

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2023

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU, on THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2023, at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Ian Pearson
Vice-Chair - Councillor Duncan Anderson
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Glenn Bluff, Laura Bluff, Nigel Cannings, James Church, Gemma Cobby, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Aimee Dickson, Susan Durant, Yetunde Elebuibon, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, Martin Greenhalgh, Leanne Hempshall, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Barry Johnson, Jake Kearsley, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Sophie Liu, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Thomas Noon, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Andrea Robinson, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rachael Blake, Bev Chapman, John Healy, Charlie Hogarth, Richard A Jones, Rob Reid and Dave Shaw.

45 Minute's Silence to mark the recent death of former Councillor, Fred Gee

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, Fred Gee.

46 Declarations of Interest, if any.

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

47 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th November, 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday, 17th November, 2022, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

48 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th November, 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday, 17th November, 2022, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

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

“Colleagues, I would like to give you all a quick update in relation to trying to save Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

You will all be aware that we have commenced formal Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) proceedings, which is a lengthy and complicated legal process that will take roughly two years.

In an effort to avoid this lengthy legal process, we approached Peel and made a suggestion that this Council buy the freehold for the airport site. We did not mention a monetary figure as that would require an independent valuation of a now closed airport site and to go through the appropriate decision mechanism, but Peel did know we were serious. Unfortunately, Peel dismissed this completely, but stated they would look at a potential leasehold sale, which we are exploring whilst CPO proceedings continue.

I was planning to announce this today at Full Council, but unfortunately on Friday evening of last week, it became apparent that this letter had been leaked, hence the need for an urgent update to you and our MPs, alongside the press statement. I would like to thank our Officers for the swift turnaround of this press statement.

Doncaster Sheffield Airport was a key economic driver for Doncaster, South Yorkshire and the North, and so it should be again.

I must emphasise to all of you that as we are in formal CPO legal proceedings and that there will be considerable legal challenges as we move forward, it is vital that we show a united front in our efforts to save our Airport.

Councillors are aware of the Ward Budgets which provides £3,000 of funding per Councillor, to award to community groups and organisations within their Ward. This funding is to support our residents and communities at a neighbourhood level. This financial year, we have seen grants paid out to food banks, youth groups, sports teams, leisure and craft groups. These are but a few examples of where your Ward Budgets have been allocated, and your constituents are beyond grateful for the support, especially during these difficult times.

As you should already know, the deadline for submissions this year is the end of February. I am proposing that any remaining Ward Budgets should be allocated to the Local Assistance Scheme. This will enable the remaining funding to be able to support those most in need across Doncaster, rather than see the funding go back into the general fund. We are also able to show you how many people within your Wards have already benefitted from the scheme this year.

I will be putting a formal decision through the appropriate Governance procedures in the next month or so, with the aim of being able to support the Local Assistance Scheme for the next financial year.

Colleagues, you are probably already aware, late last night Government announced the successful bids to the Levelling Up Fund, Round 2. Unfortunately neither our

scheme for Don Valley or Doncaster North were successful. They have mentioned a third round, but at this stage, they have not said when this will be or the criteria.

We submitted strong bids that would have seen a new Leisure Centre for Edlington, Town Centre improvements for Mexborough and Moorends, and the redevelopment of Brodsworth Miners Welfare; all these schemes are now in jeopardy.

I will keep fighting for this Government to stand by their promise to Level Up this country; we have had nearly 13 years of Conservative failure. Our NHS is in crisis, our economy is flat lining and we now have more foodbanks across the country than branches of McDonalds and KFC combined.

What is clear is that there are a significant number of successful recipients in areas whose social deprivation rankings should not warrant allocation, but clearly are benefiting based on political motives, particularly in the North West and South East.”

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

There were no questions from the public received for this meeting.

51 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

The Council considered the 2022 Director of Public Health Annual Report, which was introduced by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning, and presented by Dr Rupert Suckling.

Councillor Nigel Ball introduced the report and highlighted that it had continued to be a challenging year for Doncaster, the United Kingdom, and indeed worldwide. The main focus of the report focused on the longer term effects of the pandemic and how this continued to impact on Doncaster and its people in terms of life expectancy.

Members were informed that the regeneration of Doncaster’s most deprived communities and the residents within them must be at the forefront of its actions to deal with deprivation and hopelessness. In order to address poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity in communities, real community action needed to take place and the key to this would be empowerment, enabling the people and the communities in which they lived. This would in turn work in tackling the health inequalities faced by so many.

Councillor Nigel Ball paid tribute to the Doctors, nurses, health care professionals, ambulance workers and social carers across Doncaster, who continued to play an important role in terms of the prevention of ill-health and provided care for sick residents, family and friends.

The report, which was the eighth Annual Report authored by Dr Suckling, provided a high level assessment of how the overall health status was changing in Doncaster and that this year, it was clear there were significant reductions in life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and increases in health inequality. These were caused by the direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases including the increase in the invasive Group A Streptococcal disease at the end of the year. The pandemic had unearthed and exacerbated long standing inequalities experienced by older residents, those in key worker roles, those in poverty and those from ethnic

minorities. Women had borne the brunt of the pandemic which would continue and was likely to be a contributor to the reduction in women's healthy life expectancy.

Doncaster continued to be on the frontline of the climate emergency and had continued to play its part supporting refugees and asylum seekers displaced by conflict, but there was now a 'cost of living crisis', caused by rising inflation because of the Ukraine war, the impact on global energy and food prices, ongoing impacts from leaving the EU, on top of people's sheer exhaustion at dealing with one crisis after another.

In conclusion, the report made the following six recommendations for Team Doncaster partners:-

- Revitalise approaches to health inequalities, poverty and social exclusion, taking into account the new Geneva Charter for Wellbeing, learning from both the 'cost of living crisis' and the Doncaster Fairness & Wellbeing Commission;
- Review and refresh the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to set out action to address health inequalities, improve healthy life expectancy, especially for women, reduce preventable mortality and related risk factors across the life course, including children and young people's mental health, and increase the confidence in local people to self-manage their health conditions;
- Review the implementation of Doncaster Delivering Together, clarifying accountability and deliverables for the next two years;
- Secure long term community centred working including asset based, community centred approaches to improve health and wellbeing working with and for communities in the present, and for future generations by developing a Team Doncaster community prevention model;
- Maximise the impact of the new Health Determinant Research Collaboration; and
- Continue to prepare for emergencies, build resilience and maintain response capabilities and capacity, working with local and national partners.

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

RESOLVED that the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022, be noted and published.

52 Overview and Scrutiny Update - May to December 2022

The Council considered a report, which was presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), Councillor Jane Kidd, which provided a summary of the key work undertaken by the OSMC and its four Standing Panels, during the period of May to December 2022, and also any future issues to be considered.

It was reported that there continued to be a real effort to focus on performance monitoring and review work through OSMC and the Panels which was of paramount importance as the Council looked at how services were being delivered, and communities were being supported during the current cost of living crisis.

The report highlighted the engagement with key partners, the public and stakeholders, and the ongoing dialogue with young advisors and the Youth Council. The Committee and its Panels had also undertaken meaningful engagement with those with lived experiences including, carers and people who had suffered with mental illness, which had helped Scrutiny Members to fully understand the experience of service users.

Councillor Kidd highlighted some of the key issues Scrutiny would be focusing on which included:-

- The Mayor's Budget Proposals;
- The Corporate Plan;
- Regular Finance & Performance updates;
- Review of the Crime and Disorder Partnership's performance and priorities;
- Update on the Environmental & Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2022/23 and lessons learned through the heatwave of Summer 2022;
- Update on Major Schemes and the Levelling Up Fund;
- Updates on the developments of the Bentley and Rossington Primary Care Estate; and
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy and Green Paper Update.

Councillor Kidd conveyed her thanks to all Members, the Executive, Officers, partners, stakeholders, young advisors and the public, who had taken the time to attend meetings and engage in the Overview and Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED that the work of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and its four Standing Panels for the period May to December, 2022, be noted.

53 Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2023/25

The Council considered a report which outlined the draft diary of meetings for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Municipal Years.

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

It was reported that whilst the proposed calendar covered a two-year period, there would be the opportunity to review the meeting dates for 2024/25, when the 2024/25 to 2025/26 Diary of Meetings was considered by Full Council in May, 2024.

Members noted that the final version of the diary would be agreed at the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2023 and any amendments between consideration of the draft diary and this meeting, would be incorporated.

Following the introduction of the report, when Members in the Chamber were afforded the opportunity to comment on the report, the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, announced the following revised Cabinet meeting dates:-

- The Cabinet meeting scheduled on 14th February, 2024 be rescheduled to 7th February, 2024; and
- The Cabinet meeting scheduled on 12th February, 2025 be rescheduled to 5th February, 2025.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Municipal Years, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (2) the final version of the Diary of Meetings be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May, 2023, for final approval.

54 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Steve Cox and Seconded by Councillor Nick Allen, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Steve Cox and Seconded by Councillor Nick Allen:-

“In future any changes, including increases to the members allowance, should be debated as a separate and stand-alone agenda item as part of the budget.”

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

A vote was taken on the Motion proposed by Councillor Steve Cox, which was declared as follows:-

For - 10

Against - 35

Abstain - 2

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

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

A. Questions on Notice

No questions on Notice from Elected Members had been received for this meeting.

B. Questions Without Notice

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

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

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

“What part have you personally played in the negotiations with Peel and the closure of the Airport. Why do we constantly receive updates through a person on social media resulting in Councillors not receiving them?”

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

“Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) was and hopefully will again be a key economic driver for Doncaster, South Yorkshire and the North.

There is a great deal of complexity and commercial confidentiality involved in both the negotiations, and CPO process. It is up to our Officers and appointed experts to ensure we are fully compliant and do everything within our power to save our Airport.

I am leading our efforts to see DSA reopened, but I am not an expert in aviation or in the legal processes involved. However, I am fully abreast, regularly updated, and committed to doing all we can to see our Airport reopen.

We regularly keep our MPs and Councillors up to date, when we have something to share.

It is not the role of MPs to be a part of such negotiations; the role of an MP is to represent the interests and concerns of their constituents in the House of Commons.

Trying to indicate that either you as a Ward Member or the MP for Don Valley have been excluded is simply false. You have all had separate briefings and discussions with our Chief Executive and other Council Officers in relation to the Airport, but you must understand and appreciate that DSA is a key Doncaster and South Yorkshire asset, which is why we are taking our current stance.

There is a great deal of community, business and press interest in our efforts to save DSA. This is why we are very careful with our updates to ensure commercial confidentiality and that we do not say anything that could hinder the chance of a successful CPO or leave this Council liable.

From the start, I committed to providing updates as and when we can. I cannot and will not provide a running commentary, as this is a complex commercial and legal process.

Our MP for Don Valley is not helping the situation, as he continues to share misinformation, especially in relation to CPO, devolved powers and the timelines involved. He is happy to criticise me on social media, yet not once has he called me to discuss our Airport. It would appear that the Conservatives have resorted to being the nasty party.”

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

Q. “The question I asked was, what part have you played. I did not mention any MPs?”

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

“I have given a full and complete answer. I have told you what part I have played. I leave the proper Officers to do the negotiations. I am kept fully updated and I then update Councillors, residents and ex-workers of the Airport.”

Q. Councillor Gary Stapleton asked the following question:-

“The 22nd June is National Windrush Day and it is the 75th anniversary. Are we applying for any available funding to mark this day with the Windrush community in Doncaster?”

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

“The Council always celebrates Windrush Day and will continue to do so. What we can do depends on available funding, but we will continue to celebrate it as we have always done. It is part of the Fairness Forum.”

A. The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, gave the following further response:-

“It is a significant date in the annual calendar and it is the 75th anniversary of Windrush. When we received City Status last year, we identified a year of celebrations. We are in the planning stage to do both events together to recognise the anniversary.”

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

Q. “It has been announced that there is £750k funding available and each area can bid for up to £50k; you have 3 weeks to apply?”

A. The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, gave the following response:-

“Our Head of Events is aware of this, which is the basis of our joint planning. The benefit of holding both events together maximises the impact and ensures it is as efficient as possible, should we not be successful, given it is a competitive bid.”

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“Will the Mayor bring a vote back to Council regarding the Lease Agreement for Doncaster Sheffield Airport? When I voted in November, I did not vote for a lease agreement with Peel.”

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

“We have to seriously consider this option if we wish to proceed with the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process.”

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

Q. “Do we have to proceed down the lease process to carry out a CPO?”

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

“We have commenced the CPO process approved by Council. The offer of purchase was made in order to bring the Airport back into operation, but it was rejected. We will seriously consider anything else and we will continue to provide updates, but whilst it is being considered, we will continue the CPO process.”

Q. Councillor Glenn Bluff asked the following question:-

“Sheffield will be adopting a Clean Air Zone in Sheffield. Is Doncaster Council liable for any related costs either directly or through the Mayoral Authority?”

A. Mayor Ros Jones gave the following reply:-

“I do not have the details of the costs relating to the Clean Air Zone and I do not know if we are liable, so I will provide you with a written response.”

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“When you made your pledge for tree planting, did you factor in a budget for staff? I am constantly asked by residents how they can help, but there is poor communication when no one gets back to them. Can you help?”

A. Mayor Ros Jones gave the following response-

“This is a question for the Chief Executive as it relates to staffing, but I know there has been an increase in staff in the Tree Team.”

A. The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, gave the following response:-

“The Council committed £5m towards the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which included the recruitment of an additional third Tree Team, but it has not been fully recruited to. The tree target was not solely the Council, as residents were encouraged to plant their own trees and register them online on the Tree Register. The Council has also agreed a contract with an external organisation to plant up to 20 tiny forests. 65,000 trees were planted last year. If you have any questions, send them to me and I will forward them to the relevant Head of Service.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Cynthia Ransome made the following statement:-

Q. “A lot of other Councils have failed with their tree pledges mainly due to the lack of maintenance. It is a big problem because the Tree Team is short staffed.”

A. The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, gave the following response:-

“We are experiencing high demand in a number of areas when recruiting to ‘hard to fill’ posts.”

Q. Councillor Jane Cox asked the following question:-

“Regarding the comment made about ‘nasty Tories’, does the Mayor think that inflammatory language from high ranking politicians really helps the situation?”

A. Mayor Ros Jones gave the following response:-

“I personally do not think my language was defamatory.”

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

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“How many Council Houses are currently in our housing stock and how many people are on the waiting list?”

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

“I do not have this information to hand, but it did fall to below 20,000 some months ago under St Leger Homes and I believe there are around 8,000 on the waiting list. I will get a definitive figure and provide you with a written response.”

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

Q. "What percentage of the income from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is held back by the Council to re-invest into Social Housing?"

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

"The HRA is not held back, but I will provide you with a written response."

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

Q. Councillor Jane Cox asked the following question:-

"What were the number of vacancies in the Children's Trust at the end of August and what is the number now. What is the percentage increase overall of staff that this equates to?"

A. Councillor Lani-Mae Ball gave the following response:-

"I do not have this information to hand, so I will provide you with a written response. Discussions have been held at the Corporate Parenting Board about the recruitment and retention of staff, and it is beneficial to continue these conversations at the Board."

Q. Councillor Laura Bluff asked the following question:-

"Now that the Children's Trust is back in-house, how many unregulated placements are there and has there been an increase or decrease in these figures?"

A. Councillor Lani-Mae Ball gave the following response:-

"I would need the figures in front of me to provide a response. It is not that it would change since the Trust came back in-house; it is not a factor, it is the market. Privatised children's homes or unregulated care homes are where we are at with regard to placements, which drives up costs. The unregulated part is for 16 years plus. We have had wider discussions on this issue at the Corporate Parenting Board, but I will provide you with the data in a written response."

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

Q. "Would you include how many Under 16s there are?"

A. Councillor Lani-Mae Ball gave the following response:-

"Yes I will, but it is 0. Please note that this issue is not within my Portfolio."

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

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

“Would it be possible to know when we can see the Heritage Report? I am unable to locate it on the website. It is about a review undertaken by someone from outside the Council looking at the restructure of Heritage and its services. We were told that a report or a Strategy would be brought back to Council. We still do not know what came out of that piece of work.

A. Councillor Nigel Ball gave the following response:-

“Regarding the website, it could be the search mechanism which is not working. In terms of the Heritage Report, there were a number of elements to it. The first was around the restructure of staff and the service, which has now been concluded. I was at an event at the Mansion House this morning around the next steps for the staff and where we were going in terms of developing the service, and moving towards commercialisation to bring money into Doncaster.

Regarding the Cultural Services staff, it has been a traumatic couple of years. They have had to decant from the old Library and Museum and moved to DGLAM (Danum Gallery, Library and Museum), and the formation of the Archives Centre, which is positive news for Doncaster. Staff needed to be more tied into work and we needed more flexibility, so the restructure has been positive.

In terms of the report, we have just launched our Cultural Strategy and will provide you with a copy. With regard to the service and where it is going, this will provide you with the information and the details. Regarding the day to day running of the service, we are hoping to look at the commercialisation of some of our services in terms of the events side at Cusworth Hall and the Mansion House.

With regard to Councillor Stapleton’s earlier question, the Cultural Services Team are working on the issue he raised and are looking at funding, in particular Windrush. In terms of Windrush, it has been 75 years, so it should be celebrated, and we need to recognise that since the scandal in 2018, over 83 people have been wrongly deported and out of these, only 5% have received compensation, which is a direct result of the 2012 Hostile Environment Legislation.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Steve Cox made the following statement:-

Q. “It is important for Doncaster. There are relatives and people who still live in Doncaster and their story needs to be told.”

A. Councillor Nigel Ball gave the following response:-

“I totally agree.”

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“71% of adults are overweight or obese; 27% of five year olds and 38% of 11 year olds. Our new £5m refurbishment of Askern Leisure Centre will not have a gym. Can you explain how this will reduce obesity levels of children and adults in my Ward?”

A. Councillor Nigel Ball gave the following response:-

“I acknowledge the point about obesity; page 31 of the Director of Public Health’s Annual Report outlines the factors affecting people’s health. Regarding Askern Leisure Centre, it will have a gym and a new swimming pool. We are looking at the Country Park to encourage people to use the green space. I am happy to discuss the issue with you further after the meeting.”

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

Q. “I have received two emails from Officers two days ago, stating that there will be no gym at Askern Leisure Centre and referring to consultation which I am not aware of?”

A. Councillor Ball gave the following response:-

“It would be useful if you could forward the emails on to me, as Askern is one of the areas we want to invest in.”

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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Fly Tipping is a huge problem for Doncaster. When offenders are caught, apart from their fine, can they work for 7 days alongside our Officers to clear up the fly tipping. This would help with staffing and send a clear message to those who fly tip. I ask for your help in looking into implementing this?”

A. Councillor Blackham gave the following response:-

“It is a major problem across this and every Borough across the Country, so I will assist in any way that I can to alleviate this problem.”

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

Q. “Is the picking up of litter by young people after receiving a fine, still continuing within the neighbourhoods?”

A. Councillor Blackham gave the following response:-

“It does.”

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

In the absence of Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

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

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

"With the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the Airport rolling on, have you been privy to any further information and in terms of costs, as this links to your Portfolio?"

A. Councillor Phil Cole gave the following reply:-

"I have been fully involved in discussions at Cabinet and the Mayor has kept Cabinet Members fully apprised. Council received a report at its last meeting which it voted on. The exact costs for the CPO will be subject to a large number of considerations over the next couple of years and therefore exact costings are only guessable. There is no figure I can give you which will accurately predict all the possible outcomes and as the Mayor explained earlier to Council in response to another question, there are a range of stages that are undertaken before any CPO is completed."

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

"What happened to the proposed eating establishment put forward by the Doncaster Market operators?"

A. Councillor Phil Cole gave the following response:-

"I think you are referring to the proposed improvement and refurbishment of the Corn Exchange building and Market which includes the development of a food retail offer. This is in the latter stage of accessing all the options and may or may not be realised."

Q. Councillor Glenn Bluff asked the following question:-

"The dedicated schools grant in the annual report in March last year, was £9.1m in the red, an increase of £3.8m. In March 2022, the External Auditors Annual Statement stated the DSG deficit was approaching £11.8m, but the External Auditors asked for assurance that was not going to increase and you wrote that the Council had a plan to eradicate the deficit by 2027. The Government has allowed this deficit to be kept off the Council balance sheets until April 2023. Can we expect this deficit to be reduced by the time it ends on our balance sheet in April this year?"

A. Councillor Phil Cole gave the following response:-

“I will provide you with a written response.”

Q Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“At the last Council meeting, I asked a question and you provided me with a written response, but the answer is not in the minutes. The question was put to me by a member of the public, so it would be prudent that the answer appear in the minutes?”

A. Councillor Phil Cole gave the following response:-

“I asked at the time if the written answer was published in the minutes and I was advised that this was not normal practice.”

A. The Monitoring Officer, Scott Fawcus, provided the following response:-

“It is not usual practice to include written responses within the minutes. You are welcome to share the response received with the member of the public to make them aware that you did ask the question and received a response.”

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

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

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

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

“What is the Council doing to uphold GDPR when Officers are working from home; is the kitchen table still acceptable?”

A. Councillor Nightingale gave the following response:-

“We have had discussions on this issue, but I will provide you with a written response.”

Q. Councillor Jane Cox asked the following question:-

“I am enquiring about the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Policy; when was it written, when was it last revised and which Scrutiny Panel did it go through?”

A. Councillor Jane Nightingale gave the following response:-

“It does not fall within my remit. I believe the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer deal with SPOC; it is not something I deal with.”

A. The Chief Executive, Damian Allen, gave the following response:-

“It relates to the persistent complaints policy. I will send a copy to Councillor Jane Cox and I will respond to any enquiries she has relating to the SPOC process, which falls within my remit.”

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

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“I have had a number of residents waiting for a medical assessment from the Occupational Therapy Team at Doncaster Council for over 9 months; why is this happening and what is being done to address this issue?”

A. Councillor Andrea Robinson gave the following response:-

“A lot of work has been done to address this issue and waiting times are now coming down, but I will provide you with a written response.”

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

In the absence of Councillor Austen White, Chair of the Audit Committee, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing to the Head of Internal Audit, Peter Jackson, and a written response would be provided.

L. Questions to Councillor Julie Grace, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee

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

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

In the absence of Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

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.

56 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 14th November, 2022.

- B. South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 3rd November, 2022.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 10th October, 2022.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 8th September and 8th December, 2022.
- E. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Local Pension Board held on 4th August and 3rd November, 2022.
- F. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 5th December, 2022.
- G. Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership held in 13th September, 2022.

CHAIR:_____

DATE:_____