be done to improve the partnership and its services, responses included: more visible presence from officers within communities/neighbourhoods; simpler and faster reporting services; increased engagement with young people; increased support for offenders; closer working with community organisations; improved communications/social media presence; targeted work in hotspot areas; increased CCTV coverage; better support for victims of crime; additional resources for outlying areas.

Who Responded:

The questionnaire circulated included details of respondent's age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation and area of residence. This enabled us to monitor how representative the responses were. This information is valuable when developing local delivery plans, assessing existing service provision and exploring potential new services. In brief, the consultation, which attracted 175 responses showed:

- The majority of respondents were from the 45-64 age group, followed by the 25-44 age group. Combined they account for over 78% of responses.
- 9.98% of responses were from those under the age of 24.
- Almost two thirds of responses were from those identifying as women, whilst those identifying as men were just short of a third.
- A small proportion preferred not to say and one individual identified as a Transgender Male/Man.
- One individual preferred to self-identify and commented "I go by all pronouns, I am me and am not defined by my gender/pronouns".
- The vast majority of respondents identified as Heterosexual (85.53%). 4.4% identified as Bisexual, just over 3% identified as a gay man and 1.89% identified as a gay woman/lesbian. Almost 4.5% preferred not to say how they identified.
- The vast majority of respondents (158) identified as English, 4 people identified as Scottish, 3 Polish, 2 Romanian and 1 Czech and 1 Kurdish individual. All were born within the UK except for 12 individuals.

How have we used the evidence:

The majority of people surveyed said they feel safe living in Doncaster most or all of the time (63.79%). Only 3.45% of those surveyed said they never feel safe living in Doncaster. The survey highlighted that residents felt most unsafe in the Town Centre, highlighting anti-social behaviour, homelessness, alcohol and drug misuse as key concerns.

Since the last Community Safety Strategy, a significant investment of additional resources has been made in the town centre. The Complex Lives Team continue to focus on individuals with a range of needs, which may relate to substance misuse, lack of accommodation and access to key services. Continued focus on this cohort enables individuals to gain accommodation and access to support and services. It is recognised that maintaining stability is a continuing challenge, but alongside the Public Space Protection Order, this provides the tools to manage these issues within the locality.

The consultation has identified that hate crime remains an important issue as this accounted for a proportion of crime that respondents experienced. The JSIA also highlighted a small increase in reports – these rises were

linked to national / international issues such as terror attacks, the covid pandemic and the EU exit. Robust Hate Crime services are established across the Borough as described earlier in this statement.

Doncaster has, for a number of years, welcomed asylum seekers into our communities and we have developed strong links with providers who operate the national housing contract. Approval mechanisms exist to support decision making in relation to local service provision, crime and anti-social behaviour activity and the condition of properties. Bi-monthly multi-agency meetings are also established to ensure communication mechanisms are strong and services are working well.

Domestic abuse and sexual abuse continue to be a priority for the Partnership. A new domestic abuse strategy for 2021-2024 has been produced following extensive consultation with communities, survivors and practitioners and a new sexual abuse strategy is also being written. The new domestic abuse strategy emphasises that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and that it will only be tackled by everyone working together.

There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. The strategy seeks to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse as well as promoting trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour.

By addressing adverse childhood experiences and trauma, the aim is to prevent people becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future. Increased reports of domestic abuse and domestic homicide is also a UK emerging risk as identified in the JSIA.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking continues to be managed through the Serious and Organised crime theme and is an issue affecting individuals from the protected user group. The issues of modern slavery and human trafficking have been highlighted within the annual joint strategic intelligence assessment and research indicates that modern slavery and human trafficking can disproportionately affect under-represented groups of a particular nationality and also females, who may be victims of sex trafficking. Therefore, it is important that our Community Safety Strategy addresses these issues, ensures that victims are aware of the support available and professionals receive training on identifying the signs and reporting mechanisms.

In addition to the details within this statement, all emerging issues identified within the strategic themes of Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse; Reducing anti-social behaviour; Reducing crime & re-offending; Tackling serious &

		organised crime; Reducing substance & alcohol misuse and reducing violence and violent crime are recorded within the Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan to ensure progress and performance management.
6	Decision Making	<p>It is important that the Mayor and Cabinet understand the obligation of demonstrating due regard from the review of this strategy and any changes to priorities are presented with a clear rationale and evidence base.</p> <p>The Mayor and portfolio holder will be made aware of due regard considerations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular briefing updates reporting upon progress of the Community Safety Strategy; • As the Strategy progresses through the Councils Governance structures the Mayor and Cabinet will be able to comment upon the content and provide feedback as to due regard considerations.
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>The Community Safety Strategy will be monitored through various mechanisms which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSDP Executive Board meetings, reports and presentations, including utilising performance management models; • The consideration of equality standards and impact will continue to be a required theme of action plans and new policies; • Action plans developed from the strategy will be monitored through the Partnership theme group structure; • An annual review of the Strategy will take place and will be informed by on-going consultations with communities through various methods.
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>The JSIA and community consultation has examined a full range of evidence across all protected groups and has used the information as a basis to show due regard to the aims of the general duty.</p> <p>This has enlightened the development of the strategy, based upon the changing nature, needs and concerns of our communities.</p>



Doncaster Council

**Date: 20th January
2022**

To the Chair and Members of the Council

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Council is asked to adopt a Parental Leave Policy for elected Members. This would formalise leave and support arrangements and provide clarity regarding the payment of allowances. The policy will remove barriers for current and prospective Councillors and support Members who wish to continue to undertake their role during this important period of their lives.
2. The report also asks Council to confirm the continuation of current arrangements for adjusting Members Allowances by reference to an annual index.

EXEMPT REPORT

3. This report is not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Council
 - i. Approve the Parental Leave Policy attached at Appendix A.
 - ii. Approve 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.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. Approval of a parental leave policy for Councillors will help remove barriers for current and prospective Councillors. This will ensure the citizens of Doncaster can be effectively represented by a wider range of individuals who are able to balance parenthood with civic duties.

Applying an annual adjustment to Members allowances in line with the NJC pay award for local government employees ensures remuneration remains relevant and takes account of rising living costs. This will provide financial certainty for current Councillors and those wishing to stand as elected Members in the future.

BACKGROUND

Parental Leave Policy

6. Research by the Fawcett Society in 2017 showed that only 12% of Councils had some form of parental leave policy for its Councillors. Since that time a number of Councils have adopted policies that have been promoted by the Local Government Association (LGA); including Camden, Peterborough, Newcastle City, Gloucester County Council and Rotherham. The draft policy attached at Appendix A is based upon the LGA model.
7. Formally setting out arrangements for Councillors wishing to take maternity, paternity, shared parental, adoption and fostering leave will help the Council better reflect the people it represents, contributing towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority Councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced Councillors, particularly women, by making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded or unable to balance their civic role with parental responsibilities.
8. There is no legal right to parental leave for Councillors. As elected Members are not employees, workforce policies and employee legislation are not always relevant or applicable. The payment of allowances to Councillors during any period of maternity is a matter for each Council and must be consistent with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 which these proposals are. Detailed below are some of the key elements of the proposed policy.

Basic Allowance and Attendance

9. One of the key principles of the Member Allowance Scheme, is that all Councillors must receive the same basic allowance (currently £13,216) and there is no discretion to alter this amount even during periods of absence (including parental leave).
10. To receive the basic allowance, it is a legal requirement for a Councillor to attend a formal meeting of Council (or its committees) within a 6 month period. Failure to do this could lead to disqualification. Full Council delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to approve absences beyond this time for justified reasons, such as long term illness with a requirement to formally report these to Council afterwards for information. If agreed this policy would provide pre-approval for up to 6 months absence with a possible 6 months extension up to a maximum 52 weeks.

Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

11. SRAs are paid in accordance with the remuneration scheme agreed by Council. Appointment to positions attracting SRAs are made by the Elected Mayor who appoints Cabinet (up to 9 Members including a deputy) or Full Council for the Chairs or Vice Chairs of Committees. Allowances may also be paid to Group Leaders depending upon the size of the Group (minimum £1,231 for Groups with 5 to 14 Members).
12. To ensure Councillors are no worse off whilst on parental leave, the policy commits to the continued payment of an SRA during any absence. This is reviewed after a period of 6 months or at Council AGM, whichever is the earlier. It also provides, for a new Member taking on additional responsibilities in the absence of the Member on leave to also receive the relevant SRA, if appropriate. This would require formal approval by Council for appointments relating to Chairs, Vice Chairs of Council Committees or the Mayor for Cabinet Members and changes to portfolio arrangements and would be considered at the time on an individual basis.
13. The rules that prevent a Member from receiving more than one SRA would still apply and for the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be payable to a Member who chairs a meeting outside the scope of the parental leave policy i.e. the ordinary deputising for the chair by reason of ordinary absence.

Notice Requirements

14. The policy puts an onus on the Councillor to inform the Monitoring Officer and where appropriate their Group, in advance of any proposed parental leave. This will ensure there is an opportunity to put any necessary arrangements in place e.g. consideration of approval of additional SRA's, substitute arrangements on committees or outside bodies (where applicable) and arrangements to cover any ward duties.
15. Furthermore, it will provide an opportunity to discuss any additional support they may require with the Governance and Member Services Manager. This could include arrangements for keeping in touch, being updated on relevant issues, such as briefings and training or Committee work. Members will also have the opportunity to discuss arrangements for returning to their duties beyond the period of their parental leave. This will ensure Members maintain a point of contact with a designated officer during their period of leave.

Index Linking Members Allowances

16. The Members allowance Scheme provides for Members' allowances to be adjusted annually in line with the National Joint Council (NJC) pay award for officers. The Council has had this arrangement in place for a number of years and it is a common feature of Member Allowance Schemes throughout the country. This ensures that once allowances have been agreed they can be adjusted annually to reflect cost of living rises without having to be reviewed and reassessed annually.

17. The Regulations allow for this indexing for a 4 year period, after which it must be reviewed. This index linking was last reviewed for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2022. Council is asked to continue with this index linking for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026.
18. Once agreed this annual increase is automatically applied to Members allowances. As with any element of the Members Allowance Scheme, Members are able to choose to forego this or any of their allowance by individually notifying the Director of Corporate Resources in writing.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

19. The objective of the Parental leave policy is to ensure, insofar as possible, that Councillors can take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for the roles that receive an SRA, during any period of leave.
20. Maintaining an annual index linked allowance scheme ensures that Members allowances can be adjusted to take account of cost of living rises.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. Agreeing a Parental leave policy will help remove barriers for current and prospective Councillors by providing certainty and financial security during periods of parental leave. By removing these barriers there is a greater likelihood that citizens of Doncaster can be effectively represented by a wide range of individuals who are able to balance new parenthood with civic duties.
22. Applying an annual index to Members allowances helps to ensure allowances remain reflective of duties and responsibilities as annual prices increase.

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>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a</p>	

	<p>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>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>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>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 	<p>Adopting the parental leave policy and reaffirming the annual indexing of Members allowances will support Members in undertaking their role by providing consistency and removing barriers for those wishing to balance parenthood with civic responsibilities. This will support effective leadership and governance and demonstrate the Council's position as a modern organisation in touch with and representative of its communities.</p>

	residents to provide effective leadership and governance	
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

24. There are no specific risks associated with this report. The adoption of the Parental leave policy will go some way to removing barriers for people wishing to stand as Councillors and represent their communities.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 6/1/22.]

25. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Councillor will cease to be a member of the authority if they fail to attend any meetings of the authority for a consecutive period of 6 months. This is unless the reason for the non-attendance has been pre-approved by Full Council or by the Monitoring Officer, via delegated authority. In approving this Policy, Full Council would be providing pre-approval for a possible extension up to a maximum 52 weeks leave, without the need to seek Full Council approval in individual cases. Instances of parental leave approved by the Monitoring Officer beyond 6 months will be reported back to Council for information.
26. In respect of payments of allowances, the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003/1021 sets out categories of allowances that can be paid and the circumstances under which they would cease. In approving this Policy, the Council acknowledges and confirms that during periods of Parental Leave, no Basic or Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) would end, as the Councillor is not deemed for this purpose to have officially vacated their role, unless or until they are removed, are not reappointed, resign, retire at the end of the election term, or are not re-elected. In accordance with the scheme requirements, the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel have been sought and they are supportive of the proposals and arrangements for the payment of SRAs under this policy.
27. The 2003 Regulations (Regulations 10 (4) and (5)) also provide that the Council may make provision for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to such index as may be specified by the authority. Where an authority has regard to an index for the purpose of annual adjustment of allowances it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Independent Remuneration Panel has confirmed they support the ongoing application of the current index.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 06.01.22..]

28. It is anticipated that the costs associated with the implementation of the parental leave policy should it be adopted would be low. Additional costs would be incurred if an additional SRA was paid to a Councillor to cover during the parental leave of a post holder. Any additional costs would be met from the Members Allowance budget and would be taken into account at the time a decision was made.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [RH Date 11.01.22.]

29. The introduction of this policy is considered to be best practice and it demonstrates that the Council recognises that the demographic of Councillors has changed over the years, and there is a need to openly provide support to allow Councillors that become parents to take the required time off. Although there is no legal right to have a parental leave policy as there are HR policies for staff covering maternity, paternity, adoption leave and sick pay it would seem fair to have this replicated for members and ensure it is applied in a consistent and fair way. There is a review period for the Special Responsibility Allowance which will determine if the payment is to be extended or ceases.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW Date 06.01.22.]

30. There are no specific technology implications associated with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CW..Date 07.01.22]

31. Transition to Parenthood and the first 1001 days from Conception of a child to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period that will have an impact and influence on the rest of the life course. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates the importance of sensitive attuned parenting on the development of the baby's brain and in promoting secure attachment and bonding. A robust parental leave policy gives prospective parents piece of mind they will be able to balance their role as a parent and councillor, ensuring they will be able to devote time to parenthood during this critical time in the parent-child relationship without financial stressors.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [AS Date 04.01.22..]

32. Whilst there is no legal right to parental leave for Councillors, the Council is subject to the public equality duty. Two of the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010 where it is illegal to discriminate against someone are "sex" and "maternity or pregnancy" this policy will help promote these two characteristics. The adoption of a Parental leave policy can generally help promote equality and remove barriers for those wishing to become Councillors.

CONSULTATION

33. The views of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) have been sought and they were fully supportive of the draft policy (attached at Appendix 1) and the arrangements for allowances to continue to be linked to the NJC pay award for officers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LGA Parental Leave Policy for Councillors
<https://local.gov.uk/parental-leave-policy-councils>

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IRP - Independent Remuneration Panel
LGA – Local government Association
NJC - National Joint Council
SRA - Special Responsibility allowance

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DRAFT PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY FOR COUNCILLORS

Introduction

The objective of the policy is to ensure that insofar as possible Members (and both parents) are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption, and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for those in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) during any period of leave.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority Councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced Councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded.

1. Leave Periods

- 1.1 Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from the due date, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.
- 1.2 Where the birth is premature, leave will commence on the actual birth date. The period between the date of birth and the due date can be taken in addition to the 6 month's period.
- 1.3 Members shall be entitled to take 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).
- 1.4 A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to inform the Monitoring Officer of these at the earliest possible opportunity. The Council will endeavour to replicate these arrangements where possible.
- 1.5 Where both parents are Members, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 26 weeks for the first six months and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 52 weeks.

- 1.6 A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months adoption leave from the date of placement, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.
- 1.7 Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a 6 month period unless an extended leave of absence is agreed by the Monitoring Officer prior to the expiration of that six month period.
- 1.8 Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.
- 1.9 Any member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and that they keep the Monitoring Officer and their respective Groups (if applicable) informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

2. Basic Allowance

- 2.1 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

- 3.1 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.
- 3.2 A replacement may be appointed to cover the period of absence and that Councillor shall also receive an SRA for the period of the temporary appointment. The ordinary rules preventing the payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowance shall apply.
- 3.3 The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances under this policy, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, shall continue for a period of up to six months, or until the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council, (whichever is the earlier). At such a point, the position will be

reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six month period. When the primary SRA holder returns to duties the additional SRA paid to a replacement Member will cease.

- 3.4 Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual General Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or their post is changed as a result of the Mayor making changes to the composition of Cabinet, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post

4. Resigning from Office and Elections

- 4.1 If a Member decides not to return to their post at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.
- 4.2 If an election is held during the Member's leave period and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

5. Notice Periods

- 5.1 The Councillor must notify the Monitoring Officer by email no later than 8 weeks before the expected week of childbirth (maternity/ paternity), intended shared parental or adoption leave or as soon as is reasonably practicable and provide:
- (i) the week the baby/ child (in the case of adoption leave - date of placement) is due;
 - (ii) the period of leave the Councillor intends to take; and
 - (iii) when they want their leave to start.
- 5.2 This will be acknowledged within 2 weeks. Where applicable Members are also requested to notify their Groups
- 5.3 If a Councillor wishes to return from leave earlier than originally planned, they should notify the Monitoring Officer by email (as above), who will provide confirmation that the information has been received and from what date they will resume the responsibilities of any remunerated post.
- 5.4 If a Councillor taking leave wishes to extend this beyond 6-months (as set out in this Policy), then no later than 4 weeks before the end of the 6-month period, the Councillor should notify the Monitoring Officer in writing.

6. Additional Support

- 6.1 Following notification of intended leave the Member requesting Parental Leave will be contacted by the Governance and Member Services Manager to discuss any additional arrangements or support requirements e.g. arrangements for keeping in touch or updated on Council business.
- 6.2 The relevant political groups and the Council will in so far as able, facilitate any arrangements made by relevant Councillors which allow for the case work of a Councillor on Parental Leave to be completed by another Ward Councillor, or another Councillor if that is not feasible.



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 20th January, 2022

To the Chair and Members of the
COUNCIL

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report summarises the arrangements for appointing external auditors and makes recommendations for the future appointment of external auditors by the Council.
2. Regulations relating to external audit appointments require that any decision to opt-in to a sector-led procurement option has to be made by the full Council.
3. The arrangements were considered by Audit Committee on 28th October, 2021 and the recommendations supported.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Council is asked: -
 - a) to note 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,
 - b) to appoint the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to negotiate and appoint the external auditor for Doncaster Council.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. It is important that a robust appointment process takes place for an external auditor. The external auditor provides independent assurance to the citizens of Doncaster as to whether the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and an audit opinion on the financial statements.

BACKGROUND

7. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 abolished the Audit Commission and established transitional arrangements for the appointment of external auditors for all local government and NHS bodies in England.
8. The Council's current external auditor is Grant Thornton, this appointment having been made under a contract managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA). The Council's budget for external audit fees for 2021/22 is £263k.
9. The scope of the audit will continue to be specified nationally. The National Audit Office (NAO) is responsible for writing the Code of Audit Practice which all firms appointed to carry out councils' audits must follow. Not all accounting firms will be eligible to compete for the work as they will need to demonstrate that they have the required skills and experience, and be registered with a Registered Supervising Body approved by the Financial Reporting Council.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10. There are three broad options open to the Council under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act): -

Option 1 To make a stand-alone appointment

Option 2 Set up a Joint Auditor Panel/local joint procurement arrangements

Option 3 Continue to take part in the national procurement undertaken by PSAA

11. **Option 1:** In order to make a stand-alone appointment the Council will need to set up an Auditor Panel. The members of the panel must be wholly or a majority independent members as defined by the Act and the panel must be chaired by an independent member. Independent members for this purpose are independent appointees, this excludes current and former elected members (or officers) and their close families and friends. This means that elected members will not have a majority input to assessing bids and choosing which firm of accountants to award a contract for the Council's external audit. The new independent auditor panel established by the Council would be responsible for selecting the auditor.

Advantages/benefits

- a) Setting up an auditor panel allows the Council to take maximum advantage of the new local appointment regime and have local input to the decision.

Disadvantages/risks

- a) Recruitment and servicing of the Auditor Panel, running the bidding exercise and negotiating the contract is estimated by the LGA to cost in the order of £15,000 plus on going expenses and allowances.
- b) The Council will not be able to take advantage of reduced fees that may be available through joint or national procurement contracts.
- c) The assessment of bids and decision on awarding contracts will be taken by independent appointees and not solely by elected members.

- d) The external audit market has become very challenging, with firms unable to recruit staff. Often audited bodies nationally in the public and private sector have found that they have at most one bidder for their audit. Consequently single-procurement risks having very little or no choice of audit provider.

12. **Option 2:** The Act enables the Council to join with other authorities to establish a joint auditor panel. Again this will need to be constituted of wholly or a majority of independent appointees (members). Further legal advice will be required on the exact constitution of such a panel having regard to the obligations of each Council under the Act and the Council need to liaise with other local authorities/public sector bodies to assess the appetite for such an arrangement.

Advantages/benefits

- a) The costs of setting up the panel, running the bidding exercise and negotiating the contract will be shared across a number of authorities.
- b) There is greater opportunity for negotiating some economies of scale by being able to offer a larger combined contract value to the firms.

Disadvantages/risks

- a) The decision making body will be further removed from local input, with potentially no input from elected members where a wholly independent auditor panel is used, or possibly only one elected member representing each council, depending on the constitution agreed with the other bodies involved.
- b) The choice of auditor could be complicated where individual councils have independence issues. An independence issue occurs where the auditor has recently or is currently carrying out work such as consultancy or advisory work for a council. Where this occurs, some auditors may be prevented from being appointed by the terms of their professional standards. There is a risk that if the joint auditor panel choose a firm that is conflicted for this Council then the Council may still need to make a separate appointment with all the attendant costs and loss of economies possible through joint procurement.
- c) Discussions with Directors of Finance from Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield councils has not indicated any particular appetite for this option, which would be likely to mean that the Council would not be acting with its most obvious partners if it were to pursue a joint procurement option.
- d) The problems in obtaining a range of audit firms prepared to bid, as discussed in Option 1, are unaltered by this arrangement.

13. **Option 3:** As with around 98% of local authorities, the Council opted in to the national procurement arrangement run by PSAA in 2017, covering the audits of the Council's 2018/19 to 2022/23 accounts. This option proposes a continuation of this arrangement.

Advantages/benefits

- a) The costs of setting up the appointment arrangements and negotiating fees would be shared across all opt-in authorities.
- b) By offering large contract values, the firms would be able to offer lower fees than are likely to result from local negotiation.

- c) Any conflicts at individual authorities would be managed by the PSAA who would have a number of contracted firms to call upon.
- d) The appointment and subsequent audit is demonstrably independent of the Council.
- e) Utilise PSAA expertise in compiling the tender, to undertake all the procurement process, so there would be no costs or resource requirements from the Council. PSAA also provide the on-going contract management, quality assurance of contract delivery and agreement of additional fee requests. Given the Council's current budgetary position, finance officer time needs to be prioritised on producing a balanced budget for the next 3 years.
- f) PSAA manage any subsequent fee disputes and can apply their knowledge from other clients to determining a reasonable fee.
- g) Supports the local authority collective national procurement process.

Disadvantages/risks

- a) Individual elected members will have less opportunity for direct involvement in the appointment process other than through the LGA and/or stakeholder representative groups.
- b) In order for the national process to be run, Councils have to indicate that they wish to opt-in by the end of January 2022.
- c) The re-procurement exercise in 2017 resulted in very considerable reductions in audit fees. However the auditing firms have not been able to deliver audits for these fees, resulting in increases in fees. Appointing as part of a smaller group or individually might make the firms more reluctant to ask for fee increases, or at least the Council might have more influence over fee negotiations as these would be directly with the firm.

The way forward

14. The Council must make an appointment before the start of the 2023/24 financial year. In practical terms the option selected will determine the timescale required for a formal decision.
15. If option 1 or 2 are preferred this needs to be agreed by Spring 2022 in order that the contract negotiation process can be carried out during 2022. However, in the case of option 3 – the sector-led option – the PSAA has stated that councils wishing to use the PSAA to make external audit appointments on their behalf must advise the PSAA of their intention to do so by Friday 11th March 2022.
16. Option 3, the sector-led route, is an opt-in option. In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015, any decision to choose the sector-led route must be made by the Full Council. Although it is a Council decision, Audit Committee considered the options on 28th October, 2021 and supported the recommendation to Council to adopt the sector-led route.
17. Consultation with neighbouring local authorities has identified a preference by all to choose the sector-led option.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

18. This report recommends that option 3 be recommended to full council for approval on the basis of the financial benefits anticipated through: -

- a) The PSAA's ability to offer large contract values to firms who would be able to offer better rates and lower fees than are likely to result from local negotiation and
- b) Removing the costs of setting up a local audit panel.

There are also advantages in that conflicts of interest would be managed by the PSAA who would have a number of contracted firms to call upon and that the appointment process would be more independent than by a local panel

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

19.

	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>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>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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
	Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents; <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 	
	Connected Council: <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 	Ensuring proper procurement processes are followed and utilising a national Sector Led Body (Public Sector Auditor Appointments Limited) will ensure that best value is obtained through negotiating on the council's behalf to obtain better rates and lower fees than are likely to result from local negotiation.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. This report presents Members with options available to appoint the Council's external Auditors and the advantages and disadvantages and associated risk with these options. Option 3 to appoint PSAA is considered the option most likely to manage risk associated with failing to follow appropriate procurement processes and obtain value for money within these arrangements.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...SRF Date...07/10/2021]

21. There is a statutory obligation on the Council to appoint an external auditor and these are set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. If the Council decides not to partake in the national procurement exercise it will be required to carry out its own procurement process in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...RLI Date...06/10/2021]

22. The cost of establishing a local or joint Auditor Panel outlined in options 1 and 2 above would need to be estimated and included in the Council's budget for 2021/22 if either of these options was preferred by the Council. This will include the cost of recruiting independent appointees (members), servicing the Panel, running a bidding and tender evaluation process, letting a contract and paying members fees and allowances.
23. Opting-in to a national sector-led option provides maximum opportunity to limit the extent of any fee increases by entering in to a large scale collective procurement arrangement and would remove the costs of establishing an auditor panel.
24. Government announced £15 million to support principal local bodies to meet the anticipated rise in audit fees in 2021/22, driven by new requirements on auditors, including the 2020 Code of Audit Practice, and to enable local authorities to develop standardised statements of service information and costs. Doncaster's share is £65k. The 2021/22 budget for external audit fees, including the additional allocation, is £263k. This funds the main external audit contract, plus the costs of auditing specific grants per the relevant terms and conditions.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...SH Date...14/10/2021]

25. There are no identified human resources implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...PW Date...07/10/2021]

26. There are no identified technology implications arising from this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...RS Date...07/10/2021]

27. There are no direct health implications arising from this report. However good governance contributes to good health and wellbeing and this includes the appointment of the external auditors.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...RLI Date...06/10/2021]

28. We are aware of the council's obligations under the public sector equalities duties and there are no identified equal opportunity issues within this report.

CONSULTATION

29. Consultation has been carried out with neighbouring local authorities which identified no appetite for a local appointment process and all provisionally seeking to use the PSAA.
30. This report was presented to Audit Committee on 28th October, 2021, who supported the recommendation to full Council to opt-in to the sector-led approach.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

31. PSAA – Procurement and Appointment of Auditors

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

LGA	Local Government Association
NAO	National Audit Office
NHS	National Health Service
PSAA	Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited
The Act	Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Faye Tyas
Chief Financial Officer
and Assistant Director of Finance



Doncaster Council

Report

20th January, 2022

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS – 2022/24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council for comment, a provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Years, attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:-
 - (i) consider the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix A;
 - (ii) note the Diary of Meetings for the 2022/23 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 2022, for approval.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Approving an advanced calendar of meetings encompassing two Municipal Years from May 2022 to May 2024, 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 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Years. However, there will be an opportunity to review the meeting dates for the period 2023/24, once these have been agreed, as Council will be asked to agree a diary of meetings for the period 2023/24 to 2024/25, in May 2023. 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 21/12/21]

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 10/12/21]

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

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RH Date 22/12/21]

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 14/12/21]

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 9/12/21]

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 9/12/21]

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 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Years, prior to formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2022.

REPORT AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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)		3.00 pm 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					12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	4th May, 2022	11th May, 2022	18th May, 2022	25th May, 2022	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	
	5th May, 2022	12th May, 2022	19th May, 2022	26th May, 2022	
T H U R S D A Y					
	6th May, 2022	13th May, 2022	20th May, 2022	27th May, 2022	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office) 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th June, 2022	13th June, 2022	20th June, 2022	27th June, 2022
M O N D A Y	2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care 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 Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)		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	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet 5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Cabinet
	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 3.00 pm Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
	3rd June, 2022	10th June, 2022	17th June, 2022	24th June, 2022
F R I D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

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

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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				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		10.00 am Cabinet			
	4th August, 2022	11th August, 2022	18th August, 2022	25th August, 2022	
T H U R S D A Y					
	5th August, 2022	12th August, 2022	19th August, 2022	26th August, 2022	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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 Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	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	10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Cabinet	
	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	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	2nd September, 2022	9th September, 2022	16th September, 2022	23rd September, 2022
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

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

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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		12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions for Council	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee 10.00 am Audit Committee
	2nd November, 2022	9th November, 2022	16th November, 2022	23rd November, 2022
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board 10.00 am Cabinet
	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	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	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 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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		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		10.00 am Cabinet		
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		
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 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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		
	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 Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
	4th January, 2023	11th January, 2023	18th January, 2023	25th January, 2023	
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 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	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 2.00 pm Audit Committee	
	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	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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 Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
	1st February, 2023	8th February, 2023	15th February, 2023	22nd February, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet	10.00 am Cabinet	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 Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
	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	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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			
	1st March, 2023	8th March, 2023	15th March, 2023	22nd March, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet 5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Cabinet
	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 10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative 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	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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	18th April, 2023	25th April, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	5th April, 2023 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	12th April, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet	19th April, 2023	26th April, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet
T H U R S D A Y	6th April, 2023	13th April, 2023	20th April, 2023	27th April, 2023 10.00 am Audit Committee
F R I D A Y	7th April, 2023 BANK HOLIDAY	14th April, 2023	21st April, 2023 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	28th April, 2023 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(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				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		10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	4th May, 2023	11th May, 2023	18th May, 2023	25th May, 2023	
T H U R S D A Y				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	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office) 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th June, 2023	12th June, 2023	19th June, 2023	26th June, 2023
M O N D A Y				
	6th June, 2023	13th June, 2023	20th June, 2023	27th June, 2023
T U E S D A Y			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	7th June, 2023	14th June, 2023	21st June, 2023	28th June, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	
	1st June, 2023	8th June, 2023	15th June, 2023	22nd June, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning) 2.00 pm Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 2.00 pm Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Licensing Committee 2.00 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2.00 pm Audit Committee
	2nd June, 2023	9th June, 2023	16th June, 2023	23rd June, 2023
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd July, 2023	10th July, 2023	17th July, 2023	24th July, 2023	31st July, 2023
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting			
T U E S D A Y	4th July, 2023	11th July, 2023	18th July, 2023	25th July, 2023	
	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
W E D N E S D A Y	5th July, 2023	12th July, 2023	19th July, 2023	26th July, 2023	
	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
T H U R S D A Y	6th July, 2023	13th July, 2023	20th July, 2023	27th July, 2023	
	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	10.00 am Audit Committee 2.00 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	
F R I D A Y	7th July, 2023	14th July, 2023	21st July, 2023	28th July, 2023	
		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet			

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

		7th August, 2023	14th August, 2023	21st August, 2023	28th August, 2023
M O N D A Y					BANK HOLIDAY
	1st August, 2023	8th August, 2023	15th August, 2023	22nd August, 2023	29th August, 2023
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			
	2nd August, 2023	9th August, 2023	16th August, 2023	23rd August, 2023	30th August, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet			
	3rd August, 2023	10th August, 2023	17th August, 2023	24th August, 2023	31st August, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel				9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board
	4th August, 2023	11th August, 2023	18th August, 2023	25th August, 2023	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet				

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th September, 2023	11th September, 2023	18th September, 2023	25th September, 2023
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
T U E S D A Y	5th September, 2023 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	12th September, 2023 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	19th September, 2023	26th September, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	6th September, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet	13th September, 2023 5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	20th September, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet	27th September, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	7th September, 2023 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	14th September, 2023 10.00 am Licensing Committee 2.00 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	21st September, 2023 5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	28th September, 2023 10.00 am Audit Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
F R I D A Y	1st September, 2023 9.30 am Planning Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	8th September, 2023	15th September, 2023 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	22nd September, 2023 29th September, 2023 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd October, 2023	9th October, 2023	16th October, 2023	23rd October, 2023	30th October, 2023
M O N D A Y					
T U E S D A Y	3rd October, 2023	10th October, 2023	17th October, 2023	24th October, 2023	31st October, 2023
	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
W E D N E S D A Y	4th October, 2023	11th October, 2023	18th October, 2023	25th October, 2023	
	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet		
T H U R S D A Y	5th October, 2023	12th October, 2023	19th October, 2023	26th October, 2023	
		10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Audit Committee	
F R I D A Y	6th October, 2023	13th October, 2023	20th October, 2023	27th October, 2023	
		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th November, 2023	13th November, 2023	20th November, 2023	27th November, 2023
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
	7th November, 2023	14th November, 2023	21st November, 2023	28th November, 2023
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions for Council		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	1st November, 2023	8th November, 2023	15th November, 2023	22nd November, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board 10.00 am Cabinet
	2nd November, 2023	9th November, 2023	16th November, 2023	23rd November, 2023
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	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	3rd November, 2023	10th November, 2023	17th November, 2023	24th November, 2023
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th December, 2023	11th December, 2023	18th December, 2023	25th December, 2023
M O N D A Y				BANK HOLIDAY
	5th December, 2023	12th December, 2023	19th December, 2023	26th December, 2023
T U E S D A Y			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	BANK HOLIDAY
	6th December, 2023	13th December, 2023	20th December, 2023	27th December, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		
	7th December, 2023	14th December, 2023	21st December, 2023	28th December, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee	
	1st December, 2023	8th December, 2023	15th December, 2023	22nd December, 2023
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st January, 2024	8th January, 2024	15th January, 2024	22nd January, 2024	29th January, 2024
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
T U E S D A Y	2nd January, 2024	9th January, 2024	16th January, 2024	23rd January, 2024	30th January, 2024
			12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
W E D N E S D A Y	3rd January, 2024	10th January, 2024	17th January, 2024	24th January, 2024	31st January, 2024
			10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Cabinet
T H U R S D A Y	4th January, 2024	11th January, 2024	18th January, 2024	25th January, 2024	
		9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	
F R I D A Y	5th January, 2024	12th January, 2024	19th January, 2024	26th January, 2024	
		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

		5th February, 2024	12th February, 2024	19th February, 2024	26th February, 2024
M O N D A Y					1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
		6th February, 2024	13th February, 2024	20th February, 2024	27th February, 2024
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport Appeals Committee	
		7th February, 2024	14th February, 2024	21st February, 2024	28th February, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	10.00 am Cabinet
	1st February, 2024	8th February, 2024	15th February, 2024	22nd February, 2024	29th February, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Audit Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime and Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	
	2nd February, 2024	9th February, 2024	16th February, 2024	23rd February, 2024	
F R I D A Y		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th March, 2024	11th March, 2024	18th March, 2024	25th March, 2024
M O N D A Y				
	5th March, 2024	12th March, 2024	19th March, 2024	26th March, 2024
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee		
	6th March, 2024	13th March, 2024	20th March, 2024	27th March, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board	10.00 am Cabinet
	7th March, 2024	14th March, 2024	21st March, 2024	28th March, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 2.00 pm Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee
	1st March, 2024	8th March, 2024	15th March, 2024	22nd March, 2024
F R I D A Y		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet
				BANK HOLIDAY

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st April, 2024	8th April, 2024	15th April, 2024	22nd April, 2024	29th April, 2024
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY				
	2nd April, 2024	9th April, 2024	16th April, 2024	23rd April, 2024	30th April, 2024
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee			
	3rd April, 2024	10th April, 2024	17th April, 2024	24th April, 2024	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	
	4th April, 2024	11th April, 2024	18th April, 2024	25th April, 2024	
T H U R S D A Y				10.00 am Audit Committee	
	5th April, 2024	12th April, 2024	19th April, 2024	26th April, 2024	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2022 to 31st May, 2024

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th May, 2024	13th May, 2024	20th May, 2024	27th May, 2024
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	7th May, 2024	14th May, 2024	21st May, 2024	28th May, 2024
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			
	1st May, 2024	8th May, 2024	15th May, 2024	22nd May, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		10.00 am Cabinet	5.30 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	2nd May, 2024	9th May, 2024	16th May, 2024	23rd May, 2024
T H U R S D A Y				
	3rd May, 2024	10th May, 2024	17th May, 2024	24th May, 2024
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet		10.00 am Group Meetings (Mansion House) 11.00 am Annual Council Meeting - Mansion House (Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office) 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits
	31st May, 2024			

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Doncaster Council

20th January, 2022

To the Mayor and Members of the Council

Overview and Scrutiny Update – May to December 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report updates Council on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2021.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Council note and comment on the work of the OSMC and the four standing Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2021.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Reviewing the activities of Overview and Scrutiny provides an opportunity to demonstrate to the public how the function has contributed to decision-making and the improvement of services.

BACKGROUND

5. This report includes a summary of some of the key work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during the current municipal year. The activities of OSMC and the standing Panels include, holding decision makers to account, performance review, policy review and development and external scrutiny. Work plans are agreed early in the municipal year and reviewed at each ordinary OSMC and Panel meeting to track progress and ensure they take account of emerging issues and future key decisions.

6. The membership of OSMC includes the Chairs of standing Panels and this seeks to ensure greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity. The Committee meets approximately once a month to consider performance, the budget and policy framework, pre-decision scrutiny, in-depth/spotlight reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and areas of strategic importance.
7. The Overview and Scrutiny Panels are:-
 - **Children and Young People's Panel (CYP)** – considers issues relating to improved outcomes for Children and Young People including Learning and Opportunities, services provided by Doncaster Children's Services Trust and other areas undertaken by partners;
 - **Regeneration and Housing (R and H)** – considers issues relating to regeneration, economic development, strategic transport and housing;
 - **Community and Environment (C and E)** – considers neighbourhood issues, street scene and highways, community safety as well as environmental issues; and
 - **Health and Adult Social Care (HASC)** – considers issues that fall within the remit of Public Health Directorate, adult social care and the NHS. The Chair represents the Authority on Regional Health Scrutiny bodies.
8. The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet regularly with the Mayor and respective Cabinet Members to ensure regular communication on portfolio issues and Overview and Scrutiny work plans.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny activities

9. This report provides a snapshot of some of the key work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels between May and December 2021. A full account of the work undertaken by OSMC and the Panels is included on the Overview and Scrutiny work plan, which can be accessed through the following link <https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13289> and minutes of meetings, which are available on the Council's website.
10. Twenty three new Councillors were elected in May 2021 and as a result, the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and memberships of OSMC and the Panels has changed significantly since last year. New Members have all received an induction on the role of Scrutiny and received ongoing support in terms of work planning, adding value, questioning skills and understanding their role. OSMC and Panels are bedding in well with a mix of experienced and new Members and all have developed work programmes. Importantly OSMC and the Panels have all held a number of meetings and have engaged with the public, partners, officers and Executive Members.

Prosperous and Connected

11. Policy Framework - A number of Statutory Plans are considered by the OSMC and Panels prior to their adoption by full Council, this provides an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to feed in any views and comments. It also requires the Executive to respond to any specific comments and recommendations put forward by Overview and Scrutiny. These plans cut across the Doncaster Delivering Together themes and during the reporting period the following plans and strategies have been considered and supported:
 - Youth Justice Plan;
 - Local Plan;
 - Doncaster Delivering Together (Borough Strategy 2030);
 - Statement of Licensing Policy;
 - Community Safety Strategy; and
 - Domestic Abuse Strategy.
12. Areas highlighted through discussion will be used as a basis for further work by the Panels, for example, the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel at its Crime and Disorder meeting in February 2022, will address the demands and delivery of the Community Safety Strategy.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

13. OSMC continues to review quarterly performance and financial management of the Council, St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) and Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST). This is a key role for the Committee and supports the Council's performance management arrangements by reviewing the extent to which the Council and its key partners are operating within resources and delivering value for money. It is also used as a means of identifying future work plan issues. In particular the Committee has focused on the impact of Covid on service delivery and the long-term performance implications for important front line services, including support for Domestic Violence, Waste Collection and Fly Tipping.
14. Members acknowledged the potential risks in relation to the budget, particularly relating to the unprecedented number of children being referred to Children's services, the collection and payment of business rates, Council Tax and fees and charges. With regard to performance, the Committee seeks clarity on the actions in place to bring about improvements to key performance and service issues. The Committee has also considered how key partners such as Doncaster Children's Services Trust and St Leger Homes of Doncaster work together to address cross cutting issues which impact on the delivery of a range of services e.g. the EU exit, fuel poverty etc. In reviewing the impact of COVID on social housing and improving value for money, the Committee has sought assurances around pro-active ways of assessing SLHD properties to ensure they can be quickly re-let once they have been vacated, thereby reducing the number of voids.
15. Localities – OSMC received a general update on the proposals for the Localities

Model and the associated governance arrangements. The Committee has considered the role of the Councillor within the governance structure and the role of Directors as leads for geographical areas (North, South, East and West) how communication will work between the different 'tiers' within each locality, funding streams to support the work and areas of best practice. There will be an opportunity to consider further progress at a meeting of the Committee in March 2022 prior to the Locality Plans being presented to Cabinet in March 2022.

16. Annual Complaints and Compliments Report - this is an important document for raising awareness of the types and volumes of complaints, identifying trends, communicating lessons learned and service improvements. It has provided Members with an understanding of customer perceptions of Council services, St Leger Homes, Doncaster Children's Services Trust and Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust. The report also enables Councillors to understand the extent to which service complaints impact on performance detailed within the quarterly performance and finance meeting.

Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel

17. Delivery of the Management of Doncaster Markets –Members received an update on the progress with the Delivery of the Management of Doncaster Markets. Members welcomed the future development plans for the market as well as the impact on the regeneration of the town centre.

Safe and Resilient

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

18. Commissioning – The Committee was provided with an overview and agreed to focus on commissioning services for people who suffered with drug and alcohol abuse. As part of the Committee's consideration, a meeting was held with service users, where good practice and service gaps were considered. The service users provided a massive insight into the lived experience, difficulties they faced but more importantly the positive outcomes through support they had received. Going forward, the Committee will meet with partners to address key questions highlighted from discussions with service users.

The Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

19. Flood Planning Preparation – Over recent years the Panel has undertaken reviews into the effects of flooding across the Borough. As part of its overview role, Members were provided with an update on the work carried out by the Council's Flood Risk Team, the Local Authority's winter readiness arrangements and borough's overall flood risk. The challenges faced in delivering flood alleviation schemes, including funding projects, were also addressed. The Panel will continue to monitor the position moving forward.
20. Sustainability / Environmental Strategy – the issues addressed by Members related to communication and engagement, the Council's fleet, biodiversity lost as part of new developments, tree planting targets and energy co-operatives.

The Panel acknowledged the 111 environmental actions which helped reinforce the enormity and complexity of the issue. To focus its efforts more effectively, the Panel will focus on a small number of key areas over the coming year.

21. Social Inclusion Alliance – the Panel received an update on the Alliance, that comprises of around 60 organisations that raise awareness of the scale of social isolation and loneliness and provides community support within Doncaster. Following the Panel’s initial consideration in early 2019, Members were informed that based on the measure of sustainability and support from local voluntary groups, communities and faith groups, that the work had been deemed a success, particularly during the lockdown. It was recognised that more work was required in relation to raising awareness about the positive work undertaken.

The Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel

22. Town centre economy – The Panel has continued to undertake a watching brief around town centre issues, particularly the impact of Covid-19 and changing socio economic demands on the town centre.
23. Social housing post Covid easing restrictions – The Panel was presented with a report relating to homelessness which outlined the duty to provide temporary accommodation to certain prescribed groups, namely those with dependent children or deemed to be vulnerable. The position following the Covid Lockdown was recognised and the Panel wished to highlight the good practice in Doncaster, achieved through partnership working. It was recognised that the Complex Lives Alliance, pre-Covid, had made a positive impact that had continued throughout the pandemic.
24. Regeneration – Members reviewed the broader context of the Urban Masterplan, how it had been developed and delivered and new proposals moving forward. The immediate challenges faced were recognised with the importance of focusing on the urgent needs of the Town Centre and its businesses. Discussion also focused on Doncaster’s Town Deal, the Waterdale area and Levelling up fund. The Panel will continue to review and spotlight these issues as part of its ongoing work plan.

Health and Adult Social Care Panel

25. Asset Based Community Development and Well Doncaster – Members addressed European funding, learning from the past and the success of working with the third sector, locality working and communication with communities. The Panel noted the information provided would help inform areas of the Scrutiny Work plan throughout the year.

Healthy and Compassionate

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

26. Changes to the NHS working (Integrated Care System (ICS) White Paper) and potential impacts – Members were provided with an outline of the changes to

how the NHS operated in England and how the CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups) would become part of the ICS and possible impacts on local provision.

27. It was noted that the landscape was changing regularly and proposals were subject to Parliamentary approval. One area of concern was the focus on equality, but with the absence of a national target, it was the responsibility of "the place" to set ambitions to meet this. The proposals created a greater opportunity to place more emphasis on prevention work than it would through commissioning or contracting models. It was agreed that Scrutiny would continue to closely monitor the issue.
28. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – The Panel received the Annual Report providing intelligence on the health and wellbeing of Doncaster and its communities. The report highlighted areas of work delivered and next steps. The information provided would be used to continue shaping the Scrutiny work Plan.
29. Winter Strategy - The Panel was provided with a presentation from the Assistant Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing and Deputy Director of Strategy & Delivery, NHS Doncaster CCG. The information focused on the Winter Planning Context and Approach to Winter Planning/Managing Winter. It was reported that there was a well-established system in Doncaster through joint planning undertaken across health and social care involving partners from both the public and private sector. The following issues were raised during consideration; Support/Care Package for supporting social care staff, catch-up work/waiting times reassessments, financial assessments, bed and care capacity, prevention, accessibility/take-up of Covid booster vaccines and communication.
30. Update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals - An annual update from the Chief Executive of Doncaster Royal Infirmary on a range of strategic issues was presented including future aspirations, challenges and impacts. Members considered a number of topics including staff welfare and sickness, mandatory Covid vaccinations for staff, meeting cancer targets, waiting times for the provision of assessments, ambulance care, Emergency Departments, mental health care and finally, suicides amongst young men. It was recommended that as part of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel Workplan 2020/21 that there be a future update on mental health and suicide.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

31. Children's Social Care – the Panel focused on early help as part of its Safeguarding themed report, particularly impacts during lock down. Some of the areas addressed included the number of referrals, partners refilling their substantive roles following easing of Covid restrictions, family support during lockdown and communication following early help referrals. It was agreed that the Panel would undertake further work on early help referrals, seeking the opinions of headteachers.
32. Doncaster Children's Trust – The CYP Panel was able to meet the representatives from the Trust, Council's Young Advisors and the Youth

Councillors to gain an understanding of how the service operated. Presentations on priorities and work undertaken were received from representatives of the Youth Parliament, Youth Council, Young Advisers and Care Leavers, which addressed the following;

- Make your Mark Results & Drug Awareness
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Local Offer for Care Leavers

33. This positive engagement will assist the Panel moving forward in capturing the views of young people and developing their understanding of how they are impacted by the delivery of services.
34. The Panel also received an overview of upcoming policies that would require its input.

Skilled and Creative

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

35. Education and Skills in Doncaster – The Panel considered developments in Education and Skills during the academic year 2020-2021 and further developments during the Autumn Term 2021. This included the Education and Skills Strategy 2030 and the development of a Talent and Innovation Eco-system, school attendance, developments in Speech and Language Therapy and finally, the continuing work to further develop good inclusion practices within schools and reduce exclusions (including developments in alternative provision). The Panel supported the work being undertaken within the strategy and development of the Talent and Innovation Eco-system. In terms of children's health issues including mental health and Speech and Language Therapy, the Panel requested that a further meeting be held to focus on those areas.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

36. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides the Council an opportunity to review the activities undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny over the period May to December 2021.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

37. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 b) requires the Chair of OSMC to take a half yearly update report to Full Council to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

38. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and policy development through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of the Council and external partners, services and

reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the Borough.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

39. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan is manageable. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function. National research has identified that over ambitious work plans that include too many items are a common cause of frustration for Scrutiny Members as they fail to achieve any outcomes. The Overview and Scrutiny work plan will continue to be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of OSMC and officers will advise on the capacity available to undertake any additional work.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [NC Date: 4/1/22]

40. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 b the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is required to take a half yearly update report to Full Council, to provide an overview of the work being undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and progress against any priorities set out in the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (MS Date: 14.12.21)

- 41 There are no specific financial implications attached to this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES (SH Date: 07.12.21)

42. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (PW 15/12/21)

43. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this update report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (RS Date 08/12/2021)

44. All areas of the committee's work plan can impact on health and it is important that the health implications of each item are considered separately given that 20% of what contributes to health is from clinical care, 30% from healthy behaviours, 40% from socio-economic factors and 10% from the built environment. Within its programme of work, Overview and Scrutiny will need to ensure it is also able to review how the Council and partners addresses health inequalities within its policies and programmes and ensure that these do not widen inequalities.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR Date: 01.12.21)

45. This report provides an overview on the work programme undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and there are no significant equality implications associated with the report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny

gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

CONSULTATION

46. The Chairs of OSMC and Scrutiny Panels have been consulted in respect of feedback on the progress against work plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

47. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2021/22 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

OSMC – Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
CYP – Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
HASC – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
R and H – Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel
C and E – Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel
JNSA – Joint Needs Strategic Assessment
CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
ICS – Integrated Care System
DDT – Doncaster Delivering Together

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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MCA - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10.00 AM

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY,
11 BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ



Present:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Terry Fox	Sheffield City Council
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC

In Attendance:

Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Helen Kemp	Director of Business & Skills	MCA Executive Team
Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Martin Swales	Interim Director of Transport, Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	MCA Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Principal Solicitor & Monitoring Officer	MCA Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	MCA Executive Team
Stephen Edwards	Executive Director - SYPTE	SYPTE
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Assistant Director Policy and Assurance	MCA Executive Team
Gillian Richards	Minute taker	

Apologies:

Councillor Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw DC
Damian Allen	Doncaster BMC
Stephen Batey	MCA Mayor's Office

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no apologies.

2 Announcements

Mayor Jarvis expressed disappointment in the Government Spending Review and the available funding announced for the region relative to the scale of what was needed.

There had been some positive news – the MCA had secured £570m in transport funding which would give the opportunity to begin the transport infrastructure work needed to encourage people out of cars and onto the

region's buses, trains and trams.

Levelling up fund submissions in Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield had been successful and the £8m of Community Renewal Fund secured, although not enough, would be spent on revenue projects.

Despite the ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan submission, the reduced funding which had been allocated to bus improvements was disappointing as was the rejection of the MCA's bus focussed levelling up fund proposal.

Resources were also needed for the region to achieve net zero, and Mayor Jarvis expressed disappointment in government's response to the scale and urgency of the challenge.

Despite this, there were reasons to be positive, South Yorkshire had a range of translational assets that could put the region at the forefront of the technological response to the crisis such as hydrogen generation, nuclear fusion and mine water heating, sustainable manufacturing and aviation fuel and zero emission transport. It was vital that the region and the MCA seized all available opportunities.

3 Urgent Items

None.

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

Mayor Jones and Cllr Fox declared interests in respect of Item 14 with regard to schemes in their own council areas.

7 Reports from and questions by members

None.

8 Receipt of Petitions

None.

9 Public Questions

It was noted that two public questions had been received.

The following question was received from Green New Deal UK.

“The Secretary General of the United Nations has called the climate crisis a code red for humanity, and a thundering wake up call. Can the Mayoral Combined Authority look at itself in the mirror and honestly say that the ambition, scale and urgency of its current response matches up to this assessment? Professor Sir David King says the next 3-4 years will determine the future of humanity. What plans do intend to develop? What more is the MCA going to do?”

Mayor Jarvis replied that the simple answer to the question was no.

He commented that the global, national, regional and local responses did not yet match up to the scale of the crisis but the MCA were acting strongly on things within their remit. They were also looking at everything they did, both so that more could be done and so that delivery on net zero was not a niche concern but one that ran through all the work of the MCA.

Spending and investments were being reformed so that every penny created pressure on partners and clients to do their part to cut their emissions.

The MCA was investing in public transport to get people out of cars and the Bus Service Improvement Plan set out an ambitious vision to transform the service.

Hundreds of millions of pounds were being invested in an Active Travel Plan with the aim of creating a network of 640 miles of walking and cycling routes. A Woodland Creation Officer had been appointed to support ambitions for creating woodland and tree planting. The MCA had also made a strategic commitment to natural flood management.

In the next few months, the MCA would be determining the target spend per year for the next five years on decarbonisation measures and the principle that decarbonisation efforts were embedded across all MCA investment and spending.

Mayor Jarvis accepted that there were areas that could and must be improved and gave assurances that the MCA would do all that it could within the limits of its powers and resources.

The following question was received from South Yorkshire Freedom Riders.

“The self-financing £12 Metro Gold Card in Tyne and Wear has been a great success. It allows ENCT card holders to travel on Metro, the Shields Ferry and on Northern Rails services between Newcastle and Sunderland for free. It has health, social, environmental and local economy benefits including a £1m surplus from the scheme. The Freedom Riders previously raised the idea of a South Yorkshire Gold Card which would help compensate for the loss of train and travel benefits in 2014. Are there plans to implement a similar self-financing scheme for South Yorkshire’s 300,000 pensioners? If not, why not?”

In response, Mayor Jarvis commented that it was the MCA's ambition to encourage more people onto public transport and to enable pensioners and other groups to be able to travel more easily.

In direct answer to the question, it was worth noting that the situation in South Yorkshire was different to the situation in the north east. In South Yorkshire, rail services were predominantly operated by Northern Rail, whereas the Tyne and Wear Metro was owned and operated by the authorities in the area.

Officers had been asked to explore with Northern Rail what could be done to achieve a similar scheme in South Yorkshire and had been informed that this would require the MCA to meet the cost in full at a commercial cost that would be far more than the £12 charged on the Metro. Officers would continue to scope whether other arrangements may be possible.

The region's public transport system was still under enormous pressure and reliant on government funding. Any additional concessions would have to be at the expense of other concessions and investment to keep the system afloat. It was the duty of the Mayor, Leaders and MCA to make difficult decisions about what was done with the limited resources available.

More than £6m had been allocated to extend support for young people aged between 11 and 21 with the introduction of the Zoom Beyond pass and there were also a number of concession support schemes for the elderly, including a 50% discount on Northern Rail and the extension of ENCTS to the Supertram network.

Unfortunately, at the moment, without certainty on recovery funding from the government it was extremely difficult for any new funding commitments to be made although the situation would be kept under review.

10 **Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021 be agreed as a true record.

11 **South Yorkshire Enhanced Partnership**

A report was presented which set out the necessary steps required to implement the MCA decision to enter into an Enhanced Partnership with Bus Operators across South Yorkshire.

The Board was reminded that the government's National Bus Strategy required all local authorities to submit a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) setting out ambitious plans to enter statutory arrangements with either an Enhanced Partnership or franchising to govern services in its area. It was noted that receipt of future financial support from government was conditional on one of these forms of governance being in place.

The MCA had submitted an ambitious BSIP to government on 29 October 2021 setting out the regions ambitions for bus services and building on the Bus Review.

The paper considered was a technical paper formally moving to the Enhanced Partnership process and commencing consultation, firstly with the Bus Operators followed by the public in the new year. The Enhanced Partnership Plan was attached at Appendix A.

It was noted that current funding uncertainty precluded agreeing a substantive investment programme but there remained the means to vary the scheme in the future as further funding became available.

The interventions and operator requirements proposed were set out in Appendix B and had been drawn from existing MCA/Operator funding commitments.

Cllr Read welcomed the paper and the positive steps being taken. The BSIP set out a number of practical real improvements for bus travellers across South Yorkshire and came after a number of tough years since deregulation. Whilst this was not a decision regarding franchising it was about moving forward in the right direction and was also a challenge to the Operators to step up to meet the ambitions contained within the BSIP.

Mayor Jones also welcomed the paper but stressed the need to see base levelling-up. There was a perception that Doncaster had less bus shelters than other regions and the most aged buses in service; this needed addressing.

S Edwards acknowledged the point and commented that the Enhanced Partnership Scheme was the first step to address the issues, subject to the availability of funding.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Approve the content of the Enhanced Partnership Plan at Appendix A.
- ii) Approve the proposed inclusion of the activities outlined in the Enhanced Partnership Scheme Summary Table (Appendix B), for formal inclusion in the Scheme.
- iii) Approve the content of the Enhanced Partnership Scheme at Appendix C.
- iv) Approve giving Notice to Operators of the proposal to mask an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme.
- v) Approve the intention to give public notice and consult on the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme.

12 **2021/22 Budget Revision 2**

A report was considered which provided revised Group budget forecasts to the end of the financial year 2021/22,

The report sought formalised approval for the deployment of some highways

maintenance funding and the final tranche of the Additional Restrictions Grant.

It also sought approval for officers to accept a debt-cap from HM Treasury which represented an important step in the devolution journey.

The mid-year budget revision exercise, which had been undertaken at the end of September 2021, had highlighted a number of notable issues that would influence the MCA's financial position over the remainder of the year, as well as planning for the medium term. These were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Adopt the revised budget estimates.
- ii) Note the slower than forecast pace of the capital programme.
- iii) Approve the final distribution of Additional Restrictions Grant funding.
- iv) Approve the distribution of the excess Highways Maintenance grants received.
- v) Consent to borrowing powers for all functions of the MCA and approve the acceptance of the debt-cap of £171m for the year ending March 2022.

13 **Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review - Implications for the MCA**

The Board considered a report which provided a summary of the recent Budget and Spending Review, looking at the impact on South Yorkshire and considering the implications for the MCA.

The report contained details of the main funding announcements relevant to the MCA which included Transport Investment, the Levelling Up Fund, UK Community Renewal Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

It was felt that, despite some welcome funding announcements, there was a clear lack of funding – particularly regional investment – and devolution to make levelling up a reality, although it was recognised that the Levelling Up White Paper may redeem the situation.

The report also gave details of financial implications for the MCA.

It was felt that the Chancellor opting to impose limits on borrowing for day-to-day expenditure was significant as it could mean tightening/ongoing scarcity of revenue funding for MCA activity.

The Board noted that the government's successor to EU structural fund (which the government had promised to match) only amounted to £1.3bn for the first three years compared with c£1.5bn/year from the EU structural funds. This meant that SYMCA was unlikely to receive the funding it needed for the next few years.

Cllr Houghton commented that Barnsley had received nothing from the Levelling Up Fund which meant that the borough was in a minus position in terms of investment in its communities.

On a wider basis, local government had been promised just over £4bn next year which was welcome, but in the subsequent two years the funding was flat. In reality, the extra funding would not cover the rising costs of social care and children's services.

Cllr Houghton further commented that the Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaced EU funding, had been guaranteed for the three UK nations and Cornwall. South Yorkshire had benefitted substantially in the past from the EU funding and would have continued to do so at an increased level given that South Yorkshire's GDP level had fallen below the 75% European average. He suggested that a letter be written to Ministers objecting to the ring fencing for certain areas and emphasising the promise made that the previous EU funding would be matched and that no-one would be worse off after Brexit. He also suggested that all South Yorkshire MPs be requested to sign the letter.

This was agreed.

Mayor Jones agreed with Cllr Houghton's points and commented that if the distribution of the Community Renewal Fund was to be repeated on the allocation of the Shared Prosperity Fund, it would represent a major shift in resources to southern England and away from many places in need of levelling up. The government needed to be seen to fulfil their promises with regard to levelling up.

RESOLVED –That the Board:

- i) Note the report.
- ii) That a letter be written to Ministers regarding the distribution of the Shared Prosperity Fund as detailed above and that all South Yorkshire MPs be asked to sign the letter.

14 **Programme Approvals**

A report was presented which requested the progression of seven schemes, early release of development cost funding subject to conditions to be set out in the Assurance Summaries and delegated authority to enter into legal agreements for the schemes.

The report detailed the results of the assurance processes undertaken on three proposed business investment totalling c£12m.

The report also recognised that, whilst all three proposals met the threshold for consideration for investment, there was currently insufficient headroom within the MCA's residual LGF allocation to support all proposals. The report requested that the Board approve all proposals on their technical merit, consider how the balance of the LGF funding be deployed and consider

whether alternative funding could be used to support the balance of proposals, for example Gainshare.

Recognising the potential for further investment opportunities to arise by January and beyond, the report recommended that the Board authorised officers to develop a decision-making framework to support future decisions and give officers the licence to discuss more sustainable means of investment with prospective applicants beyond grant interventions.

RESOLVED – That the Board approve:

- i) Progression of “D0004 – R&D 2025” to full approval and award of £4.8m grant to a Sheffield based company subject to funding being available and the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary at Appendix A1.
- ii) Progression of “D0011 – Manufacturing, Research and Development” to full approval and award £2m grant and £3.2m loan to a company looking to locate in South Yorkshire, subject to funding being available and the conditions set out in the Assurance Statement at Appendix A2.
- iii) Progression of “D0003 – Accelerate” to full approval and award of £1.98m grant to a Rotherham based company, subject to funding being available and the conditions set out in the Assurance Statement at Appendix A3.
- iv) Progression of “West Doncaster Active Travel” from OBC to FBC and release of development cost funding up to £0.05m to Doncaster Borough Council, subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B1.
- v) Progression of “050 Sheaf Valley Route” from OBC to FBC and release of development cost funding of up to £0.05m to Sheffield City Council, subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B2.
- vi) Progression of “City Centre to Attercliffe and Darnall Active Travel” from OBC to FBC and release of development cost funding up to £1.2m to Sheffield City Council subject to the conditions in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B3.
- vii) Progression of “Park Hill Phase 4” project from OBC to FBC to Sheffield City Council subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Summary attached at Appendix B4.
- viii) Commitment of Gainshare funding to support schemes 1-3 presented that cannot be progressed from the residual LGF allocation.
- ix) Development of a decision-making framework to support consideration of future investments.
- x) 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, subject to funding being available.

15 **Integration Update**

A report was submitted which provided an update on the programme of activity being undertaken to create a single integrated MCA organisation able to respond to the challenges and opportunities for South Yorkshire.

The report set out the timescales that were being worked to, to achieve a fully integrated executive by the end of financial year. It was noted that the timing of the Order to dissolve the PTE was a decision of government and there was potential for a delay. However, planning was due to commence to ensure that if the Order was not passed in time, the integration could largely be enacted with some minor workarounds due to the PTE legally remaining.

Section 2.2 of the report outlined the activity undertaken to date and the report also contained details of the next steps that were in immediate focus.

Section 2.4 outlined the governance arrangements around the integration process particularly the role of the Audit, Standards and Risk Committee and its Advisory Panel to scrutinise the plan and associated risks.

RESOLVED – That the Board approve the update on the integration process as set out in the report.

16 **Delegated Authority Report**

A report was considered which updated the Mayoral Combined Authority on:

- Decisions and delegations made by the MCA.
- Decisions and delegations made by Thematic Boards.

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

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Sam Townsend

BEIS

Apologies:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE
Professor Chris Husbands
Sarah Want
Kate Josephs
Damien Allen

Barnsley MBC
Representative for Higher Education
Sheffield University
Sheffield CC
Doncaster MBC

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest

In relation to the agenda item entitled 'National Review of Destination Management', Mayor Jones CBE declared an interest as she was a Director of Welcome to Yorkshire.

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any activity since the last formal Board meeting.

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any forthcoming activity.

3 Notes of Last Meeting

Members noted that today would mark the last LEP Board meeting that would be chaired and attended by J Muir.

Mayor Jarvis MBE expressed his thanks to J Muir for his work undertaken during the past 3 years as Chair of the LEP Board, and for championing the Board's interests across South Yorkshire, nationally and internationally. He hoped that J Muir was proud of the work that had been undertaken during this period which had put the Board in good stead for the future.

Members noted the Board's successes that had been achieved during the past 3 years which had included the herculean effort in the development of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) which had set out the vision for inclusive and sustainable growth in South Yorkshire that was fuelled by innovation. Mayor Jarvis MBE was grateful for J Muir's leadership of the Board through the COVID-19 pandemic, which had brought about a sizeable economic challenge, together with the work undertaken to support the businesses within South Yorkshire and to draw attention to the plight and challenges faced by those businesses which had been extremely appreciated. J Muir had forged and reinforced the relationships within the business community together with attracting a number of innovative investors into the region, whilst assisting some of the existing companies to develop and fulfil their potential. On behalf of the Board and the SYMCA, Mayor Jarvis MBE expressed his thanks to J

Muir for all of his work undertaken, and he wished him and his family the very best for the future.

J Muir expressed his thanks to Mayor Jarvis MBE, and added that it had been an enormous privilege to Chair the Board. He considered that the Board was one of the best LEP Boards in the country, together with its fantastic private sector board which had all made wonderful contributions. He was grateful for the support provided by Mayor Jarvis MBE. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to everyone in attendance at today's Board meeting for the fantastic experience and support that had been provided to him over the last 3 year period.

Members were referred to the arrangements that had been made for an interim Chair of the LEP Board. Mayor Jarvis MBE was delighted to announce that Lucy Nickson had been appointed as the Board's interim Chair from January 2022, until the Mayoral election in May 2022. He looked forward to working with L Nickson in her role as interim Chair of the LEP Board, and he wished her every success in the role.

RESOLVED – That the notes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2021 were agreed to be an accurate record.

4 **Chancellor's Autumn Statement**

A report was submitted on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on the Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review that had been delivered on 27 October 2021. F Kumi-Ampofo provided Members with a verbal presentation which outlined the major announcements and implications for South Yorkshire.

Members noted the following key points arising from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement:-

- Confirmation of the £570m Sustainable Transport Settlement which included investment in active travel, electric buses, EV charging infrastructure and the renewal of Supertram.
- A total of £3.8bn had been announced on skills spending across the country, to include additional funding for adults skills, apprenticeships and for individuals aged 16-19 years. Details of how this would be distributed was awaited, together with details of the role of the SYMCA. Conversations were currently underway with Central Government on the matter.
- In relation to the Levelling Up Fund, South Yorkshire had been awarded five projects, which totalled 5.8% of the total budget for the country. However, the SYMCA and BMBC bids had been unsuccessful.
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund would move to £400m in 2022–23, £700m in 2023–24 and £1.5bn in 2024–25.
- A total of £200m had been awarded nationally for the Community Renewal Fund. In comparison to other combined authority areas, South Yorkshire had outperformed its peers for the project funding allocation, with 8 out of the 11 schemes having been successful at a total of £8.2m; details of which were awaited. It was envisaged to sign the contracts to enable the projects to commence immediately.

- The Chancellor had made many announcements in relation to innovation which formed a large part of the SEP, which was important for the Board in terms of how to fill up and grow the economy. It was envisaged that funding would be made available in due course following the White Paper. The Government would increase the share of spending on RND and it would ensure that this was not only focussed on the south east of the country as in previous years.
- In relation to Brexit and the implications for the LEP and SYMCA, it was considered that if the Shared Prosperity Fund would replace what had previously been in place, then South Yorkshire would have been in line for even greater funds, given the realignment across Europe in terms of how the funds were deployed. The case continued to be made to the Government. It was unlikely that the SYMCA would receive the required funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- The Chancellor had imposed limits on his ability to borrow for day-to-day expenditure.
- In relation to the Levelling Up Funding and the UK2070 Commission, an equivalent fund for the UK with the same intent of reducing inequality was estimated to be £15bn annually.

J Muir congratulated the SYMCA Executive Team both at the regional and inventory levels for the excellent high-quality bids that had been submitted and translated into success. He considered that the proportionality of funding that had been allocated to South Yorkshire represented a significant improvement in comparison to when he had first commenced as Chair of the Board. He considered that South Yorkshire was competing for scarce resources which were likely to worsen, and that if it had been known that the £3m reported to be allocated for bus services in England would translate to £1.2bn, then the SYMCA's ask would have been much greater than £570m. He wished to support Mayor Jarvis MBE in his messages and reaction to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Mayor Jarvis MBE agreed with J Muir's sentiments in paying tribute to the SYMCA Executive Team for the work undertaken in drawing together the bids. He was extremely pleased that South Yorkshire had secured the £570m funding, and he was pleased to observe that the individual Levelling Up Funding bids had been awarded to all of the local authorities, with the exception of BMBC. He was disappointed that the SYMCA Levelling Up Funding bid, which focused around investment in public transport buses and active travel, had been unsuccessful. The Board noted that none of the Mayoral bids for the Levelling Up Fund within Section 1 had been successful.

Members were referred to the BSIP funding and the bid that had recently been submitted by the SYMCA, which had been an ambitious plan that would transform the bus network in South Yorkshire. Mayor Jarvis MBE was concerned to learn that the amount that had been originally allocated by the Government had been massively reduced; he would address the matter with Ministers in the near future. He considered that the Local Government settlement did not go far enough to provide the local authorities with the required resources. The publication of the Integrated Rail Plan was anticipated in the upcoming few weeks. He did not consider that the Chancellor's Statement contained any levelling up for the north of England. He would

continue to work with other mayors and politicians nationally on a cross-party basis, with a view to the Government unlocking further resources around their commitments to levelling up.

N McDonald thanked F Kumi-Ampofo for summary provided and he echoed the above sentiments in relation to the work undertaken by the SYMCA Executive Team. He also expressed concern at the lack of funding for businesses.

Mayor Jones CBE concurred with the comments made. She highlighted the need for an agreement to be reached on the pipeline to enable the businesses within South Yorkshire to progress forwards.

J Muir considered that in the event that the Central Government were unable to provide assistance on job creation and the SYMCA had to utilise some of the gainshare, that the necessary mechanism would be implemented.

P Kennan queried whether a magazine article could be produced by either J Muir or L Nickson to express the matter generally for businesses.

J Muir commented that he would be delighted to produce an article as the outgoing Chair of the Board. He would liaise with Mayor Jarvis MBE, Dr Smith and L Nickson to ascertain the best platform to communicate the information. He expressed his thanks to F Kumi-Ampofo for the presentation.

RESOLVED – That the Board received a verbal presentation of the implications of the Spending Review and Budget on South Yorkshire and responded with any comments.

5 **Social Value Contract for South Yorkshire**

A report was presented which provided an update on the development of the Social Value Contract (“Employer Contract”) element of the Inclusion Plan.

Members recalled that at the Board’s meeting held in May 2021, the approach and agreed parameters for the Inclusion Plan had been endorsed. A number of the modules within the Inclusion Plan had outlined how the economic development activities could be more inclusive. The Social Value Contract, subject to debate and agreement at the SYMCA, would be an agreement between the SYMCA and any organisation seeking funds. The aim was for the Social Value Contract to help deliver upon the inclusive growth aspirations outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan.

J Guest referred to the current engagement phase with private sector colleagues, education and voluntary sectors. Work continued to explore how the Social Value Contract could be implemented through legality of elements, proportionality and balance. Engagement continued with the local authorities to explore their role in relation to this.

Members were referred to the appendix to the report, which provided an early draft of the Social Value Contract. Members noted the commitment around the Real Living Wage, together with the advantages and disadvantages.

In response, to a question raised by J Chetcui regarding the type of businesses that the Social Value Contract would apply to, F Kumi-Ampofo referred to the commitment made within the SEP regarding the contract that was in place for all of the employers and applicants that had a funding relationship with the SYMCA. It was vitally important to ensure that the balance of the implementation was correct to ensure that it was not unduly burdensome and to generate the outcomes of the funding that was sought, whilst being sensitive to the smaller businesses and other matters.

Following a question made by P Kennan to clarify whether the investment made by the SYMCA related to monetary terms/the investment of time in the businesses or both, F Kumi-Ampofo commented that the investment made by the SYMCA related to monetary terms and to a contractual relationship with a business or another partner which involved some financial support. In general, the LEP and SYMCA were behind the curve in comparison to other regions which had the Preston Model and charters in place. However, work was underway for those to be implemented within South Yorkshire.

In relation to the diminishing returns, P Kennan queried whether a two phase approach could be supported to deal with the large businesses initially, which would then be extended to SMEs when it had been proved to be a workable model.

J Muir considered that P Kennan's request was too early, due to it being dependent upon the criteria. He considered that without there being tangible elements on paper to ascertain whether this was practical or not, it should be determined prior to whether a two phased approach was required. A consultative process would be undertaken to consider the elements and to make a judgement thereafter.

P Kennan considered that it would be helpful to see the detail, in order to determine whether he would be supportive of the suggestion.

In response to a question raised by L Nickson, F Kumi-Ampofo provided assurance of the conversations underway with businesses, local authority partners, universities and others in order to gain learning. Learning was also being achieved through the engagement with the consultant.

In relation to support and financial support, K Beardsley queried whether the SYMCA sought employers to sign up to the initiative and to be recognised within the region as one of the employers that had done so, even if no financial support was required.

Members noted that the report dealt with the contractual relationship between the employers, organisations and businesses with the SYMCA, where some financial support would be required. Work was underway in relation to the Charter regarding the culture change and better employment practices within South Yorkshire, which would be brought to the Board in due course.

The Board noted that the consultation was underway across a very broad spectrum of business representative groups, with a view to concluding as much as possible between now and January 2021.

Mayor Jones CBE concurred with the foundation living wage, which she had introduced when she had initially come into office for those individuals that worked within DMBC. The foundation living wage helped to stimulate local economies. She highlighted the need to consult further on the matter.

Members were referred to the internal discussions underway with colleagues to ensure that the resource implications were fully understood. It was anticipated that approximately 10 – 50 contractual agreements would be undertaken per year, dependent upon the types of programmes that were ran.

J Muir expressed his thanks to everyone for the comments made. He appreciated the support provided by P Kennan on the matter, together with the consultations that had been initiated as part of the consultation process. He considered that there was no reason why any employer should not be awarded the foundation living wage. He was confident that with the participants of the Board, that a benchmark would be achieved that could be supported by most companies.

RESOLVED – That the Board:-

- i) Considered the progress made to date to define the content of the Social Value Contract, noting the detail in Appendix A to the report.
- ii) Noted the dilemmas in specifying content and debate how these are reconciled, to inform and support the SYMCA in their decision making on the final options for consideration.
- iii) Noted the intended timescales for the presentation of the final option and recommends, for the SYMCA to consider, any additional work required in development of the content or the engagement on this.

6 Transport Update

A report was submitted which provided an update on key transport issues in South Yorkshire. The Bus Services Improvement Plan which set out the measures planned to improve bus services in South Yorkshire, had been submitted to the Government. A submission to the Government's Sustainable Transport Settlement had also been made, and the SYMCA had been notified of an award of £570m, further details were not yet available. The outcome of the other submissions following the Spending Review were also awaited.

M Swales commented that today would mark the last LEP Board meeting that J Holmes would attend. He expressed his thanks to J Homes for all of the work that she had undertaken for the SYMCA and the LEP.

The Board noted that this had been an incredibly busy year in terms of the transport agenda, which had included the Levelling Up Fund bid of £50m, the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement award of £570m, the Bus Service Improvement Plan, the enhanced partnership and the Integrated Rail Plan. All of which had been undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. All of the MCAs within the country had been requested to produce a programme level

business case based on the £570m with a submission to be made to the DfT in January 2022; confirmation would be received by March 2022. Initial discussions had been held with the business partners to gain an understanding of what was required, and further guidance was anticipated within the upcoming few weeks. Additional weekly meetings had been scheduled with the business partners throughout the submission period. The DfT and Treasury had both advised of their expectation that all of the MCAs would receive the full funding amount. There was not a full guarantee of the programme award until the process was completed and a formal response had been received from the DfT with the settlement and grant conditions. It was intended that a draft business case would be produced prior to Christmas 2021.

In response to a question received from J Muir regarding the outcome from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and bus funding, M Swales commented that as yet there was no confirmation of the figures. The Government's position was that £3bn had been put into the bus network, which given the support around COVID-19 now stood at £1.2m split between capital and revenue. A number of the local transport authorities across the country had expressed large ambitions to the BSIP in response to the national bus strategy, however the funding was unavailable to support those ambitions.

There were a number of elements of bus related funding within CRSTS that would bring funding of specific lines in relation to £27m, £5m and £3m, together with bus related enhancements within other schemes, which brought in the relation of £100m of bus related funding within CRSTS. A greater emphasis would be required in relation to some of the funding sources, given the BSIP and LUF position.

As part of the BSIP development process and transition to the Enhanced Partnership Board, C Shepherd highlighted the need to develop an Enhanced Partnership Board. J Muir requested C Shepherd to liaise with P Kennan in the first instance. The Enhanced Partnership Board would need to be linked to the thematic boards.

On behalf of the Board, J Muir wished C Shepherd the very best in the next stage in her career, and he expressed his thanks for her excellent work contributions.

RESOLVED – That the LEP Board received the report and provided comment on business and economy issues related to transport.

7 National Review of Destination Management

A report was submitted which provided a summary of the independent review of how Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) operate and function in England. The report identified where some potential implications arising from the review may arise and suggested that the LEP undertook some preliminary work exploring how the SYMCA, LEP and businesses within the tourism and visitor economy could be engaged to ensure any changes in the current system delivered the maximum benefit.

A Gates commented that the independent review did not specify the

requirement for a uniformed set of proposals. There would be flexibility to design something which worked best for South Yorkshire.

J Muir considered that there would be implications in relation to how and whether the SYMCA engaged with Welcome to Yorkshire.

J Chetcuti considered that there were two issues to be resolved in relation to destination marketing and that there was no value in acquiring further communications if investments were not made into the destination infrastructure. He considered that the SYMCA should go back to the Government to indicate what was required.

R Stubbs stated that he was an Ambassador for Welcome to Yorkshire. He wished to support the notion that this was a conversation that would commence outside of the work of Welcome to Yorkshire.

Mayor Jones CBE considered that Welcome to Yorkshire would require a full commitment from everyone and to ensure that everyone was prepared to provide backing for several years of funding.

The Board agreed to the wider conversation regarding the wants of South Yorkshire from a DMO type function. A Gates would liaise further with Members of the Board and Mayor Jones CBE. Lead engagement would be sought from the private sector Board Members, with a view to reporting a plan of action to the Board before the next scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Board:-

- i) Noted the outcomes of the independent review as set out in the paper.
- ii) Established a working group to report to the Board on the detailed implications of the review for South Yorkshire.
- iii) Ensured the working group had a focus on the work on the principle of subsidiarity at its heart, and a focus on what the visitor and tourism economy businesses and key assets in the region needed to grow.

8 **Education, Skills and Employability Update**

A report was presented which provided an update across the range of the LEP and SYMCA skills and employment activity. The devolved SYMCA Adult Education Budget (AEB) had gone live on 1 August 2021, and had totalled over £42m in 2021 – 22. From which, £30.6m provision had been commissioned by the SYMCA from pre-entry level through to Level 3 from grant funded providers which included FE Colleges and local authorities. A lessons learned review had been commissioned by the ESEB, which would be focussed around encouraging recommendations for future AEB commissioning.

Members noted the following key points:-

- The skills strategy was an ongoing piece of work which recognised the need to draw on evidence from the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

Trailblazer that was led by the Chambers of Commerce.

- The Careers and Enterprise Company had awarded funding to the LEP/SYMCA for the first time in 2020-21 for a South Yorkshire Careers Hub. The aim was to create a stronger link between the hub and the strategic priorities of the LEP.
- The Skills Bank 3 procurement process was currently underway, with a view to the programme commencing in early April 2022.
- The South Yorkshire Jobs Fund was a paid employment programme for South Yorkshire residents aged 25+ years that had been out of employment for 6 months. Development of the programme was well underway. The tender had been prepared and was planned to go out in November 2021 to seek a provider to work with employers.
- Funding had been secured for Working Win for 12 months from September 2021. It was hoped that there would be an extension of funding for a further 2 years. The initial programme focused on providing support to individuals with low to moderate mental health and/or physical health conditions. As at 20 October 2021, a total 343 individuals had been supported through the programme.
- Work was currently under development to support the apprenticeship opportunities within the region. A proposal had been received from the South Yorkshire Apprenticeship Hub. An understanding was required to establish how to maximise the levy transfer scheme and how to develop the provider market apprenticeship.

J Muir recognised and applauded the efforts that had been made in rationalising the Adult Education Budget, which had been a huge focus of the SCR Skills Team. He hoped to observe where all of the key initiatives fit together in terms of the weight of spend and reach, and to identify the gaps in order to understand the priorities.

H Kemp referred to the cohesive skills strategy. The elements of which had been discussed with the Co-Chairs, and a further meeting would be held shortly to go through the detail.

N Brewster highlighted the need for work to be undertaken around the wealth of the skills strategy which fell into the local authorities' local skills plans, together with the broader stakeholders within a timely manner.

Dr Smith agreed with N Brewster's perspective, although he considered that it would be unrealistic to undertake the work during Quarter 1. He considered that the conversation to ascertain the skills focus would be both time consuming and the largest challenge. The debate would present the outcome of everyone's view from their individual perspectives. He considered that previously, the objective to attempt to achieve a focus on what had made the most impact had been lost which had resulted in low attainment and progression levels for skills across the working population in South Yorkshire.

Members were referred to the work that had been undertaken to highlight the interventions where both the SYMCA and the LEP could make a difference. J Muir considered that the SYMCA and LEP should not be solely responsible for resolving the entire skills issue within South Yorkshire.

D Fell referred to the Skills Minister who had visited Doncaster today. The outcomes from the visit had highlighted that South Yorkshire was ahead of other regions in terms of skills. A further visit would be made to the region in late January/February 2022 with a view to utilising the skills accelerator project. D Fell considered that this presented a key opportunity for everyone to re-present their skills asks back to the Skills Minister.

RESOLVED – That the Board:-

- i) Noted the updates on each of the key skills and employability work areas.
- ii) Considered the invitation to nominate a champion for careers hub activities as at section 2.3.4 of the report.

9 **Mayoral Update**

A report was presented which provided Members with an update on key Mayoral activity relating to the economic agenda.

Updates were provided on:-

- £570m of investment in South Yorkshire's transport network.
- Major uncertainty remained following the further delays to the publication of key Government documents.
- COP26 and net zero in South Yorkshire.
- Funding for Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector in South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

10 **Chief Executive's Update**

A report was submitted which provided Members with a general update on the activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.

Updates were provided on:-

- COP26 events.
- Additional Restrictions Grants.
- Quarterly Economic Survey.
- LSIP and South Yorkshire Skills Strategy.
- UK's first fusion technology facility opens in South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

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

11 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor T Damms (Chair)
Councillor C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Sansome, P Garbutt, T Smith, J Paszek, S Ayris,
R Frost and Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, ACO T Carlin, S Booth and D Nichols
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, G Kirk, M Potter, L Noble and M Bray (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor B Johnson, Councillor S Ball, Councillor D Hutchinson,
Councillor C Ross, S Norman, M Buttery and N Copley

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 Sansome had attended an On-Call Firefighter Graduation Ceremony at the SYFR Training and Development Centre on 25 September 2021. He had also attended an event hosted by RMBC, where a bravery award had been presented to an individual who had performed CPR on an individual. As part of his induction onto the Authority, Councillor Sansome had attended the LGA Fire Leaderships

Essentials Course. As part of the Home Office session, delegates had been informed that it was unlikely there would be forced collaboration between the fire and rescue services and the police force.

On 28 September 2021, Councillor Frost had visited the new Barnsley Fire Station, which he considered to be a very good asset to the Service.

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 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillor Frost referred to Item 16 on the minutes of the last meeting, in respect of the Local Pension Board. The following matters had been raised at the recent Local Pension Board meeting held on 7 October 2021, and are fed back to the FRA as Scheme Manager:-

- There had been a discussion around the LPB's Risk Register and, in particular, Risk 010 in respect of the McCloud and Sergeant case. This risk was currently RAG rated as red, 'Failure to ensure employers pay the correct contributions to the scheme, and that their employees are contributing appropriately'. The Board had agreed the risk should remain as red for the time-being.
- Members had queried whether a new risk should be added, or an existing risk be amended in respect of the issues around the 'divorce' settlement and the Authority's capacity to deal with complex cases. The Board was assured by West Yorkshire Pension Fund that this was not an issue, but the Service will consider including some narrative within an existing risk.
- A number of the Service's employees had not been issued with their pension forecast in a timely manner prior to retirement. West Yorkshire Pensions Fund require 6 weeks' notice of retirement and this is not always adhered to. It was agreed that a joint communication from the Service and the Fire Brigades' Union would be circulated to remind employees to notify HR at least 6 weeks prior to retirement to ensure their pension forecast could be prepared in time.
- The Board's Constitution has a maximum tenure of two terms of three years (six years in total) for the Independent members – one of whom is Chair. The Board wish to extend the tenure for both independent members by another three years.

L Noble commented that, for good governance, a report would be presented to the next Authority meeting to seek Authority approval to extend the term of office for A Bosmans and J Weston to November 2024.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 13 September 2021 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 remained aware of the Government's plan for recovery from the pandemic. The Service continued to implement specific staff guidance for the adherence of social distancing measures, which included wearing face masks around the workplace.

The Service continued to review measures with its Health and Safety Team, whilst taking into account national Government guidance and guidance from the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC). The majority of the Service's functions had now returned to 'business as usual' whilst maintaining an agile working policy.

COVID-19 sickness levels within the Service continued to be monitored and remained low. Work had been undertaken to improve the welfare provision within the Service, together with collaborative work with SYP in relation to training.

The Service remained actively involved in the Local Resilience Forum, which dealt with the response and recovery measures.

Members noted that the Service's home and business fire safety visits had now resumed to pre-pandemic levels.

Councillor Sansome queried the wellbeing and mental health support that had been offered to support those firefighters that had worked overtime during the pandemic.

DCFO Kirby commented that the demand on overtime had increased at specific times during the pandemic, where up to 70 members of staff had been unable to come into work due to shielding, self-isolating or having contracted the virus. A recruitment exercise was currently underway and 36 new firefighters would join the Service next year, which would reduce the demand on overtime. Measures would be undertaken over the next 6 months to ensure that the Service returned to the usual the working conditions. Welfare provisions were in place and line managers would signpost if an individual required additional support, either internally with the occupational health nurse or with external organisations.

In response to a question received from Councillor Smith, DCFO Kirby commented that new buildings were required to be fitted with hardwire smoke detection, which did not require the Service to retrofit the battery smoke alarms. The Service would still undertake a home safety visit if it was deemed that an individual was at risk. Additional smoke alarms would be installed if an individual had any lifestyle behaviours which could elevate their risk to fires within the home.

Councillor Smith queried whether the Service was provided with the details of disabled young people that were at risk from a home fire.

Members noted that the Service did not receive the details of everyone that was registered with a disability within South Yorkshire. However, the Service had formal partnerships with the four local authorities and arm-length organisations who trained their staff to spot vulnerabilities to fires within the home, and would refer those individuals directly to the Service. Many of the home safety visits undertaken by the Service were as the result of partner referrals. Following a visit made by an agency to a vulnerable person, there was an ability for them to transfer the individual's details onto a third party for health and safety reasons, such as the Service. The Service also had specific data sets which had been agreed nationally, together with the NHS Exeter data which included the names and addresses of individuals that were over the age of 65 and were registered with a GP. This would allow the Service to focus on specific categories of vulnerability. Consent may be required to share generic data with the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an update on progress against the actions on the Service Improvement Plan and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection activity. Actions and objectives were included within the Service Improvement Plan, which related to various local and national issues that affected South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. The Service Improvement Plan also captured all of the recently published national Fire Standards, in order to monitor the Service's progress against those standards. The internal Service Improvement Board monitored the progress made against all of the objectives.

In response to a number of questions received by Members, DCFO Kirby provided the Authority with an update. A new Member development session would be held virtually on 13 October 2021, which would provide more detail around the Integrated Risk Management Plan, but DCFO Kirby was more than happy to offer additional sessions around – for example – the Service Improvement Plan. DCFO Kirby encouraged Members to engage with their respective District Commander (details had been provided during Induction).

The Service had recently undertaken a breathing apparatus (BA) test at St. Paul's Tower in Sheffield, which was the highest residential building in South Yorkshire. Further BA exercises would be undertaken in other high rise buildings. Digital radio testing had also been undertaken to identify any specific issues. A more detailed Grenfell Tower Inquiry report would be presented to Members in due course, and this remained a high profile issue within the fire sector.

The aim of the inspection programme was for the operational crews to capture relevant operational information, which would support the tactical decision making.

A new Sustainability Officer would be recruited into the Service, and a Green Plan would be developed with a view to ascertaining further decarbonisation initiatives. Further information would be provided.

The Service had undertaken an internal awareness campaign to ensure that staff understood how to access health and wellbeing support. Training had been provided to the dedicated Critical Wellbeing Officers, who provided critical wellbeing debriefs to firefighters who had witnessed distressing incidents. The Service engaged in suicide awareness training and there was good internal workforce support in place to spot the signs of vulnerability with colleagues.

The Service approached the workforce planning process for additional resources through a standardised and consistent approach by the Senior Leadership Team, which was undertaken annually. Standardised business case templates and presentations would be utilised whilst ensuring that there were clear links to the Service Improvement Plan and Action Plan.

Councillor Smith referred to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the high priority action updates at Appendix B to the report, which referred to the lack of plans in place for evacuating a high rise building should the need arise. He queried the plans in place to evacuate high rise residential buildings.

DCFO Kirby commented that many of the UK high rise residential buildings had been designed without the intent for mass evacuations and to contain a fire within a flat. This would enable firefighters to deal with an isolated fire within a flat before it spread further into the building. The Grenfell Tower had been wrapped in combustible cladding materials, which had enabled the fire to spread quickly. There was a requirement for each building owner to have a dedicated person with emergency evacuation plans in place. The dedicated person would flag up to the Service any vulnerable individuals that would require assistance in evacuating a building. Through the Service's training programmes, measures had been implemented to receive fire survival calls from individuals that were unable to evacuate a flat when there was a fire in the building; firefighters would be deployed to assist those individuals. The Service had limited legal ability to enforce the building owners to undertake all of the required actions.

Members noted that water pipes were installed in all high rise residential buildings that were 18 metres and above in height. During visits, the Service would ensure that the water pipes remained fit for purpose. The Service's fire engines and equipment included dedicated high risk packs, and turntable ladders to access fires at a height of up to 28 metres. In the event that residents considered a high rise building posed a risk, the Service could issue a prohibition notice until measures were implemented to make the residents feel safer.

The Service had adopted the Code of Ethics from the NFCC, which sat within the current policy.

Councillor Garbutt referred to the recruitment and retention of women and BAME people into the sector. He queried whether there was any toxicity towards women within the Service and, if so, whether there were any policies in place to combat it.

CFO Johnson commented that the Service, nationally, is a male dominated environment, with far more white males in comparison to the number of female members of staff. Work continued to encourage more women and individuals from under-represented groups to join the Service, alongside initiatives to continue to improve the culture of the organisation, to lead by example and to treat people with respect. Policies and procedures were in place within the Service to deal with any individuals that did not comply with this ethos. Collaborative working with representative bodies would be undertaken in relation zero tolerance.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and provided further scrutiny and support to enable continual service improvement.

12 CLOSE PROXIMITY CREWING (CPC) UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which provided Members with an update in relation to the resourcing of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's remaining Close Proximity Crewing stations (CPC). The report aimed to provide Members with assurance that the Service was meeting the requirements set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

In May 2018, the High Court ruling had delivered the judicial review of the CPC arrangements. There was no collective agreement with the representative bodies, therefore the Service had progressed matters to phase out the CPC duty system which had been introduced at Edlington, Aston Park, Tankersley and Lowedges Fire Stations.

Following a concern raised regarding the number of hours worked by a small group of individuals on CPC and potentially other contracts, AM Strelczenie had recently met with the HSE. The HSE had understood the issues faced, had been satisfied with the Service's response and the subsequent measures that had been implemented to combat the issue. This was currently a verbal response, but it was anticipated that Members would receive the response in writing in due course.

Councillor Hogarth requested the figures in relation to the Service's potential establishment position by the end of December 2021, as identified within Appendix C to the report.

CFO Johnson commented that Members would be provided with the figures.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Endorsed the ongoing, positive progress and improvements made so far to return the remaining stations back to the traditional 2-2-4 duty system.

13 PROGRESS REPORT ON ESTATES AND FACILITIES SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with details on the progress to improve the Estates and Facilities Service within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. The report was the latest in a series of reports that had been presented to Members since June 2017 regarding the improvement plan for the Estates and Facilities Service.

Since the last report presented to the Authority, the decoupling of the SYFR and SYP property function had been completed. The Service had implemented an interim management team, and recommendations had been presented to the Senior Leadership Team.

Dr Billings queried the order of the appendices presented with the report. He considered that the Strategy should become the overarching key document which should include the Green Plan, and for the policies to follow thereafter.

In response, S Booth highlighted that the documents presented to the meeting had been created through the previous joint management structure. He acknowledged Dr Billings' suggestion for the Green Plan to form part of the Strategy document, which would be presented to the Authority in 2022.

Councillor Garbutt queried where the incoming Sustainability Officer would sit within the proposed new structure. He also queried whether the Service had received training in relation to the Green Plan.

S Booth commented that the current focus was to create the Green Plan, following which the position of the Sustainability Officer within the new structure would be ascertained. An external advisor was currently providing the Service with support on the development of the Green Plan, together with establishing a network of champions across all aspects of the organisation. It was envisaged that progression of the Green Plan would be completed over the next 4 – 5 month period.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Endorsed the ongoing, positive progress and improvements made so far in Estates and Facilities as part of the Service's improvement journey and its continuation towards being an effective and efficient support service of SYFR.
- iii) Noted the arrangements made for the new service and operating delivery model for SYFR Estates and Facilities post decoupling.

14 THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE - AN ANNUAL UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which provided an annual update on Procurement Services, its activities and how it effectively supported the various aspects of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Service's businesses together with a log of FS323 Request to Contracts Standing Orders Waiver activity in the preceding 12 months.

At the year-end 2020/21, the value of stock was £386,380.59 and the total discrepancy at stock check was £2,301.29. The focus of activity during the period had related to the procurement of the new structural fire kit and rescue jackets which had gone live within the Service on 2 August 2021, and the care and maintenance package for operational garments through a new laundry and aftercare contract.

A total of £804,568.63 procurement savings had been achieved by the Service over the last 12 month period.

Members noted the changes to the Contracts Standing Orders at Appendix A to the report, which brought them in line with post Brexit legislation and changes in threshold limits, together with a number of changes to operational matters.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Ayris in relation to Compressor maintenance, Members noted that there had been concern that the TDC Compressor could have broken down, which would have prevented the new recruits course from having taken place. Therefore, a new Compressor had been installed at TDC within a suitable timeframe, as a one-off specialist requirement, by a different company to the one that was utilised for the Service's ongoing Compressor maintenance. Future reports would contain information on the Compressor maintenance contract.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and endorsed the ongoing positive work of the Procurement Services team.

15 SYFR ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an update on the progress the Service had made against its Annual Service Plan for 2021/22. The report was the first of the six monthly progress updates to be presented to the Authority. The appendix to the report provided a brief update on the progress against each of the priority objectives.

Members had approved the initial draft Plan at the Authority meeting held in January 2021, which then went live in April 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and the progress the Service had made against its Annual Service Plan 2021/22.

16 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION BOARD MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the minutes of the Police and Fire Collaboration Board Meeting held on 2 September 2021.

17 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 9 September 2021.

18 DRAFT FIRE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 13 September 2021.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To provide Members with the grading structures for SYFR and SYP.	ASAP	DCFO Kirby	<p><u>Update 29-09-21</u></p> <p>SYFR has requested details from SYP on grading structures within certain depts. This will be anonymised but making comparisons will be difficult as the department structures will be different, with different responsibilities, role maps and grading processes.</p> <p>SYFR has also requested further details from Rose Regeneration on the wording in their report that gave rise to this query at the September FRA meeting. This may also provide some clarity on the matter for FRA Members.</p> <p><u>Update 08-11-21</u></p> <p>Information was provided to Members via email.</p> <p>Please see the information sheet attached to the minutes.</p> <p>ACTION DISCHARGED</p>

2	To provide Members with the figures in relation to the Service's potential establishment position by the end of December 2021.	ASAP	CFO Johnson	<u>Update 21-10-21</u>																								
				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">SYFR Total Uniform Establishment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jul-20</td><td style="text-align: center;">592</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-20</td><td style="text-align: center;">592</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">592</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">590</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">591</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">591</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">591</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">591</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">591</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">608</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-21</td><td style="text-align: center;">608</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		SYFR Total Uniform Establishment	Jul-20	592	Oct-20	592	Jan-21	592	Apr-21	590	Jun-21	591	Jul-21	591	Aug-21	591	Sep-21	591	Oct-21	591	Nov-21	608	Dec-21	608
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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>

Action 1 - Grading structures for SYFR and SYP

In presenting the Rose Regeneration Collaboration Evaluation report to FRA Members in September, Cllr Hogarth made reference to the report which suggested that staff undertaking broadly similar work at SYFR and SYP felt that they were experiencing different pay and conditions.

As part of the Estates and Facilities Management restructure that was reported to FRA Members in October, SYFR have diligently reviewed and updated all job and person descriptions for each of the new roles and have had the Human Resources function carry out an independent pay and rewards evaluation to ensure that the pay attributed to each new role is:

- fair for the proposed duties being undertaken / skills and qualifications required; and
- comparative to other relevant functions / services within SYFR.

The recruitment process will ultimately determine the extent to which SYFR is able to attract and select appropriately qualified/skilled/experienced candidates for each role. Under current HR policies if it has not been possible to recruit after 2 rounds of job advertisement, then it is possible to award a market supplement up to 10% of the proposed starting pay, subject to Executive approval.

Recruitment Agencies actively monitor the recruitment market and frequently identify that for all building and facilities management professions, demand is outstripping supply leading to a higher pay and reward expectation. This is a current issue for all public sector employers, including SYFR. To help manage this perceived gap, SYFR is also keen to look at new ways of marketing job opportunities including making potential applicants aware of the 'other' benefits in working for the organisation.

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

22 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor T Damms (Chair)
Councillor C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Sansome, P Garbutt, B Johnson, S Ball,
J Paszek, D Hutchinson, S Ayris, R Frost, C Ross and
Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, ACO T Carlin, S Booth and
S Kelsey
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, G Kirk, S Loach, L Noble and M Bray
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Smith,
N Copley, M Potter, S Norman and M Buttery

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the following agenda items be considered in the absence of the public and press:-

Agenda item 19 entitled 'Workforce Investment and Efficiencies Plan December 2021 – March 2023'.

Agenda item 20 entitled 'Contingency Crewing Contract Update'.

Agenda item 21 'Sargeant Immediate Detriment'.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

DCFO Kirby declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 21 entitled 'Sargeant Immediate Detriment', as he was a member of the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question received by Councillor Sansome, L Noble confirmed that the community safety boxes for the four local authorities had been delayed, but were anticipated for delivery within the next two weeks.

Councillor Ross expressed his thanks to J Patrick, Strategic Intelligence Manager at SYFR, for the Power-bi link which had been embedded in a recent report to the Performance and Scrutiny Board. He requested that the Power-bi link be provided to all Members, and he urged Members to interrogate the system via the link.

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 11 OCTOBER 2021

Councillor Ayris queried how often the updates of the actions arising from the Authority meetings were added to the website via the link provided at the end of the Authority minutes.

Members noted that the link included at the end of the Authority minutes provided historical updates of the actions arising at the meetings. Since October 2020, an Actions Table had been included at the end of the Authority minutes which provided updates on the matters arising from the meetings. Given the papers are available publicly, this should remove the need to publish the action updates separately elsewhere on the website.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 11 October 2021 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's functions had now returned to 'business as usual'. The Service's Health and Safety Committee had considered whether the prevention, protection and control measures remained appropriate. Due to the persistently high COVID-19 case numbers within South Yorkshire, it had been agreed to maintain the current control measures which included the requirement for staff to continue to wear face masks within the workplace. The matter had been discussed at length

with the representative bodies, who were in agreement with this course of action. The situation would continue to be reviewed.

The Service continued to monitor the COVID-19 sickness absence levels within the organisation, which remained low. Staff continued to be requested to report when they had received a COVID-19 vaccination, although the Service could not make the vaccinations mandatory.

The Service remained actively involved in the Local Resilience Forum which dealt with the response and recovery measures to the pandemic, and met on a weekly basis.

A number of flu vaccinations had been purchased by the Service, to be offered to those members of staff that were not eligible for a free vaccination.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2021/22

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 2022.

The report detailed the estimated revenue outturn position in comparison to the annual budget that had been set on 22 February 2021, it also provided an updated reserves position statement together with an update on the Capital Programme.

The approved operating budget for 2021/22 totalled £55.400m, and funding totalled £55.872m which resulted in a planned contribution to reserves of £0.472m. The Authority projected a net operating spend of £54.999m, with funding of £55.872m resulting in an overall forecast operating underspend of £0.873m or 1.5% of the budget.

The approved Capital Programme for 2021/22 totalled £7.704m, and the programme had been adjusted to £9.487m following approval of the 2020/21 Outturn Report on 21 June 2021.

Councillor Hogarth referred to the percentage increases in relation to rents which had a variation of £12,500 (40% above what had been budgeted for) and transport expenses of £8,220 (15% above what had been budgeted for). He requested further information in relation to the total for supplies and services.

In relation to the percentage increase for rents, it was noted that Age UK rented a floor within SYFR HQ which had primary rental values. The Service had anticipated a reduction in diesel cost, repairs and maintenance, and additional amounts had been factored in for the Service's ageing vehicle fleet. The underspend for the total amount for transport was mainly attributable to a reduction in fuel consumption. The Service purchased fuel through the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation framework, which had been supplemented where required through

fuel cards for potential shortages. DCFO Kirby chaired the Service's Recovery Group which focused on collating and realising those benefits.

S Booth would provide Members with a written update in relation to the total for supplies and services.

Councillor Ayris referred to the overachievement of income, which related to the additional grant funding for Protection and New Burdens. He queried what this specifically related to and whether it had been anticipated by the Service.

S Booth would provide Members with a written update in relation to the overachievement of income.

In response to a question received by Dr Billings in relation to the £0.286m underspend for premises, S Booth referred to the professional ratings company that the Service had deployed to ensure matters were in line with expectations across the estate. The £0.286m was a permanent reduction, subject to the company undertaking a further review. The reduction had been taken into account in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Councillor Sansome queried the Service's long term strategy in relation to electric vehicles.

Members noted that S Gilding, Head of Joint Vehicle Fleet Management, had proposed to introduce a new vehicle fleet strategy in the New Year, which would include the green plan for the Service. Members were referred to the new 'E1 EV0' fire engine that had been developed by Emergency One, which was the world's first all-electric pumping appliance that was being trialled in Glasgow, and a solar powered fire engine that was currently being trialled at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. The Service was ascertaining whether a passive charging infrastructure could be put in place. At present, charging points were available at SYFR HQ, Rivelin and Barnsley Fire Stations.

Members were referred to a recent Local Resilience Forum meeting which had discussed the scenario of a potential national power outage, as agencies moved to electric vehicles. A sustained power outage over 2 - 3 days would pose a significant issue and risk to the fire and rescue services. The matter would be kept under review by the Service's Strategic Fleet Board.

Councillor Ball referred to the technology that was continually developing in relation to electric vehicles and solar power at fire stations. Councillor Damms said he valued Councillor Ball's knowledge in this area and requested that he continue to provide updates and any support for the Service that they may find helpful.

RESOLVED – That Members noted:-

- i) The emerging underlying estimated revenue performance which was showing a potential operating underspend of £0.873m for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

- ii) The underlying and significant financial risks and uncertainties facing the Service and Sector during the remainder of the financial year and into 2022/2023 and beyond.
- iii) The latest estimated change in General and Earmarked Reserves as set out in Section C of the report.
- iv) The current position of the Capital Programme for the financial year ending 2021/22, which was in line with expectations.

12 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022 - 2025

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which intended to provide an early insight and understanding as to the likely financial performance and position of the Service. The report was presented ahead of the Government's Spending Review and Settlement (December 2021) and the proposed Annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting report that was due to be presented for consideration at the Authority meeting scheduled on 21 February 2022.

Members would be provided with a more detailed briefing, and scenario planning, at the Corporate Advisory Group meeting that was scheduled to be held in January 2022 (no date fixed as yet).

In response to a comment received by Councillor Ross regarding the need for the Service to have sufficient resources available to deal with major incidents in times of exceptional demand, DCFO Kirby referred to the national and regional resilience measures that were in place. The Service could also share its resources with other fire and rescue services to provide support in dealing with major incidents.

From 1 November 2021, Tankersley Fire Station as the final fire station to operate the CPC duty system, had reverted back to the 2-2-4 duty system which had enabled the Service's establishment figure to increase to 608. As at 31 December 2021, it was predicted that the Service's total establishment figure would be 559. As at 31 March 2022, a total establishment figure of 603 was predicted, dependent upon the transfers into the Service.

Councillor Frost supported the prudence of the Medium Term Financial Plan. He highlighted the potential struggles of individuals to pay the increase in council tax, following the £20 deduction in Universal Credit. He queried the duration of the temporary Youth Worker officer within the Service.

Members noted the National Fire Chiefs' Council's robust submission that had been made to the Treasury in respect of funding for the Fire and Rescue Service. The temporary Youth Worker officer position would be on a fixed term basis for 18 months - 2 years, and would help to support the Service's work with young people within the local communities in the prevention of secondary fires, injuries and fatalities. As soon as an individual had commenced in the role, an evaluation would be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of the post for both the Service and the support provided to young people. The Service also offered targeted and early intervention programmes through the Prince's Trust. Members were welcome to attend future passing out parades.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Accepted the updated MTFP for the financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25; noting the contents of the report, and in particular the likely implications of the different funding scenarios for the operational service and future financial position.
- ii) Endorsed the proposed approach for managing reserves as set out in Section C to the Report; in particular, the proposal to increase the Post Covid-19 by any in year (2021/22) operating underspend, and to note the likely use of those useable earmarked reserves over the term of the Plan.
- iii) Noted the up to date approved capital investment programme spending and financing projections 2022/23 to 2024/25 (Section D).
- iv) Agreed to consider new, additional capital investment schemes for approval into the current capital programme as part of the 2022/23 Budget and Council Tax Setting Report (Section D).
- v) Noted the known financial risks, uncertainties and events that would need careful consideration and management in the run up to and when setting the 2022/23 Budget and Council Tax (Section E) and beyond this date.

13 SYFRS PEOPLE STRATEGY - YEAR THREE EVALUATION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided a three year evaluation of the SYFRS People Strategy 2018 - 2022, which had been approved at the Authority meeting held in June 2018.

There were six inter-related strategic aims within the SYFRS People Strategy to support the delivery of the organisational strategic priorities and to further embed the Service's new cultural values and behaviours that were set out in 'Our Story'.

Councillor Ross referred to the recent Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting where the new National Core Code of Ethics for Fire and Rescue Services had been discussed. At the Board meeting, it had been suggested that the Code of Ethics should also include the Authority Members. He highlighted the importance of the principles within the Code of Ethics to be embedded throughout the Service.

In response to a number of questions received by Dr Billings in relation to the 1271% increase in on-call recruitment compared with previous years and the effectiveness of e-learning, S Kelsey referred to the relatively low numbers for on-call recruitment within the Service. A target had been set for the recruitment of 12 individuals into the Service twice per year, which so far had been achieved. E-learning was one element of the training techniques utilised by the Service, and a more formal evaluation would be undertaken.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report for information only as the People Strategy 2018 – 2022 remained relevant and appropriate.

14 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was presented which provided an update on the Workforce Development Strategy for the Service. A review had been undertaken of the current strategy, and the new approach would detail the strategy across all areas of the organisation whilst taking into account the current considerations and training requirements resulting from changes to delivery approaches, improved development programmes and pathways for all staff.

Members noted the timeline for implementation of the new strategy document and associated policies, which were highlighted within the report.

RESOLVED – That Members considered the content of the report and proposed timescales for the revised strategy delivery.

15 LOCAL PENSION BOARD - PROPOSAL TO EXTEND TENURE FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted for Members to consider the proposal to extend the tenure of the two Independent Members of the Local Pension Board.

On 1 April 2015, the Authority, as Scheme Manager, had established the Local Pension Board to oversee the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. The two Independent Members had sat on the Board since its inception, and they were happy to continue in the role.

Councillor Frost was a member of the Board, as the Scheme Manager representative. He considered that the two Independent Members provided an excellent role on the Board with a wealth of knowledge in a particularly technical area. He wished to place on record his support for the recommendation to extend their tenure.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to:-

- i) Extend the tenure of the two Independent Members of the Local Pension Board (one of whom was Chair) for a further three years.
- ii) Review the situation with the existing members in November 2024, and provide a report to the Authority.

16 UPDATE OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD KEY ISSUES AND DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update of the Local Pension Board key issues and draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021.

17 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE APPEALS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Appeals and Standards Committee held on 7 October 2021.

18 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft Minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association held on 21 September 2021.

19 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.

20 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AND EFFICIENCIES PLAN DECEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2023

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was presented which provided Members with an update on the workforce investment and efficiencies plan for December 2021 – March 2023.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the recommendation outlined within the report.

21 CONTINGENCY CREWING CONTRACT UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which provided an update on the Home Office expectations of Fire and Rescue Services and the current arrangements regarding the business continuity plans for Industrial Action.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to the recommendation outlined within the report.

22 SARGEANT IMMEDIATE DETRIMENT

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to provide Members with an update following the 2018 Court of Appeal judgement in Sargeant. An interim order had been made by the Employment Tribunal on 18 December 2019, which had provided that members who had brought claims (claimants) were entitled to be treated as if they had remained in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 (with further specific requirements).

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to adopt the approach specified at Option 1 of the recommendations within the report.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To provide Members with the Power-Bi link.	ASAP	L Noble	<u>Update 29-11-21</u> Power-Bi link provided by e-mail to all Members. ACTION DISCHARGED
2	To provide Members with a written update in relation to the total for supplies and services.	Before the next Authority meeting on 10.01.22	S Booth	<u>Update 17-12-21</u> Please see the information sheets attached to the minutes. ACTION DISCHARGED
3	To provide Members with a written update in relation to the overachievement of income.	Before the next Authority meeting on 10.01.22	S Booth	<u>Update 17-12-21</u> Please see the information sheets attached to the minutes. 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>

Updates in relation to Actions 2 and 3 on the Actions Table

At the meeting in November, a number of detailed variance analysis questions were asked by Members where a written response was expected with regard to Supplies and Services and Income.

Supplies & Services

BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	PROJECTED OUTTURN 2021/22	VARIATION
Equipment, Furniture & Materials	985,299	828,599	(156,700)
Clothing, Uniform and Laundry	227,066	225,166	(1,900)
Office Expenses	91,258	61,751	(29,507)
Services	757,480	749,440	(8,040)
ICT & Network Expenses	1,999,625	1,942,724	(56,901)
Other Miscellaneous	46,460	54,680	8,220
Stronger Safer Community Fund	337,176	315,975	(21,201)
	0	590,368	590,368
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	4,444,364	4,768,703	324,339

The above table is a snapshot from Appendix A of the Quarter 2 Financial Performance Report relating to Supplies & Services. For each of the categories further details of the main under or over spends are provided:

- **Equipment, Furniture & Materials**
 - Hydrants – there is an underspend of £50,000 due to most of the repairs this financial year having related to major repairs the cost of which is met by Yorkshire Water. SYFR only cover the cost of minor repairs.
 - Furniture & Fittings – there is a potential underspend of £53,500 in this area, however some of this will offset the overspend of £24,000 of one-off equipment replacements necessary by Technical Services due to unexpected wear and tear ahead of the planned replacement.
 - Deaf Smoke Alarms and Heat Alarms – there is an underspend of £70,000 due to less home visits than expected as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic.

- **Clothing, Uniform and Laundry**
 - The slight underspend in this area is a result of the service being in a period of transition whereby the managed service Bristol Uniform Contract ended and the start of the new separate Laundry Contract (with Elis), aligned to the introduction of the new Structural firefighters kit.

- Office Expenses
 - Office Expenses such as photocopier charges, printing and stationary and office equipment are again low this year as a result of the continued pandemic, with a potential forecast underspend of £29,507. With hybrid agile working likely to become the new working norm, it is expected that this budget will be reviewed for 2022/23.
- Services
 - There is an underspend on the Property Services collaboration costs of £70,000 as a result of the de-coupling with SYP and the current ongoing restructure of the team. This has been reported as part of the Workforce Investment and Efficiencies Plan recently approved by the FRA. These efficiencies will be released as a budget saving in 2022/23.
 - There is an overspend on the joint Fleet collaboration costs of £39,500, however this is offset by underspends on support staff salaries, where the budget for some staff was originally set.
 - Property Services, aligned to the decoupling of the estate with SYP, decided to undertake full condition and fire risk assessment to help baseline future capital investment plans. Normally this would be done annually over a 5 year period. This is likely to result in a £20,000 overspend on professional services.
- ICT & Network
 - The carry forward budget for telephony upgrades to support agile working is fully committed. However, the annual budget allocation has a potential underspend of £78,000, some of which is due to the Service moving to Virtual Server technology. This budget will be reviewed as part of setting the 2022/23 budget.
 - Radio Airwave expenditure has a potential underspend of £30,385 and will be reviewed for 22/23 subject to knowing the final annual cost from Government.
 - IT hardware and software is forecast to have a net overspend of £83,000 mainly due to the service fast tracking the move towards agile working alongside the introduction of virtual service technologies that have helped partially offset this cost pressure.
 - The Financial Systems upgrade has a potential underspend of £28,000 due to a delay in implementation as a result of staff capacity and timing of the elements involved. A request to carry forward this amount will be made at the financial year end.
- Expenses
 - There is a slight overspend on expenditure on food at fires, however this will be offset at quarter 3 by the adjustment of the Fire Safety Volunteers forecast as a result of the continued pandemic.
- Other Miscellaneous
 - Expenditure in this area relates to grants, subsistence, hospitality, and subscriptions. The potential underspend of £21,201 relates to budgets that have been released, as in-year savings, as a result of the pandemic.

- Stronger Safer Community Fund
 - The forecast spend of £590,368 is not budgeted for as this spend is completely offset by a draw down from the SSCR reserve each year. The effect on the service's operating budget is net nil.

Income

BUDGET	CURRENT BUDGET	PROJECTED OUTTURN 2021/22	VARIATION
Government Grants	(253,560)	(443,672)	(190,112)
Customer & Client Receipts	(705,132)	(685,103)	20,029
Interest Receivable	(50,000)	(20,000)	30,000
TOTAL INCOME	(1,008,692)	(1,148,775)	(140,083)

As with Supplies & Services, the above table shows the snapshot relating to income. Below are the main factors for the over achievement of income currently being reported:

- Government Grants
 - The grants reported in this area are Firelink (National Resilience), New Burdens (Radio Comms), Protection and ESMCP (Emergency Services Network). Currently the Firelink grant is £33,346 above the amount expected when the budget was set and an additional £156,242 has been received in relation to the Protection grant funding to support Business Fire Safety.
- Customer & Client Receipts
 - Income relates fees and charges, other non-government grant income, sales and income from rents. There is an underachievement of £27,320 in relation to the historical budgeted amount, which will not be achieved as a result of the pandemic. This will be reviewed for 22/23.
- Interest Receivable
 - There is a potential £30,000 underachievement from income relating to investments due to the level of funding available and low interest rates.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

9 DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J Mounsey (Chair)
Councillor G Weatherall (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: F Belbin, S Clement-Jones, D Fisher, M Havard,
D Nevett, C Rosling-Josephs, A Sangar, M Stowe and N Wright

Trade Unions: N Doolan-Hamer (Unison) and D Patterson (UNITE)

Investment Advisors: A Devitt and L Robb

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), G Graham (Director), G Kirk (Monitoring Officer), M McCarthy (Deputy Clerk), G Richards (Senior Democratic Services Officer), S Smith (Head of Investments) and G Taberner (Head of Finance and Corporate Services)

R Elwell and S Al-Nagar (Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Ltd)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Cox and G Warwick

1 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed Cllr F Belbin to her first Authority meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

G Graham informed members that the Authority had won the Pensions for Purpose Impact Investing Adopter Award 2021. The award recognised the Authority's ambitions to achieve positive benefits with its investments as well as the leadership it had shown on key issues in this area.

Members were informed that, following the latest government announcement, a very small number of staff would be working in the office on essential tasks whilst the others would be working at home until further notice.

The next meeting of the Authority would be an in-person meeting in January unless the regulations changed.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

The Director informed members that there was one urgent item which would be taken in the private part of the meeting.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS.

RESOLVED – That the urgent item, ‘Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules – Data Centre Connectivity’ would 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 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2021 be agreed as a true record.

8 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

A report was considered which gave details of a change to the membership of the Authority and the appointment of the Vice-Chair following the resignation of Cllr Alan Law.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Note the change to the membership of the Authority.
- ii) Approve the appointment of Cllr Garry Weatherall as Vice-Chair of the Authority for the remainder on the Municipal Year.

9 PROGRAMME OF AUTHORITY MEETINGS 2022/23

A report was submitted that proposed a schedule of Authority meetings, including seminars, for 2022/23. It was noted that conferences and further training opportunities would be offered as they became available.

RESOLVED – That the proposed schedule of meetings at Appendix A is approved.

10 Q2 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

G Taberner presented the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 2 2021/22.

It was noted that key headlines were:

- Good progress on a range of corporate objectives.
- Fund value at a record high of £10.4bn and a funding level almost 115%.
- Operational budget forecast showed sufficient resources available for key projects in 2021/22.
- Underspends forecast against the budget – particularly staffing budgets due to 14% vacancy rate.
- Further increase in sickness absence levels compared to previous quarter.

Section 3 of the report provided information on the progress being made on delivering the various strategies which formed the corporate planning framework. A table provided updates in respect of developments during the quarter in delivering the programmes of work as well as updates in respect of activity that had taken place to deliver the ICT, HR and Equality strategies.

The report gave details of an increase in sickness absence for the quarter. The increase in long-term sickness absence was due to one continuing absence and three further absences during the quarter. Three of the four employees returned to work in quarter 2 on phased return and the fourth was due to return in quarter 3 therefore it was hoped that sickness absence would show a reduction at the end of quarter 3.

Members noted the quarter 2 financial performance and forecast outturn. The forecast underspend for the year was £195k at quarter 2; the majority of this related to employee costs. Detailed variances against budget for each of the service areas were contained within the report.

The Risk Register, was attached at Appendix A and had been reviewed in October resulting in the following changes:

- Removal of risk I3 – *Failure to implement effective arrangements for the oversight of investment management functions being undertaken by Border to Coast Pensions Partnership.*
- Reduction to risk I6 – *Contribution rates for employers are unaffordable due to business interruption.*
- Increase to risk P1 – *Failure to maintain a suitably qualified and experienced workforce which reflects the community which the Authority serves.*

Further details and commentary regarding the risks where scores had not changed was included in the risk register.

In answer to a question from Cllr Sangar regarding the creation of a dedicated project team to clear residual backlog cases, J Bailey explained that the previous project had some success but the subsequent attempt to deal with the backlog as business as usual had not worked.

The new project team would consist of four recently recruited Pensions Officers, with management oversight, and would not impact on business as usual. It was hoped the majority of the backlog would be cleared within 6 months.

With regard to sickness absence, members discussed the importance of support in the areas of mental health and wellbeing, especially during the extended period of at-home working. G Taberner gave details of the various means of support available.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11 APPROVAL OF THE LEVY 2022/23

A report was submitted to gain approval for the Levy for 2022/23 under the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992.

It was noted that the 2022/23 Levy had been calculated as £350,000, a reduction of £11,000 compared to the 2021/22 Levy.

The estimated apportionment of the 2022/21 Levy, based on the 2021/22 Council Tax Base shares was detailed within the report. It was noted that the actual apportionment would be re-calculated to reflect the approved 2022/23 Council Tax Base figures for each district as soon as the information was available.

RESOLVED – That Members approve a total Levy of £350,000 for 2022/23 in accordance with The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be allocated to the District Councils in proportion to their approved Council Tax base amounts for 2022/23.

12 ADVISORS COMMENTARY

A Devitt provided a market commentary on recent events.

Highlights included:

- Low interest rates and high inflation had combined to create expectations that the Bank of England would increase interest rates at their November meeting. Sterling fell as UK interest rates were maintained at 0.1%
- Supply chain issues and labour shortages continued to plague manufacturing and high energy prices remained a strain on input costs.
- As Covid's impact continued to muddy the post-Brexit economy, an ongoing fishing row and labour shortages were reminders of the complex implications of Brexit which was still "work in progress".
- The regulatory influence in China had continued to affect Chinese stocks.
- COP26 had attracted a huge amount of media attention as had the countries who had not attended (China, India and Russia) which served as a reminder of the inherent conflict in many of the conference's goals – especially with developing economies still committed to coal-fired production.

A Devitt commented that last quarter a climate of VULCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity) was forecast. The conflict at the centre of COP26 illustrated why this complexity and nuance was important to understand. Inequality and the disparity of progress between developed and developing countries was at the heart of the conflict and had been seen to arrest the recovery from Covid as well as the race to address climate change. Bridging that gap would be essential in the year ahead. Other things to watch in the coming months were the supply chain, corporate earnings and next steps and the road from Glasgow.

The Chair thanked A Devitt for an informative and comprehensive update.

13 INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE - QUARTERLY REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

S Smith presented the quarterly Investment Performance report to 30th September 2021.

It was noted that the value of the Fund at the end of September 2021 was £10.4bn. At the end of November this had risen to £10.65bn compared to £9.84bn at the end of March 2021.

With regard to asset allocation, changes had been minimal compared to previous quarters.

As equity markets continued to improve the opportunity was taken to take profit. £15.5m was raised from legacy holdings and these proceeds were used to fund the drawdowns into the alternative funds.

£25m of legacy index-linked gilts was sold to maintain a neutral weighting to the category and £89m was invested into the alternative funds with £79m of this invested to infrastructure funds.

The current Fund allocation was detailed in the report and was shown against the strategic target.

It was noted that two categories were outside their tactical ranges, private equity and infrastructure.

There had been significant uplift in valuations from private equity holdings which led to being over the higher allocation. It was expected that some realisations would be completed over the next two quarters which would bring the allocation down.

As reported last quarter, the change in benchmark weighting for infrastructure funds had meant that the Fund was below the lower limit for this asset class. There had been significant drawdowns during the last quarter and further anticipated drawdowns should rectify the position during the financial year.

Members noted that for the quarter to the end of September, the Fund returned 2.3% against the expected benchmark return of 1.1% and for the year to date the Fund had now returned 6.4% against an expected return of 5.5%.

S Smith gave an update on the performance of Border to Coast funds. Charts within the report showed quarterly returns and also the longer-term position of each of the funds. It was noted that four of the five funds had outperformed their benchmark and matched the target return.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

14 RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE

Members considered the Responsible Investment update for Quarter 2.

Highlights over the quarter included:

- The casting of more than 1,000 votes at 89 different company meetings.
- A continued high level of engagement activity with more emphasis on climate issues and a continuing focus on social issues.
- The closing out of some of Robeco's engagement themes in line with their plan with some successes noted.
- Equity portfolios continued to demonstrate strong ESG performance relative to benchmark.
- The availability of new metrics for the commercial property portfolio.

- Some improvement in the forecast progress towards Net Zero of the equity portfolios following Border to Coast's commitment to Net Zero. It was noted that this was not sufficient to hit 2030.
- A continuing high level of collaborative and policy development activity.

With regard to the progress towards Net Zero, Cllr Sangar asked about the availability of data to support this.

There was a detailed discussion about the availability and accuracy of data and the progress of both SYPA and Border to Coast to obtaining the necessary data to make informed decisions.

R Elwell commented that this was a challenge for the entire industry and significant strides would need to be made in the next two years to ensure a consistent approach for the provision of data.

G Graham commented that SYPA may need to reconsider its Strategic Asset Allocation in the context of achieving Net Zero whilst ensuring returns were sufficient to pay pensions that were due.

Members also discussed the government's intention to legislate in relation to the taking of "foreign policy stances" in the context of LGPS investment. It was felt that this would be a difficult area and further advice and clarification would be needed from the Scheme Advisory Board and LAPFF.

RESOLVED – That Members note the activity undertaken during the quarter.

15 ANNUAL REVIEW OF BORDER TO COASTS RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICIES

A report was submitted to secure the Authority's endorsement for the various Border to Coast Responsible Investment policies following their annual review.

Members were reminded that Border to Coast conducts a review of its Responsible Investment Policy and Voting Guidelines so that they can be updated before the following voting season. In addition the Company had also developed, for the first time, a stand-alone Climate Change Policy. The three documents were attached as appendices to the report.

It was noted that the Responsible Investment Policy had been updated to reflect the creation of the separate Climate Change Policy and included two specific exclusions from the investment universe. These exclusions were pure coal and tar sands companies and were very common exclusions across the industry and would not result in any specific sales of stocks in the current equity portfolios. In all other aspects the substance of the policy remained the same but the policy did make clearer the process to be followed where a process of engagement had not achieved its aims. The policy also identified, following discussions with Partner Funds, the focus areas for engagement over the next three years which were detailed within the report.

The main changes to the Voting Guidelines were set out in the report and would all support the Authority's general position and reflect an ongoing raising of expectations with clear consequences in terms of the way in which votes were cast.

The Climate Change Policy was an entirely new document and had been developed through a process which had examined wider international best practice and was utilising similar tools to those adopted by SYPA such as the IIGCC framework in order to create an action plan as measure progress. The key statement within the policy was a commitment to Net Zero by 2050 or sooner.

With regard to responsible investment training, including climate change and maintaining and increasing knowledge and understanding of climate changes risks, Members requested that this was added to their training programme for the following year.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Endorse the Border to Coast Responsible Investment Policy, the Corporate Governance and Voting Guidelines Policy and the Climate Change Policy, attached at Appendices A-C.
- ii) Welcome Border to Coast's adoption of a Climate Change policy and its adoption of a Net Zero commitment.
- iii) Request that climate change training be added to the training programme.

16 GUARANTEED MINIMUM PENSION RECONCILIATION AND RECTIFICATION

J Bailey presented a report which sought to secure approval for policies to be followed in implementing the rectification of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) in payment following completion of the reconciliation exercise.

Members were reminded of the background to the requirement for individuals to receive a GMP and the necessity to reconcile records held by HMRC with those held by pension funds to ensure that individuals were receiving the correct GMP benefit and then address anomalies.

SYPA had commissioned ITM to undertake this work and they had now reached a stage where they were in a position to make amendments to both benefits in payment and the benefit entitlements of members who had yet to retire.

The proposed policies were set out within the report and reflected practice adopted by other administering authorities and supported by the LGA.

To ensure appropriate transparency, once ITM had completed the work of implementing the rectification exercise, the Authority would be asked to approve the write-off of the amounts not to be recovered from scheme members who had previously been overpaid as a single block amount.

The intention was to complete the rectification exercise by July 2022.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the position that had been reached in the GMP reconciliation exercise as set out in the report.

- ii) Approve the implementation of the policies outlined in paragraph 5.5 in relation to the rectification of GMPS already in payment.

17 PROCUREMENT OF ACTUARIAL SERVICES

A report was submitted which formally reported on the conclusion of the procurement process for actuarial services.

Members were reminded that at its meeting on 30th September 2020 the Authority agreed to undertake a procurement process for actuarial services using the new national framework agreement covering those services. The procurement was driven by a desire to seek opportunities to improve the service provided to employers through making greater use of technology and a need to better control costs both to the Fund and, for some pieces of work, the employers.

An invitation to further competition was issued to the four qualifying actuarial firms in September 2021 with three bids being received by 11th October. The bids were evaluated and interviews held with the three bidding firms before a decision was made.

The successful provider was Hymans Robertson LLP who had been appointed for an initial period of five years (with an option to extend this period).

The procurement process had now concluded and the process of transition from the incumbent to the new provider had begun. The process had reinforced the understanding that the market had moved on in terms of the nature of service provision and the cost of the service. The delivery of benefits would be based on the improvements in technology and in increased levels of self-servicing.

RESOLVED –Members note the outcome of the procurement process for actuarial services.

18 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

A report was submitted to enable the Authority to consider recommendations made by the Audit Committee.

Members were informed that at its last meeting in October the Audit Committee considered two items on which it made recommendations to the Authority.

The first item was the process for procuring future external audit services, details which were set out at Appendix A to the report. The Audit Committee recommended that the Authority agree to participate in the national arrangements provided through Public Sector Appointments Ltd.

The second item was the annual report of Deloitte LLP, the Authority's external auditor (at Appendix B to the report). While there was no requirements for this to be considered by the Authority, it was considered good practice in terms of transparency and the wider governance responsibilities of all members.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee that the Authority participate in the national audit procurement arrangements for the next procurement cycle as set out in Appendix A.
- ii) Receive the Annual Report of the External Auditor as set out in Appendix B and consider the comments of the Audit Committee set out in the body of 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.

19 WAIVER OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES - DATA CENTRE CONNECTIVITY

A report was submitted to seek approval for a waiver of Contract Procedure Rules in order to address the urgent need to provide internet connectivity to Oakwell House as a result of the failure of the previous contractor to deliver.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Authorise the Director to take action to extricate the Authority's current contractual arrangements due to failure to deliver.
- ii) Approve waiver of Contract Procedure Rules to allow the direct award of the Authority's contract for data centre connectivity to the company named within the report, should the ending of the arrangement with the current provider be possible and cost effective.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

LOCAL PENSION BOARD

14 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT: G Warwick (GMB) (Chair)

Councillor M Chaplin (Sheffield City Council), R Fennessy (South Yorkshire Police), D Gawthorpe (Unite), A Gregory (Scheme Member Representative) and D Webster (Scheme Member Representative)

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), G Graham (Director) and G Richards (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

C Scott (Independent Advisor to the Board)

Apologies for absence were received from N Doolan-Hamer and N Gregory

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That item 19 ‘Annual Review of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership’ and item 20 ‘Officer Arrangements and the Establishment of a Governance Function’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

C Scott, the Board’s Independent Advisor, declared an interest in item 19, ‘Annual Review of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership’, as she was an advisor to Cumbria Pension Fund which was a shareholder and client of Border to Coast.

6 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2021 AND ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

G Graham informed the Board that the vacancy on the Board for a local authority councillor had still not been filled.

With regard to the suggestion that the terms of office for local council appointments to the Board be extended to three years, it was noted that the Leaders meeting scheduled for September had been cancelled so the matter could not be addressed. It was believed that the meeting would now be held in January 2022.

R Fennessy was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board and duly accepted.

It was noted that the revisions to the Constitution made at the Board's last meeting had been approved by the Authority.

G Graham informed the Board that with regard to the recent election of Scheme Member representation on the Border to Coast Joint Committee, Nicholas Wirz had been reappointed until 2024 and Deidre Burnet until 2023.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021 be agreed as a true record.

7 REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Board considered the updated Corporate Risk Register.

It was noted that the scores for two risks had been reduced at the last review. Details were contained within the report.

It was noted that the highest risk was around the impact of climate change on the Fund's investment assets and liabilities.

The Director explained what was being done to decarbonise portfolios, the progress against the Action Plan and the work being done to get a clearer idea of how far the whole portfolio had to go to meet the target. It was noted that progress on emissions had already been made in terms of the equity portfolio but also acknowledged that the net zero goal was extremely ambitious.

It was clear that climate change was seen as an existential threat in the investment world and the government and regulators were getting involved. It was expected that draft regulations on climate change reporting for the Local Government Pension Scheme would be released just before COP26 in November.

The Board thought it would be beneficial if time could be set aside for training/information sessions to ensure that they fully understood the situation and their role in monitoring it.

G Graham replied that the next member seminar on the 28th October would be on understanding impact and data issues and limitations, which related both to climate change and other issues, all Board members had been invited to attend. Border to Coast would also be releasing video content following the recent adoption of their Climate Change policy. If the Board felt that they needed more training or information, this could be arranged.

In answer to a question from Cllr Chaplin, G Graham commented that all Border to Coast Partner Funds had recognised climate issues but what they were doing to address it varied and they were all at different stages of the decision making process.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Note the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register.
- ii) Note that they would be supplied with regular updates on the Action Plan on Climate Risk.
- iii) Note that training/information sessions, including on the risks associated with climate change and the potential trade-off in investment returns, would be held as and when necessary and any external opportunities be considered.

8 REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

A report was submitted to provide the Board with an opportunity to review the content of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Members were reminded that at the Board's previous meeting, the timing of the completion of the audit process and the availability of some of the content of the Annual Report, meant that it had not been possible for it to be brought forward for pre-publication review.

The audit process had now been completed and the report, which had been sent to members electronically due to its size, had now been published.

G Graham informed the Board that only 9% of local authorities and two of Border to Coast's Partner Funds had completed their audits on time.

Cllr Chaplin praised officers for their efforts in ensuring the audit was completed on time.

It was acknowledged that the report was a very large document that covered all aspects of the operation of the Authority.

C Scott commented that the Board should concentrate on risks and other key issues such as the actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

G Graham commented that the Board needed to be assured that the Authority was effectively managing its responsibilities but warned against duplicating the work of the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Note the report.
- ii) Congratulate officers for their efforts in ensuring the accounts and audit were completed on time.

9 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITY

The Board considered a report which provided an update on decisions taken by the Authority at its June and September meetings.

Members noted that the Annual meeting had dealt with a range of constitutional formalities including membership of the Authority and also had approved the Member Learning and Development Strategy.

Clare Scott asked how the new members were settling in and getting up to speed.

G Graham replied that it was varied, some had previous experience of the Authority whilst others had a personal level of understanding. The Learning and Development Strategy required new members to complete an induction before their first meeting. Due to the current circumstances this had been done by circulating a video to the new members. This did not provide a way of ongoing monitoring other than self-reporting. Pleasingly, the new members were challenging and participating in discussions.

There was a need for Authority and Board members to inform officers of any training/conferences attended so their training records could be kept up to date. This in turn would provide assurance to the Board that the Learning and Development was being applied. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Board to see the training records on a regular basis to provide some assurance.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Note the report.
- ii) Agree that training records of the Authority and Board members should be reported to the Board on a regular basis to demonstrate compliance with the Learning and Development Strategy.

10 ACTION PLAN FROM THE BOARD'S EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

The Board discussed the Action Plan from the Board's Effectiveness Review.

As previously mentioned the proposal to increase the term of office of the local authority members was still outstanding.

Members discussed the merits of face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings.

There was a general consensus for a preference for face-to-face meetings whilst acknowledging there could be a need for a virtual meeting in the future.

G Graham commented that the facilities would be better following the move to Oakwell House. There would be the technology to hold hybrid meetings and all meetings could be webcast or recorded.

It was noted that the knowledge and skills assessment was still outstanding. Following this it was the intention to produce individual training plans.

C Scott expressed concern that there was a potential for members to become over-reliant on her briefings and encouraged members to read all the papers.

The proposed Action Record to be produced after each meeting was still outstanding. Extra planned governance resource would assist with this.

With regard to communications between the Board and the Authority, it was noted that Garry had not met formally with the Chair of the Authority as yet. It was thought that this would not be difficult to arrange. Members would be encouraged to attend each other's meetings – this would be easier after the move to Oakwell House when more facilities were available.

G Warwick commented that he felt internal training sessions were very valuable.

G Graham reminded the Board that various seminars were held throughout the year. There would be a seminar in November around actuarial valuations and a date had been reserved in March for a LPB specific session. There was also a brief training session before each meeting of the Audit Committee.

J Bailey commented that there was also value in attending external sessions where members could meet members from other Boards.

11 QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

J Bailey presented the Quarterly Administration update for the period 1st July 2021 to 30th September 2021.

Staffing

A table contained within the report summarised the joiners and leavers – there had been limited movement during the period as most vacant posts had been filled.

Sickness absence had increased significantly during the quarter, details were contained within the report.

Casework Performance

Overall case volumes completed in the Quarter remained comparable with previous period but there had been a reduction in the rate of case completion rates within KPI measures. This was due to two main factors:

- The increased level of sickness absence was largely among senior Pensions Officers who were responsible for much of the priority work.
- Senior officers were also involved in fixing a number of data errors identified during the production of the Annual Benefit Statements.

Statutory Disclosure Reporting

The Board had previously asked for additional information about reporting performance against statutory disclosure requirements. Reporting had been developed in this area and Appendix A showed the Quarter 2 report for the areas covered under the various disclosure regulations.

Employer Performance

The vast majority of employers had continued to provide monthly returns.

Individual Query Employer Reporting

Appendix B showed the performance in recent quarters for the employers or payroll providers with the highest volume of queries, as requested by the Board.

Members noted that the trend analysis indicated an increase in the volumes of outstanding queries for Rotherham and Doncaster Councils (both administered by Rotherham payroll services). There had also been a reduction in responsiveness from Rotherham payroll as a result of resourcing pressures. Positive engagements had continued with senior HR representatives and further meetings had been planned.

Two payroll providers (Capita and EPM) now appeared on the list of employers/providers with high volumes of queries outstanding. Meetings with Capita had discussed an improvement plan and progress would be monitored.

It was noted that Sheffield CC had made very positive progress in reducing the numbers of outstanding queries.

In answer to a question from D Webster, J Bailey confirmed that the software issues in relation to the monthly data files from Rotherham MBC had been resolved.

C Scott queried whether any issues had been considered serious enough to report to the Regulator.

J Bailey replied that the monthly data issues had been resolved and the reallocation of resources was expected to resolve the individual queries problem

over time but this would be actively monitored. If there was no improvement there were a number of potential escalation routes – including use of the Admin Strategy and if necessary a report to the Regulator.

It was noted that the direct debit process continued to be successful.

Customer satisfaction in all areas measured remained high.

Annual Benefit Statements

The Statutory Disclosure report at Appendix A confirmed that 99.7% of statements to active members and 100% of statements to deferred members had been issued to members by the 31st August deadline.

A number of miscellaneous data issues had been identified that needed to be resolved to ensure accurate statements could be issued. These were all corrected during the production process but did cause a short term drain on resources which impacted on the overall case performance for the quarter. A lessons learned exercise was taking place to understand the cause of the data issues.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12 REVIEW OF BREACHES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

A report was submitted which update members on the latest available record of reported breaches and provided details of complaints and appeals for the period form 1st July 2021 to 30th September 2021.

The reporting of breaches had been expanded at the request of members to include all the items in the latest breach report which was attached at Appendix A. Quarter 2 had seen just one individual data breach.

There had been three cyber security incidents during the period all of which related to phishing emails. The staff involved had recognised that the emails were not legitimate and immediately reported the incidents.

The total number of complaints received in the Quarter was five. Details were contained in Appendix B.

During the reporting period just one Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure appeal was determined. Details were contained within the report.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Note the breaches summary.
- ii) Note the outcomes of complaints received.

13 FUNCTIONALITY OF PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE (PAS)

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the expected improvements to the pensions administration software system (PAS) from February 2022.

Members were reminded that after a full procurement exercise conducted through the National LGPS Framework, the new contract for the PAS was awarded to the incumbent provider CIVICA.

The new Specification of Requirements contained several enhancements and improved functionality. The Specification was broken up into a series of categories that were listed in the first column of Appendix A. The Appendix also summarised the areas where SYPA believed there was a current shortfall based on experience of using the system.

Once agreement had been reached with CIVICA on the assessment of the functionality and service gaps it was expected that they would produce an implementation/assurance plan that would set out their proposals for breaching the gaps prior to the commencement of the new contract in February 2022.

It was noted that SYPA would have the option to bring any new PAS contract to a premature end without penalty if it was felt that CIVICA was not delivering the PAS that was agreed.

In answer to questions from members, J Bailey stated that he was confident that issues around aggregations could be solved before February and he expected improvements in the more significant areas. Some of the longer-standing issues that only affected small numbers of cases might take longer to resolve.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Note the expected improvements in the PAS from February 2022 and the monitoring arrangements out in place.
- ii) Request that a progress report be brought to the next meeting of the Board in January.

14 LOCAL PENSION BOARD BUDGET 2022/23

A report was considered which set out the proposed Local Pension Board Budget for 2022/23.

It was noted that the current year budget for the Board was expected to be underspent by £4,900 which comprised a forecast underspend on training of £3,920 and the remainder from a smaller number of underspends in relation to costs for room hire, catering and travel which reflected the continued impact from the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

The budget proposed for 2022/23 was £13,400, a small reduction on the budget for the previous year.

As mentioned previously, the training budget had been significantly underspent and members were encouraged to take up training opportunities.

A table within the report set out the current forecast budget outturn for 2021/22 and the proposed budget for 2022/23.

It was confirmed that additional resources could be made available for training if required.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- i) Receive the budget proposals for 2022/23 totalling £13,400.
- ii) Recommend the draft budget to the Authority for its approval as part of the Authority's overall budget.

15 FEEDBACK ON TRAINING ATTENDED

Members thought that the Border to Coast training had been worthwhile. It was noted that a link to the videos would be available shortly. The Board were reminded that they had committed to complete the Hymans Robertson Online Learning Academy by Christmas.

16 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY

RESOLVED – That recommendations to the Authority would in future be contained in resolutions to agenda items and this item would be removed from the work plan.

17 WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered its Work Programme.

Proposed amendments were items on:

- Compliance with the Pensions Regulators Code of Practice.
- Implementation of the McCloud judgement (as required)
- Election of Vice-Chair (annually).

R Fennessy suggested that progress on the Pensions Dashboard should be included.

J Bailey replied that he would be happy to provide an update when more information was available and include in the Administration report. A training session may also be appropriate.

RESOLVED – That the Board approve the amendments to their Work Programme.

18 UPDATE ON SYPA OFFICE MOVE

G Graham gave an update on the office move to Oakwell House.

It was noted that the building project was on target and should be completed by 11th November.

A walk-round video of the new premises had been shared with staff.

Supply chain issues were emerging and there were delays to deliveries of office furniture and IT equipment, although these were being managed without impacting the ability to vacate the existing office on time.

At present the project was in line with the budget.

A tender for the Facilities Management contract had gone out this week.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

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 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BORDER TO COAST PENSIONS PARTNERSHIP

A report was submitted to allow the Board to review the arrangements in place for oversight of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership by the Authority.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

20 STATUTORY OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNANCE FUNCTION

The Board considered a report which allowed them to consider the changes proposed in the Authority's statutory officer and associated arrangements.

RESOLVED – That the Board support the changes suggested within the report.

CHAIR



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

13 DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor R Haleem (Rotherham MBC) (Chair)
Councillor A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC) (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: R Davison (Sheffield City Council), S Knowles (Doncaster MBC), B Lodge (Sheffield City Council), R Milsom (Sheffield City Council) and C Pickering (Barnsley MBC)
Independent Co-opted Members: W Carratt and Professor A James
M McCarthy, J Field, L Noble and A Shirt (Barnsley MBC)
In attendance remotely:
Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)
M Buttery, S Abbott, S Parkin, F Topliss and K Wright (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Baum-Dixon (Rotherham MBC), Councillor P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council) and Councillor C Ransome (Doncaster MBC)

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that today's Panel meeting would be webcast live to the public.

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.

7B TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Panel.

8 MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Councillor Davison asked that page 5 (paragraph 5) of the minutes be amended to read: Councillor Davison asked how the PCC and Force invested in reserves.

Councillor Milsom asked that the spelling of her surname be corrected in the minutes at page 15 (paragraph 7).

The Panel discussed and noted progress in respect of agreed actions captured on the Action Log set out in Appendix A to the minutes.

The Panel noted that the following actions were all currently 'live' actions and requested that they be retained on the Panel's Action Log for further updates:

Action No	Meeting Date	Action / Resolution
Action 11	03.02.21	Services for Victims of Crime: Progress Update.
Action 13	19.07.21	IEP's work on Stop and Search.
Action 9 (v)	20.09.21	To undertake further discussions with the Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) and Chief Constable to try and find an acceptable way forward in relation to the publication of IEP agendas and minutes to the OPCC website.
Action 11 (v)	20.09.21	Information to be provided to Members setting out details of the data around Violence against Women and Girls which is provided to the Commissioner and also data which is provided to him in his role as Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, together with an explanation of their differences.
Action 13 (i), (ii)	20.09.21	Additional Independent Member.
Action 16 (iii)	20.09.21	Review of the PAB text contained on the OPCC website.

The Panel agreed that the following actions be marked as ‘discharged’ on the Panel’s Action Log:

Action No	Meeting Date	Action / Resolution
Action 8	19.04.21	Number of Wildlife Crimes reported to the Force and individuals prosecuted.
Action 12 (ii)	19.04.21	Timescale for the delivery on the IEP’s work in relation to priorities surrounding disproportionality and inclusion.
Action 12 (iii)	19.04.21	To provide a standalone report to a future Panel meeting on the IEP’s work in relation to priorities surrounding disproportionality and inclusion.
Action 10 (i)	07.06.21	Countywide Strategy on Violence towards Women and Girls – PCC update report.
Action 10 (ii)	07.06.21	The PCC had agreed to explore in further detail the request which had been made by the Home Office in relation to recording crimes motivated by sex or gender on an experimental basis.
Action 11 (ii)	19.07.21	Agenda and minutes of the IEP had not been published on the OPCC website.
Action 9 (iv)	20.09.21	Data kept by the Force in relation to rural crimes and wildlife crimes.
Action 11 (ii)	20.09.21	Analysis to identify the number of Domestic Violence Protection Orders which had been issued by the Force.
Action 11 (iii)	20.09.21	Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to look to respond to Mr Carratt’s request to include details of other safeguarding responsibilities in a future report.
Action 11 (iv)	20.09.21	Procurement data information would be circulated to Members after today’s meeting by K Wright.
Action 11 (v)	20.09.21	Information to be provided to Members setting out details of the data around Violence against Women and Girls.
Action 11 (vi)	20.09.21	Analysis of CSE data on a local district level to be provided to the Performance Sub-Group.
Action 12 (iii)	20.09.21	Terms of reference and work programmes for the Joint Independent Audit Committee and Independent Ethics Panel to be provided to Panel Members.
Action 13 (i)	20.09.21	Additional Independent Member.

Professor James referred to Action 11 (ii) of 19 July 2021 (agendas and minutes of the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) had not been published on the OPCC website). Noting that more detailed IEP assurance reports would replace the exception reports presented at Public Accountability Board (PAB) meetings, he raised concerns that Panel Members would not get the opportunity to raise questions and scrutinise the Commissioner around the work of the IEP.

In response, the Commissioner said that Members of the Panel received the agendas and reports presented at the Public Accountability Board meetings. If Members had any questions, then essentially, they could be raised at Panel meetings.

Professor James referred to Action 11 (vi) of 20.09.21 (Analysis of CSE data on a local district level to be provided to the Performance Sub-Group). He felt that it would be very helpful to have other data (for example, protecting vulnerable people) to be presented to the Panel on a local district level. He considered that this would allow the Panel to fully scrutinise and compare the data. Furthermore, he believed that this would assist the Panel in being able to scrutinise how effective the Commissioner is in terms of addressing performance around his priorities.

The Commissioner reminded Members that it was the Panel's role to scrutinise him and not the Force. The Commissioner provided the Panel with assurances that he received countywide reports from the Force and District Commanders in relation to the ongoing work to tackle the priorities set out in his Police and Crime Panel.

RESOLVED –

- i) That subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 20 September 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) Noted that the Panel's Action Log would be updated following discussion at today's meeting.

9 QUARTER 2 - CONSOLIDATED BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

The Commissioner introduced a report which presented the consolidated financial position on the current budget and expenditure managed by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police force and budgets managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The Commissioner reported that the Chancellor had announced a three year spending review on 27 October 2021, and he was awaiting the provisional settlement which was due to be announced before the Christmas parliamentary recess (expected on 16 December 2021). The final settlement was due four weeks after that.

In relation to next year's budget, the Commissioner said that he needed to take into account pressures around general inflation, significant increases in energy costs, police officer salaries now being open to a period of negotiation, increases in national insurance contributions and pension related issues. In addition, South Yorkshire also had legacy issues and CSE civil claims to factor into the budget.

A fundamental review of the funding formula had recently been announced, which would impact on the amount of grant South Yorkshire receives, which could make the medium to longer term planning difficult. The Commissioner had been invited to be a member of a Senior Sector Group, and would therefore be in a position of influence.

Councillor Davison queried how inflation would affect the police budget and if this would affect the number of additional officers the Force would be able to recruit.

Furthermore, he asked if the Force had details of its expenditure with regards to pension schemes.

The Commissioner replied that, with regards to inflation, the Force would need to take account of increased energy and fuel costs across its entire estate. In relation to recruitment, the Government had made it very clear that they did not wish PCC's to reduce officer numbers. In addition, the Government had pledged to continue to recruit 20,000 additional officers in England and Wales by 2023.

In relation to pensions, S Abbott said that a triennial review of each pension scheme was undertaken in order to understand what would need to be funded over a three year period. It was confirmed that the Police Officer Pension Scheme was an unfunded scheme with employer contributions received from the revenue account. The Police Staff Pension Scheme was a funded scheme administered by South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. Nationally, news was awaited with regards to the McCloud and Sargeant pensions ruling.

Referring to the report on today's agenda, S Abbott reported that the PCC had approved a revenue budget of £296.0m for 2021/22. The PCC had also approved a capital programme of £17.799m for 2021/21, anticipating that £17.412m borrowing would need to be undertaken during the year to fund the programme. The programme was increased to £19.6m in July 2021 to take account of slippage, re-phasing and adjustments.

Based on current assumptions, the forecast outturn position for the revenue budget was an underspend of £421k as at 30 September 2021.

As at 30 September 2021, the projected year end outturn position was a £42k underspend on the Chief Constable's budget, net of external funding. Full details were outlined in the Chief Constable's budget monitoring paper, attached at Appendix A to the report.

Councillor Milsom asked if the Panel could receive a breakdown of the projected outturn figures for police pay and overtime incurred during the last five years. Furthermore, she asked the Commissioner to provide comment in relation to what he expected would happen to the police officer pay and overtime budget when the Force had achieved its uplift in officer numbers.

The Commissioner acknowledged the request. He added that, due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the widespread impact of flooding across South Yorkshire back in 2019, it was difficult to compare one year to previous years due to abstractions from the Force due to a variety of reasons. Once the Force had achieved its officer uplift, he anticipated that overtime would reduce and not increase.

Councillor Lodge noted that there had been underspends in the call resolution unit at Atlas Court Communications of £0.21m and team leaders' posts of £0.16m. He asked if this was in relation to the 101 call handling service.

The Commissioner said that, in relation to the 101 call handling service, it was noted that staff had been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Call demand had

remained high on the 101 call service, despite asking people to use the call back service, online reporting and webchat service.

The Panel noted that ARV and 'Grip' funding confirmed after budget setting had created Police Officer pay underspends, which had enabled the recruitment of 24 Detective Now Officers.

Councillor Davison asked if information could be provided on the budget for training detectives and information on the quality of detective work.

The Commissioner replied that recruitment for filling detective roles was currently an immense national issue. The Force had been utilising recruitment of detectives via the Police Now National Detective Programme and other entry level programmes. He was assured that the training provided by the Force to new detectives was good.

The Commissioner queried if providing budget figures to Councillor Davison would be beneficial; he agreed to consider the request and look to provide information around the training provided to detectives after today's meeting.

The Panel noted that the PCC and OPCC budget forecast year end position was an underspend of £205k. The main reasons for the underspend and variances from the budget were presented within the report.

The PCC had approved a capital programme of £19.63m in July 2021. Expenditure to date amounted to £7.86m, and was currently projected to spend in full.

As at 31 March 2021, the overall level of revenue reserves available was £64.98m. This included general reserves of £42.2m, earmarked, and insurance reserves of £10.6m and £12.1m respectively. The expected movement in year, based on projections at the end of September 2021, was detailed in a table at paragraph 6 of the report.

Hillsborough, the Stovewood enquiry, and CSE civil claims were currently showing a combined underspend of £0.175m. The underspends would be transferred from the legacy reserve at the end of the financial year.

Paragraph 7 of the report set out a number of risks and uncertainties in the reported financial position.

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 provide, if feasible, the Panel with a breakdown of the outturn figures for police pay and overtime incurred during the last five years.
- iii) Noted that the Commissioner would consider Councillor Davison's request for information around the budget and training provided to detectives.

10 MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021)

The Commissioner presented a report which set out the Quarterly Police and Crime Plan Performance Report for the period July to September 2021 (Quarter 2 2021/22), produced from the 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.

The Commissioner paid tribute to the work of the Force throughout the COVID-19 pandemic which had resulted in an enormous amount of pressure and challenges being placed on them. The Force had responded and managed well during a very difficult time.

Professor James thanked the Commissioner and his staff for including information in the report around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Professor James asked if the Commissioner had any information with regards to the fall in victim satisfaction and if he was aware of any differences between the four districts and levels of satisfaction.

K Wright replied that victim satisfaction varied between quarters and across districts. He added that the main area where victims were least satisfied was around the Force follow up with victims regarding their case. The Force had recognised this as a weakness and were focusing its efforts to address this.

Mr Carratt referred to Protecting Vulnerable People and the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships and recent media articles around child criminal sexual exploitation. He asked if the Commissioner could confirm if funding towards the South Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships had either increased, maintained or reduced since 2014.

Mr Carratt added that the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in quality assuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in local areas was key. He asked if the Commissioner received Section 11 Self Assessments that South Yorkshire Police complete and submit to the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships in line with the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Commissioner replied that funding levels had been maintained and were set in consultation with local authorities and the Force.

M Buttery referred to the recent troubling incidents highlighted by the media. She assured the Panel that specific questions had been raised with the Assistant Chief Constable responsible for safeguarding.

The Panel was informed that the Commissioner had statutory responsibilities in relation to holding the Chief Constable to account with regard to specific functions, of which, safeguarding was one single strand. She had asked for the OPCC's

assurance arrangements to be double checked to ensure that they are robust enough. M Buttery agreed to keep the Panel informed on progress in this area.

In response to a question from Mr Carratt, in relation to the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme, S Parkin confirmed that any person detained in custody who was deemed as vulnerable would be prioritised.

Mr Carratt noted that Remedi had received a potential 205 referrals into the service during the period. He asked why these were potential referrals and not confirmed referrals.

In response, K Wright said he was of the opinion that, referrals would only become live when both parties accepted that they would like Restorative Justice to take place. He agreed to clarify the position with Remedi and provide an update after today's meeting.

Councillor Milsom noted that the number of referrals to the Restorative Justice Service in the period July to September 2020 had been 142, and for the same period in 2021 there had only been 80 referrals. Councillor Milsom asked the Commissioner to comment on his perception of those figures and what they signify in terms of success or otherwise of the Restorative Justice Service.

The Commissioner said that it was very difficult to undertake a comparison year on year at the moment due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and all the implications around this.

K Wright added that he would need to contextualise the data to be able to provide a detailed response.

Councillor Milsom asked if information could also be provided on referrals to the Restorative Justice Service during other quarters of the year. K Wright acknowledged the request.

Councillor Milsom referred to Section 2 of the report 'Tacking Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour'. She asked if the Panel could receive reports setting out information on a district level and month by month. This would enable the Panel to look at trends and comparisons.

M Buttery acknowledged the request and said that discussions would need to take place with the Commissioner and K Wright to consider provision of district level data to the Panel.

Professor James said he was concerned to note that, recorded levels of residential burglary in South Yorkshire had increased during Quarter 2 of 2021/22. He asked why South Yorkshire had higher levels of residential burglary in comparison to other Force areas.

In response, the Commissioner said that, he had also been very concerned for some time about levels of residential burglary in South Yorkshire. He did continue to ask the Force why South Yorkshire had high levels of residential burglary. However, there was no known answer for this, other than, it was historic. The

Commissioner outlined the various initiatives the Force was undertaking to tackle residential burglary.

Councillor Davison asked if there was any evidence to show if Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were effective in tackling residential burglary.

The Commissioner said that he would contact Neighbourhood Watch to ascertain if they have any evidence regarding their effectiveness.

Councillor Milsom asked if SmartWater schemes were perceived to be, or were recorded to be useful in tackling burglary. She also asked if SmartWater schemes were still being rolled out and funded across the region.

The Commissioner replied that SmartWater schemes had been successful, but a key part was advertising that SmartWater was being used in a particular area.

Professor James referred to Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity. He noted that 16% of individuals had not stated their ethnic status during the 12 month period to the end of September 2021. He understood that there was an option for the Force to record their own assessment of a person's ethnicity and asked if this could be undertaken in South Yorkshire.

K Wright confirmed that there was an option for the Force to record their own assessment, but personally, he would not wish the Force to use this option as it was within someone's right not to give their ethnicity.

Councillor Haleem asked if there had been a rise in BAME victims of crime (not necessarily hate crime) over the past period.

Post meeting note - PAG have provided the following information: based on Investigations from 13th December 2020 to 12th December 2021 (current period) and compared to 13th December 2019 to 12th December 2020 (previous period).

In the 12-month period crime has increased by 3%, during the same period recording of BAME self-defined ethnicity has increased by 11%.

This does not necessarily mean there is more crime being recorded within our BAME communities.

Over half of self-defined ethnicity fields are blank within CONNECT – so there is insufficient data quality from which to make any assessment. It could be that in raising the data quality around ethnicity, there are increasing efforts to ensure ethnicity for people with minority ethnic backgrounds is completed – albeit it should just be all ethnicity being updated more on the system. It could also be more people with a minority ethnic background are reporting to the police rather than more crime, which may be a positive thing.

Councillor Haleem asked if the Force use face to face or telephone translators when they have victims of, e.g. modern slavery.

Post meeting note - PAG have provided the following information:

These are carried out by telephone in the majority of occasions to establish initial circumstances. There are two types of way that a victim may come to our attention:

1. SYP attend at a pre-planned or spontaneous incident and find a possible victim. On those occasions we use a telephone interpreting service to establish their welfare needs and whether any offences have been committed and to identify any urgent lines of enquiry. A pre-planned incident could involve SYP arranging for an interpreter to attend from the outset. However, we would not know for certain if a victim would be found and would be very unlikely to know the language or dialect that they speak.
2. SYP are contacted by the National Referral Mechanism who inform us that a potential victim of human trafficking has come to the attention of the authorities via a route other than ourselves and is now being housed in South Yorkshire. We would speak to the victim and again use a telephone interpreting system to see if the victim will engage with us and provide us with any information. This information would then be used to identify any criminal offences in this country or abroad. If in this country we would send details to the relevant force or arrange an interpreter to attend in person to obtain further evidence if required.

If it is clear that a criminal offence may have been committed and the victim wished to engage then a face to face interpreter would be used in order to carry out a video interview with the victim.

Councillor Haleem asked if the Force who go into schools have training and what topics do they present.

Post meeting note from Community Safety Manager Margaret Lawson:

Training of officers/staff:

Community Safety Project Officers and Community Safety Manager have a Level 3 Education and Training qualification and all resources utilised by the Community Safety are developed by these officers with consultation from Subject Matter Experts if required.

3 of the Project Officers have also attended Police in the Classroom National Training that was funded by NPCC for officers working in schools, however the last course of this training was cancelled at the beginning of COVID and we had 9 staff and officers booked to attend. The training has not been offered since although some forces have asked as part of the Mini Police programme if the training could be offered again.

Police Officers and PCSOs at district who have responsibility for schools do not necessarily have any formal training, although they are encouraged to utilise the resources that Community Safety are developing so that we have a corporate approach across the Force area. Resources held in SYP computer folder with police officers, staff and PCSOs being able to access this folder, these are updated by the community safety department.

Community Safety Department currently deliver the following training in schools:

Crucial Crew – all schools with year 6 pupils are invited and take part in 7 scenarios including:

- Knife/Hate crime
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Home Safety – (with SYFR)
- Arson – (with SYFR)
- Road Safety – LA Road Safety team
- Travel Safe – First Buses
- Consequences in the Court – Magistrates

For the current academic year September 21 – July 22:

- Rotherham - 2936 pupils with 299 adults from 82 schools have attended, 2 more schools booked in, only 2 schools not currently attending
- Barnsley - 2847 pupils attended with 276 adults from 72 schools, 4 more schools booked in, 2 schools not currently attending
- Doncaster - 91 schools booked in for March/April, 1 schools already attended with 54 pupils, 3 schools not currently attending
- Sheffield – 121 schools booked in from January 2022, 3 schools not currently attending
- All SEND, Pupil Referral Units and alternative provision schools are also invited to Crucial Crew and the scenarios are tailored to meet the needs of the pupils.

Mini Police –delivered jointly by Project Officers and District PCSOs

- Year 5 and 6 pupils in over 30 schools currently
- Inputs include parking and speeding, personal safety/ASB and Communications and Phonetics,
- Schools are identified by the Neighbourhood Policing Team

Knife Crime – for secondary schools delivered by 2 CSD Project Officers to Years 7 to 9.

Since September 2021

- 32 Sessions
- 13 Schools
- 6170 Pupils
- 6 sessions planned for 2022 with 13,080 pupils
- Since 2017 in total 324 sessions, 56,622 pupils
- Primary school inputs are delivered where the NPTs have identified that there is an emerging trend/issue, but this is covered at Crucial Crew for all year 6 pupils

Your Life Your Choice – New input for 2021 as a result of an increase in firearms discharges in some areas of the County

- Delivered to year 9s in identified schools
- Based on the journey from becoming involved in County Lines and leading to carrying or using a firearm with the consequences of this

- The idea is that young people are taken on a journey using local stories and case studies and it's about them making the right choice
- Authorised Firearms Officers involved and bring the TACMED (medical) kit to show
- To date 2 sessions have been delivered to 400 pupils as part of a pilot

Social Media/ Sharing Images – delivered to primary and secondary schools Since September 2021

- 28 sessions have been delivered to 4460 pupils, 6 of these sessions were at primary schools

Child Criminal Exploitation – delivered as a request from Doncaster District at a local secondary school – 5 sessions to 1000 pupils. This resource has been developed by EPIC and PC Bloodworth. Community Safety Department Project Officers have now been trained to deliver this input.

Councillor Haleem asked if there were any attempts to raise awareness of cannabis growing with private landlords.

Post meeting note from Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant Martin Gamett.

PC Paul Davies, developed the Cannabis Grow Aware Scheme. Following his retirement from SYP, PC Sarah Brewis has commenced the re-launch of the scheme.

On Thursday 2nd December, PC Brewis had a face to face meeting with private providers to further promote the Cannabis Grow Aware Scheme, asking private providers to sign up to the scheme where they have not already done so, and in any case, to support the scheme by and retweeting/liking any related information when SYP publish it. The meeting was well attended with over 30 landlords present, 20 of whom signed up to the scheme for the first time. Further meetings are to be scheduled for the New Year, to continue generating awareness and 'take up' with local providers, and to generate further publicity for the scheme.

Further to this, PC Brewis has:

- Engaged with SYP media team to re-launch information about the cannabis grow aware scheme it on the SYP Facebook / Twitter pages. This will be published by the media team in due course. Posters have been requested for display in estate agents windows to further highlight the scheme.
- Commenced visiting local estate agents, to date visiting those in the Barnsley town centre and Penistone areas, re-introducing the scheme and establishing previous participation in the scheme since it was launched prior to lockdown.
- Liaised with Barnsley MBC's media team, requesting that they retweet SYP media information about the cannabis grow aware scheme when it is produced as a joint Barnsley MBC/SYP initiative.

In response to a question from Councillor Haleem, the Commissioner confirmed that all front line officers and call handlers received specialist intensive training and ongoing refresher training around identifying the signs of child sexual exploitation and child neglect cases.

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 M Buttery had agreed to keep the Panel informed of the assurance arrangements in place regarding safeguarding.
- iii) Noted that K Wright had agreed to clarify with Remedi why there were potential referrals and not confirmed referrals during Quarter 2.
- iv) Noted that K Wright had agreed to contextualise the number of referrals to the Restorative Justice Service in the periods July to September 2020 and July to September 2021.
- v) Noted that K Wright had agreed to provide data on the number of referrals to the Restorative Justice Service during other quarters of 2020 and 2021.
- vi) Noted that a discussion would take place between M Buttery, the Commissioner and K Wright to consider provision of district level data to the Panel.
- vii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to contact Neighbourhood Watch to ascertain if they have any evidence regarding their effectiveness and provide the Panel with an update after today's meeting.

11 OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC) DELIVERY PLAN 2021/22

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members with the Delivery Plan from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) which explained how the OPCC is contributing to delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) transitional Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2024 (due for substantial revision in February 2022).

The Panel noted that, as in previous years, the PCC had asked that the OPCC, and those he commissions (including the Chief Constable) to provide delivery plans to explain how each organisation intends to contribute towards delivering the priorities and areas of focus within the Police and Crime Plan.

In addition, the PCC also required assurance as to how each organisation would monitor and report on progress. It was expected that the content of the delivery plans would be proportionate to the level of funding provided to each organisation.

At the beginning of October, the OPCC had approved the Delivery Plan at Appendix B to the report to respond to the PCC's transitional Police and Crime Plan. The Delivery Plan also explained the work the OPCC was undertaking to

support the PCC and his two statutory officers in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities.

Appendix A to the report provided the Panel with a 'Plan on a Page' with the top half of the page giving a summary of the PCC's transitional Police and Crime Plan and the bottom half of the page summarising the OPCC's key activities this coming year and a supporting narrative.

Professor James welcomed the inclusion of activity in relation to Violence against Women and Girls in the Delivery Plan. He asked if the Panel could receive regular feedback on progress with regards to the round table discussions scheduled to take place with partners.

M Buttery confirmed that further updates would be included in the Commissioner's update report presented at every Panel meeting.

Professor James asked if the Commissioner was assured that ethical issues relating to digital policing were being addressed by the Force. Furthermore, he asked if there were any plans in place to scrutinise the Force's work following the Independent Ethics Panel's (IEP) report and recommendations presented to the Commissioner in December 2019 regarding Ethical Issues and Digital Policing.

M Buttery replied that the Force had embraced and welcomed the work of the IEP. The Force did actively use a checklist of questions every time conversations took place around new technology and when horizon scanning was taking place. It was noted that the Force had now implemented a new Digital Strategy, which M Buttery had requested to view on the Commissioner's behalf to ensure the checklist of questions were captured within the Strategy.

Mr Carratt referred to page 9 of the Delivery Plan. He queried if there should be inclusion in the Plan around the OPCC's interface with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

M Buttery replied that the Statutory Guidance stipulates that, Health Commissioners are a statutory partner in seeking assurance and overseeing the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. However, it did not stipulate whether the responsibility rested with PCCs or police forces. M Buttery added that engagement could be strengthened with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships to provide assurances to the Commissioner and the OPCC.

Councillor Pickering asked if an awareness session could be arranged for Panel Members to provide them with an update on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

The Commissioner acknowledged the request and agreed to liaise with the Head of the VRU.

In response to a question from Councillor Milsom, M Buttery explained the relationship between the OPCC and the Community Safety Partnerships.

It was noted that the Commissioner had a holding to account responsibility, a convening responsibility and a funding responsibility with regards to the local Community Safety Partnerships.

In addition, the Commissioner had formed a countywide Community Safety Forum where each of the four local Community Safety Partnerships Chairs were invited to attend to discuss any co-commissioned initiatives and to share good practice around addressing crime and anti-social behaviour. The Panel also have observer status at the Forum, and dates are provided as part the Panel briefings.

Councillor Milsom commented that, she did not feel assured that there were targeted campaigns and strategies in place to address anti-social behaviour and low level crime in local communities.

In response, M Buttery suggested that, to help give assurance on this specific question, Councillor Milsom should view the reports submitted by the Force to the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board around tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, the Force's Neighbourhood Policing Model also set out their problem solving approach to tackling low level crime and anti-social behaviour in the local communities.

In addition, the OPCC also contributed to the annual Community Safety Partnership's Action Plans which detail how funds are to be utilised to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in accordance with the specific needs of each district.

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 had agreed to arrange an awareness session for Panel Members to provide them with an update on the work of the Violence Reduction Unit.

12 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING)

A report of the Commissioner was presented to provide Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities since the Panel's last meeting held on 20 September 2021, under the headings within the OPCC's Delivery Plan.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting.

The key activities reported for the period were detailed in the Executive Summary of the report and noted by Members.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

- ii) Asked questions on the matters contained in within the report, given that it explained how the PCC has over the period delivered his Police and Crime Plan, and discharged the wide range of his legal responsibilities.

13 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.

Suggestions for any other learning and development opportunities Members may have to support the Panel's learning and development were welcomed.

A summary of the events which had taken place since the last meeting together with details of proposed future events were set out within the report for Members' information.

Councillor Haleem and Mr Carratt wished to record their thanks to the Force and OPCC for arranging a very informative and enlightening Force Induction Day held on 12 November 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to provide suggestions for future learning and development.

14 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2022 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.

L Noble reported that she would update the Work Programme for the February 2022 Panel meeting to include the results of the findings from a survey carried out by the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Additionally, Members were encouraged to attend the meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge. These were currently being held virtually and Members could obtain details to 'dial in' to the meeting from L Noble or A Shirt.

Members were reminded that they could also submit questions for PAB through the OPCC, with 5 working days notice prior to the meeting.

Professor James said that it would be helpful if PAB agenda papers could be circulated well in advance of meetings to enable Panel Members to fully read and digest the reports.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the 2022 Work Programme.
- ii) Noted that the Work Programme for the February 2022 Panel meeting would be updated to include the results of the findings from a survey carried out by the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED –

- i) That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Friday 4 February 2022 at 1:00 pm in Barnsley Town Hall.
- ii) That a Panel Budget Familiarisation Session be arranged towards the end of January 2022 and Panel Members notified of the arrangements.

CHAIR

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