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**City of
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 DN1 3BU

Date: Thursday, 19th January, 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Governance Officer for this meeting

David Taylor
01302 736712

City of Doncaster Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk

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 17th November, 2022. 1 - 12
5. Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th November, 2022. 13 - 14
6. To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council, the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.
7. Questions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13:-
None received for this meeting.

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

For Decision

8. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022. 15 - 44
9. Overview and Scrutiny Update - May to December 2022. 45 - 60
10. Proposed Diary of Meetings - 2023/25. 61 - 92
11. 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 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."
12. 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

13. To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities. 93 - 168
 - 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.

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Agenda Item 4

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU, on THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022, 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, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Glenn Bluff, Laura Bluff, Nigel Cannings, James Church, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Aimee Dickson, Susan Durant, Yetunde Elebuibon, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, John Healy, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Jake Kearsley, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Tracey Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlins, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Thomas Noon, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Rob Reid, Andrea Robinson, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lani-Mae Ball, Rachael Blake, Bev Chapman, Gemma Cobby, Linda Curran, Martin Greenhalgh, Barry Johnson, Richard A Jones, Sophie Liu, Jane Nightingale and Dave Shaw.

33 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

34 Minute's Silence to mark the recent death of former Councillor, Beryl Roberts

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, Beryl Roberts.

35 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2022, be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair of Council.

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

The Chair of Council, Councillor Ian Pearson, reminded Members that there was an Extraordinary meeting of Council which would commence immediately after the conclusion of this meeting.

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, made the following announcement:-

“This Festive Season, Doncaster Council will once again be supporting City Centre Businesses and our residents by offering free Town Centre parking after 2pm from Friday 2nd December to Friday 6th January, 2023 at the popular Markets Car Park, St Georges Car Park and Colonnades underground car park.

We are also offering every Saturday in December, free all day parking at Chappell Drive Car Park.

Just a reminder that Council run car parks and on-street pay and display areas continue to be free on Sundays.”

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

“As Members may have seen from its circulation earlier this week, the Scheme of Delegations for Executive Functions has recently been updated by Mayor Ros Jones. Under the Council’s Constitution, I am required to report these changes to Full Council.

The main amendment to the Scheme relates to the functions listed under the Director of Children, Young People and Families, and under the portfolios of Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, Communities and Equalities and Councillor Lane-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People.

These listings have now been updated to reflect the transferring back of the functions that were previously delivered by the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust to the Council.

The other minor changes to the Scheme include moving Inward Investment from the Deputy Mayor’s to the Mayor’s Portfolio and including the Events Team’s functions within the Portfolio of Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning.

The updated Scheme of Delegations can be viewed alongside all other parts of the Council’s Constitution on the Council’s website. Thank you.”

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

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

“Does the Mayor agree that during a cost of living crisis it is unthinkable for the Government to plan the removal of 200 of their own staff from Doncaster City Centre? The high skill economy the Government wants has every right to be in Doncaster as it does anywhere else; the 200 people the Government want to move contribute circa £500,000 p/a to the City Centre economy. Is it unthinkable or don’t the Government know the true impact on the economy of this disastrous decision?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Cawkwell, I stand by what I have said previously on this matter. To take 200 jobs out of Doncaster does nothing to support the levelling up agenda, it also puts a major strain on those 200 members of staff, who would potentially face up to a 3 hour round commute to the relocated office in Sheffield. This is simply wrong and unthinkable, especially during a cost of living crisis.

If anything I would have thought Government would want to move more Civil Servants and staff jobs out of London, and into the communities they serve. This would support real levelling up.

The 200 jobs are more than just about the money they bring in to the Doncaster economy, they are people, most of whom live in Doncaster, have their lives and family here, with kids in our local schools and reside in our communities.

I hope that the new Secretary of State will look again at this decision, to ensure these vital services remain in Doncaster and those 200 people are not uprooted from their jobs and lives here in Doncaster.”

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

“Thank you for your kind words and your support. Would the Council agree to make an offer to Ministers for alternative accommodation which would be a solution to save the jobs in Doncaster and improve the footfall into the City Centre which would support local businesses by the revenue it would bring in. We do not want to work outside this fantastic City, and allowing staff to work in Council buildings or other accommodation, would be an agreeable solution. Could this solution be put directly to the Minister for decision?”

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

“We are keen to keep everyone here in Doncaster to improve our economy as we go through this economic crisis. I will ask Business Doncaster and our Assets team to see what assistance we can give if you can get the Secretary of State’s approval.”

38 Doncaster Sheffield Airport

The Council considered a report, which was introduced by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, which related to the announcement by the Board of Doncaster Sheffield Airport Limited (DSAL) on 13th July, 2022 of a review of strategic options for Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA), after concluding that aviation activity on the site may no longer be commercially viable and provided an update on the legal options available to potentially secure the future of DSA as an operational Airport.

It was reported that since the strategic review announcement, Doncaster Council, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and other local partners had made extensive efforts to keep the Airport open and there had been considerable cross-party and public support for retaining an Airport in South Yorkshire. Subsequently, the Council and SYMCA had identified significant investor interest in

DSA and made a financial offer to enable the Airport to continue operating for a bridging period whilst a potential sale was progressed. However, The Peel Group chose to decline this offer of financial support and the opportunity to keep the Airport running, and that on 26th September, The Peel Group announced that the Strategic Review had ended and that it would begin winding down the provision of aviation services at DSA during week commencing Monday, 31st October, 2022.

Members were informed of the significant consequences of DSA closing which would result in a large number of job losses and have a major impact on local businesses during a cost of living crisis, and in the face of a looming national recession. Therefore, since the closure announcement, further investor interest in DSA had been identified by Doncaster Council resulting in a number of interested parties engaging with Peel and the submission of two financially credible offers to purchase the Airport leasehold in October and November, 2022. Despite obvious and demonstrable market interest in the acquisition of DSA, it had become clear through negotiations that The Peel Group was a reluctant seller and was unwilling to dispose of the Airport at a reasonable market value.

In conclusion, Members noted that if The Peel Group continued with its plans to close the Airport, but retain the site, legal intervention could be the only course of action available to local partners to secure aviation operations at DSA. On 2nd November, the Council filed legal proceedings seeking a Judicial Review of the decision to close the Airport and the process followed by Peel in reaching that decision, and although a successful Judicial Review would not prevent the closure of the Airport, it was hoped to ensure that the critical infrastructure at the Airport would remain in place and provide further time for a potential sale to be concluded. If The Peel Group remained unwilling sellers and were determined to close the Airport, the Council had the option of seeking a Compulsory Purchase Order for the site.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.4, a recorded vote was taken on the recommendations contained within the report, which was declared as follows:-

For - 45

The Chair of Council, Councillor Ian Pearson, the Vice-Chair of Council, Councillor Duncan Anderson, the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, and Councillors Nick Allen, Bob Anderson, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Joe Blackham, Laura Bluff, Glenn Bluff, Nigel Cannings, James Church, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Aimee Dickson, Susan Durant, Yetunde Elebuibon, Sue Farmer, Sean Gibbons, Julie Grace, John Healy, Leanne Hempshall, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Debbie Hutchinson, Jake Kearsley, Majid Khan, Jane Kidd, Sue Knowles, Tracy Moran, John Mounsey, Emma Muddiman-Rawlings, Tim Needham, David Nevett, Thomas Noon, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Rob Reid, Andrea Robinson, Glynis Smith, Sarah Smith, Gary Stapleton and Austen White.

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

On being put to the meeting, the recommendations contained within the report were declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report and the significant benefits delivered by Doncaster Sheffield Airport and the actions taken to date (Judicial Review), be noted; and
- (2) all appropriate legal remedies be explored to secure aviation operations at Doncaster Sheffield Airport (Compulsory Purchase Order).

39 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - Proposed Revision to the Membership of the Parish Councils' Joint Consultative Committee

The Council considered a report which proposed a revision to the membership of the Parish Councils' Joint Consultative Committee to change the Labour Group representation on the Joint Consultative Committee to appoint Councillor Rachael Blake to replace Councillor Mark Houlbrook.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor Rachael Blake to replace Councillor Mark Houlbrook on the Parish Councils' Joint Consultative Committee, be noted.

40 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Leanne Hempshall and Seconded by Councillor Jake Kearsley, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Leanne Hempshall and Seconded by Councillor Jake Kearsley:-

"Traditionally, annual bonfires and firework displays are used to celebrate November the 5th, New Year's Eve, Diwali, and Chinese New Year amongst other celebratory occasions.

We now see a considerably larger use of fireworks throughout the year, causing distress to Veterans suffering from PTSD, vulnerable people, children with learning difficulties, working dogs and guide dogs, farm animals and family pets. We also see Anti-Social behaviour within our communities with people setting off fireworks in a dangerous manner and sometimes using them as weapons.

This Council resolves from 2023:-

- To ensure all firework displays on Council land organised by Doncaster Council or its partners, utilise low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.
- To encourage people to attend professional organised displays, where fireworks are set off in the safest possible way and fully insured.
- To encourage early advertisement of planned firework displays to enable communities to allow individuals and groups to take precautions in respect of vulnerable people, veterans, animals and pets.

- To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare, veterans and vulnerable people, including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risk.
- To write to the UK Government insisting that they introduce legislation to promote the sale of low noise or silent fireworks and enter into a major public awareness campaign around the effects of fireworks and noise on people and animals.
- To support and encourage the use and sale of noiseless and silent fireworks within Doncaster City.
- To encourage Town and Parish Councils in the Doncaster City to consider using low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.
- To encourage local suppliers of fireworks in Doncaster to stock and sell low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.”

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 Leanne Hempshall, which was declared as follows:-

For - 43

Against - 0

Abstain - 1

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

RESOLVED that Council notes that:-

- Traditionally, annual bonfires and firework displays are used to celebrate November the 5th, New Year’s Eve, Diwali, and Chinese New Year amongst other celebratory occasions.
- We now see a considerably larger use of fireworks throughout the year, causing distress to Veterans suffering from PTSD, vulnerable people, children with learning difficulties, working dogs and guide dogs, farm animals and family pets. We also see Anti-Social behaviour within our communities with people setting off fireworks in a dangerous manner and sometimes using them as weapons.

From 2023, Doncaster Council resolves to:-

- Ensure all firework displays on Council land organised by Doncaster Council or its partners, utilise low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.

- Encourage people to attend professional organised displays, where fireworks are set off in the safest possible way and fully insured.
- Encourage early advertisement of planned firework displays to enable communities to allow individuals and groups to take precautions in respect of vulnerable people, veterans, animals and pets.
- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare, veterans and vulnerable people, including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risk.
- Write to the UK Government insisting that they introduce legislation to promote the sale of low noise or silent fireworks and enter into a major public awareness campaign around the effects of fireworks and noise on people and animals.
- Support and encourage the use and sale of noiseless and silent fireworks within Doncaster City.
- Encourage Town and Parish Councils in the Doncaster City to consider using low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.
- Encourage local suppliers of fireworks in Doncaster to stock and sell low noise or silent fireworks as a positive alternative.

41 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 Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Mayor Jones, firstly I would like to pass on my thanks to you and all the staff involved in the excellent organisation of the King’s visit. It was splendid.

My apologies, I was unable to attend last night’s briefing, but would the Mayor support the call for a Public Enquiry if the Airport was closed?”

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

“Thank you, but it was our Officers who did all the work and the back office staff who picked up their work. It is greatly appreciated by all concerned, especially our residents and local businesses. I will ensure it is recorded and passed on to those concerned.

In terms of the enquiry, I am very keen to progress all the instruments we have at our disposal to retain a working Airport. The Judicial Review will delay the closure and ensure that Peel have done due diligence, and undertaken the proper consultation. I will support all we can within our remit to enhance Doncaster and the wider economy to retain an aviation hub which can expand our economy.”

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“I am led to believe that we have been given a total of 25 new Police Officers out of 707 Borough-wide. Doncaster’s crime rate is 149/1000 compared to Sheffield of 91/1000. Will you be lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner for our fair share of Police Officers?”

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

“The increase has been brought about by lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner, but I will continue to lobby for more Police Officers to tackle organised crime within our Borough.”

Q. Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“I have been contacted by residents in my Ward with regard to illegal fishing going on at Lakeside. This is an ongoing problem and the Council has taken Enforcement Action, but we need a more regular approach to Enforcement. It could be the jewel in the crown for central Doncaster, but it is not. We have ongoing issues with fishing as well as litter, so can we have more Enforcement Action around the Lakeside and Retail Park?”

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

“You have put your question to the wrong person as Enforcement is in Councillor Joe Blackham’s Portfolio. We have a certain number of Enforcement Officers and what you have mentioned will be passed to them. We will look at everything available to us including CCTV, but I cannot create more Enforcement Officers when I know we will be faced with difficult decisions regarding the amount of money the Council will need to save over the next few years. I cannot single out one specific area. For me, the jewel in the crown is our Mansion House.”

Q. Councillor Steve Cox asked the following question:-

“I would like to raise a question regarding footfall in the City Centre. Will the Mayor be welcoming staff back into the Civic Office because it has had an effect on the shops in the City Centre?”

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

“I welcome all staff when I see them. The arrangements of how the staff are organised falls under the remit of the Chief Executive. He knows that I support Council staff coming into the building. However, consultation is taking place with our staff and I am sure the Chief Executive has noted what you have said.”

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

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

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

In the absence of Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“In June of this year, Sprotbrough Parish Council organised and financed the lighting of a beacon at Cusworth which was well attended. Can we have assurances that Cusworth Hall will be used more for events and the opening times increased?”

A. Councillor Nigel Ball gave the following response:-

“I can assure you that Cusworth Hall is going down that avenue to be more commercialised. As you are aware, Heritage and Cultural Services have gone through a restructure and I assure you that there is an action plan for Cusworth Hall and we are looking to open it up for weddings, events and other occasions in twin with the Mansion House.”

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

Q. Councillor Thomas Noon asked the following question:-

“My Ward has loads of tractors as it is rural and the roads are suffering with pot holes. I have noticed that this Council has a small Team who undertake the repairs, but we give a lot of work to private companies. This work does not get checked and the pot holes are falling out after two weeks. The edges are not being sealed and we are wasting money. Can we look at bringing more of this work in-house or get photographic evidence of the work undertaken to check that the work is up to standard?”

A. Councillor Joe Blackham gave the following response:-

“We have already had a conversation about this topic and I have copied you into emails where I have told the Highway Department to improve the way they treat pot holes. Potholes are an increasing problem. The mechanisms for dealing with them are not the best. They are repaired manually and in an ideal world, we would not have as many as we do. We would cut them out and fill them properly, and get 5-10 years out of each repair. It is not the best solution to the problem. I have informed the Highway Department that the quality needs to be improved.”

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 Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Councillor, I would like to ask a question in relation to the financial impact and cost relating to the transfer of Doncaster Children’s Services Trust in-house. We were told that there would be no cost for this to us as a Council, but then we hear it will cost us £4.6 million?”

A. Councillor Phil Cole gave the following reply:-

“I will confer with Councillor Lani-Mae Ball on this issue and provide you with a written reply.”

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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“I would like to ask some information with regard to the Public Consultation on waste and recycling centres.”

A. Councillor Mark Houlbrook gave the following reply:-

“I don’t have that information to hand so I will provide you with a written reply.”

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

In the absence of Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, Members were asked to submit their questions in writing to the Executive Office and a written response would be provided.

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

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

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.

42 To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities

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

- A. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board held on 25th July and 18th October, 2022.
- B. South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 7th July and 8th September, 2022.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 20th June (Annual) 20th June (Ordinary) 25th July and 12th September, 2022.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 9th June, 2022.
- E. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 6th June and 10th October, 2022.

CHAIR:_____

DATE:_____

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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU, on THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022, at 3.10 pm.

PRESENT:

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

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

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lani-Mae Ball, Rachael Blake, Bev Chapman, Gemma Cobby, Linda Curran, Martin Greenhalgh, Barry Johnson, Richard A Jones, Sophie Liu, Jane Nightingale and Dave Shaw.

43 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

44 City Status

The Council considered a report, which was introduced by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, which outlined the work which had continued following the award of City Status to the Doncaster Borough, to ensure full compliance with The Crown Office requirements, alongside engagement with residents, local communities, businesses and other organisations, to help shape the future name of the Borough and to maximise the opportunities that becoming a City brought.

It was reported that since being awarded City Status, the Council had seen the passing of the previous Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, and had proclaimed the new King, Charles III, and it was a historic day for Doncaster when the Council welcomed His Majesty the King and the Queen Consort, to Doncaster and received the letters patent and officially became a City.

Mayor Ros Jones was sure that everyone was pleased to hear in May that Doncaster had been successful in being granted the prestigious honour of City Status as part of

Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This was a great achievement for the whole of the Doncaster Borough and that it was always clear that the bid to become a City should be led and developed by local residents and communities, the voluntary sector and the local business community. The Team Doncaster City Status Project Board comprised representatives from across that whole spectrum, and members of the Youth Council played a key role in shaping the submission and had continued to work as part of the Project Board to identify and maximise the opportunities that becoming a City would bring.

Members noted that school children, local residents and businesses whole heartedly supported the campaign, recognising the positive impacts that would come from being a City and that work was ongoing to ensure that momentum continued for the benefit of everyone.

Members were informed that a consultation exercise was undertaken across the Borough asking people their preference on whether that name should be 'City of Doncaster' or 'Doncaster City', which resulted in over 12,000 responses being received with 'City of Doncaster' being the majority preference with 62% of the vote. Subsequently, Members were requested to consider the options in the report with the recommended option being to endorse that preference and adopt 'City of Doncaster' as the name of the whole Borough.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the results of the engagement on the options for a name for Doncaster to reflect City Status be received and noted,
- (2) the preferred option of 'City of Doncaster' be agreed;
- (3) it be agreed that 'City of Doncaster Council' will be the legal title that Doncaster Council is known by with effect from 1st January, 2023, and will form the basis of future branding, signage and livery for all Council-related operations phased in over time;
- (4) it be noted that there is no timescale to replace or update assets and any changes will be cost effective, and made over time; Digital Assets such as the Website can be changed quickly and at no cost, and there will be no wholesale Council rebrand; and
- (5) it be noted that 'City of Doncaster Council' be developed for use as branding for Doncaster as a 'place', by partners and other organisations both in their own persona and for the promotion of their activities.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 19th January 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Council

Report Title: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The 2022 Doncaster Director of Public Health Annual Report is the eighth authored by Dr Rupert Suckling.
2. The report begins with a high level assessment of how the overall health status is changing in Doncaster. This year it is clear there are significant reductions in life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and increases in health inequality. These are caused by the direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of a worsening picture for the last decade. COVID-19 has not been the only infectious disease we have had to address this year. A national incident was declared in response to Monkeypox in the summer of 2022 and at the end of the year there was an increase in invasive Group A Streptococcal disease. It is not just infectious diseases though, the disruption to people's lives, livelihoods, the services and institutions we rely on from the pandemic have been profound and many are yet to fully recover. 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 burden continues and is likely to be a contributor to the reduction in women's healthy life expectancy in 2022.

3. Doncaster has also experienced several other crises. Doncaster continues to be on the frontline of the climate emergency with record river levels in the spring and record temperatures in the summer, both leading to health and social impacts. Doncaster has continued to play its part supporting refugees and asylum seekers displaced by conflict, including the war in Ukraine. Yet the biggest crisis may only be unfolding now – and that is the ‘cost of living crisis’, caused by rising inflation because of the Ukraine war and the impact on global energy and food process, ongoing impacts from leaving the EU on top of people’s sheer exhaustion at dealing with one crisis after another.
4. Finally the report provides a set of 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 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.
 - Continue to prepare for emergencies, build resilience and maintain response capabilities and capacity, working with local and national partners.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. No

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. 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

8. 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



9. No other options considered.






REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION


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

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

- 11.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to climate change and the local implications of flooding, wildfires and health impacts.				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			

Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to the numbers of people out of work, the impacts of the pandemic on communication skills in children and the loss of education.				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to the need for the City to have a thriving economy.				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to health status across Doncaster and some of the recommendations address this priority.				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health.				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health.				

 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes reference to wider determinants of health.				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			
Comments: The Director of Public Health Annual Report makes explicit the link between fairness, inclusion and health.				

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF Date: 16.12.22]

12. 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 HR 14/12/22

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

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: EL | Date: 16/12/2022]

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

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW Date: 15/12/22]

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

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

CONSULTATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

19.

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Dr Rupert Suckling

Director of Public Health

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

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

Introduction

The State of Health in Doncaster in 2022

The Crises of 2022 Coronavirus (COVID-19), Climate, Conflict, Cost of Living

Use of the Public Health Grant

The Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services and Programmes

Call to action – Cost of Living

Conclusion and Recommendations

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

2022 has continued to be a challenging year for all of us in Doncaster, Britain and indeed worldwide.

As we enter a new year and to a large extent leave Covid 19 and our response behind us, life in many cases has remained a constant struggle and has continued to test our resilience and perseverance not only among the work we do as a council, but also with the people of Doncaster and our communities. The issues and challenges facing the people of Doncaster in respect of the 'cost of living crisis' in terms of fuel, food and finances are great, sustained and urgent.

The main focus of this report focusses on the effects that the post pandemic world has thrown at us and how this impacts on Doncaster and its people in terms of life expectancy and indeed healthy life expectancy which have seen a decline.

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 the important work on a range of health issues and the wider determinants of health that the Public Health Team perform on a daily basis. This work 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.

Introduction

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

The report begins with a high level assessment of how the overall health status is changing in Doncaster. This year it is clear there are significant reductions in life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and increases in health inequality. These are caused by the direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of a worsening picture for the last decade.

COVID-19 has not been the only crisis that Doncaster people have faced in 2022. In fact the Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2022 was permacrisis – an extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events. It is easy to see why this applies to 2022. 2022 began with the Omicron wave of COVID-19 and as we start 2023 we will have seen four subsequent waves. COVID-19 still has direct impacts on people's health. Despite effective vaccination programmes there have still been too many avoidable infections, hospitalisations and deaths. In fact, the numbers of people being hospitalised with COVID-19 were higher in 2022 than in 2021! My thoughts again are with all those who lost loved ones or have been impacted by the pandemic directly and in other ways.

However, COVID-19 has not been the only infectious disease we have had to address this year. A national incident was declared in response to Monkeypox in the summer of 2022 and at the end of the year there was an increase in invasive Group A Streptococcal disease. It is not just infectious diseases though, the disruption to people's lives, livelihoods, the services and institutions we rely on from the pandemic have been profound and many are yet to fully recover. 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 burden continues and is likely to be a contributor to the reduction in women's healthy life expectancy in 2022.

Doncaster has also experienced several other crises. Doncaster continues to be on the frontline of the climate emergency with record river levels in the spring and record temperatures in the summer, both leading to health and social impacts. Doncaster has continued to play its part supporting refugees and asylum seekers displaced by conflict, including the war in Ukraine. Yet the biggest crisis may only be unfolding now – and that is the 'cost of living crisis', caused by rising inflation because of the Ukraine war and the impact on global energy and food process, ongoing impacts from leaving the EU on top of people's sheer exhaustion at dealing with one crisis after another. I have outlined in the call to action how we are responding to this locally.

As last year, I have provided a breakdown on how the public health grant is allocated. This year I have provided a narrative as to how locally commissioned public health services are performing. The national benchmarking report that I have previously used is no longer produced.

The State of Health in Doncaster in 2022

It is difficult to understand the true state of health in Doncaster in 2022. Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic has still had a major impact on health in the Borough in 2022. Yet focusing solely on the pandemic misses the point 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.

In previous reports I described how everyone knows when they feel healthy and how Directors of Public Health use a range of population outcome measures to assess overall health status. 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, data has been grouped 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>.

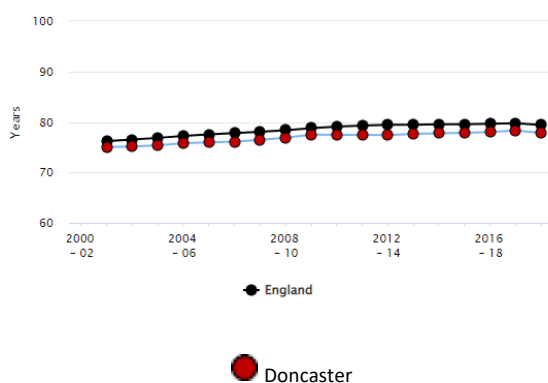
Life Expectancy

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 however, 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 a permanent situation.

For 2018-2020 Life Expectancy at birth in men was 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.

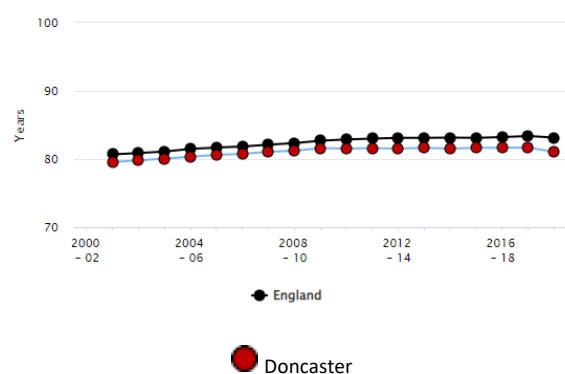
Life expectancy at birth (Male) New data

[Show confidence intervals](#) [Show 99.8% CI values](#)



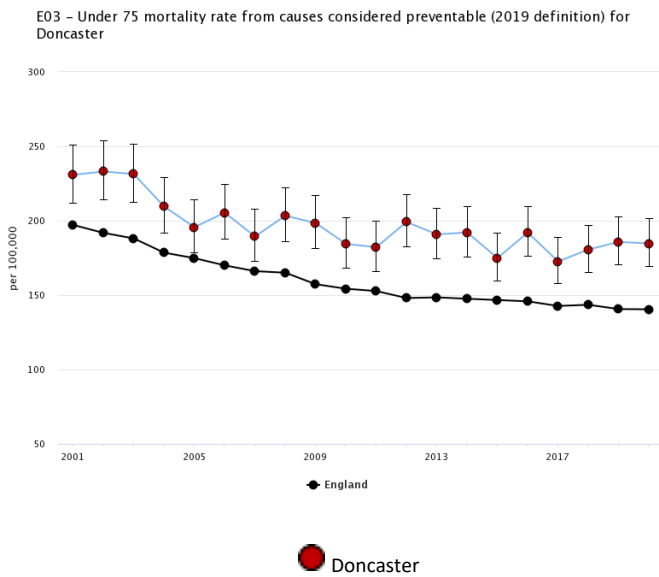
Life expectancy at birth (Female) New data

[Show confidence intervals](#) [Show 99.8% CI values](#)



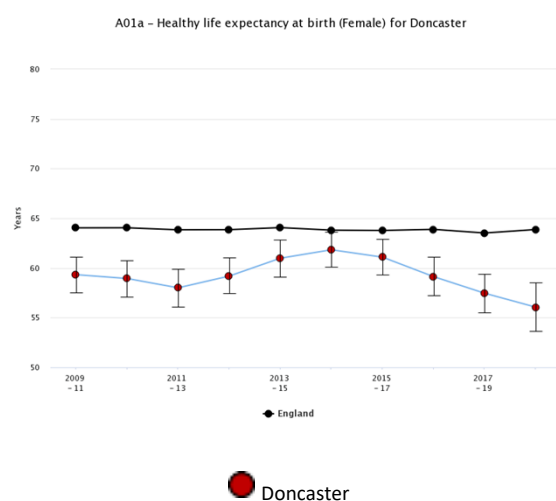
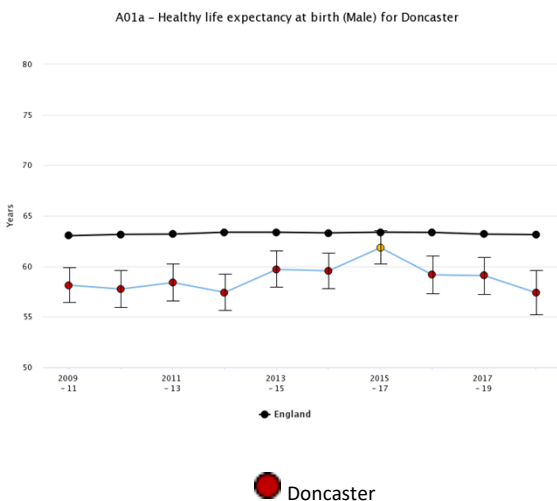
Deaths from preventable conditions in Doncaster are 50% higher than in the rest of England. These preventable deaths include some deaths in childhood, deaths from overdose, violence and suicide, and premature deaths from heart disease, respiratory diseases and cancer. To reduce these

preventable deaths partners will need to re-establish the prevention services that were disrupted by the pandemic.



Healthy Life Expectancy

As well as assessing length of life, quality of life is important too 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. In England Healthy Life Expectancy has been falling since 2016-18 but it has been falling much quicker in Doncaster. For 2018-20 Healthy Life Expectancy for men was 57.4 years compared to the England rate of 63.1 years, a difference of 5.7 years. The latest data shows a Healthy Life Expectancy for women of 56.1 years compared to the England rate of 63.9 years a difference between Doncaster women and England of 7.8 years. Although this is self-reported data, these differences are worthy of further investigation especially in terms of obvious inequalities.

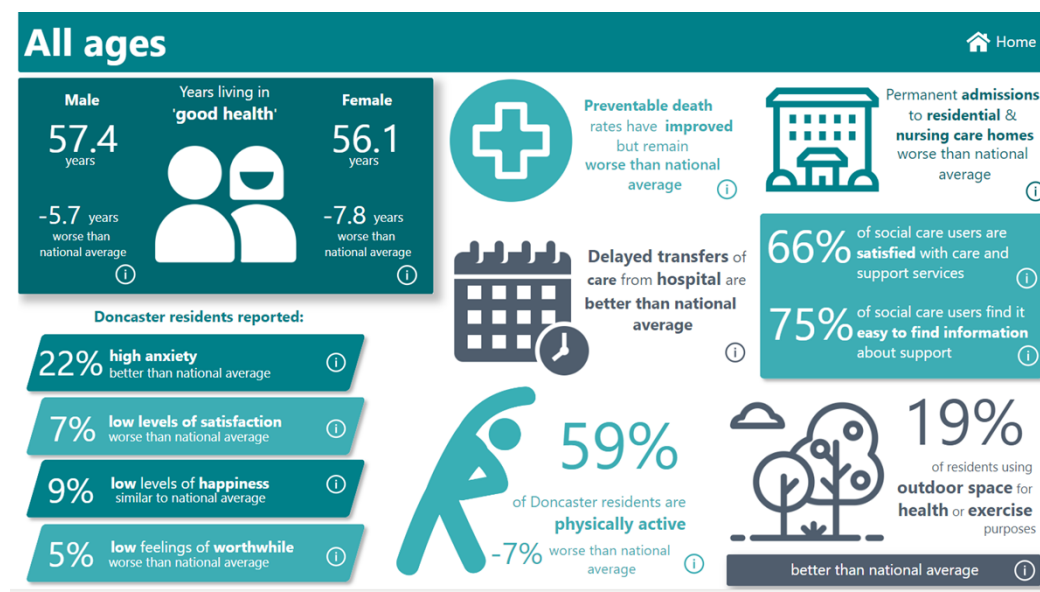


Health Inequalities

Whether it is life expectancy or healthy life expectancy, over the last 10 years Doncaster has not closed the gap with the rest of England, as I mentioned last year the gaps are getting wider. Despite the best of efforts of local people and services, given the challenge of recovering from the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis these impacts are going to grow.

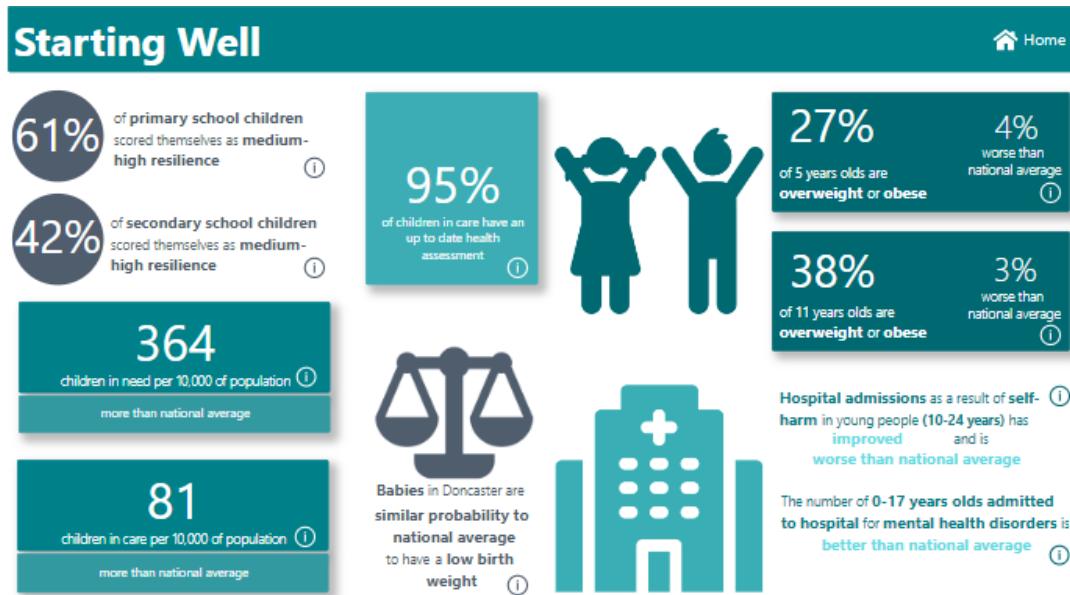
All Ages

As well as the fall in Healthy Life Expectancy and the static preventable death rates the All Age section of the JSNA comments on 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. Doncaster people show low levels of self-reported satisfaction and falling levels of happiness compared to other areas and levels of physical activity are still lower than other areas and have fallen from 61% last year.



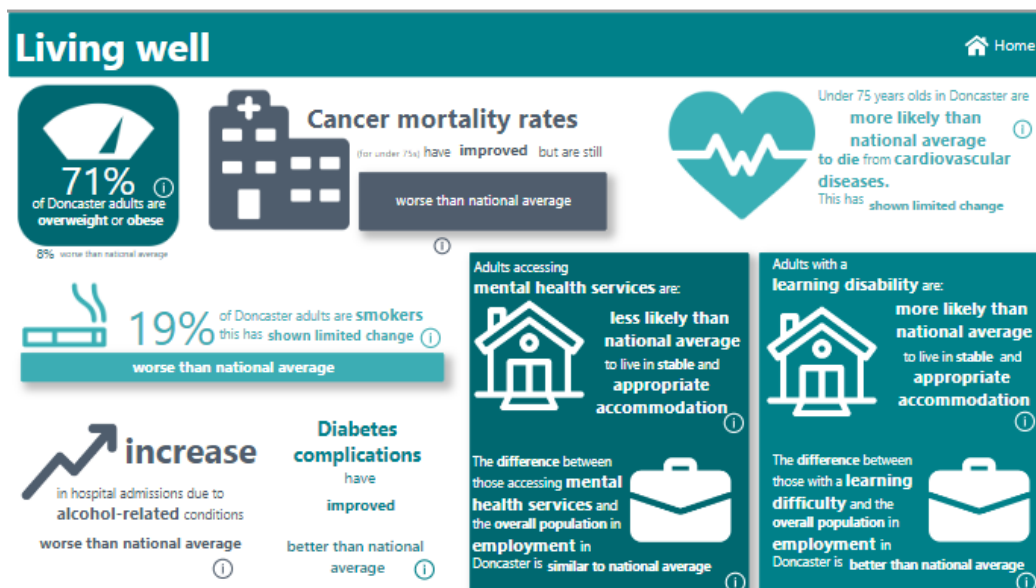
Starting well

The data on resilience has not been updated since last year. However, although hospital admissions for mental health disorders are not going up, there have been increases in admissions for self-harm. The numbers of Children in Need continue to fall but the number of Children in Care is increasing. There has been a significant reduction in Doncaster babies born at a low birth rate so much so that this is now at the national average. Childhood obesity locally and nationally is still increasing.



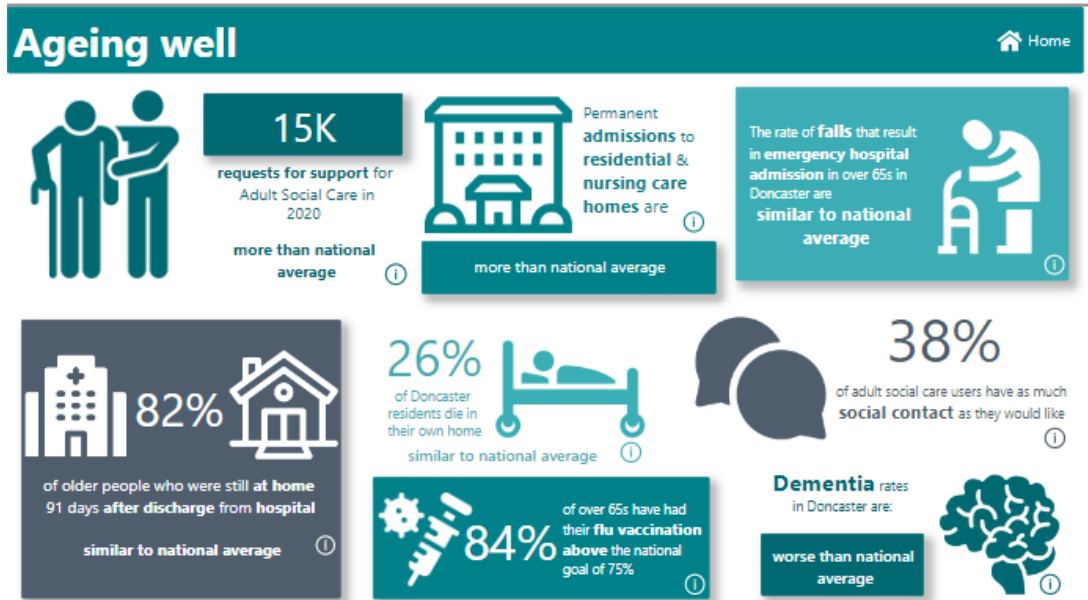
Living Well

Deaths from cancer and cardiovascular disease are falling but are still significantly worse than the national average. Several key risk factors including smoking, alcohol and obesity are still significantly higher than the national average and alcohol related conditions and overweight and obesity are increasing. Housing particularly for people who use mental health services is less likely to be stable although improving and 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.



Ageing Well

For older adults in Doncaster although the numbers of people with dementia are higher than the national average this is likely to be due to better identification. The number of people at risk of falling has reduced and the number of people at home 91 days after discharge has increased too but the number of people requesting social care support and need permanent admission to residential and nursing care homes are higher than the national average.



The Crises of 2022 Coronavirus (COVID-19), Climate, Conflict, Cost of Living

2022 started with the continuation of the COVID-19 crisis. By the end of 2021 Doncaster had had 5 waves of COVID-19 and as 2022 began Doncaster was amid this fifth wave – caused by the Omicron variant. At the start of 2022, many health and care organisations were declaring business continuity incidents with 10-15% staff absence as the numbers of COVID-19 cases increased rapidly. The Omicron wave did start to fall in January, but as the rates fell it was clear that there were places where pockets of ‘COVID’ remained stubborn. Any relief was short lived as by March there was a new wave caused by the BA.2 variant of Omicron that was with us until May 2022. In June and July, there was an increase in cases due to the BA.5 variant of Omicron and although this fell in during August, as schools went back in September there was a further wave on COVID-19. As 2022 ends there is a new wave of COVID-19 caused by the BQ.1 variant of Omicron.

Tracking the impacts of COVID-19 in 2022 has been more difficult as widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for COVID-19 was scaled back in early 2022, and Lateral Flow Tests were no longer available. However, COVID-19 has still had significant direct and indirect impacts. Although the number of reported cases in the first 11 months of 2022 are similar to 2021 (45,954 to 42,502) this is almost certainly an underestimate due to the reduction in testing. There were more hospital admissions for people with a positive COVID-19 test in the first 11 months of 2022 than the same time in 2021 (3,041 compared to 1,940) and whilst many of these people would have had COVID-19 without symptoms, manging these asymptomatic cases in hospitals places extra pressure on health care beds and staff. Finally, there were as many deaths of people within 28 days of having a positive COVID test in the first 11 months of 2022 as in the same period in 2021 (325 deaths and 295 deaths respectively). All data is available at

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

It is also clear that whilst vaccination reduces the risk of death from COVID-19 it has much less impact on reducing transmission. So COVID-19 is still with us and still is a major cause of concern for people for whom vaccination is not an option or in whom vaccination does not work.

COVID-19 has not been the only infectious disease that made the headlines in 2022. In May 2022 a national incident was declared due to a rise in Monkeypox cases. This is a rare viral infection and although usually self-limiting can be severe in some people. Although the risk to the general population was low, vaccination of high risk populations was offered. A third infectious disease made the headlines in December 2022 when a national communication was sent to the public and health and care professionals reminding people about the symptoms of group A streptococcal disease, which is responsible scarlet fever but had been the cause of (by the 6th December 2022) of 8 child deaths in the UK. Locally this alert increased pressure significantly on children’s health and care services.

The direct impacts of infectious diseases are clearly still with us. We need to ensure that for vaccine preventable diseases we have high levels of vaccination, but we also need to remind ourselves of the signs and symptoms of other infectious diseases and make sure our self-management and health and care services are equipped to respond.

We are still seeing the indirect impacts of COVID-19 too. The pandemic exposed increasing inequalities in health and placed additional strain on the health and care system. There is no clear indication that this is improving with the health and care system operating under intense demand all year with long waiting lists for emergency and planned care, exacerbated by ongoing workforce sickness and shortages. This situation is contributing to the poor health status described in the

previous section. It is not just impacts on the health and care system that are being seen. There are signs of poorer communication skills in our young children and clearly many children missed out on education too that is also having an impact on children's mental health. In older adults we are seeing many people leave the workforce and are no longer looking for work. Doubtless the UK COVID inquiry will look at many of these issues too.

It is clear to many that the climate is changing, and in 2022 Doncaster experienced both flooding and high temperatures. First in February, record river levels were recorded on the Don and although there was much less impact than the floods of 2019 these are still very distressing and disruptive times for many Doncaster people. Then in July the first national 'Red heat alert' was issued and on 18th July temperatures in Doncaster peaked at 40.1C (104F) just below the new national record of 40.3C at Coningsby in Lincolnshire. At the time South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) had to deal with fires in Sprotbrough, Hatfield and Rossington. In August, an 'Amber health alert' was released and again SYFR had to respond to a fire in Scawsby and unfortunately a death due to drowning. Nationally these periods of heat were associated with a 10% increase in deaths, with deaths more likely in older people and those with underlying health problems, and these heat waves will have contributed to a number of local deaths too. It is clear that adaptation, mitigation and response to these natural emergencies must be carried out alongside a renewed push to carbon-zero.

2022 also saw the continuation and escalation of a number of global armed conflicts. The most obvious is the escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian war with the invasion of mainland Ukraine by Russia causing a massive refugee crisis. The council was able to provide a welcome point at Doncaster Sheffield Airport to support people coming to the UK from Ukraine and in the first 9 weeks over 900 people were welcomed to the UK through the airport with 50 of those staying in Doncaster. It was not just the Council operating alone that supported new arrivals, Team Doncaster partners, the Doncaster Ukrainian Centre and the Conversation Club were heavily involved too. The fallout from other conflicts still impacts people around the world and Doncaster continues to play its part supporting refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Syria. However, responding in emergencies can place extra pressure on already stretched services and place extra demand on local housing supply. Improved working with the Home Office and their contractors could improve the situation as would a renewed focus on affordable house building.

The escalation of the war in Ukraine sparked a global energy crisis putting up the cost of both oil and gas. This energy crisis was one reason for the UK 'cost of living crisis' and did lead to a range of national measures announced to support households. However, it was not just energy prices that fuelled the cost of living crisis, incomes were not keeping up with the rise in inflation putting additional pressures on poorer households, there were also increased costs of borrowing (including mortgages), increased food costs following leaving the EU along with commodity and wage increases. Finally, there was an increase in the number of people choosing to leave work and the number of people out of work for health related issues. In fact, the cost of living crisis may prove to be a bigger and more enduring challenge than COVID-19!

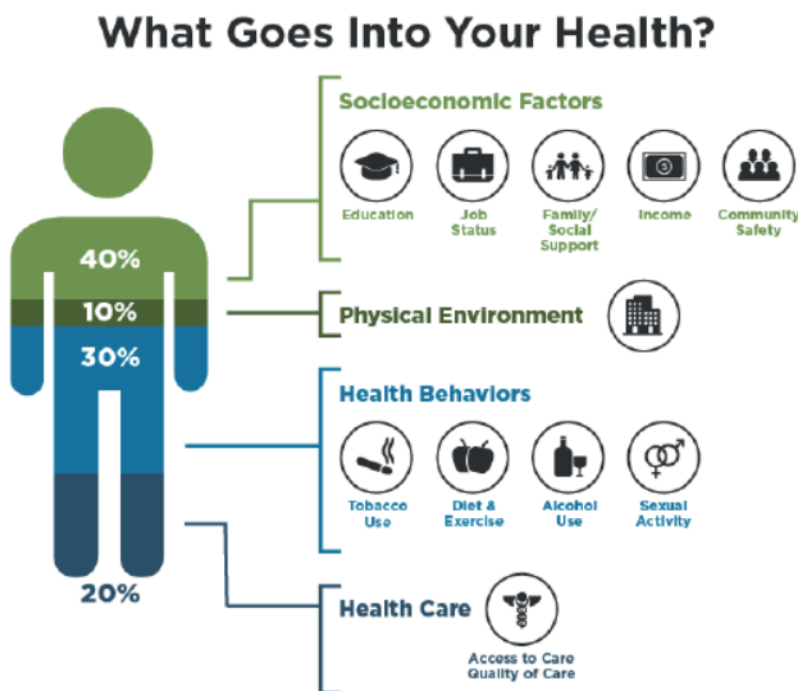
As these crises continue to show, not everyone is impacted the same. The same fault lines in wealth, health, and social protection, are obvious and these crises are as much social as medical. The British Academy (Shaping the Covid Decade) described 9 significant areas of long-term societal impact of 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 global large scale involuntary migrations are as we have seen 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 changing use of town centres and communities, homeworking, hybrid working will continue. The importance of being digitally connected will not go away either.

These crises are interconnected but they have not created new inequalities, in fact they have exposed existing inequalities and exacerbated them. The impact on existing inequalities between people from different ethnic groups is particularly stark. At times of crisis it can be easy to focus on the immediate issues and the demands in acute care. The challenge is to not only focus on the immediate but also to focus on the important and the other 80% of factors that contribute to health and wellbeing.



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

Adapted from The Bridgespan Group

The World Health Organisation's new health promotion charter the Geneva Charter for Well-being has five key areas for action and is an approach that can support Doncaster Delivering Together locally.

- 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

To help understand and address these wider factors the Council along with our partners at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, have been successful in a bid to host a National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Determinant Research Collaboration (HDRC). HDRC Doncaster represents significant investment to enable the Council to become more research active and embed a culture of evidence-based decision making.

This new collaboration (led by Dr Susan Hampshaw), one of ten across the United Kingdom will help develop research capacity and capability through collaborations with the academic sector and other stakeholders to undertake research to address the wider determinants of health and health inequalities. This is a huge opportunity for Doncaster and our work will be underpinned by our TIDES principles:

- Work will be Theory-Informed, harnessing theories on knowledge mobilisation, research capacity development, and behaviour change
- We will Learn by Doing and share our learning
- We will ensure we do not privilege some voices/ ideas above others (Equity)
- We will ensure our collaboration is a pathway to Sustainable and applied research in Doncaster

Find out more about our plans by emailing us HDRCDoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk

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
- 10) Obesity – children
- 11) Physical activity – adults
- 12) Physical activity – children
- 13) Treatment for drug misuse in adults
- 14) Treatment for alcohol misuse in adults
- 15) Preventing and reducing harm from drug misuse in adults
- 16) Preventing and reducing harm from alcohol misuse in adults
- 17) Specialist drugs and alcohol misuse services for children and young people
- 18) Stop smoking services and interventions
- 19) Wider tobacco control
- 20) Children 5 to 19 public health programmes
- 21) Other children's 0 to 5 services non-prescribed
- 22) Health at work
- 23) Public mental health
- 24) Miscellaneous, can include, but is not exclusive to: nutrition initiatives, accidents prevention, general prevention, community safety, violence prevention and social exclusion, dental public health, fluoridation, infectious disease surveillance and control, environmental hazards protection, seasonal death reduction initiatives, birth defect preventions
- 25) Test, track and trace and outbreak planning
- 26) Other public Health spend relating to COVID-19

	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Budget
	£000's	£000's
Public Health Grant	-24,609	-25,300
Public Health Other income	-13,662	-11,411
Total PH income	-39,006	-36,712
Expenditure: Commissioned Services		
Sexual Health	2,381	2,350
NHS Health Check programme	3	350
Health protection	4,851	1,704
National Child Measurement Programme	68	68
Obesity	466	233
Physical Activity	61	80
Substance Misuse	6,148	7,798
Smoking and Tobacco	434	731
Children 5-19 public health programmes	1,752	1,955
Children 0-5 Health visiting	5,759	6,186
Mental Health	283	148
Other public health services misc H&WB	6,825	7,372
Sub-total Commissioned Services	29,031	28,975
Public Health Advice (including Salary costs)	2,085	2,341
Sub-total Central and Support Services	2,085	2,341
Expenditure (wider determinants)		
Realignment	5,061	5,133
Growth	263	263
Sub-total wider determinants	5,309	5,396
Total Expenditure (commissioned + central & support + Wider determinants)	36,425	36,712

In 2022 the Public Health Grant was allocated as set out as above. There were significant extra one-off external resources for health protection to support the response to COVID-19, to support people who were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, additional money for substance misuse services and research income. The wider determinants fund has been maintained at £5.3m.

Performance of Public Health Commissioned Services and Programmes

The majority of public health commissioned services including health visiting, school nursing, sexual health and substance misuse use services modified their delivery methods during the pandemic. I have provided a short snapshot of how they have performed over the last year. In 2022 the Public Health team still provided leadership, support and manpower to the Team Doncaster COVID-19 response including local testing and contact tracing.

Health Visiting

Health Visiting services are required to offer all families expecting a child 5 mandated reviews including an antenatal contact, new birth visit and 2 year review. The Health Visiting Service has consistently met targets for mandated reviews, often exceeding national averages. Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth has remained fairly consistent albeit low with around 30-33% of babies either being totally or partially breastfed. Health Visiting services are key to the delivery of additional health promoting, preventative initiatives including the distribution of universal Healthy Start vitamins to over 7000 pregnant women and women with a child under 12 months in the last year. The service has also distributed over 7000 tooth brushing packs and information on good oral health to families across Doncaster.

Smoking in Pregnancy

The smoking in pregnancy service has consistently met targets for timely offer of support and self-reported quits at 4 weeks. The target for Carbon Monoxide (CO) validated quits had suffered during the COVID pandemic as the service user is required to blow into the CO monitor and this was prohibited under COVID restrictions. Once the restrictions were lifted, numbers for CO validated quits slowly returned to pre-pandemic rates and we are pleased to see the target for CO validated quits in expectant mothers exceed the target of 85% in Q1 22/23. The service continues to work closely with midwifery colleagues to ensure women identified as smokers are referred into smoking cessation services and are referred throughout pregnancy. A dedicated link worker is now in place in the hospital to encourage women to take up the offer of support if they are struggling to stop smoking during their pregnancy.

5-19 Public Health Programmes -School Nursing

In 2022 the School Nursing service continued to perform well, meeting its targets in relation to the Key Performance Indicators and in many areas exceeding expectation. The service focused on mental health and wellbeing, physical health and wellbeing and positive lifestyle choices. Demand for the service remained high with all partners. Primary schools consistently take up the offer for support around Safe touch and puberty. Secondary schools consistently take up the offer for in-house health and wellbeing clinics. A key request from children and young people this year from the service has been around support for emotional wellbeing.

5-19 Public Health Programmes - Young People's Health & Wellbeing Service (Project 3)

Project 3 performed well providing sexual health, substance misuse, and smoking cessation interventions for young people aged 11-19 years. The drop-in clinic was stopped during the pandemic, however the service has adapted to ensure that young people were still having their needs met by offering same day appointments wherever possible. The ongoing impact of the pandemic was also noted for the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), with a reduction in the numbers screened. Positive screens have been a challenge for a longer period and reflect

issues noted nationally. The easing of Covid restrictions allowed for greater opportunities for outreach with strong demand from a range of education settings.

This year saw the recommissioning of 5-19 Public Health Services, bringing together School Nursing and Project 3 services into one delivery model. The new service 'Zone 5-19: Children and young people's health and wellbeing service' began on 1st August 2022, the service has mobilised well and has been engaging with young people, families and professionals to offer support.

NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check is a mandated Public Health prevention programme which aims to reduce the risk of heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and some forms of dementia; through early identification, assessment and management of lifestyle and behavioural risk factors such as smoking, diet, alcohol intake and physical inactivity which can contribute to early death. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS Health Checks were paused nationally to reduce the pressures in Primary Care and the Service came to a natural end in Doncaster in March 2021.

The focus this financial year has been on the recovery and restarting of the programme with a new commissioned Service which prioritises delivery to those who are at the greatest risk. Restarting has been a challenge due to the current climate and uncertainty in the supplier market, however this has presented Doncaster with an opportunity to redesign and reshape Service requirements to best meet the needs of the population and consider improvements in line with the new national recommendations for the transformation of the programme.

Priorities for the new commissioned NHS Health Checks Service in Doncaster will be:

- To invite and encourage the eligible population to take up the offer
- To support a reduction in health inequalities by targeting individuals and communities with the greatest health needs and those most at risk
- To support and empower individuals to make healthy choices by raising awareness of the risks associated with specific lifestyles and behaviours

Adult substance misuse

Post pandemic, the service has seen an increase in alcohol referrals. In June 2020 there were 263 alcohol clients in treatment compared to June 2022 when there were 593 alcohol clients in treatment, an increase of 125%. Successful alcohol treatment completions in Doncaster are at 43% against national performance of 36.6% in June 2022. Opiates successful completions however remain at 2.3% against a target of 5% but the relapsing nature of substance misuse should be noted as a contributory factor, and remaining in treatment is a protective factor in itself. Additional supplementary funding from The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has been used to increase staffing levels for criminal justice clients and those with multiple needs, increasing capacity to assertively engage and outreach with individuals. A pilot initiative to support families affected by substance misuse has been delivered by Aspire, with 84 referrals made of which 70 have progressed to structured treatment, during April to October 2022. A pilot of alcohol early intervention services has proved highly successful with 54 referrals and 36 successful discharges during April-October 2022.

Public mental health and suicide prevention

The Public Health team maintains real time surveillance of all suicides locally and a tailored support response individuals affected by suicide is provided by Amparo who supported 10 individuals in 2022/23. Additionally the IMP;ACT service is commissioned to support people who have made previous suicide attempts and during April to July 2022, 33 people were supported to increase their personal resilience. A pilot project to support the uptake of the Zero Suicide Alliance online training has been delivered in all 4 localities across Doncaster, and training in talking to children & young people following bereavement by suicide will be delivered to a total of 52 school staff.

Doncaster Smoke Free

The service continues to perform well with an overall a 4 week quit rate of 68% (May to August 2022 average) against a target of 50%. The service targets and engages with groups with higher smoking prevalence than the average Doncaster population, i.e. people with long term conditions, people with mental ill health and routine and manual workers. Post pandemic, numbers of referrals into the service are slightly lower this year than last year with 759 people setting a quit date and 517 people actually quitting during April to August 2022.

Adult Sexual Health Services

The Public Health commissioned adult sexual health services include testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), contraception provision and psychosexual therapy services. Advice, prevention and promotion are embedded across all service elements delivered. 1st April '22 saw a change in service provider, with Sexual Health Services 4 Doncaster (SHS4D) provided by Solutions 4 Health taking over from TriHealth. SHS4D moved into their new clinic space at High Fishergate in July and have been quick to settle into service provision for our Doncaster residents.

Numbers through the service for both STI and contraception provision were lower than usual at the start of the year, this was due to factors associated with the change in provider. The second half of the year has seen an improvement on activity levels across the service and this will continue to be built upon moving forward. Provision of the online STI testing offer has been well received with high take up and plans to establish community hub sites will further improve access to sexual health services across the borough.

Air Quality

School Streets funding was received from DEFRA at the start of 2020 following a joint funding bid between Doncaster and Barnsley Council coordinated by Sheffield City Region (SCR) colleagues. DEFRA agreed to extend the funding deadlines due to Covid-19, and the project was able to start in April 2021. During 2021/22 10 Schools held a School Street Closure.

The schools received support to promote active travel on the day of the closure. Prior to the event school children participated in lessons about the effects of air quality on climate change and designed posters to reflect their learning. Since hosting a School Street Closure 7 schools have gone on to achieve either bronze or silver Modeshift stars accreditation and are working hard to achieve

the next level. The accreditation recognises schools, businesses and other organisations that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel.

The benefits of holding the one-day closures enabled us to promote active travel directly to parents/carers and families, as well as promoting the School Streets initiative to schools across the borough utilising press and social media.

To support sustainability, a toolkit has been developed for schools that would like to arrange a one-off School Street for themselves. During 2021 there was an opportunity to bid to DEFRA for further funding and we were successful in gaining funds to trial 4 permanent School Street closures and a further 10 one day trial closures at schools.

The Public Health team is also represented on the Air Quality Steering Group which is responsible for the council's Air Quality Action Plan. The action plan is currently under review, with the refresh due June 2023.

Get Doncaster Moving - Physical Activity – “Healthy and vibrant communities through physical activity and sport”

Doncaster is taking a whole systems, place based approach to tackling inequalities in physical activity. The Get Doncaster Moving Team coordinates this collaborative approach across Public Health, Doncaster Council and Team Doncaster. Within the Public Health Directorate, the GDM team shares resources and works in partnership with the Well Doncaster and the Wider Determinants teams; and together they have a central leadership role in creating connections between resident priorities, policy themes and diverse Government objectives.

Highlights for 2022:

- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration – through the refresh and launch event of the Get Doncaster Moving Strategy, which sets out a shared vision for movement, physical activity and sport until 2030, with eight themed policy ambitions.
- Major sport events - Doncaster hosted three Men's Rugby League World Cup fixtures, and hosted the Samoan Men's National Team (SMNT) for three weeks. The Get Doncaster Moving team have coordinated an engagement and impact programme which has included; the SMNT visiting schools and clubs; Over 350 children given match day opportunities (mascots, flag bearers, ball crew, play on the pitch and half term performances); securing investment of £700k to build a purpose built facility for a Doncaster amateur Rugby League club; 11 Community groups receiving micro grants to deliver RLWC2021 themed activities including physical activity sessions, arts and crafts sessions, viewing hubs and decorative purposes. We have also launched 'Game Plan' in partnership with Leeds Beckett University; to share our learning about community impact from hosting major sport events
- Active Schools - over 60 primary schools have joined the Doncaster's PE and Active schools network to share good practice, learning and opportunities. 13 primary schools have signed up to the Creating Active Schools Framework (CASF); using a 'peer to peer' approach with teachers supporting each other to implement the framework to increase physical activity throughout the school day.

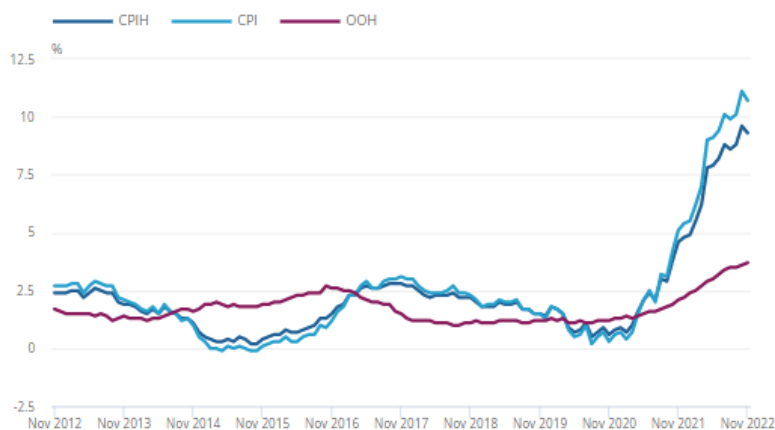
- Dance (in partnership with darts) - 15 Dance On! classes delivered across community venues and care settings, and a free programme of Dance On! at home classes through the darts website and Sine FM radio for people aged 55+
- Investment in Leisure Centres - Considerable on-going investment into Doncaster's stock of leisure facilities, for example since 2020, £1.1m invested into the refurbishment of Armthorpe Leisure Centre, £750k into the refurbishment of Rossington Leisure Centre and £910k secured from Sport England to support the £5.5m refurbishment of Askern Leisure Centre and Country Park.
- Doncaster Future Parks – significant progress made this year, with 1,715 residents engaged in shaping the development of the Future Parks programmes on four sites through surveys and community events. The Doncaster Green Space Network has supported the development of new and existing voluntary groups, increasing the capacity across the network through training and supporting groups in delivering community events and activities. There has been an increase in collaboration across the DGSN, groups are beginning to working together independently from the wider network to achieve common goals. In the autumn, we launched the Doncaster Parks Corporate Volunteering pilot, helping business deliver their social corporate responsibility while helping restore our parks and green spaces through active work. Using HUQ data we have identified that across the 15 future parks over 2,760,000 have visited these spaces in 2022, through the scheduled investment it will be determined if this has had an impact on parks usage.
- Active communities, in partnership with Well Doncaster - 5 GDM Community Connectors in place, hosted by Community Anchor Organisations, who support residents to access opportunities close to where they live. Our 80th Active Communities Grant awarded (total value £37,700) since the start of the programme in 2020. Grants are awarded to individuals and groups to increase support, access and opportunity for inactive people.
- Active travel - We have supported the Wider Determinants and DMBC Transportation Team to secure investment to deliver a pilot to test how we support residents to travel actively through social prescribing. The walking programme has grown significantly; we are now supporting 26 community led walking groups across the borough and we have trained 84 Community Walk Leaders and 35 Ramblers Wellbeing Walks Walk Leaders.

Call to Action – Cost of Living

I have described how we began 2022 still experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and how we are still recovering from its wider social and economic impacts. However, as we went through 2022 the UK experienced a cost of living crisis, with increasing energy, food, and service costs. These all affect people with the lowest incomes the most. In October 2022, inflation was at 11.1%, the highest rate since 1981, and within this, the prices of some items were increasing at a much faster rate. Food inflation was 16.2% overall, but for pasta alone it was as high as 34%. Although the December data shows a slight fall to 10.7% these are still astonishingly high inflation rates and need to be taken together with rising interest rates. In December 2021 the Bank of England intertest rate was 0.1% by December 2022 it had risen to 3.5% – increasing the costs of mortgages.

Figure 1: Annual CPIH and CPI inflation rates ease slightly in November 2022

CPIH, OOH component and CPI annual inflation rates for the last 10 years, UK, November 2012 to November 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics - Consumer price inflation

Although the full health impacts of the cost of living crisis will not be felt for many years, we already know that the cost of living crisis is affecting our residents and having an impact locally. And we know that the economic and health impacts will not be felt equally across Doncaster's communities, because poverty and health are closely linked, and our poorest households are the least resilient to economic shocks. The University of Bristol Financial Tracker shows that by October 2022 there has been almost a doubling in households in serious financial difficulty from 10% to 17%.¹ The percentage of households who have a negative outlook on their finances compared to during the pandemic has also doubled from 25% to 50%.

¹ Evans J, Collard S (2022) Prices Rising, Temperature Falling: the financial wellbeing of UK households in October 2022. Findings from the 7th Financial Fairness Tracker Survey. University of Bristol <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/geography/research/pfrc/themes/capability-behaviours-wellbeing/covid-19-tracker/> (last accessed 14/12/22)

The UK's financial wellbeing substantially worsened throughout 2022

Figure 1 – Percentage of UK households in our four financial wellbeing categories in each wave of the coronavirus financial impact tracker

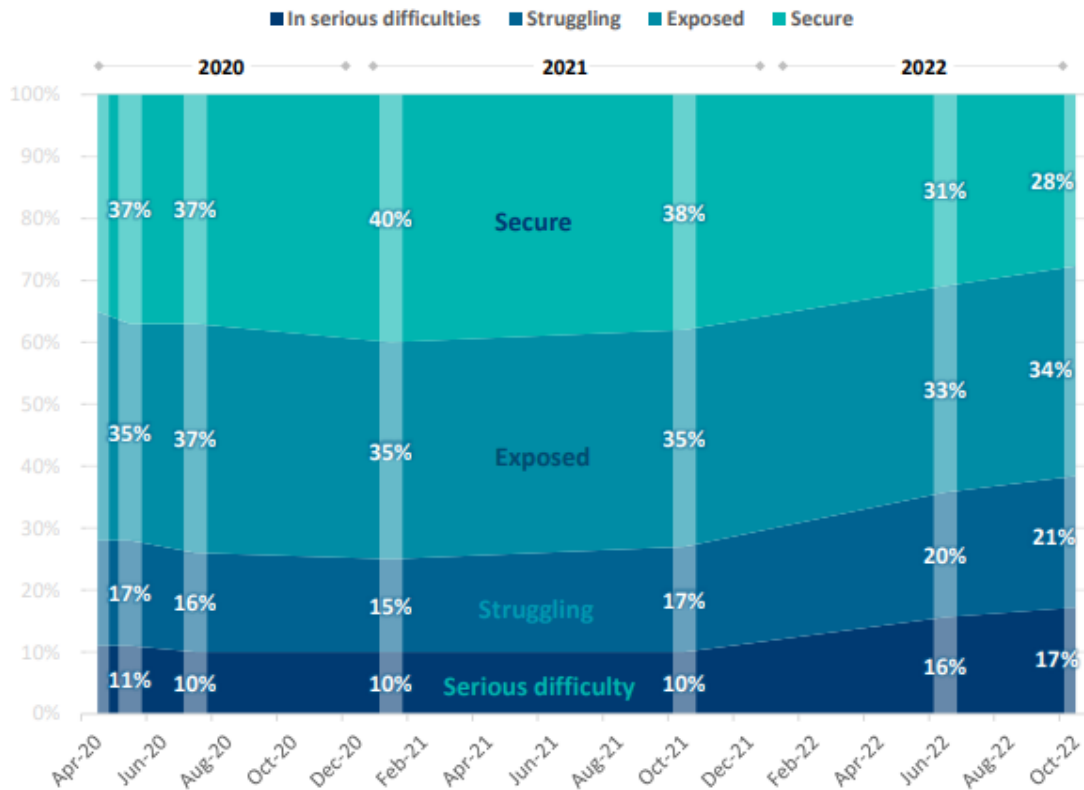
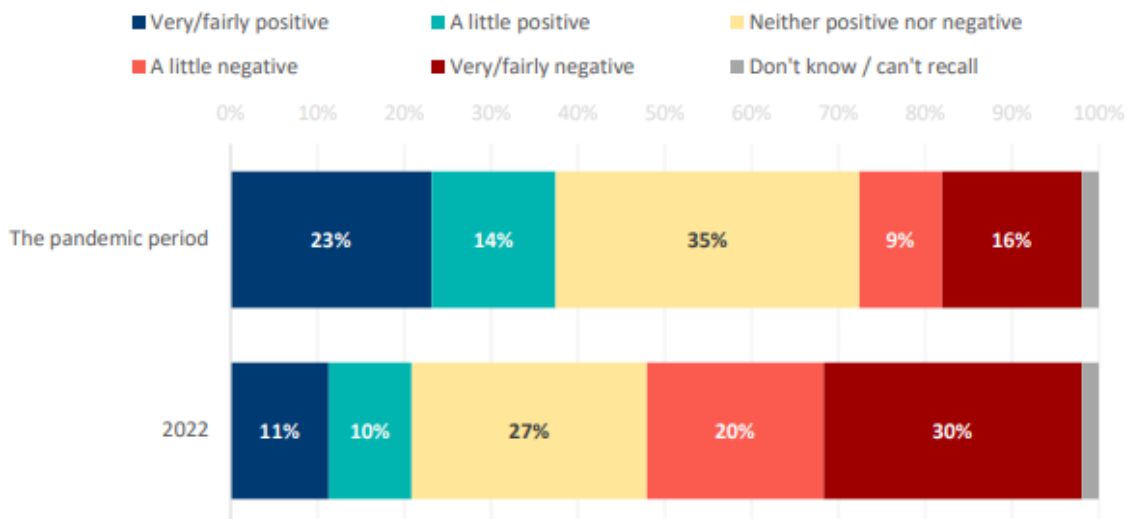


Figure 7 – Comparing the impact of the pandemic and 2022 on UK households' finances



In 2022 Team Doncaster has been able to build on the work started as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and used to develop the Borough Strategy Doncaster Delivering Together to identify and work with groups in our communities who do not have the same opportunities as other people. As part of our work to support people during this cost of living crisis, we have been working with these groups to give them the extra help that they need.

Our response during this immediate period has included

- Reviewing how information, advice and guidance is provided to our residents. We have updated and relaunched the Your Life Doncaster website <https://www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/>
- Promoting and running Information campaigns, such as Cost of Living Support, Talk Money Week and produced a Winter Booklet for all households all supported by online information.
- Providing financial and practical support to our partners in the voluntary and community sector. This has included increasing the amount and length of funding to Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough (CADB). CADB have employed additional debt support workers and rolled out outreach advice services across the borough, using community venues and working with other groups such as food banks. We have also provided office space in the Civic Building when a previous landlord ended their tenancy at short notice.
- Supporting food banks financially using the Holiday Activities and Food Programme funding and helping them develop so that a range of support is provided to their users. This has included providing CADB advice workers and connecting food banks to other local offers. We are also exploring options to support the development of local 'food pantries'. These help food bank users regain independence by offering a range of goods at a low, fixed price.
- Administering the Household Support Fund and Local Assistance Scheme payments.
- Working with the Mayoral Combined Authority to develop proposals on how the new Shared Prosperity Fund could be used to support residents, and our local voluntary and community groups.

We are using data and local intelligence to target our interventions to those who need our help most. But there will still be people that services or support do not reach. There are entrenched structural issues within our communities that restrict peoples' opportunities and abilities to cope with economic, and other, shocks.

We know that it is not just a case of weathering the storm, recovering from this cost of living crisis will require national and local action. To help us develop a set of local policy responses we have established a Fairness and Wellbeing Commission. The Fairness and Wellbeing Commission is working to gather evidence on the experiences of people who live and work in Doncaster so that we can better understand the challenges and opportunities they face. It will make an independent strategic assessment of the nature, extent, and causes of inequalities in Doncaster and make recommendations for tackling them in the medium and long term to improve wellbeing across the borough.

The potential wide scope of this inquiry means that the Commission may need to prioritise a number of key issues. These may include:

- Barriers to work
- Maximising income/debt
- Food security
- Housing costs
- Fuel Poverty

The commission will operate in a similar way to that of a parliamentary select committee, mounting a short, focussed enquiry, taking evidence, and producing a final written report.

We all have a role in supporting our residents during the cost of living crisis. Some of the things we can all do are

- Take a compassionate approach with everyone who is experiencing difficulties during the cost of living crisis
- Share information on the advice and support that is available and help people to access the information if they find it difficult
- Take part in campaigns and share messages proactively with our communities
- Help people who are nervous or unsure about coming forward for support and work through trusted local people and community groups
- Show solidarity and support local charities, business and campaigns including Real Help Doncaster <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/realhelpdoncaster>
- Contribute to the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission ‘call for evidence’ to help us understand the experience of our residents <https://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk/doncaster-fairness-well-being-commission>

Conclusions and Recommendations

The COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, but it is not the only challenge we are dealing with. There are other infectious diseases that we are seeing and the impacts on health and care services look intransigent. These crises together with climate change, conflicts and the cost of living set a very challenging context for Doncaster people and services for 2023 and future years. These are a set of unprecedented circumstances, and many people will show signs of trauma, psychological, emotional, or mental health needs. Many of these health impacts will also cluster in some groups more than other and these inequalities need to be addressed and if possible, prevented.

Community centred approaches remain critical and they should be secured for the long term and not just for the pandemic or cost of living crisis. Poverty, long term inequalities and a lack of resilience not just in Doncaster but in the UK more generally must be addressed. 2023 will need a recovery that does not 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.

Team Doncaster partners should:

- 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 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.
- Continue to prepare for emergencies, build resilience and maintain response capabilities and capacity, working with local and national partners.



Doncaster Council

19th January, 2023

To the Mayor and Members of the Council

Overview and Scrutiny Update – May to December 2022

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 2022.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Council receive and note the update on the work of the OSMC and the four standing Scrutiny Panels for the period May to December 2022.

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 regularly to consider issues around 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 activities of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and the standing Panels include holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance arrangements, policy review and external scrutiny.

The Overview and Scrutiny structure includes:

- **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC)** - The membership of OSMC includes the Chairs of standing Panels and other Members. This ensures cross party representation, greater co-ordination of Overview and Scrutiny activity and alignment to the corporate goals.
 - **Children and Young People's Panel (CYP)** – considers issues relating to improved outcomes for Children and Young People including Learning and Opportunities and delivering services to keep Doncaster children safe;
 - **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 2022. 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. Members have all received training on the role of Scrutiny and ongoing support in terms of work planning, adding value, questioning skills and understanding their role. Importantly OSMC and the Panels have all held a number of meetings and have engaged with the public, individuals with lived experience, partners, officers and Executive Members.

11. The work plans and the OSMC/Panel remits for 2022/2023 take account of the six wellbeing goals and the Great '8' priorities outlined in Doncaster's Corporate Plan and Doncaster Delivering Together. This report aligns the activities of OSMC and the Panels to these priorities through their work plans.

Regenerative Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

12. Policy Framework and other strategies and policies - A number of Statutory Plans are considered by the OSMC and Panels, some are reviewed prior to their adoption by full Council, and 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 Delivering Doncaster Together themes and during the reporting period the following plans and strategies have been considered and supported:

Policy Framework;

- Youth Justice Plan;
- Corporate Plan

Other strategies and policies (including updates);

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy
- Economic Strategy
- Draft Asset Management Strategy;
- Home to School Travel Assistance Policy 2022-2027;
- Update on the Community Safety Strategy (and priorities);
- Update on Carers Strategy;
- Children's Mental Health Strategy;

13. OSMC continues to review quarterly performance and financial management of the Council, St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) and until 1st September 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 cost of living crisis including its impact across Council services experiencing increasing costs and demand.
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. Rising costs, overspends, Out of Authority Placements and Capital Programme Risks. This regular review and oversight of budget and Council performance provides public accountability and transparency around the Council's financial health and the effectiveness of its service delivery.

15. Localities

This has such a significant impact on many areas, therefore the Committee wished to consider how the Local Authority and partners were working to deliver local deals and locality plans. A detailed presentation brought to life excellent examples, demonstrated by each locality, from health and wellbeing, economic inclusion to community safety and getting a decent start in life. This provided the Committee with a real picture of the positive work-taking place across the whole of the Borough where services are delivered to meet local needs.

16. Annual Complaints and Compliments Report 2021/2022

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.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Increase in complaints (compared to a period when the volume of complaints and communications from the public had significantly decreased during the pandemic).
- Particular peaks in complaints over the four organisations.

The Panel will be receiving further information about the Customer Experience Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet in early 2023.

17. Commissioning - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Services

The Committee reviewed 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. Service users provided an important insight into the lived experience and difficulties they faced, but more significantly, the positive outcomes through support they had received. A number of recommendations were made including the continued promotion and support of the current services provided and encouraging additional focus on engagement with hard to reach groups. The recommendations and findings from the review were supported by the Executive.

Developing the Skills to Thrive in Life and Work

Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

18. Economic Strategy Overview 2030

The Panel was provided with an initial overview of the emerging Doncaster Economic Strategy 2030, the process that has been undertaken and the key areas. A number of key issues and concerns were raised as part of a comprehensive debate that considered:

- Engagement with businesses and its success.
- How realistic the goals were as set out in the strategy?
- Effectiveness of partnership working to help deliver the strategy.
- The ability of the strategy to achieve its goals, in particular “becoming a Greener Regenerative Economy” and “Good Employment for All”.
- Recognising the barriers in place to take the strategy forward, for example, transport links, lack of suitable office space and the availability and location of town centre car parking.

Having reviewed the key elements of the strategy the Panel was able to support its approval prior to consideration by Cabinet.

19. Employment

The Panel received a presentation and discussed over-coming barriers and supporting those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into employment. This provided the Panel with an opportunity to focus on a particular area of employment following previous consideration of this area.

Nurturing a Child and Family- Friendly Borough

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

20. Education White Paper

Members received a briefing updating them on the Education White Paper, which included policy changes and recommendations from three avenues (Children’s Commissioner, Schools White Paper and SEND Green Paper) which all inter-relate and have implications for Doncaster. This provided important information and knowledge for Members when considering areas with the remit of the Panel.

21. Elective Home Education / Children Missing Education and Alternative Provision

The Panel considered a report detailing an increased demand in Elective Home Education, Children Missing in Education and Alternative Provision areas since the start of the pandemic. Members were able to find out more and explore the work undertaken to ensure suitability and quality of education for young people. The debate that took place included the following areas;

- Children missing in education case closures i.e. identifying those re-registered with a school having moved into or left the area, to ensure they are safe and receiving an education.
- Reduced school timetables.
- Virtual school.
- Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP).
- Nurturing a family and child friendly borough.
- Pressures on social workers.

This provided the Panel with an opportunity to review an area that had significantly affected many young people in recent years and developed the Panel's understanding of key issues that should be borne in mind when considering wider issues around educational attainment and improving children's welfare and well-being.

22. Post Covid - Impact on Children to include Children's Mental Health (Strategy Update)/0-3 Year Olds

The Panel received an overview of continuing impacts upon children and young people following the Covid pandemic. This included updates on the response from key services, particularly in the areas of Family Hubs, the early years sector, (including support from the Early Years Inclusion team), and children and young people's mental health. Areas that were highlighted during the discussion included:

- Availability of support for children including School Mental Health First Aider, online support (Kooth App) and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- General Development Assessment (GDA) referrals.
- Early Intervention funding system.
- Social and mental health needs.

This provided the Panel with an opportunity to review a cohort that had significantly been impacted in recent years and better informed the Panel's understanding of wider impacts arising from the pandemic that impact on the health and well-being of young children currently and in the future.

23. SEND Strategy

The Panel received an update on progress with the SEND Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet. The areas addressed as part of the discussion included:

- Transition of young people into employment.
- Hearing the voice of young people through the Young People SEND Board.
- Ensuring resources allocated to schools for children with SEND needs are spent correctly.
- Robustness of the Implementation Plan to delivery on the Strategy.
- Teacher training for children with Autism.

- Meeting children's aspirations met and overcoming barriers.

All the above areas were noted by officers and it was agreed that these would be addressed moving forward with the action plan.

24. Education Achievement Outcomes for all Key Stages 2022

The Panel received a summary of the action taken, changes made to learning improvement and an update in relation to the data, achievement and improvement across the education phases included Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, 2, 4 GCSE, (A Level), T Levels and Applied General. The Panel asked questions based on the provisional data presented and discussed phonics, attainment for Children and Young People with Educational Health and Care Plan and the different Strategies involved including a future Schools Implementation Strategy that will be shared with the Panel. This item provides the Panel with an opportunity to receive information on educational achievement outcomes and ask questions in relation to the data provided. Improving educational attainment contributes to so many of the borough's priorities this will continue to be reviewed by the Panel moving forward.

25. Children and Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

This provided the Panel with information around the age groups being tracked and monitored with targeted support allowing them to gain knowledge and have access to education, employment and training opportunities that will improve life chances, whatever their status. Members discussed areas relating to NEET that included age ranges, care leavers, those in Elective Home Education and SEND.

Promoting the Borough and Its Cultural, Sporting and Heritage Opportunities

26. Culture Strategy

The Panel reviewed and supported the Cultural Strategy, which highlighted the rich activity available across Doncaster's communities from art production to gardening. The Committee was inspired with the proposals and hoped to see it developed across grass roots organisations. The Committee's enthusiasm for the Strategy and its importance was strongly conveyed and issues such as future proofing, access, barriers, places to undertake cultural activities and funding were discussed in depth. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the wealth of opportunities that exist in the Borough and requested an update in the future.

Building Opportunities for Healthier, Happier and Longer Lives for All

Health and Adult Social Care Panel

27. Adult Mental Health Overview

The Panel received an overview of support and services available to Doncaster

people experiencing mental health problems. As part of the information received, the Panel heard the story of an individual both with lived experience and of supporting others. The Panel considered the following areas:

- Mental Health ambulance pilot scheme.
- Support for Members involved in ongoing cases where people were suffering with mental health but refusing help.
- Mental health predictions.
- Co-designing local core community services.

The Panel expressed its wish to continue to monitor this issue as part of its ongoing work plan. The opportunity to hear from those with lived experiences was welcomed as a positive method of enabling Members to fully understand some of the challenges faced by an increasing number of residents in our communities.

28. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2022

The Panel received information highlighting the work undertaken to date on the 2022 JSNA, the forward plan and the enabling infrastructure. The discussion looked at future challenges such as the Cost of Living crisis and increasing health problems. Members heard that it was about understanding the drivers behind these issues as well as feeding information into the wider policy work and those areas that needed it most. Members recognised how valuable the JSNA was for the Panel in identifying future issue to be addressed through the work plan.

29. Winter Strategy

The Panel considered the partnership plans in place to ensure that Doncaster people received joined-up health and social care over the winter. The Panel questioned measures described to support the wellbeing of Doncaster people over the winter even in spite of the great pressure on health and care services. Issues raised during consideration included additional beds, urgent community response and pathways, mental health of children and younger people, cost of livings crisis and funding. Considering these issues provided the Panel with assurance that robust plans are in place to address an area with increasing demands on services and to ensure that there is an appropriate response.

30. Update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

An annual update from the Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals provided the current position on a range of strategic issues that included future aspirations, challenges and impacts. Members considered a number of specific topics that included; Urgent and Emergency Care, Ambulance Data, Transfer of Care, Elective, Cancer and Diagnostics, Finance, Winter Planning, Health and Wellbeing, Estates and Infrastructure.

As part of the debate, the following areas were considered:

- Treatment of Carers in Hospital.
- Ambulance/Handover Waiting Times.
- Did Not Attend (DNA).
- Recruitment and Staffing.
- Virtual Wards.

This provides the Panel with a recurring opportunity to look at particular areas that feature on the work plan, such as the Carers Strategy and Action Plan as well as other areas of concern.

31. Access to Primary Care (CQC)

The Panel gave consideration to comprehensive set of data and information, which covered:

- a. The findings of the latest GP Patient Survey.
- b. Current access to primary care across Doncaster.
- c. National, South Yorkshire and Local approaches to improvement.
- d. Primary Care Estate development across Doncaster.

The Panel also discussed the following areas:

- Role of Nurse Practitioners being recognised and rewarded appropriately for their additional responsibilities and role within the practice.
- Impact of new housing developments on local GP Practices and how those practices would be able to meet increasing demands.
- Telecommunication Systems in GP Surgeries.

The Panel was able to form a good understanding on the present position, ongoing challenges and future opportunities faced by Primary Care and further their knowledge of the potential impacts on our communities moving forward.

32. Carers Strategy Update Action Plan

Further to considering the Carers Strategy 2022-25 earlier in the year, the Panel received an update on completed actions and next steps to be delivered across the partnership as part of the Strategy and Carers' Action Plan 2022-23. There was input from both people with lived experience and partner representatives. Those in attendance provided statements and an overview of their experiences of being a carer and supporting others who were carers.

The Panel considered a range of issues including locality working, treatment of carers (within hospitals) and information and communication. The Panel noted and supported the information provided by Carers and partners and requested a further update in approximately 12 months' time, as part of the Panel's work plan

for 2023-2024. The Panel also identified this as an area, where actions could be further investigated through other areas on the work plan, such as the update from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital.

33. Integrated Care Partnership Strategy Development

Members were previously provided with an outline of the changes around how the NHS operated in England and how the CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups) would become part of the Integrated Care Strategy (ICS) and possible impacts on local provision.

As part of an update, the Panel learnt more about:

- The national planning context for 2022/23 and beyond.
- The South Yorkshire approach.
- The Doncaster approach.
- Next steps.

This update was essential for the Panel to keep up-to-date on major changes affecting residents and services across Doncaster and South Yorkshire. The Panel look forward to future updates, which will also assist in the development of the Panels work plan.

Creating Safer, Stronger, Greener And Cleaner Communities Where Everyone Belongs

Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

34. Crime and Disorder Committee

Areas highlighted through this discussion have been used as a basis for further work through the Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel at its Crime and Disorder meeting, where Members considered the demands and delivery of the Community Safety Strategy. At its meeting in October 2022, the Committee focused on the following;

- Update on Community Safety Strategy priorities.
- Domestic Abuse.
- Violence Women and Girls Strategy.
- Safer Streets.

There will be a further update at its meeting in February 2023, to consider areas of concern, in particular impacts from the cost of living crisis on crime including in the town centre.

35. Community Assets/Community Asset Transfer Review The Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel is in the process of undertaking a review of the Community Asset Transfer Process, over a number of evidence gathering sessions consideration was given to:

- The process, how it works and legal considerations.
- Challenges and issues, including examples of good practice of Community Asset Transfers which have been brought from Ward Members, Officers and another Local Authority.
- Research from Locality (a national membership network supporting local community organisations).
- Lessons learnt.

The Panel has benefitted from receiving a range of information and evidence. It is in the process of finalising the review and will be proposing evidence-based recommendations for further consideration in early 2023.

Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel

36. Section 106 Agreements

Members were provided with information on Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which enabled them to develop a better understanding of how it was monitored, what it was used for and variations to Section 106 agreements.

37. Housing Allocations Review 2022/2023

The Panel were involved from an early stage on the Housing Allocations Review 2022/2023 and considered the outcomes of the review and robustness of the extensive public and stakeholder consultation. Members were keen to understand more about how the outcome of the consultation process had affected the housing policy and the fourteen proposed changes to Doncaster Council's Housing Allocations Policy. The Panel provided their support to the recommendations for changes to the policy.

38. Housing Stock Conditions (Private Sector)

Members were provided with an overview of the new Housing Stock Condition Survey 2022, which will provide the Council with some evidence of current private sector housing condition. This helped provide important information to the Panel and enhanced Members' knowledge around future issues and challenges that the Council may face.

Tackling Climate Change

Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel

39. Environment (Biodiversity Net Gain - Biodiversity Offsetting)

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that seeks to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was before the development occurred. The Panel received an insight into what was taking place within the Council and in particular, looked at its bearing on planning decisions, consultation feedback, current housing developments, impact of S106 and land viability.

40. 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.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED




41. 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 2022.


REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

42. 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

43.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
 Making Doncaster the best				✓

	place to do business and create good jobs				
	Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
	Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
	Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
	Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
	Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
	Fair & Inclusive				✓
<p>Overall Comments:</p> <p>The work of Overview and Scrutiny supports the Council's contribution to all of its key priorities. Regular review of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan enables the Committee to ensure it remains relevant and is responding to important issues for citizens and the borough. The work plan update helps support openness, transparency and accountability as it summarises outcomes from overview and scrutiny activities. Citizens are able to contribute to the work of overview and scrutiny by attending meetings or contributing to reviews.</p>					

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [SF Date: 9/1/23]

- 44. 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: 23.12.22)

- 45 There are no specific financial implications attached to this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES (SH Date: 03.01.23)

46. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (PW 03/01/23)

47. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this update report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

48. 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.

CONSULTATION

49. The Chairs of OSMC and Scrutiny Panels have been consulted in respect of feedback on the progress against work plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

50. Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan 2022/23 and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 51.
- OSMC – Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
 - CYP – Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
 - CQC – Care Quality Commission
 - CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy
 - NEET – Not in Education Employment or Training
 - SEND – Special, Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan
 - GDA - General Development Assessment
 - CAMHS – Children and Adult Mental Health Services
 - SLHD – St Leger Homes Doncaster
 - DCST – Doncaster Children’s Services Trust
 - 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

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Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services

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Doncaster Council

Report

19th January, 2023

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

PROPOSED DIARY OF MEETINGS – 2023/25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council for comment, a provisional Diary of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Municipal Years, attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:-
 - (i) consider the proposed Diary of Meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix A;
 - (ii) note the Diary of Meetings for the 2023/24 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 2023, for approval.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Approving an advanced calendar of meetings encompassing two Municipal Years from May 2023 to May 2025, 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 2023/24 and 2024/25 Municipal Years. However, there will be an opportunity to review the meeting dates for the period 2024/25, once these have been agreed, as Council will be asked to agree a diary of meetings for the period 2024/25 to 2025/26, in May 2024. 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 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 11.30 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.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				

 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments:				

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 14/12/22]

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 15/12/22]

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

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SH Date 15/12/22]

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 15/12/22]

19. 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.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DMT Date 12/12/22]

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

CONSULTATION

22. 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 2023/24 and 2024/25 Municipal Years, prior to formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2023.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	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	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	4th May, 2023	11th May, 2023	18th May, 2023	25th May, 2023	
T H U R S D A Y				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 11.30 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, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	
	1st June, 2023	8th June, 2023	15th June, 2023	22nd June, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning) 11.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 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 4.00 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Work Planning)	10.00 am Overview and Scrutiny Management 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

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	11.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	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	5.00 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	9.30 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	10.00 am Audit Committee 4.30 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	
		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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
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
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
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		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	
	5th September, 2023	12th September, 2023	19th September, 2023	26th September, 2023
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	
	6th September, 2023	13th September, 2023	20th September, 2023	27th September, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	7th September, 2023	14th September, 2023	21st September, 2023	28th September, 2023
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	10.00 am Licensing Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	1st September, 2023	8th September, 2023	15th September, 2023	22nd September, 2023
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

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	17th October, 2023 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	24th October, 2023	31st October, 2023
W E D N E S D A Y	4th October, 2023	11th October, 2023 10.00 am Cabinet	18th October, 2023	25th October, 2023	
T H U R S D A Y	5th October, 2023	12th October, 2023 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	19th October, 2023 10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	26th October, 2023	
F R I D A Y	6th October, 2023 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet	13th October, 2023 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	20th October, 2023	27th October, 2023	

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures 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		5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	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 2.00 pm Audit Committee	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	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		

APPENDIX A

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	4.30 pm 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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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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		
	2nd January, 2024	9th January, 2024	16th January, 2024	23rd January, 2024	30th January, 2024
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	
	3rd January, 2024	10th January, 2024	17th January, 2024	24th January, 2024	31st January, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	4th January, 2024	11th January, 2024	18th January, 2024	25th January, 2024	
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	
	5th January, 2024	12th January, 2024	19th January, 2024	26th January, 2024	
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, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00pm Planning Committee	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures 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	
	1st February, 2024	8th February, 2024	15th February, 2024	22nd 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		

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
		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	4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Licensing Committee 2.00 pm Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
	1st March, 2024	8th March, 2024	15th March, 2024	22nd March, 2024	29th March, 2024
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements for Cabinet			BANK HOLIDAY

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm 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		
	4th April, 2024	11th April, 2024	18th April, 2024	25th April, 2024	
T H U R S D A Y	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee			10.00 am Audit Committee	
	5th April, 2024	12th April, 2024	19th April, 2024	26th April, 2024	
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, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(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	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	2nd May, 2024	9th May, 2024	16th May, 2024	23rd May, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	LOCAL ELECTIONS FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE			10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (Work Planning)
	3rd May, 2024	10th May, 2024	17th May, 2024	24th May, 2024
F R I D A Y			10.00 am Group Meetings 11.30 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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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd June, 2024	10th June, 2024	17th June, 2024	24th June, 2024
M O N D A Y				
T U E S D A Y	4th June 2024	11th June, 2024	18th June, 2024	25th June, 2024 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
W E D N E S D A Y	5th June, 2024	12th June, 2024	19th June, 2024	26th June, 2024 10.00 am Licensing Committee
T H U R S D A Y	6th June, 2024	13th June, 2024	20th June, 2024	27th June, 2024
F R I D A Y	7th June, 2024	14th June, 2024	21st June, 2024	28th June, 2024
		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, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	1st July, 2024	8th July, 2024	15th July, 2024	22nd July, 2024	29th July, 2024
M O N D A Y		5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting			
	2nd July, 2024	9th July, 2024	16th July, 2024	23rd July, 2024	30th July, 2024
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council		10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	3rd July, 2024	10th July, 2024	17th July, 2024	24th July, 2024	31st July, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	4th July, 2024	11th July, 2024	18th July, 2024	25th July, 2024	
T H U R S D A Y	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	10.00 am Audit Committee 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	
	5th July, 2024	12th July, 2024	19th July, 2024	26th July, 2024	
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, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th August, 2024	12th August, 2024	19th August, 2024	26th August, 2024
M O N D A Y				BANK HOLIDAY
	6th August, 2024	13th August, 2024	20th August, 2024	27th August, 2024
T U E S D A Y			12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	7th August, 2024	14th August 2024	21st August, 2024	28th August, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		
	1st August, 2024	8th August, 2024	15th August, 2024	22nd August, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee		
	2nd August, 2024	9th August, 2024	16th August, 2024	23rd August, 2024
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions and Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd September, 2024	9th September, 2024	16th September, 2024	23rd September, 2024	30th September, 2024
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting		
T U E S D A Y	3rd September, 2024	10th September, 2024	17th September, 2024	24th September, 2024	
		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee 12 Noon Deadline for Motions & Questions to Council	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 Planning Committee		
W E D N E S D A Y	4th September, 2024	11th September, 2024	18th September, 2024	25th September, 2024	
		10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		10.00 am Licensing Committee	
T H U R S D A Y	5th September, 2024	12th September, 2024	19th September, 2024	26th September, 2024	
	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5.00 pm Group Meetings 6.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Audit Committee	
F R I D A Y	6th September, 2024	13th September, 2024	20th September, 2024	27th September, 2024	
	5.00 pm Deadlines for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits			

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th October, 2024	14th October, 2024	21st October, 2024	28th October, 2024
M O N D A Y				
	1st October, 2024	8th October, 2024	15th October, 2024	22nd October, 2024
T U E S D A Y		10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	
	2nd October, 2024	9th October, 2024	16th October, 2024	23rd October, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		
	3rd October, 2024	10th October, 2024	17th October, 2024	24th October, 2024
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 Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel	10.00 am Audit Committee
	4th October, 2024	11th October, 2024	18th October, 2024	25th October, 2024
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	4th November, 2024	11th November, 2024	18th November, 2024	25th November, 2024
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	5th November, 2024	12th November, 2024	19th November, 2024	26th November, 2024
T U E S D A Y	10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee		
	6th November, 2024	13th November, 2024	20th November, 2024	27th November, 2024
W E D N E S D A Y	10.00 am Cabinet		5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	7th November, 2024	14th November, 2024	21st November, 2024	28th November, 2024
T H U R S D A Y	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee	10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL	10.00 am Health & Adult Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel
	1st November, 2024	8th November, 2024	15th November, 2024	22nd November, 2024
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits		

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	2nd December, 2024	9th December, 2024	16th December, 2024	23rd December, 2024	30th December, 2024
M O N D A Y					
	3rd December, 2024	10th December, 2024	17th December, 2024	24th December, 2024	31st December, 2024
T U E S D A Y		12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee			
	4th December, 2024	11th December, 2024	18th December, 2024	25th December, 2024	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet		BANK HOLIDAY	
	5th December, 2024	12th December, 2024	19th December, 2024	26th December, 2024	
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		BANK HOLIDAY	
	6th December, 2024	13th December, 2024	20th December, 2024	27th December, 2024	
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet				

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(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	6th January, 2025	13th January, 2025	20th January, 2025	27th January, 2025
M O N D A Y			5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	
	7th January, 2025	14th January, 2025	21st January, 2025	28th January, 2025
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee	
	1st January, 2025	8th January, 2025	15th January, 2025	22nd January, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board	
	2nd January, 2025	9th January, 2025	16th January, 2025	23rd January, 2025
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 Audit Committee
	3rd January, 2025	10th January, 2025	17th January, 2025	24th January, 2025
F R I D A Y	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet		9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd February, 2025	10th February, 2025	17th February, 2025	24th February, 2025
M O N D A Y				
T U E S D A Y	4th February, 2025 12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee	11th February, 2025 10.00 am Elections & Democratic Structures	18th February, 2025 10.00 am Awards, Grants & Transport (Appeals) Committee 12 Noon Deadline for Questions & Motions to Council	25th February, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y	5th February, 2025	12th February, 2025 10.00 am Cabinet	19th February, 2025 10.00 am Communities & Environment Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel	26th February, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	6th February, 2025 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	13th February, 2025 10.00 Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel	20th February, 2025 10.00 am Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	27th February, 2025 1.00 pm Group Meetings 2.00 pm COUNCIL (Budget Setting & Council Tax)
F R I D A Y	7th February, 2025 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	14th February, 2025	21st February, 2025	28th February, 2025 9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

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Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	3rd March, 2025	10th March, 2025	17th March, 2025	24th March, 2025	31st March, 2025
M O N D A Y					
	4th March, 2025	11th March, 2025	18th March, 2025	25th March, 2025	
T U E S D A Y	12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee				
	5th March, 2025	12th March, 2025	19th March, 2025	26th March, 2025	
W E D N E S D A Y		10.00 am Cabinet	5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board		
	6th March, 2025	13th March, 2025	20th March, 2025	27th March, 2025	
T H U R S D A Y	10.00 am Regeneration & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel 4.30 pm Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	9.00 am Health & Wellbeing Board 4.30 pm 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	
	7th March, 2025	14th March, 2025	21st March, 2025	28th March, 2025	
F R I D A Y	5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet			9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits	

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	7th April, 2025	14th April, 2025	21st April, 2025	28th April, 2025
M O N D A Y			BANK HOLIDAY	
	1st April, 2025	8th April, 2025	15th April, 2025	22nd April, 2025
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
	2nd April, 2025	9th April, 2025	16th April, 2025	23rd April, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y			10.00 am Cabinet	
	3rd April, 2025	10th April, 2025	17th April, 2025	24th April, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	1.30 pm Parish Councils Joint Consultative Committee			10.00 am Audit Committee
	4th April, 2025	11th April, 2025	18th April, 2025	25th April, 2025
F R I D A Y		5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	BANK HOLIDAY	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits

Schedule of Meetings 1st May, 2023 to 31st May, 2025

(Shaded area denotes School Holidays)

	5th May, 2025	12th May, 2025	19th May, 2025	26th May, 2025
M O N D A Y	BANK HOLIDAY	5.30 pm Labour Group Meeting AGM (Parts 1 & 2)		BANK HOLIDAY
	6th May, 2025	13th May, 2025	20th May, 2025	27th May, 2025
T U E S D A Y				12 Noon Planning Training 2.00 pm Planning Committee
	7th May, 2025	14th May, 2025	21st May, 2025	28th May, 2025
W E D N E S D A Y				10.00 am Cabinet 5.00 pm Corporate Parenting Board
	1st May, 2025	8th May, 2025	15th May, 2025	22nd May, 2025
T H U R S D A Y	LOCAL BOROUGH, MAYORAL & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS			
	2nd May, 2025	9th May, 2025	16th May, 2025	23rd May, 2025
F R I D A Y		10.00 am Group Meetings 11.30 am Annual Council Meeting (To Reconvene @ 2.00pm, Civic Office)	9.30 am Planning Committee Site Visits 5.00 pm Deadline for Questions & Statements to Cabinet	

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MCA - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10.00 AM

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY, 11
BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ



Present:

Mayor Oliver Coppard (Chair)	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Terry Fox	Sheffield City Council
Councillor James Higginbottom (Reserve)	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Glyn Jones (Reserve)	Doncaster MBC

In Attendance:

Martin Swales	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services	MCA Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer	MCA Executive Team
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	MCA Executive Team
John Dowie	Executive Director of Infrastructure and Place	MCA Executive Team
Gabriella Kocsis	Minute Taker	MCA Executive Team
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Director of Corporate Policy	MCA Executive Team

Apologies:

Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC

44 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

45 **Announcements**

The Mayor noted that the meeting had taken place in advance of the Autumn Statement which was likely to have financial implications for the Local Authorities, MCA and community in South Yorkshire. He added that further austerity and centralised Government were not the answer and he hoped the Government were listening to Local Government on this.

The Mayor continued to give an update on Doncaster Sheffield Airport, noting that:

- The MCA and Doncaster MBC had further stepped-up efforts over the last month to try to save the airport.

- The MCA and Doncaster MBC had been informed that conversations are ongoing between Peel and potential investors.
- The last flight from the airport was on Saturday 5 November 2022.
- Doncaster MBC had initiated legal action against Peel's closure decision.

46 **Urgent Items**

None.

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

Members noted that Item 13 Appendices 2 and 3 were restricted from the public. It was agreed that the webcast would be paused, and members of the public in the room would be asked to leave when this item was discussed.

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

N/A.

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

Members declared their interest in any item relating to their individual boroughs.

50 **Reports from and questions by members**

None.

51 **Receipt of Petitions**

None.

52 **Public Questions**

None.

53 **Minutes of the meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 September 2022 be agreed to be a true and accurate record.

54 **Budget Revision 2**

This report provided a revised Group budget forecast up to the end of the financial year 2022/23.

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. Adopted the revised budget estimates.
2. Noted the net increase in core income and its deployment to transport and cost-of-living priorities.

MCA Review Report

This report presented the MCA Organisational Review Scope to the Board. It set out the aim of the review process against three key outcomes and the four main components contained within it. The purpose of the report was to advise the Board of the Review process and seek guidance moving forward.

The aim of the review would be to deliver against **three key outcomes**:

1. Strengthening the MCA's officer leadership and organisational arrangements to provide a more effective focus on the delivery of MCA statutory programmes and political transformational priorities.
2. Increasing the agility and responsiveness of the MCA existing business processes and systems to better support delivery of priorities.
3. Put in place processes and structures that facilitate the deepening of relationships with Local Authorities, stakeholders and partners across South Yorkshire to ensure all partnerships are realising their full potential for our communities.

Cllr Higginbottom welcomed the review and added that Barnsley look forward to processes being less onerous for officers.

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. Noted the progress already in place with the new transitional leadership arrangements of the MCA.
2. Commented on both the proposed scope and form of the review together with best means of engagement for the Local Authorities.

Programme Approvals

This paper requested the progression of three capital schemes subject to conditions set out in the Assurance Summaries. It sought permission from the Board to progress and release City Region Sustainable Transport (CRSTS) development funding for one transport scheme. The report also requested delegated authority to enter into legal agreements for the scheme.

Furthermore, the report detailed the results of the assurance process for two currently unfunded capital investments business cases totalling £13m. The report recommended both schemes progress to Full Business Case, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of due-diligence and assurance processes and the agreement of a suitable investment model.

RESOLVED that the Board considered and approved the:

1. Release of £8.60m CRSTS grant funding to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) for the delivery of urgent Mass Transit renewals work.
2. Progression of the Mass Transit Scheme to Outline Business Case and the release of £4.34m development funding to SYPTTE to be funded from CRSTS grant.
3. Progression of scheme D0049 to Full Business Case.

4. Progression of scheme D0050 to Full Business Case.
5. 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.

57

Integrated Rail Plan Update and South Yorkshire Rail Investment Priorities

This report provided an update on the MCA's response to the Government's Integrated Rail Plan for the Midlands and the North (IRP) and recommended next steps. The proposed response had been encapsulated in a Post-IRP Positioning Plan and key priorities summarised in the report.

Members noted that the Plan is centred on three main priorities against which South Yorkshire's objectives for rail can be promoted:

- Securing and Maximising the Core IRP Pipeline
- Improving South Yorkshire's Strategic Connections
- Supporting the role of rail in accessing South Yorkshire's planned growth hubs

Cllr Read reflected on the package of measures within the paper and remarked that he thought it was tremendous for the people of South Yorkshire. Members agreed that the report provides a powerful and concise story about South Yorkshire's rail needs.

Cllr Higginbottom raised a few items within the report he would like to see included as detailed in the action below.

ACTION: The Executive Director of Infrastructure and Place to edit Paragraph 2.8 to include the platform extension, and Paragraph 2.3 to include Dearne Valley.

The Mayor noted the need to break out of the cycle of announcement, delay and then cancellation of schemes by Government and believes it cannot be allowed to continue. He added that he was not feeling positive about the announcements anticipated in the Autumn Statement on Thursday but hopes government will not U-turn on their promises for Northern Powerhouse Rail.

RESOLVED that the Board is recommended to approve the SYMCA Post-IRP Positioning Plan and key priorities and agree to its implementation over the coming months as a lobbying and advocacy plan.

58

MCA Constitution Updates

This report proposed a change to the quoracy requirements for Thematic Boards to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the MCA's decision-making process.

RESOLVED that the Board approve the proposal to change the quoracy requirements of the Thematic Boards by reducing the quoracy requirement from 5 Members (6 in the case of Transport and the Environment Board (TEB))

to 4 Members (5 in the case of TEB) and relaxing the requirement for a private sector Local Enterprise Partnership Member to be present.

59 **Shared Prosperity Fund**

This report provided an update on delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in South Yorkshire and asked for delegated powers to initiate this process.

Members noted that the UKSPF is the Government's major economic development fund to replace EU Structural and Investment Funds. The MCA submitted its Investment Plan to Government in August 2022 following approval by the Board in July.

After the UKSPF Investment Plan was submitted, Government announced a separate rural element to UKSPF. South Yorkshire has been allocated £1.34m (all capital, unlike the rest of UKSPF which is mainly revenue) broken down as:

- Barnsley - £400,000
- Doncaster - £634,000
- Rotherham - £400,000

The Board noted that the MCA needed to submit a rural-focused UKSPF addendum to its Investment Plan by the end of November.

Cllr Fox noted that to break out of the cycle of inequality and low growth, we need to ensure the skills section of this work is underpinned, with as much emphasis on skills as transport and infrastructure.

The Mayor recalled that this funding was meant to replace European Funding lost following our departure from the European Union and noted his disappointment that South Yorkshire does not have the same level of funding coming into the region as it did from the EU.

RESOLVED that the MCA Board:

1. Gave delegated authority to the MCA Chief Executive and s73 Officer to enter into funding agreements in accordance with the submitted Investment Plan, local delivery plans and any conditions agreed with Government.
2. Noted that in the event of the funding allocations being materially different to the submitted investment plan, further discussion with the MCA would be required.
3. Noted that the MCA Executive team would work with Local Authority Chief Executives to develop and agree a framework and delivery model for years 2 and 3 and engage with the appropriate thematic board.
4. Delegated authority to the MCA Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and Leaders to submit a rural-focused UKSPF addendum to its Investment Plan by the end of November.

60 **Delegated Authority Report**

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

Councillor Terry Fox
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE
Councillor Chris Read
Kate Josephs
Sharon Kemp
Sarah Norman

Sheffield City Council
Barnsley MBC
Rotherham MBC
Sheffield City Council
Rotherham MBC
Barnsley MBC

49 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

Professor Kevin Kerrigan and Professor Koen Lamberts were welcomed to the Board.

The Board noted that this was the SYMCA Deputy Chief Executive's final meeting and thanked her for all of her work at the MCA.

50 **Declarations of Interest**

Professor Kevin Kerrigan declared an interest that his employer, Sheffield Hallam University, was a provider of skills services which fall within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Mayor Ros Jones declared an interest in any activity relating specifically to Doncaster.

51 **Notes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 8 September 2022 be agreed as a true record, with the amendment that apologies were received from Bill Adams.

52 **The South Yorkshire Economy - Presentation**

A report on the South Yorkshire Economy was presented which highlighted the following:

- There had been no change to business density and healthy life expectancy since the previous LEP Board meeting
- There had been changes in Government policies following the recent change in Prime Ministers. The Energy Price Guarantee, reduced National Insurance and Investment Zones were still expected to go ahead
- South Yorkshire was more exposed to fuel poverty than the national average due to the structure of the economy and the presence of several energy-intensive users
- The cost of most household goods had increased since the previous meeting
- The Bank of England was due to announce an increase in interest rates
- Unemployment levels were very low, with the employment rate staying

- above 70%, and job vacancies were at a record high
- The skills profiles of jobseekers in South Yorkshire were largely not aligned with the skills being sought by employers. For example, warehousing skills were highly sought by employers, but not high amongst jobseeker profiles in the region
- Public Transport was seeing the highest levels of patronage since the pandemic. The increase in working from home was noted, and the Board considered that indicators other than high patronage could be measured in future
- High interest rates were positive for savers and investors
- House prices were expected to start falling
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the north had increased by 72%
- Wholesale gas prices had started to fall and this is projected to continue into Spring 2023

It was raised that though unemployment was low, there was a growing number of employed people who had to rely on in-work benefits due to low pay.

It was noted that the Chambers Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) could more fully incorporated into future economy updates at the Board. A summary slide on the QES was presented to the board as part pf this update.

RESOLVED: To note the update and agreed to receive it as a standing item on all LEP agendas.

53

New Government Update

A verbal update was provided on engagement with the new government.

An overview was given of the new Cabinet Leads:

- Gillian Keegan, Education Minister, was the first Education Minister from an Apprenticeships background
- Grant Shapps, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Minister, had expressed that clean energy was a priority for this Government
- Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, looked to be continuing with the Levelling Up agenda
- There was more opportunity for the MCA to work with Mel Stride, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, due to the market challenges in South Yorkshire mentioned earlier in the meeting

The following messages were becoming clear from Government:

- The Autumn Budget would likely involve increased taxes and cuts to public spending
- Increasing technical and vocational qualifications would be a priority
- Devolution would continue across regions

The potential impacts on South Yorkshire were outlined:

- Revenue for public transport would be constrained
- The energy crisis would have a greater impact on manufacturing industry in the region

- Government ambition to create new international trade deals would align with the MCA's ambition for an International Strategy
- The Mayor's manifesto commitment to Healthy Life Expectancy also aligned with Government policies around health

The Board welcomed an International Strategy for the MCA, and noted that at present there was not a clear message of what South Yorkshire's international activity was, nor what its offer was to international investors.

It was asked whether there was a plan for building a network of contacts at the LEP and MCA, so that new policy issues could be addressed efficiently, and further devolution secured for the region.

It was noted that there was no clear message on immigration coming from government, and that different types of immigration impacted on the region in different ways, for example the impact of international students is different to asylum seekers.

RESOLVED: To note the update and agreed to receive it as a standing item on all future LEP agendas.

54 **Doncaster Sheffield Airport Update**

A verbal update was provided on Doncaster Sheffield Airport, noting that:

- There was still ongoing uncertainty around its proposed closure, and a collective campaign was ongoing across the region to save the airport
- Work was ongoing to support airport employees in finding alternative careers
- Negotiations were ongoing with a party interested in buying the airport, but Peel were resistant to sell
- An Injunctive Action had been filed for, which sought to prevent any degradation of the site and facilities which may prevent use of the site as an airport in the future
- The support of the business community on the issue had been very welcome

RESOLVED: To note the update.

55 **Cost of Living Response**

A report on the MCA's Cost of Living Response was presented to the Board, which noted that the MCA Board had approved £2m which had been used to cap bus fares in the region to £2 for a single journey, and towards food security initiatives.

It was noted that this was a new remit for the MCA, and long-term schemes were being investigated alongside Local Authorities and external partners via a series of workshops. Input from the LEP Board was welcomed on this.

The Board welcomed this work and expressed a desire to align all local initiatives and offers, for example the hardship funds put in place for students at the Universities, or cost-of-living easements being made by companies in the

region.

The Board suggested setting up a package of support and advice for local businesses on how to reduce costs during the cost-of-living crisis, such as reducing energy usage or where to access financial support.

It was raised that more immediate action to increase patronage on public transport would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: To note the interventions approved at the October MCA Board.

56 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation**

A report on the implementation of the UKSPF was presented to the Board. It noted that:

- The total fund was worth less than previous European funding
- There had been a short window to develop an investment plan. This was submitted to Government in August 2022 and the MCA was waiting for a response
- Year one of funding would focus on the Places and Communities theme, and Local Authorities would lead delivery
- Year two would focus on supporting local businesses, and work was ongoing with the Universities and other external partners to shape this offer
- Year three would focus on skills. The offer here had not yet been developed
- This yearly spending plan was mandated by Government, but work was ongoing to ease potential issues particularly cashflow and also getting a head start on designing and delivering skills initiatives
- Workshops were ongoing to develop the MCA's offer and to ensure that funding could be used as soon as possible after it was received from Government. External partners and local MPs had also been involved in this work
- A Partnership Group was being set up, which would advise on the shape and nature of interventions in the region.

The Board welcomed this work, but noted that European Regional Development funding would come to an end before UKSPF business support would be in place, which may result in a poor offer in terms of business support in the region.

RESOLVED: To note the update and to discuss membership of the Partnership Group.

57 **Investment Zones**

A report which set out the position of the Combined Authority on Investment Zones was presented to the Board.

It was noted that this policy could now be under review by Government, but that even without it, the MCA could use the information gathered to push forward development on key sites in the region.

No formal response had been given yet by Government on the submission.

A discussion was had about the possible negative impacts of the Investment Zones policy, and it was noted that Rotherham MBC had not submitted any sites in the submission.

RESOLVED: To note the submission of an Investment Zone Expression of Interest from the MCA.

58 **Cultural and Creative Industries Mapping**

A report commissioned by the MCA on Cultural and Creative Industries in the region was presented to the Board.

It was noted that this was a new area of work for the MCA, but one with good opportunities due to a vibrant cultural and creative sector in the region, and the possibility to align with initiatives such as UKSPF.

A presentation was given on the report. It included the following:

- The Office for National Statistics Business Register and Employment Survey estimated that there were approximately 13,500 people employed in cultural and creative industries in the region, but alternative analysis suggested that the figure was closer to 31,500.
- The highest concentration of these jobs was in town and city centres
- South Yorkshire has lower performance than the national average in terms of research and development funding, equity investments and University spinout companies
- However, in South Yorkshire creative industry was more flexibility and a higher level of collaboration was evident, with more agile use of contractors and freelancers in the sector
- There was also a legacy of strong independent creative outputs in the region in film, television, and music
- There was a conservative estimated value of £861m in this sector in the region, but which was thought to be closer to £2bn
- 18 out of the 21 priorities in the MCA Strategic Economic Plan were addressed by outputs of this sector
- There were strong opportunities for skills development and employment in this sector

It was asked whether the term ‘cultural and creative industry’ was too broad a label for several more distinct industries. It was responded that amplifying the benefit of cultural and creative industry through this strategy would be more effective.

The Board welcomed this work, supported its embedding within the MCA’s work, and noted that though it does not sit naturally within the work of one Thematic Board, related activity should be brought to an appropriate Board.

It was also noted that supporting this sector aligns with the MCA’s ambition for a stronger narrative for South Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire Cultural Manifesto was noted as a successful related initiative.

The Board asked for future updates on the implementation and resourcing of this work at future Boards.

RESOLVED: To endorse the report and recommendations

59 **The Economic Crisis Impact on Skills - Presentation**

RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next meeting of the Board, and to submit it as an item for the next Education, Skills and Employability Board agenda.

60 **Chief Executive's Update**

A verbal Chief Executive update was provided to the Board, which included:

- That the MCA Board had taken the decision to bring the Tram system back into public ownership
- A Bus Taskforce had been established, with a focus on passenger experience
- Progress was being made with City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements
- A bid had been made to the Levelling Up Fund, but no response had been given yet by Government
- An MCA Board was scheduled for 14th November, and would be considering: the organisational review, an amendment to the MCA Constitution to reduce quorum for Thematic Board Meetings, and the Integrated Rail Plan

RESOLVED: To note the update.

61 **Forward Plan**

A Forward Plan for future meetings of the Board was presented.

RESOLVED: To agree the Forward Plan, with above additions.

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

Signed

Name

Position

Date

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

10 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T Damms (Chair)
Councillor C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Sansome, S Ball, D Hutchinson, S Ayris,
A Khayum, A Cherryholme and S Alston

CFO C Kirby, ACO A Strelczenie, S Slater, S Kelsey,
S Locking, S Gilding and B Eastes
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

J Field, N Copley, M Bray, M Potter and D Thorpe
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Smith,
Councillor B Johnson, Councillor P Turpin, Dr A Billings,
S Loach, S Norman, DCFO T Carlin and M Buttery

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CFO Kirby referred to the recent discussions that had been held with Members in relation to the current pay situation across operational roles in the fire and rescue service at a national level. Following those discussions and as part of the consultation response, the Authority had fed back and had endorsed an improved pay offer that was considered at a national level by the Employers side of National Joint Council. Members noted the following statement that had been released today from the Employers:-

“The UK National Employers for fire and rescue services has made an improved pay offer of 5% on all basic pay rates and continual professional development payments. In doing so, the National Employers are clear that they believe this higher offer is more in line with those made to other public sector employees is fair and appropriate. The National Employers had sought additional funding in England from the Home Office, but this has been refused as too has other forms of suggested future financial support. The position in Wales and Scotland are more positive, while in Northern Ireland there is no Northern Ireland Executive in place and no confirmed budget for 2022/23. This pay award will be very challenging for some fire and rescue authorities, and the National Employers will continue to lobby for additional sustainable funding for all parts of the UK going forwards. However, the National Employers had decided to improve their original offer in recognition of the critical and valued role firefighters have in our communities, but recognising this constitutes the maximum offer that can be made. The National Employers note that the Fire Brigades Union’s decision to now consult its members on this final offer, and hope that employees will understand that this is the best offer that can be made.”

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda item 17 entitled ‘SYFR Control System Update’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

On 6 October 2022, Councillor Sansome had attended the Fire Authority Local Pension Board training session, that had been provided by the Local Government Association. The session had highlighted a number of interesting anomalies regarding the complexity of the different pensions schemes. A total of 61% of the active members surveyed did not understand the pensions benefits that they were entitled to. Councillor Sansome was pleased to observe that S Kelsey had agreed to look into holding a communication meeting with the active pensions members. He requested that the Authority Members be provided with a copy of the briefing that would be provided to those members.

On 7 October 2022, Councillors Ball and Khayum had attended the Service’s cadets celebration event, which had been a great opportunity to observe the young adults receiving the recognition that they deserved.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

In response to a query raised by Councillor Sansome regarding when a report would be presented to the Authority to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place following the high volume of fires that had occurred during the extreme weather conditions on 19 July 2022, CFO Kirby commented that it was intended to present a report to the next Fire Authority Meeting in November 2022. The matter would be discussed at the Joint Liaison Forum Meeting that was attended by Members and the Trade Union Representatives, which was scheduled to be held on 13 October 2022.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 12 September 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME - PHASE 3 UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was presented to provide Members with a six monthly update on phase 3 of the Digital Transformation Programme, which was considered as a key enabler to modernising and facilitating improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of SYFR functions and services.

The Service had developed its first Digital and ICT Development Plan and Programme in 2019. Following which, an annual update and incremental development plan had been implemented and delivered.

Members were referred to the 22 different projects or activities that were scheduled for completion by the end of March 2023. Six of which were complete, 13 were in progress and three had not yet commenced.

In response to a series of questions received from Councillors Sansome and Ayriss, S Locking commented that it was hoped that all of the projects or activities in progress would be completed by the end of March 2023. The three projects or activities that had not yet commenced related to ESN, and the other two related to the planning element to ensure that matters were undertaken in the correct order; these were also hoped to be completed by the end of March 2023. In terms of finance for ESN, the Service had received Government grant funding for its completion.

Councillor Ball referred to the extreme weather conditions on 19 July 2022, and the difficulties that had been encountered by crews from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service to locate the fire hydrants within South Yorkshire.

S Locking commented that Yorkshire Water and Seven Trent Water provided the Service with the details of all of the fire hydrants electronically within the county, which was automatically rolled out to every mobile data terminal (MDT) throughout the county on a 6 monthly basis. The Service had a 15 kilometers buffer around South Yorkshire to enable the identification of all hydrants around that area, which would include over the border. Work was ongoing with Control and operational support regarding Control quickly providing Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service's Control and crews with the electronic information for fire hydrants and sites of specific risk for South Yorkshire. S Locking was working with K Storer regarding the benefits realisation and ensuring all benefits and issues.

ACO Strelczenie commented that the crews from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service did not have the details on their MDT to state where the fire hydrants were located within South Yorkshire. This cross the border learning could relate to capacity on the MDTs.

Following a number of queries raised by Councillors Hogarth and Alston in relation to the training for the Hazard Alert System, S Locking commented that training was underway for the understanding for crews and community safety staff regarding how to implement the temporary hazards. Written guidance would be issued shortly. Generally, the training would be incorporated into the timescales of the projects. Some of the projects required equipment replacement rather than training.

Councillor Khayum requested further information on the Applicant Tracking System.

Members noted that the Applicant Tracking System was the corporate recruitment online system which replaced the paper based recruitment process for individuals that wished to join the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members endorsed the latest update of the Digital and ICT Development Programme 2022 – 2023 as a key enabler to modernising and facilitating improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of SYFR functions and services.

11 ELM LANE REBUILD

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which highlighted the benefits of moving towards modular builds for the future of the Service's estate. Elm Lane Station had been built in 1973. It was felt that the station was no longer fit for purpose and would require significant funds to provide a suitable station that would fit with the Service's strategy. There was a high level of suspected asbestos within a large portion of the building.

Modular buildings were a new concept, which to date had not yet been used by any other fire and rescue service in the UK. Therefore, the Service could become the first fire and rescue service in the UK to utilise modular buildings, with the potential to set the benchmark for future fire stations. The timeframe for modular buildings from order through to opening was 22 weeks in comparison to traditional buildings which could take up to 2 years.

Councillor Ayris queried whether any investigation for modular fire stations had been undertaken outside of the UK together with the track record of Actiform in this area. He sought reassurance of the longer term sustainability in using modular buildings in comparison to traditional buildings.

B Eastes referred to the research that had been undertaken which had identified that small modular fire stations were utilised in the US. A number of European cities heavily utilised modular buildings for houses. Actiform was one of many modular companies, which had assisted the Service to understand the process. The Service would go out to tender when proceeding with modular buildings. Modular buildings were increasing in popularity and a Government framework was now available. Modular fire stations would not compromise the estate's long term sustainability.

In response to a series of questions received from Members, B Eastes commented that the largest saving in using modular buildings would be the temporary accommodation. The precise requirements would be ascertained which would enable a higher cost saving on materials in comparison to traditional buildings. A cost exercise would be undertaken initially regarding demolishing the existing building. A desktop exercise would shortly commence on the existing land. It was not envisaged that any planning permission issues would be encountered for a modular fire station.

Members were referred to the upcoming new BRE BPS7014 regulations which would look to ensure the longevity of modular buildings. Modular fire stations would enable parts of the building to be moveable i.e. modules could be added onto the side of the building to facilitate water rescue; all of which would be determined at the design stage. It was noted that the modular buildings could be made adequately sound proof.

The Service's Sustainability Officer was working on a Green Plan which included solar, ground force heat pumps and air source heat pumps. The matter would be looked into further with a view to the energy cost crisis.

ACO Strelczenie commented that with an ever changing risk profile within South Yorkshire, the Service had to be on the forefront to ensure that the correct stations were located in the correct areas to protect the communities, to which modular buildings were an advancement of this. Members would be kept fully updated on the position. Training would form part of the planning assumptions.

CFO Kirby commented that it was not intended to provide modular buildings across the whole of the estate, but to prove the concept and to give the assurance that modular buildings were sustainable moving forwards, and delivered the quality that was required for the buildings across the Service. He added that the equipment, fire engines, training, skills and capabilities of the firefighters needed to be specialist rather than the buildings themselves. There had been huge advances in modular construction, and the Senior Leadership Team were internally seeking assurances on the matter. Following the Salix funding that had been secured by the Service, consultants had looked across the whole estate on sustainable and green solutions moving forwards.

Councillor Damms expressed his thanks for the comprehensive presentation.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Accepted moving forward with modular builds as a construction approach.
- ii) Agreed on progressing with Elm Lane as a priority and concept station.
- iii) Secured appropriate subject matter experts to create and sign-off Building Design Guides for this and future builds/renovation.
- iv) Considered upon successful concept to roll out modular builds across the estate where stations no longer meet the modern fire station requirement.

12 STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Members were provided with a handout which outlined the strategic principles that had been developed by the Service for periods of industrial action, which linked to the values and behaviours that the Service's staff were expected to follow.

The document referred to the legal requirements of the Service and the Authority, which placed responsibility on the Authority to ensure that a level of business continuity arrangements, including the cover for emergency response, were able to be delivered during periods of industrial action. This would enable the Service to provide emergency response as set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Members were referred to the key strategic principles as highlighted within the document, in relation to putting the communities of South Yorkshire first, respecting the rights and views of all individuals, continuing to collaborate with key partners specifically across the Local Resilience Forum and regionally, and to safeguard the Service's commitment to good local relations. Members noted the strategic objectives as set out within the document.

The matter would be discussed further at the Corporate Advisory Group Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the Authority Meeting, and at the Joint Liaison Forum Meeting that was scheduled to be held on 13 October 2022.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

13 FLEET UPDATE - PRESENTATION

Members were provided with an update on the latest position of the vehicle fleet.

Members noted the following key points:-

- Across the SYFR and SYP vehicle fleet collaboration there was approximately 58 staff, 17 of which were directly employed by SYFR, with 19 staff budgeted for.
- The HGV workshop and the collision repair facility were located at the Eastwood Fire Station in Rotherham. A light vehicle mechanical, commissioning and auto electrical workshop was located in Sheffield.
- There were approximately 1,000 vehicles within the fleet, with 201 vehicles for SYFR and 729 items of specialist equipment to be maintained for SYFR.
- The Service travelled approximately 1 million miles per annum, in comparison to 12 million miles per annum for SYP.
- The Service had 19 bunkered fuel sites and two electric vehicle charging points.
- There was a £1m revenue budget and a £2m capital budget for the Service.
- Members noted the aims of the vehicle fleet as highlighted within the presentation slides.

Members were provided with an update on the achievements made since last reported to the Authority, which included a Joint Fleet Strategy, and had been recognised by Fleet News as Fleet of the Year in terms of the joint collaboration in

terms of the work undertaken and the strategy in place. There was a shared site for the collision repair facility, and the Service had a 10 year vehicle replacement programme. A contract had been awarded for eight new appliances, four of which had been due in September 2022, but due to some delays in receiving parts and the chassis of the vehicles, it was envisaged that the first appliance would arrive in Service during October 2022, with the following three appliances to arrive on a month by month basis. The remaining four appliances would be received into the Service within the 2023/24 financial year. A tender had recently been awarded for the following 5 years for 2024/25 onwards for four appliances to be received into the Service each year. It was intended that the first eight fire appliances would be kept and utilised by the Service as spare appliances. The installation of telematics on all fleet owned vehicles had now been completed, and a tender had recently been awarded for a nuclear management system which would enable the Service to remotely track the fuel tanks.

The upgraded Fleet Management System was in process and would be the same for both SYP and SYFR to schedule in vehicles for maintenance and repair. It was envisaged that the full system would be live by the end of the calendar year. Focus was being made to the road to net zero and a review of the specialist vehicles was currently underway.

Members were referred to the challenges, as highlighted within the presentation slides which included that from the 201 vehicles within the SYFR fleet, a total of 50 HGV's were required to be serviced every 13 weeks. This would leave 1.4 hours per remainder of the fleet to be maintained and repaired. The Service had agreed for additional staff within the department and work was underway with the HR Department in relation to recruitment.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ball in relation to the electric vehicles and charging points, S Gilding commented that the possibilities were endless for most of the fleet and that some of the vehicles would fit well for electric. There were 10 electric Nissan vans on the SYP side of the fleet, which could be charged overnight within the estate area. It would be timely to ensure that the infrastructure was implemented at SYFR at the same time as the vehicles arrived. A small amount of funding from the Service's Innovation and Service Improvement Fund would be utilised to commence matters. Work was underway on the replacement programme. Electric vans would be utilised initially and consideration would be given to the flexi duty and officer cars.

ACO Strelczenie chaired the Service's Sustainability Board Meeting. The Service was considering electric/hybrid vehicles for the future. At present, there were only two fire and rescue services in the country that were trialling electric fire appliances. The evaluation of fire appliances was awaited from the National Fire Chiefs Council.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

14 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

Councillor Ball commented that he found the new format of the key issues paper to be informative. He suggested that consideration be given for a key issues paper to be provided to the Authority for every committee/board.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 8 September 2022.

15 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 12 September 2022.

16 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.

17 SYFR CONTROL SYSTEM UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with an update on the SYFR Control System.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the content of the report.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/Update
1	A report to be presented to a future Authority meeting to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place following the high volume of fires that had occurred during the extreme weather conditions on 19 July 2022.	To a future FRA meeting	DCFO Carlin	<p><u>Update 12.09.22</u></p> <p>A report to be presented to the Members within the upcoming couple of Authority Meetings.</p> <p><u>Update 10.10.22</u></p> <p>It was envisaged that a report would be provided to the Authority Meeting in November 2022.</p>

2	To provide Members with a copy of the briefing for the active pension members regarding their pensions benefits.	In due course	S Kelsey	
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CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J Mounsey (Chair)

Councillors: S Clement-Jones, S Cox, A Dimond, D Fisher, M Havard, D Nevett, A Sangar, M Stowe and G Weatherall

Trade Unions: N Doolan-Hamer (Unison), D Patterson (Unite) and G Warwick (GMB)

Investment Advisors: T Castledine and A Devitt

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), J Garrison (Corporate Manager - Governance), W Goddard (Financial Services Manager), G Graham (Director), G Richards (Governance Officer), S Smith (Head of Investments Strategy) and G Taberner (Head of Finance and Corporate Services)

R Elwell (Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Ltd)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Bowser and Councillor B Curran

1 APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reminded members of the necessity to complete the Hymans Robertson Online Learning Academy modules in a timely manner, emphasising that some were overdue and therefore non-compliant with learning and development requirements.

He also reminded members of the scheduled sessions organised by the Governance Manager which could be attended either in person or virtually. If anyone needed support to complete the modules, J Garrison was happy to support members on site at the members convenience.

The Chair urged members to complete all 6 modules by Christmas at the very latest.

G Warwick, Chair of the Local Pension Board, agreed to pass the message on to members of the Local Pension Board.

Mr G Henshaw asked a question regarding the Authority's investments in South Yorkshire.

The question and response can be found in an appendix to the minutes.

3 URGENT ITEMS

The Director informed members that he had an update regarding a local development loan. This would be taken in the private part of the agenda.

It was noted that Cllr Cox may declare an interest in this item as a member of DMBC's Planning Committee.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That item 15 'Annual Review of Border to Coast Pensions Partnership', item 16 'Independent Advisor's Appraisal' and the Urgent Item mentioned at 3 be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

Members were informed that, at its meeting in July, Sheffield CC had dealt with a question on climate and Net Zero investment and a petition on divestment.

Details can be found as an appendix to the minutes.

7 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual and Ordinary meeting held on 9th June 2022 be agreed as a true record.

8 MINUTES OF THE STAFFING, APPOINTMENTS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JULY 2022

The Chair welcomed T Castledine, the Authority's recently appointed Independent Investment Advisor, to his first meeting.

T Castledine responded that he was looking forward to working with members for the next three years.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Staffing, Appointment and Appeals Committee held on 26th July 2022 be noted.

9 Q1 QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members considered the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 1, 2022/23.

Headlines included:

- Customer feedback remained positive.
- Despite market conditions, a strong funding level was being maintained.
- Costs, including pay pressure, being maintained within the budget
- Cyber security accreditation maintained.

- Small increase in sickness levels.
- Delays to a small number of Corporate Strategy projects which would need to be rephased.
- Administration performance stable but remained below target.

G Taberner informed members that the Team Manager – Programmes and Performance was now in post and would be focusing on performance reporting across the organisation.

Members were reminded that the budget for 2022/23 had been approved by the Authority at its February meeting. Since then, two changes had been made that required virements between budget heads.

The first concerned the TUPE transfer of the Governance Officer from BMBC, and secondly the costs for the management of the agricultural property portfolio being charged directly to the Fund rather than the Authority operating budget. Full details were contained within the report.

In answer to a question from Cllr Dimond regarding the government's consultation on the Task Force on Climate-Related Disclosure regulations, the Director replied that a decision had not yet been made on whether the Authority would respond. The proposed regulations contained nothing unexpected or controversial and the Authority was already virtually compliant.

RESOLVED – That members:

- Note the report.
- Approve the budget virements set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.20 of the report.

10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/2023

A report was considered which fulfilled the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to "have regard to" the following guidance:

- The CIPFA Prudential Code of Practice (2021);
- The CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (2021);
- MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Local Authority Investments (2018); and
- MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (2018).

It was noted that the Authority would receive reports on its Treasury Management activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy for the forthcoming year, an annual report after year end and interim updates as part of the quarterly corporate performance reports.

The annual strategy report included:

- The Treasury Management strategy, including treasury indicators.
- An Investment Strategy.

- c) To the extent that they applied in this Authority, capital plans, prudential indicators and minimum revenue provision policy statement.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Approve the 2022/23 Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy.
- ii) Approve the Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23.
- iii) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision statement as set out in the report.

11 ADVISOR'S MARKET COMMENTARY

A Devitt provided a market commentary on recent events.

Highlights since the last update included:

- Inflation continued to be at the forefront of newspaper headlines and central bank deliberations. Figures remained high globally but it continued to be difficult to understand which would stick and which was more temporary.
- Interest rates continued to rise – the Bank of England raised its rates to 1.75%, its sixth consecutive rate rise and the largest since 1985.
- Employment numbers looked increasingly precarious as job opening fell and hiring slowdowns and layoffs picked up.
- The winter energy surge was awaited. With energy caps expected to reach up to 3x their current levels and expectations for inflation in the UK reaching the teens this was the most critical barometer of consumer sentiment for the next few months,

The following would be watched in the coming months.

- What the winter would bring in terms of energy pricing and consumer sentiment.
- Default watch – with so many businesses still on the edge following Covid, the contraction in consumer spending could send some companies into default.
- Political and currency moves – both the Euro and the Pound had reached new lows in the past quarter and its fragility could continue for the rest of the year bringing more imported inflation and economic weakness.

The Chair thanked A Devitt for an interesting and informative report.

12 Q1 INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

S Smith presented the Quarter One Investment Performance report.

It was noted that after an extremely volatile quarter the Fund was valued at £10.1bn at 30 June 2022.

With regard to asset allocation, the overweight position to listed equity holdings had been reduced by funding an investment in Sterling Investment Grade Credit which reduced the underweight position.

There were now two categories that were outside their tactical range – private equity and index-linked gilts, details of which were contained within the report.

Changes in net investment for the categories were included in the report and showed that the Fund was being de-risked in line with the strategic benchmark.

For the quarter to the end of June, the Fund returned -5.1% against the expected benchmark of -5.7%.

The report also contained details of the performance of Border to Coast funds.

The UK Equity portfolio showed outperformance of its benchmark for the quarter as did the Overseas Developed Market portfolio. The Emerging Market outperformed by 0.3% during the quarter but was still behind the benchmark since inception.

Members discussed the positive and negative effects of inflation and the weak pound on the Fund.

The Chair thanked S Smith for the report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13 Q1 RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE

Members considered the Quarter 4 Responsible Investment update.

Highlights of the quarter to the end of June included:

- The casting of nearly 6,500 votes at close to 450 company meetings.
- A continued high level of engagement activity running at almost twice the level of the same quarter in 2021.
- Maintenance of high ESG ratings where they are available.
- The setting of the first round of targets towards Net Zero.
- A significant level of stakeholder engagement around various issues but particularly around human rights.

The report contained full details of voting activity, engagement activity, portfolio ESG performance, progress to Net Zero, stakeholder interaction and collaborative activity.

RESOLVED – That members note the activity undertaken in the quarter and endorse the initial targets for reducing carbon emissions from the listed asset portfolios.

14 DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

A report was submitted to inform members of decisions taken as a matter of urgency between meetings of the Authority.

It was noted that two decisions had been required since the last meeting.

Firstly, Border to Coast had circulated a number of shareholder resolutions for approval at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Secondly, the Director had, under delegated powers, approved the use of a market supplement to assist in recruiting to a vacant Post in the Finance Team.

Full details of both decisions were contained within the report.

RESOLVED – That members note the decisions taken between meetings of the Authority using the appropriate urgency procedures.

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.

15 ANNUAL REVIEW OF BORDER TO COAST PENSIONS PARTNERSHIP

A report was considered which allowed members to review the performance of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership and the Authority's arrangement for overseeing and engaging with the work of the Partnership.

Border to Coast's CEO, R Elwell, gave an update on performance, the transition to Net Zero by 2050 or sooner and the culture of Border to Coast.

The Chair thanked R Elwell for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Note and consider the views of the Independent Advisor Panel set out in Appendix A.
- ii) Approve the recommended actions set out in Appendix A.

16 INDEPENDENT ADVISORS' APPRAISAL

A report was submitted which gave members the opportunity to appraise the performance of the arrangements in place for independent advice in relation to investment matters.

The report gave details of the key areas of focus for the advisors which had been identified previously along with officers' comments on each area.

RESOLVED – That members agreed that they were highly satisfied with the performance of the arrangements in place for independent advice in relation to investment matters.

At this point Cllr Cox left the meeting.

17 URGENT ITEM

The Director gave an update on a recently agreed local development loan.

RESOLVED – That members note the update.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

8 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J Mounsey (Chair)

Councillors: R Bowser, S Clement-Jones, S Cox, B Curran,
A Dimond, D Fisher, D Nevett, A Sangar and M Stowe

Trade Unions: N Doolan-Hamer (Unison) and D Patterson (Unite)

Investment Advisors: A Devitt and T Castledine

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), J Stone
(Corporate Manager - Governance), G Graham (Director), S Smith
(Head of Investments Strategy), G Taberner (Head of Finance and
Corporate Services) and R Green (Business Support Officer)

Jane Firth (Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Ltd)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Havard,
G Warwick and G Richards

1 APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

3 URGENT ITEMS

Two members of the public, Mr Henshaw and Mr Ashton were present to ask questions directly to the Authority. A copy of the question and the written response is available in the appendixes of the minutes.

Mr Ashton asked a supplementary question: With the Government opening a new coal mine, how can the Authority claim that engagement with companies is an effective course of action?

G. Graham replied: The Authority's Annual Report shows the progress that has been made via engaging with companies, but clearly there is more to do. In addition all of this activity has to be set in the context of the primary duty of the Authority to ensure the fund has funds available to pay pensions when due.

The Chair reiterated the Authority will ensure its voice is heard in Border to Coast discussions on these issues.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That item 16 ‘Border to Coast Governance Review’ and item 17 ‘Debt Write Offs’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

G. Graham declared an interest on behalf of J. Stone in regards to agenda item 14.

6 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

None

7 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2022 be agreed as a true record.

8 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - Q2

Members considered the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 2, 2022/23.

Headlines included:

- The fund maintained a strong funding level despite market conditions.
- Customer feedback positive review ratings have fallen below 90%.
- Costs, including pay pressure, is being maintained within budget.
- Increase in sickness levels
- Delays to a small number of Corporate Strategy projects that need to be rephased.
- The review of the Risk Register has provided assurance of mitigation actions being effective and resulted in reduced current score on some risks.

A. Dimond asked about the current funding level showing as over 150% of requirement.

G. Graham replied this was something of a statistical anomaly due to the timing of recording of the figures and the impact of gilt yields on the liability valuation, while subsequent events have reduced the level back to between 119% - 150%. The key message being that the funding level is strong

D. Nevett asked about the review of assets held in the legacy portfolio. What is the trajectory of pooling the assets?

S. Smith advised the this will be a medium-term project. The properties are projected to move over in the next couple of years. The infrastructure assets could take up to 10 years.

G. Graham added that some assets held by the fund have no pooling option and up to 5% of the total fund assets can be held outside of the pool.

9 APPROVAL OF THE LEVY

G Taberner introduced the annual report seeking approval of the Levy for 2023/24 under the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992.

It was noted that the 2023/24 Levy had been calculated as £353,000 minus a forecast balance of £28,388 leaving a balance of £324,612.

D. Nevett asked if the levy had a specific end date when it would no longer be needed?

G. Taberner replied it will decrease as more members die but will obviously be a gradual process.

A. Dimond asked if the funding level was impacted the levy?

G. Graham confirmed these are unfunded legacy liabilities so are not affected by current funding levels.

RESOLVED: Approve a total levy of £324,612 for 2023/24 in accordance with The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be allocated to the District Councils in proportion to their approved council tax base shares.

10 ADVISERS COMMENTARY

A Devitt provided a market commentary on recent events.

Highlights since the last update included:

- **Inflation remains at the front and centre of government and household concerns**, and in September rose to a 40 year high, rising 10.1% (CPI). As levels stay around high single digits or even double digits in Europe and the US, there are nevertheless some signs of it faltering.

These are signs that the unemployment rate in the US rose slightly (although is still historically low) while supply shocks seem to have played out and there is evidence that the supply of goods is not still seeing price hikes.

- **Interest rates continued to rise**, with the US Fed raising rates for the sixth time this year (75 bps) in November while the Bank of England raised its rates to 3%, its eighth consecutive rate rise and the largest (75 bps) since 1989. As noted earlier, some central banks are “blinking” in the lights of economic strains and not raising by as much as expected.
- **UK employment figures remain robust**, with unemployment numbers at multi-decade lows and at numbers not seen since 1974. This was partially driven by a lower participation rate, particularly as older workers stayed out of the work force and students choosing not to work.

- **GDP growth in the UK has been flatlining** – falling by 0.6% in September and 1% in August but after growth of only 0.1% in July.
- **The political environment remains fraught**, although the new Conservative government seems less wracked with drama than the previous one and there is clearly a strong desire for stability, from fellow politicians, the general public and market participants.

The following would be watched in the coming months.

- **A Measure of Winter Cheer.** As we noted last quarter, it is critical to see what the winter brings in terms of energy pricing and consumer sentiment. With mortgage rates in the UK set to rise sharply, this will place extreme stress on certain consumer segments, and the pending more austere fiscal climate will also present challenges. How this translates into retail sales, real estate demand and corporate health will be critical.

Tech as a Canary in the Coal Mine? During the recent layoffs, many tech executives noted with chagrin their recent overly exuberant hiring and growth expectations. It is true that they did contribute to a particularly frothy employment climate.

It will be key to see if they have over-steered now, or only scratched the surface, and whether other industries follow suit. With the apparent shortage of labour in some areas and a challenge in hiring, how this all settles with respect to employment will be very interesting to watch.

- **The end of zero-Covid?** As we discussed in the spotlight on China section, there is so much still pending on the direction that Xi Jinping's united front of a government takes with respect to opening up China's economy and relaxing some of the zero-Covid restrictions that are incompatible with that. Visibility as to this, their position on trade and their aspirations with respect to Taiwan will be key to seeing how one of the world's largest economies plays its part in the years ahead.

The Chair thanked A Devitt for an interesting and informative report.

11 INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT - Q2

S Smith presented the Quarter One Investment Performance report.

This quarter was another difficult quarter for markets. Developed market equities, emerging market equities, credit and sovereign bonds all fell as investors priced in further interest rate rises and an increased risk of recession.

The overall total of the fund dropped below £10billion at the end of September but had recovered by the end of November.

The overweight position to listed equity holdings reduced as part of the asset rebalancing requirement.

Within the commercial property portfolio two small holdings were sold.

There was also a liquidating redemption made from the SL Retail Property Unit Trust. This was offset by drawdowns on the CBRE loans that we have and into the residential funds.

After the trades mentioned above only one category is outside its tactical range and this is private equity.

Changes in net investment for the categories were included in the report and showed that the Fund was being de-risked in line with the strategic benchmark.

For the quarter to the end of September, the Fund returned -1.1% against the expected benchmark return of -2.5%.

The report also contained details of the performance of Border to Coast funds.

The UK equity portfolio showed outperformance of its benchmark this quarter and is now achieving its target return since inception.

The Overseas Developed Market portfolio continued its steady outperformance.

The Emerging Market portfolio outperformed the benchmark this quarter by 1.4%, with all three managers outperforming their target index, but is still behind the benchmark since inception.

In respect to future outlook, risks of a global recession have intensified. High inflation and monetary tightening by central banks are leading to slowing growth.

The UK market has performed relatively better than other developed equity markets due to relatively high exposure to defensive stocks and commodities. It is accepted that we are already in recession and the fund will be looking to take profits as necessary.

For Overseas Equities, expect market conditions to remain volatile. Currently moderately overweight overseas equities although we are underweight emerging markets relative to benchmark.

Bonds are looking more attractive than in recent months. The fund has benefited from being underweight in bonds as rates have been increasing but there is now better value in them so will be rebalancing, with preference for index-linked bonds given our very underweight position.

The Chair thanked S Smith for the report.

12 RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE - Q2

G. Graham advised this was a much quieter quarter due to reduction of voting events at AGMs. The submitted report highlights the key votes Border to Coast have taken.

The funds property portfolio increased in rating to 3 stars on the benchmarking for Environmental Performance. This is a significant improvement.

Members sought further information on the process of engagement undertaken and how its effectiveness might be judged to which Mr Graham and Jane Firth from Border to Coast responded.

13 ANNUAL REVIEW OF BORDER TO COAST RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICIES.

Each year Border to Coast conducts a review of its Responsible Investment Policy and Voting Guidelines so that they can be updated for the following voting season. It is important to recognise these are all collective documents which represent the consensus position of the partner funds.

Inevitably, a degree of compromise is required in relation to the positions of the individual partner funds.

Jane Firth Head of Responsible Investment at Border to Coast presented the key changes to the various policies and explained the rationale for them.

Members in discussing the policies highlighted the potential issues arising from the fact that Border to Coast and the Authority have differing Net Zero goals, and the effectiveness of continued engagement with some companies. In addition the specific identification of human rights issues within the policies was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

- a) Endorse the various Border to Coast policies at Appendices A to C
- b) Note the publication by the Company of its Net Zero Road Map.

Councillor Dimond and Councillor Curran dissented and asked that this be minuted.

Chair thanked J. Firth for the work undertaken by her team in this area.

14 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

A report was presented recommending an appointment to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer following the departure of the current incumbent. In addition the report recommended the designation of an officer as Secretary to the Border to Coast Joint Committee.

RESOLVED:

- a) Approve the appointment of Joanne Stone (Corporate Manager Governance) as the Authority's Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st January 2023.
- b) Approve the designation of Joanne Stone (Corporate Manager - Governance) as the Secretary to the Border to Coast Joint Committee with immediate effect.

15 GOVERNANCE UPDATE REPORT

A report for information only was presented updating members on various governance developments.

RESOLVED: The report was 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.

16 BORDER TO COAST GOVERNANCE REVIEW

G. Graham presented a report to secure approval for revised governing documents for the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership following the completion of a governance review.

The proposed changes have all previously been supported by the Authority. Members to note Appendix D of the report, confirming there is no legal reason not to sign the documents.

RESOLVED:

- a) Authorise the Director to agree further amendments to the draft documents set out at appendices A to C to accommodate any further requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority or drafting issues.
- b) Subject to resolution a) above, to authorise the signing and sealing of the governance documents at appendices A to C on behalf of the Authority.

17 DEBT WRITE OFFS

G. Taberner presented a report to request the Authority's approval to write off irrecoverable debts relating to the Pension Fund's commercial property portfolio and Pension Member overpayments.

RESOLVED: Approve the write-off of debts amounting up to £52,650.03 including VAT.

Chair concluded the meeting.

18 APPENDIX A

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Pensions Authority Meeting – 8th December 2022

Public Questions –

Question 1 – Divestment from Shell

Question from Mr Sean Ashton

One of the main points stated by South Yorkshire Pension Authority (SYPA) for not divesting from fossil fuels is that selling fossil fuel investments will not affect change in the real world and that the world needs the money tied up in fossil fuel companies to transition to a world fuelled by green energy. Surely, selling those shares and investing in renewables would affect change on 2 fronts: investment in renewable energy projects would cause more renewables to be manufactured and installed; and removing the social licence of fossil fuel companies by divesting would hasten their transition to renewables if that is genuinely needed. Removing the massive subsidies paid by the government to these companies would release enough capital to transition to a green economy anyway, without bringing these companies along. When will the authority stop pretending that Shell is going to change its spots, and take a lead in acting to prevent climate change by persuading BCPP to remove Shell from its portfolio?

Response

This question goes to the heart of the debate between campaigners and the Authority and most other LGPS funds and the various pools over the effectiveness, or otherwise, of seeking to change the behaviour of companies to deliver real reductions in the level of carbon emissions into the atmosphere rather than a benefit to carbon metrics simply through the disposal of shares.

If it were possible for the Authority to dispose of the holding in Shell, which it cannot do because the stock is held in a pooled fund and the decision to buy or sell individual stocks is one for the investment manager (Border to Coast), then it might not be possible to reinvest the funds in renewable energy. This is because we have already tilted our portfolio significantly towards renewable energy and it might not be sensible in terms of concentrating our investments in a particular type of asset to increase exposure to renewables beyond what is already planned. Equally it might not be appropriate because of the need for the fund to maintain a balance between liquid and illiquid investments to move from a liquid investment (shares in Shell) to an illiquid investment (renewable energy) which tends to be invested in through closed end fund structures which are not liquid.

All of that said the Authority recognises that there is a need to up the pressure on companies to make more rapid progress with the climate transition and to this end the next revision of our Responsible Investment policies in March will look to set out a stronger position on this which we will seek to have adopted by the Border to Coast partnership. While the work on these revised policies has not been completed this is likely to include clearer definition of the point at which the process of engagement is deemed to have become exhausted, together with stricter positions on the circumstances where we will expect fund managers to use shareholder votes to oppose Director appointments and other resolutions where insufficiently robust transition plans are in place or where plans are failing to be delivered.

The key issue here is that the Authority cannot act alone and must seek to influence others. While this process is, inevitably, more time-consuming than were we able to act alone the impact will be commensurately greater through more weight of investment acting together.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

LOCAL PENSION BOARD

4 AUGUST 2022

PRESENT: G Warwick (GMB) (Chair)

Councillor M Chaplin (Sheffield CC), N Doolan-Hamer (Unison), R Fennessy (South Yorkshire Police), D Gawthorpe (Scheme Member Representative), A Gregory (Scheme Member Representative) and D Webster (Scheme Member Representative)

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), G Graham (Director), A Palmer (Governance and Risk Officer) and G Richards (Governance Officer)

C Scott (Independent Advisor to the Board)

Apologies for absence were received from N Gregory and Councillor K Richardson

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Director 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

None.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With regard to Item 9 Appendix C, which was an update on Rotherham MBC's administrative performance levels, D Webster commented that in his role as Head of Audit at Rotherham MBC, his Team were responsible for reviewing payroll. He had discussed the matter with J Bailey and Clare Scott and it had been decided that there was no need to declare an interest but that the Board should be made aware of the situation.

The Board was comfortable with this and the Director agreed that it was not prejudicial but it was important to mention for the sake of transparency.

6 ELECTION OF CHAIR

G Graham informed members that discussions had taken place prior to the meeting and, if the Board was agreeable, G Warwick had agreed to continue as Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – That G Warwick be elected Chair of the Local Pension Board for the ensuing year.

7 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Similarly, following discussion before the meeting, R Fennessy had agreed to continue as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year, if the Board was agreeable.

RESOLVED – That R Fennessy be elected as Vice-Chair of the Local Pension Board for the ensuing year.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2022 AND ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 28th April 2022 be agreed as a true record.

9 QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

J Bailey introduced Lee Mann and Alan Rogers from Rotherham MBC who were in attendance, as requested by the Board at its last meeting, to provide an update on performance relating to long-standing individual member queries which members had expressed concerns about.

Members noted that, following years of good performance reporting, problems arose between late 2018 to early 2020 culminating in SYPA formally raising concerns in April 2020.

Three main areas of concern were highlighted. These were:

- Individual Member Queries
- Monthly Data Collection (MDC) File Submission
- Payment Discrepancies

An investigation found two main causes for the reduction in performance levels:

- Lost MDC interface functionality, and general disruption, caused by the implementation of a new HR & Payroll system at RMBC.
- The transfer of five key activity strands from SYPA to RMBC.

A programme of work to address the issues was agreed with both SYPA and RMBC investing significant time and resource to tackle the issues. It was noted that substantial progress had been achieved during the last two years with two of

the three areas of concern fully addressed and key aspects of the third progressed, but there remained a backlog of individual member queries to be cleared.

The briefing gave full details of all three areas of concern and the solutions identified and implemented.

With regard to individual member queries, based on the resolution of most of the underlying query causes and the addition of resource to the Pensions Team, the original expectation was that the query backlog would be worked down over period of 6 to 12 months.

This planned clearance of the backlog had not yet been delivered due to a number of factors. The progress made and the impacting factors were detailed within the briefing as was a Clearance Plan.

It had become evident that further resource was required to clear the backlog and budgetary approval had now been given to recruit two additional temporary posts (for 12 months) within the Pensions Team with a sole focus on the SYPA backlog.

The target was to clear the backlog by the end of the financial year. It was noted that this would be a challenging target that would be monitored on a regular basis as activity was progressed.

J Bailey confirmed that two of the three areas of concern had been successfully addressed. With regard to the Clearance Plan, SYPA would meet regularly with RMBC and offer support where possible. The plan to clear the backlog seemed realistic and would be kept under constant review.

In answer to a question from A Gregory, L Mann agreed that filling the temporary posts could be a challenge, but there would be an opportunity for internal development and, if necessary, agency staff could be used.

C Scott, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the engagement as a positive move and queried whether other employers who RMBC provided payroll services for were aware of the backlog.

It was confirmed by A Rogers that Doncaster MBC had been fully briefed.

J Bailey commented that SYPA had not directly contacted the other affected employers but would now keep them up to date with discussions and progress.

D Webster queried what would happen if the backlog was not reduced as expected.

A Rogers replied that, having tackled the root causes, and made sure the team were 'working smarter' and looking at all the other issues, the only solution would be to allocate yet more resources. The situation would be monitored regularly to ensure it was on track.

The Chair thanked A Rogers and L Mann for attending the meeting to explain the current position, it was very much appreciated.

The Director commented that the Board now needed to formally decide how to progress. There was the option to let the process run its course or receive further updates.

N Doolan-Hamer suggested that further monitoring would be needed.

J Bailey agreed and suggested an update at the next Board meeting in October, further updates could also be provided in the monthly updates which were now provided for Authority and Board members.

The Board discussed what further steps could be taken if improvement was not seen in the coming months.

J Bailey commented that the Administration Strategy could be used to issue fines but he felt that that was not needed at the moment due to the efforts RMBC were making to address the issue. Ultimately the matter could be reported to the Pensions Regulator. Again it was thought that this was not appropriate at the moment, but if the situation changed it would be imperative to ensure that all affected employers were aware of the situation.

J Bailey continued with the Administration update providing details of staffing and sickness levels. In response to a question from N Doolan-Hamer, J Bailey confirmed that staff who tested positive for Covid but were well enough to work would do so but were advised to work from home.

A lot of feedback had been received from staff regarding the Authority's flexible working policy which would be reviewed over the next few months looking at how it was working for both staff and the organisation.

C Scott queried whether productivity whilst working from home, or in general, would be looked at as part of the review.

J Bailey commented that a detailed piece of work had not yet been done due to the difficulty of like-for-like comparisons during lockdown although it was intended to look at this in the future.

He also confirmed that, at the moment, with the current establishment and no vacancies, his view was that there was enough resource to deal with the current casework. However it was recognised that development projects had been adversely impacted over the last couple of years. In the next few months the position would be clearer around the success of dealing with backlogs and this would be presented to the Board in future.

G Graham commented that he had been asked to do a piece of work for a meeting of the Staffing Committee in October around the longer-term resources and organisational resilience.

The biggest decision that would have to be made late this year/early next year in terms of running the organisation would be regarding the Pensions Administration

system if Civica had failed to deliver the improvements promised by the dates set out in the improvement plan. It was recognised that this was a massive decision both financially and operationally. The Board would be kept informed of the situation.

Members attention was drawn to the table at paragraph 5.9 which showed performance figures for the first full quarter for deferred members who had used the facility to retire online. This showed that the percentage completed within target was a lot higher than for those who had not used the facility. It was now being investigated if this could also be used for active members.

Paragraph 5.11 provided a summary of cases outstanding to 30th June 2022. There remained two areas of concern – aggregations and unprocessed leavers.

N Doolan-Hamer commented that the number of cases did not seem to be reducing as expected.

J Bailey replied that work on the valuation and Annual Benefit Statements had impacted on this area. Now the valuation was nearing completion there should be no barriers to the Projects Team focusing on aggregations and reducing the numbers in the future. By the end of next quarter it should be possible to estimate what could realistically be achieved by the end of the financial year.

The report also gave details on:

- Statutory Disclosure Reporting
- Employer Performance
- Individual Query Employer Reporting
- Contribution Payments
- Scheme Member Engagement
- Annual Benefit Statements and the Triennial Valuation
- Child Review Exercise

In answer to a question from C Scott, J Bailey confirmed that there would be an update on the Data Quality Plan at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That an update on Rotherham MBC's performance in relation to outstanding individual member queries be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

10 REVIEW OF BREACHES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

A report was submitted which updated members on the latest available record of reported breaches and provided details of complaints and appeals for the period 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2022.

It was noted that there had been two cyber security incidents, seven complaints and three appeals during the period. Full details were contained within the report and appendices.

RESOLVED – That members:

- i) Note the breaches summary.
- ii) Note the outcomes of the complaints and appeals.

11 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITY

The Board considered a report which provided an update on decisions taken by the Authority at its meeting June.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12 CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT

A report was submitted which sought the Board's views on proposed changes to the Funding Strategy Statement as part of a wider consultation with stakeholders.

Members were informed that, at its meeting in June, the Authority approved the beginning of a consultation on changes to its Funding Strategy Statement as set out in Appendix A.

It was noted that most of the changes were relatively technical but there was one major matter related to the way in which contribution rates for contractor bodies were set. These were detailed in full in the attached report.

In response to a question from D Gawthorpe, J Bailey informed the Board that it was the responsibility of the employer to inform staff if they were going to contract out services. SYPA was engaging with employers and reminding them of their responsibilities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13 LOCAL PENSION BOARD CONSTITUTION

The Board considered a report which presented the revised Constitution which had been approved by the Authority at its June meeting.

With regard to paragraph 3.1.1. which stated: "within one month of the possible breach, meet with the Authority Chair to discuss the breach", it was noted that this did not fit with timescales as breaches were only reported to the Board quarterly.

It was agreed that this paragraph would be re-worded at the next revision.

RESOLVED – That the revised Constitution is approved.

14 RISK REGISTER UPDATE

The Chair welcomed A Palmer, the Authority's Governance and Risk Officer, to her first meeting.

A Palmer presented a report which provided the Board with the opportunity to review the updated Risk Register, the latest version of which was attached as an Appendix to the report.

It was noted that the scores for three risks had been reduced. These were:

- G2 – Governance – Local Pension Board Knowledge and Understanding.
- G3 – Governance – Breakdown of the Control Environment
- I3 – Investment and Funding – Key Risks

The Risk Register provided commentary on the reasoning for these reductions and also the reasoning for not changing the scores for the other risks including, where relevant, the likely timescales for a change on the score.

A Palmer informed the Board that the Governance Team were looking to identify Risk Management software that would suit SYPA's needs and would then be involved in an options appraisal exercise. This would hopefully provide more functionality including trend analysis.

Cllr Chaplin requested that acronyms were avoided e.g. TCFD (Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures).

C Scott commented that at the Board's last meeting it was questioned whether there should be a risk around Border to Coast underperformance and officers were going to discuss this when they next reviewed the Risk Register.

The Director replied that the annual review of Border to Coast had just been completed and would be presented to the Authority at its December meeting. The performance of Border to Coast's products that SYPA was invested in was good and from that point of view it was felt that it was unnecessary to add another risk beyond the generic risk on investment performance that was included in the Risk Register.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted,

15 LOCAL PENSION BOARD MEMBERSHIP

J Bailey informed the Board that, since the last meeting, Barnsley MBC had appointed Cllr Ken Richardson to the Board for a 3-year term and Riaz Nurennabi, Head of Pensions Development at Sheffield Hallam University had also agreed to join the Board as an employer representative. This meant that the Board was now up to full strength.

The Chair thanked J Bailey for the update.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair commented that in the pre-meeting there had been a discussion on whether a method could be devised for members to contribute to Board agendas.

G Graham commented that he would be happy to facilitate this but that timings would have to be carefully considered. There was no issue in principle just with practicalities to ensure that officers could deliver reports in line with expectations.

C Scott would take this up with J Garrison when they met next month.

In answer to a question from R Fennessy, J Bailey informed the Board that the staging date for the Pensions Dashboard had been put back to October 2024.

At the moment options were being looked at for a service provider. An update would be provided at the next Board meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

CHAIR

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

LOCAL PENSION BOARD

3 NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor M Chaplin (Sheffield CC), N Doolan-Hamer (Unison), R Fennessy (South Yorkshire Police), D Gawthorpe (Scheme Member Representative), A Gregory (Scheme Member Representative), N Gregory (Academy Representative), R Nurennabi (Sheffield Hallam University), Councillor K Richardson (Barnsley MBC) and D Webster (Scheme Member Representative)

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), J Stone (Corporate Manager - Governance), G Graham (Director), R Green, A Palmer (Governance and Risk Officer) and Webster

C Scott (Independent Advisor to the Board)

Apologies for absence were received from G Warwick and G Richards

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from G Warwick and in his absence R Fennessy chaired the meeting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced two new members to the board. K. Richardson and R. Nurennabi

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

G. Graham advised that the Authority had been nominated for four awards. Two in the Pensions for Purpose awards and two in the LAPF awards.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Review of Border to Coast position, Organisational Resilience and Sustainability and any discussion resulting from Head of Pensions report on the current Pensions Administration system in use at the Authority.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

G. Graham is now a Governor at Barnsley College who are an employer in the Fund and declared this for the record.

6 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04/08/2022 AND ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4th August 2022 be agreed as a true record.

7 QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE Q2

J Bailey presented an update on administration performance and issues for the period from July 2022 to September 2022. The case work performance was unavailable for distribution with the report and on this occasion was provided separately.

Main Points:

Staffing - The Authority has been successful in recruiting to existing vacancies, including a key appointment of a Benefits Team Manager following the incumbent obtaining a promotion externally.

The organisational resilience report recently presented to the Staffing Appointments and Appeals Committee will result in a number of new vacancies over time which will be reported in future updates.

Sickness Absence - sickness absence has increased significantly for both short-term and long-term absence this quarter. Absence for Covid related illness is no longer reported separately, but records suggest over 50% of the short-term absences were Covid related, with a spike in July.

The incidence of long-term absence mainly represents two staff on long-term absence, both are now on phased returns and are being managed and supported in line with the Attendance Management arrangements, so a reduction is expected in Quarter 3.

Employer Performance – No concerns in respect to employers submitting their Monthly Data Returns.

Employer individual query reporting - ongoing dialogue between SYPA and Rotherham MBC payroll services in relation to the volumes of outstanding queries for employers for whom they provide a payroll support service and Rotherham MBC attended the last Board meeting to report on their improvement plans. There has been an increase in clearance rate, although not to the extent that had been planned, and additional resources are being allocated.

Members sought reassurance both that other employers receiving services from Rotherham were aware of these issues and about potential consequences by the end of the financial year if the situation had not been resolved.

J. Bailey advised that other employers had been briefed by Rotherham MBC but he will also write to them and provide reassurance.

The overall position is being kept under review and if necessary, further action could be taken in January if the situation is not acceptable and currently there were only 10 outstanding queries for the 30 other employers served by Rotherham Members were assured that a further review will be conducted at the end of December to allow the additional resources assigned to take effect.

If the position reached at that point is unacceptable, it will be for the Board to discuss what the next step would be and they may be asked to attend the next Board meeting.

R Nurrenabi noted a perception of employers of a deterioration in service for employers. J Bailey acknowledged this and noted that there had been a lack of understanding with some staff regarding monthly data submissions. Staff training has addressed the matter.

Contribution Payments – No issues to advise the Board on.

Scheme Member Engagement - The percentage of members satisfied has dropped below 90% so some further analysis was carried out to identify the root causes. There were 11 members who were dissatisfied and feedback was sought from them.

In response the following actions have been actioned:

An update to the retirement process is in hand so that each time a case is put on hold an e mail is sent to the scheme member to keep them updated on the situation responding to the criticism that members are not aware on progress with their case.

There were inconsistencies between the advertised response time for on line queries and the agreed performance standards along with some resource pressures within the Customer Services Team. Both issues have been addressed.

A considerable number of issues had been raised about tax codes and in particular the approach of applying a so-called “emergency code” when a pension comes into payment and staff do not have access to P45 information.

Work is in hand to change this approach which should lead to fewer members having to contact HMRC directly on this issue.

J. Bailey confirmed a trend analysis will be included in the next quarters report.

N. Dolan-Hamer asked about the specific comment received “When I contacted you regarding my underpayment, I was referred to payroll who no longer hold my full employment records. So unfortunately, I lost 2 years of my pension.”

J. Bailey confirmed that particular case had been followed up with the member. It was a misunderstanding on behalf of the member.

A return had not been received from a previous employer and this was resolved, so the member had not lost two years pension, it was an administration error on behalf of the employer that was resolved. In addition the monthly data collection process now in operation makes this scenario extremely unlikely in the future.

Scheme Member Engagement – Customer Centre - Feedback for the Customer Centre continues to be reasonably positive overall, satisfaction levels were slightly below 90% this quarter. An electronic survey was issued to 3,662 members with an email address who had contacted us by phone over the months of May, June and July 2022 to ask about their experience of our service delivery and for ideas on service improvements.

The 11% who were dissatisfied represented 51 individuals. Many do not leave specific comments it is often difficult to identify any recurring concerns but there are some clear themes that continue to emerge in relation to the accessibility of the online portal as well as some comments around offering face to face appointments.

Face to face appointments are again being offered to members. Appointments are also being offered throughout December and January for members who are struggling to access the Mypension site.

Member communication by e-mail - As with the telephony survey, the ratings have dropped slightly below 90% for this quarter. The response rates are relatively low and not all members provide information. Follow ups are undertaken separately with those who leave contact details. From the information received, a number of members continue to be unhappy with the use of the secure email system (Egress) for sending personal information.

Much of this seems to relate to a reluctance to create an Egress account. A project is underway to review the information currently being sent via secure email with a view to redirecting as much of this traffic as possible via the portal (albeit we have to recognise that some members would prefer not to use the portal either).

New Joiner Survey - As part of wider engagement with scheme members, feedback was sought into how members who had recently joined the scheme rated our service.

A survey was issued to 701 members who had joined the scheme in May, June and July 2022. The new joiner survey specifically asks about the welcome email/letter, including registration for the online portal. Only 55% of new joiners who responded were satisfied which needs to be improved and a project to address this will be led by the new Communications Officer.

One issue identified from this survey was delays in contacting new members after they have been automatically enrolled by their employer at their first pay day. This is a result of the way in which monthly data submissions are processed and this is

being addressed both through the reorganisation of their resources devoted to data submissions and through process changes to allow earlier dispatch of joiner packs.

Annual Benefit Statements (ABS) and the triennial valuation – Statutory deadlines for the issuing of statements was met. The data was also submitted to the actuary for the triennial valuation exercise.

Indicative results for employers have been received from the actuary. For employers joining the scheme post April 2019, the former actuary worked differently so their starting position was not set in a way the new actuary would have preferred. As a result, it has led to a short delay in informing employers of the outcome of the review in order to ensure that results are fully verified.

Workload Performance - Overall case volumes completed in the Quarter increased slightly compared with the previous quarter, this reflects a return to normal processing levels following a drop in Quarter One when the Projects Team were focusing on data quality work ahead of the 2022 valuation submission.

The overall number of non-priority cases completed has increased slightly but completion on target has dropped this quarter. The main issue causing this is the number of aggregations and unprocessed leavers which are being completed out of time. The Board had previously requested clarity on timescales for addressing the long-standing backlog in aggregations and J Bailey had explained that with workload pressures in other areas, this had been difficult to predict but would continue to be looked at.

Performance levels remained static for the individual subject areas when compared with Quarter One. There was a significant increase in the volumes of general enquiries and this was due to the concentration of annual benefit statements issued in the quarter.

The processing time figure for Active retirements are slightly misleading, in that when a query is passed to the employer by the authority, there is currently no way to remove that time from the processing time figure. While acknowledging that the length of time is a concern for members, some of the delay is due to factors outside the Authority's control.

The Projects team focus for the next six months will be on clearing outstanding Aggregation cases. This has been delayed from the previously proposed timescale due to other commitments for that team.

Statutory Disclosure Reporting - Statutory targets are generally being met in the main areas. In general terms this data shows high levels of compliance in areas that SYPA can control. This gives some indication to areas where further engagement with, and training for, employers could be beneficial. A verbal update was provided on the number of Pension Saving Statements still to be issued for 2021/22 with a plan in place for them to be completed by the end of November. Given that this was a second occurrence of this issue Management had decided that it was appropriate for the Authority to report itself to the Regulator in relation to this.

RESOLVED –

- a. That the report as presented be noted;
- b. That a copy of the report to the Regulator related to Pensions Savings Statements be made available to the Board for consideration.

8 DATA QUALITY, IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND PROGRESS UPDATES

J. Bailey delivered a report to update members on the latest iteration of the Data Quality Improvement Plan and the data scoring likely to be provided to the Pensions Regulator.

Incremental progress has been made in this area. As the figure approaches the 100% accuracy mark, it becomes more difficult to make significant improvements. The Authority currently stands at 97%.

SYPA will need to be connected to the Pensions Dashboard which is a national initiative designed to allow all individuals to access a summary of all their pension scheme arrangements in one place. The staging deadline for the LGPS is 30 September 2024.

The Pensions Administration Standards Association has published detailed guidance in relation to data accuracy. SYPA has a Data Integrity tool developed in-house and plans to further develop this over the next few months to measure the quality of the data held.

This will form part of the future reporting of the Data Quality Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9 BREACHES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

J. Bailey presented a report to update members on the latest available record of reported breaches and provide details of complaints and appeals for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022.

Cyber Security Incidents - There were three incidents in the quarter, two of which were the common issue of phishing emails. Fortunately, the relevant members of staff identified the emails as such and these were reported to ICT in line with our incident reporting process.

The third incident was a result of a member of staff accidentally clicking on a notification purporting to be from an anti-virus provider.

An additional course for staff has been identified and will be added to the mandatory training.

The Authority has had its security tested by a third party and achieved accreditation under the Cyber Essentials Plus scheme.

Complaints – Four complaints received in the Quarter, this is a reduction from those received in recent quarters. Two were outside of SYPA control as they were a result of either delays from third-party providers, regulatory requirements or actions not taken by the member.

Of the two complaints directly attributable to SYPA, one was from a member who was unhappy with the delay in processing his aggregation. This is a known issue.

The second was a member who experienced a delay with the payment of their retirement benefits which was compounded by SYPA after an initial employer delay. This was a training issue with an individual member of staff who did not correctly assign a workflow task and has been addressed.

Formal Appeals - Three formal appeals determined at Stage One of the IDR process. The first was a member who had initially been incorrectly provided with a transfer value quotation even though she was above the age limit to transfer and wanted this to be honoured. SYPA systems have since been updated to prevent a transfer being calculated in these circumstances but the member was compensated for the error.

The second case related to a member who had been overquoted on an estimate of benefits because of the Final Pay estimate given by the employer. This was primarily an error on the part of the employer but it would have been prudent for SYPA to have identified this when checking the case so the member was given a modest compensation award.

The final case related to a member who had been overquoted on an estimate of benefits because the service history was showing full-time and not part-time service.

This had been corrected by the employer but SYPA had not updated the records in a timely manner so, a modest compensation award was given. Arrangements have been put in place to ensure any service history corrections are actioned much sooner than happened in this case.

Future reports to include information regarding compliments received by the Authority for balance of reporting.

RESOLVED

- a. Note the breaches summary and comment on any further reporting requirements or actions
- b. Note the outcome of complaints and appeals handled and comment on any further requirements

10 REVIEW OF KEY COMMUNICATIONS

J. Bailey provided a report to provide members with the opportunity to comment on the content of scheme communications and provide suggestions for improvement.

In line with the Communication Strategy, SYPA issues newsletters to all current and past scheme members at least annually and the newsletters for active members and for pensioners are currently being drafted.

SYPA also communicates quarterly with employers in the fund.

Some changes to the format of the newsletter has been made in response to member feedback. Particularly around having white text on black background. This has been altered.

A separate communication is being prepared to advise members of the 50/50 scheme. This is in response to data suggesting members are considering opting out entirely due to the cost of living.

Also, the usual message around the CPI pensions uplift has been removed. This is due to the Government not yet confirming the increase.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11 COMPLIANCE WITH PENSIONS REGULATOR CODE OF PRACTICE UPDATE

J. Stone presented a report to provide members with an update on current position of compliance with the Pensions Regulator Code of Practice.

Significant progress has been made in strengthening the Authority's Governance structure.

The anticipated new Single Code had not yet been published but it does contain a greater emphasis on cyber security and as outlined elsewhere on the agenda SYPA are already taking steps to address this.

In response to a query it was stated that SYPA does gather information regarding a Register of Interest for members of the board, but it is currently not published in a particularly accessible way and work is being undertaken to try to address this.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12 FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT CONSULTATION AND RELEVANT POLICIES

J. Bailey delivered a report to seek the Board's views on the Funding Strategy Statement and associated policies as part of a wider consultation with stakeholders.

A draft new FSS will shortly be issued to employers for formal consultation.

The main substantive change is a proposal to move to Pass Through arrangements for contractors, which has already been discussed by the Board. Beyond this significant work has been undertaken to make the document more comprehensible and user friendly.

In response to a query confirmation was given in the FSS that individual academies within multi academy trusts, can retain their individual contribution rates if they wish to do so, although the default position is for multi academy trusts to have pooled rates.

The consultation period is usually 6 weeks, but this can be extended in certain circumstances.

G. Graham advised the Board it was the intention to take the final version to the Authority meeting in December.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and members would pass any comments directly to officers.

13 AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE UPDATE

J. Stone presented a report to provide members with an update on current Authority governance related activity. To update Members on the actions being taken in response to audit findings by both internal audit and external audit during the current financial year and in previous financial years. Finally, to provide members with an update on recent decisions made by the Authority.

Considerable activity has taken place to enhance the Authority's governance arrangements since May 2022. This has included monitoring and managing elected and Board members' knowledge and skills to ensure mandatory training compliance and expertise across the organisation.

A software system has been identified and a business case is to be presented to SMT in January with the intention of embedding and enhancing risk management arrangements and providing relevant tools and guidance for managers to be responsible for risk identified in their teams. Also to implement a second layer of assurance across the business at middle management roles level providing a tier of escalation to SMT.

Work is underway to transition the Monitoring Officer role from an external to an internal function.

A full review of the Constitution will take place. This activity will include engagement with Members of the Authority, the Director and SMT, the Independent Adviser, Auditors and Monitoring Officer to review the document and ensure a current version is ready for approval by the Authority at the first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year in June 2023.

SYPA is also looking at the option of retaining a solicitor for help with legal matters. This process will continue throughout November.

Training sessions have been delivered to all members to increase knowledge and skills.

In response to a query J Stone indicated that there would be some involvement of Board members in the review of the Constitution, however it was emphasised that this was an exercise to ensure that the document was legally compliant and proportionate and thus of a more technical nature.

RESOLVED –

- a. That the report be noted.
- b. That members be provided with copies of the recent confidential reports on the Annual Review of Border to Coast and Organisational Resilience and Sustainability.

14 LPB MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING UPDATES

J. Stone delivered a report provide members with an update on current information governance activity and to report a reportable data breach to the Information Commissioners Office.

Considerable activity has commenced to enhance LPB members' knowledge and skills in addition to that of the wider SYPA Authority members. In June 2022 a full training needs analysis activity was undertaken by all members and the following results recorded. Only two members of the LPB had fully completed the mandatory training requirements and one member of the Authority. LGPS on-line modules should be completed within the first six months of joining SYPA.

The training needs analysis report showed an overall knowledge of 50.05% for Authority members and 40.21% for LPB members. The areas identified for urgent support of training were, investment, actuarial and funding matters also administration/funding matters.

Members continue to work with the new governance team, supported by a hybrid training model of on-line, face to face and Teams facilities to ensure training is supported and completed timely.

Current position shows 7 of 12 Authority members have completed all six training modules and 5 of 10 LPB members are fully compliant. One LPB member is currently not compliant in completing the initial 3 modules identified for completion by the end of September 2022.

The remaining three modules are scheduled for delivery on 10 November 2022 and 06 December 2022 to ensure all members are fully compliant by December 2022.

Moving forward, the intention is to review training and development needs of individual members on an annual basis.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

15 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE UPDATE REPORT

J. Stone delivered a report to provide members with an update on current information governance activity and to report on a data breach that has been reported to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), along with the actions taken.

A data breach occurred on 19 September 2022, a bank holiday when the office was closed. The external letter box was tampered with post stolen and thrown outside the building. The documentation retrieved identified 17 scheme members documentation was tampered. Through CCTV footage it is evident that the assailant's intentions were to seek cash, and therefore the documentation was discarded. It is not known whether any further post was taken from site.

Investigation revealed documentation such as birth certificates, passport numbers and marriage certificates were damaged but not removed from site.

All internal protocols were followed and reported to the Data Protection Officer. The incident was low risk and pertained to a small number of data subjects, the decision was taken by the DPO, Corporate Manager–Governance and the Governance and Risk Officer to report the incident to the ICO. No communication or recommendations have been received by the ICO to date.

All 17 subjects have been informed of the breach and assurance provided that documentation was retrieved. Each data subject has been informed any damaged documentation will be replaced and/or costs reimbursed by the Authority. The external letter box was immediately taken out of use and post is now only accepted during office hours when it can be handed to a member of staff.

J. Bailey said SYPA does discourage members from sending original certificates to us and are pushing for more retirements to move online.

A long term solution to the issue of post being left is being worked on.

Members requested that the issue be kept open on the Breaches Record until a response is received from the ICO.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

16 LPB BUDGET 2023-24 (DRAFT)

G. Graham delivered a report on the Board's proposed budget for 2023/24.

The current year budget for the Board is currently expected to be underspent, although by in less than previous years.

The budget proposed for 2023/24 includes an inflationary increase for adviser costs and other running costs.

During this financial year, the Governance team have brought a renewed focus to the training requirements for members making more use of the training budget on items such as the Hymans Robertson Online modules, knowledge progress assessments and additional support and time from the Board's Independent Adviser, and the proposed budget was based on continuing this approach

RESOLVED – That the proposed budget be noted and recommended to the Authority for approval.

17 RISK REGISTER (UPDATE AND ACTIONS)

A. Palmer delivered a report to provide members of the Board with the opportunity to review the updated risk register which supports the corporate strategy.

The Board's workplan requires it to regularly review the Authority's Corporate Risk Register. The latest version of the Register, was considered by the Authority at its meeting on 8th September 2022. The latest review found no changes to the previous one.

Work is progressing on a new Risk Management Software system. A preferred option has been identified, and the Governance and Programmes & Performance teams are currently working with the provider to submit a proposal and develop a draft business case to present to SMT during January 2023.

As part of the setup of the new risk management system, training will be delivered to existing risk owners and the new system piloted with middle managers to enable the rollout of the next stage of the action plan.

This will identify next level operational risks which will be regularly reported to SMT. Subject to approval to proceed, this is planned to take place early in 2023.

D. Webster asked when the new Risk system will be brought to the board.

A. Palmer replied discussions were still ongoing and a business case was being prepared for submission to SMT. If all goes to plan, a demonstration could be given to the board after that.

J. Bailey suggested it would be at least six months as staff will need to be trained and the system imbedded in the organisation.

R. Fennesey asked how close SYPA was from moving the risks identified at level Red to Amber?

G. Graham replied as the issues are investment related. Due to the current market situation, it is unlikely the outlook will improve in the short term.

J. Bailey added Cyber Security is at Red as the threat is so voluminous. It will continue to be a significant risk for the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

18 LOCAL PENSION BOARD WORK CYCLE 2022-23

Members reviewed the meeting cycle.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

5 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor R Haleem (Rotherham MBC) (Chair)

Councillors: R Davison (Sheffield City Council), T Downing (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), S Knowles (Doncaster MBC), J Moyes (Barnsley MBC), C Ransome (Doncaster MBC) and W Carratt (Independent Co-opted Member of the Police and Crime Panel)

Independent Co-opted Members: W Carratt

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner)
(South Yorkshire Police)

S Abbott, S Parkin and K Wright
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

J Field and D Thorpe
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), Councillor T Baum-Dixon (Rotherham MBC), Councillor R Milsom (Sheffield City Council), M Buttery (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), L Belli (Barnsley MBC) and A Shirt (Barnsley MBC)

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair informed the Panel that today will be Jason Field's last Panel meeting.

Jason will be leaving Barnsley Council on 13 January 2023 to take up the position of Head of Legal at Bradford City Council.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thanked Jason for all his advice and wished him well for the future.

Jason confirmed that his replacement would attend the next Panel meeting.

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

Councillor Moyes declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is in receipt of a police pension as a former employee of West Yorkshire Police.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

A) TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

B) 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 10 OCTOBER 2022

The Chair wished to place on record her thanks to Councillor Garbutt for chairing the meeting on 10 October 2022 in her absence.

The Panel discussed and noted progress in respect of agreed actions captured on the Panel's Action Log set out in Appendix A to the minutes.

In relation to Action 8 iii) from the meeting held on 10 October 2022, the Panel requested that this action remained live until Councillor Milsom was present to confirm she agreed that the action should be discharged.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 10 October 2022 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) Noted that the Panel's Action Log would be updated following discussion and agreement at today's meeting.

9. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING)

A report was submitted to inform Members that the Commissioner is supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in delivering his Police and Crime Plan, and in effectively discharging his wide range of legal responsibilities.

The OPCC has a Delivery Plan which outlines how this is undertaken each year.

The report provided Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities against the new Delivery Plan since the Panel's last meeting held on 10 October 2022.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting.

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The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the OPCC was currently looking at finance for the upcoming year. There were various unknowns regarding the budget next year including the police grant and judgement around precept levels.

The Commissioner explained that the OPCC were in a more confident position last year regarding finances and there is a lack of confidence across public sector organisations this year. The Cost-of-Living crisis was affecting organisations as well as individuals, along with the rate of inflation continuing to increase.

The Commissioner referred to the previous 'mini budget' as a continuing source of financial turmoil due to increasing interest rates which made it difficult to make assumptions about the budget for next year.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the PCC is statutorily obliged to consult with the public on council tax precept. The consultation had only just begun but had already received over 1000 responses. Public opinion is more favourable on paying more to support policing than last year.

The Commissioner also undertakes a public consultation on priorities for the year. Last year the Commissioner was surprised that road safety featured highly on residents' priorities and there could be unexpected priorities again this year.

In regard to violence against Women and Girls, The Commissioner referred to the declaration of intent that had been signed by various organisations throughout South Yorkshire, via the Violence Reduction Unit.

W Carratt asked a question regarding the appointment of members to the complaints panel and queried whether these were laypeople or technical experts.

S Parkin responded that the appointments panel is made up of one legally qualified Chair and one independent member.

W Carratt noted that the OPCC was working on a value for money framework and asked how this was measured in the public sector.

S Abbott informed the Panel that this was in the early stages of inception, and currently was focused on how to link performance with finance at a strategic level.

K Wright noted that the value for money framework would take into consideration the National Audit Office's views on effectiveness and economy of the organisation. The framework would look at how the OPCC was performing versus how it is spending. This would be a benchmarking exercise against other forces or the OPCC over time.

W Carratt suggested that the Panel should receive a copy of the framework once it is ready which was agreed by the Commissioner.

W Carratt referred to the reporting of criminal justice system adjournments to the Local Criminal Justice Board and queried what data regarding adjournments was presented to the LCJB.

The Commissioner said that delays and adjournments are a key concern for members of the LCJB. Covid had caused backlogs however the Commissioner reported that issues with the courts predated the pandemic. South Yorkshire had a recorder from Sheffield attend the LCJB which provided a valuable perspective from the courts.

K Wright commented that as part of the local criminal justice performance framework the OPCC was able to monitor courts data, for example the time to look at cases and leading times. The OPCC also had access to CPS data regarding this which could not be shared publicly.

W Carratt referred to the positive audit outcome and wanted to place on record his satisfaction with this outcome.

W Carratt pursued a line of questioning regarding the extension of insurance contracts for an additional two years and queried why these were extended rather than retendered.

S Abbott confirmed that these were an extension of an insurance broker contract via a consortium rather than the contracts themselves.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Asked questions on the matters contained within the report, given it explains how the PCC has over this period delivered his Police and Crime Plan, discharged the wide range of his legal responsibilities, and made decisions.
- iii) Noted that K Wright had agreed to share the value for money framework once it is ready.

10. MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022)

A report was submitted which set out the Quarterly Police and Crime Plan Performance Report for the period July to September 2022 (Quarter 2 2022/23), 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 Quarterly Performance Report for the period July to September 2022 (Quarter 2 2022/23), was set out in Appendix A to the report and noted by Members.

The following key points were noted by Members:-

- Overall recorded crime had increased over the past 12 months. Some of this period fell in the covid lockdown in which crime fell significantly. Data from 2019-2020 was included in the graphs to provide an overview of performance pre-covid.
- The number of domestic abuse recorded crimes had risen, whilst the arrest rate had fallen slightly.
- Charge/summons for rape showed that South Yorkshire was above average for charge/summons outcomes for rape when compared to the most similar forces in England and Wales.
- Charge/Summons for sexual offences continue to increase although are still slightly below the national average.
- There had been a slight reduction in residential burglaries, but South Yorkshire still had one of the highest rates compared to other forces.

Councillor Garbutt referred to the recent meetings between the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and Chief Constables regarding policing protests and asked what South Yorkshire Polices stance on policing protests was, with particular reference to recent 'Just Stop Oil' protests.

The Commissioner responded that people have the right to protest but this needed to be balanced with members of the public being able to conduct their daily business. SYP had a good history on when to intervene in protests which was sharpened by the tree dispute in Sheffield.

Councillor Garbutt asked why on many statistics in the report fraud is excluded and queried where Members could find statistics on fraud.

K Wright informed the Panel that the OPCC follow the ONS national framework of excluding fraud. The ONS published statistics on fraud which Members could access.

Councillor Garbutt noted it was difficult to attribute fraud to regions as most fraud is undertaken online or nationally.

Councillor Garbutt expressed concern regarding the increase in domestic abuse cases along with the decrease in arrest rates and queried whether the OPCC raised this with SYP.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that any issues in the data were raised with the Police including in weekly meetings with the Chief Constable. This was also raised at PAB meetings via district commander reports. The Commissioner reminded Members that they were welcome to attend PAB meetings.

Councillor Davidson asked a question about viewing five-year data in regard to residential burglary, and whether deterrents had any effect.

The Commissioner said that deterrents did not always work, and criminals used different methods to bypass deterrents, such as using balaclavas if a property had CCTV.

K Wright informed Members that three years of data was used in the report in regard to residential burglaries. It was important to look at trends rather than years when looking at this data to build an accurate picture.

W Carratt referred to the recent news that the Home Secretary had written to police forces to request they attend residential burglaries in person and asked if this was achievable for SYP.

The Commissioner reported that SYP would try to attend every burglary and met this target in most cases, but this depended on the urgency of other work at the time. SYP did follow up with a telephone call or home visit after a burglary.

W Carratt asked if more information could be provided on protecting vulnerable young people, including section 47 rates and rates of youth offending.

The Commissioner agreed that the OPCC would look into this. The Panel was informed that Youth Offending was also reported by Local Authorities.

Councillor Ransome queried how rural crime fits into the burglary statistics featured in the report.

K Wright highlighted that the OPCC would not be able to naturally split out a burglary to aggregate whether this had happened in a rural or suburban area. SYP collected data on ward and address level, but this would be too detailed for this kind of reporting.

The Commissioner informed Members that he received reports from district commanders which included data on rural crime.

Councillor Garbutt asked if there were any statistics available on the rate of arrests for burglaries.

K Wright responded that the OPCC had figures on the outcomes of arrests and agreed to share this data with the Panel.

Councillor Downing noted that car theft had increased in South Yorkshire and asked about data in regard to this.

The Commissioner highlighted that district commander reports went into detail about this, and that SYP were aware of the types of vehicles that had been targeted.

K Wright informed Members that data in the report could be split out into actual car theft which showed an increase, and the police were actively focused on this.

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 agreed to provide Members with data on protecting vulnerable young people including section 47 rates and youth offending rates.
- iii) Noted that K Wright agreed to provide Members with data on arrest outcomes for burglaries.

11. QUARTER 2 - CONSOLIDATED BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

A report of the Chief Finance Officer was presented setting out the consolidated financial position for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

The report set out the anticipated year-end position, updated with information available up to 30 September 2022.

Members noted that the following key points:-

- S Abbott informed Members that due to various national financial events the financial outlook had changed significantly since Quarter 2.
- As at 30 September the projected year end outturn position is a £1.799m underspend on the Chief Constable's budget.
- The £1.80m projected underspend is 0.60% of the total budget before legacy costs which did not include any adjustments for the reopened staff pay award.
- The staff pay award had been agreed at £1900 for all spinal points.
- For the NI adjustment the additional underspend is expected to be in the region of £0.77m due to the reversal of the NI increase.

- Underspends of £3.19m on staff pay was due to current and expected vacancies within existing and growth roles.
- On Capital Financing Costs, an £281k saving on interest costs is projected. The improved cashflow and significantly increased interest rates had resulted on an overachievement on budgeted income.
- The OPCC hoped to spend the capital programme budget however the Panel would be updated on this in later quarters.
- There were a number of risks and uncertainties reported, mainly around inflationary costs and the precept. These risks and uncertainties are kept under constant review by the OPCC and Force Finance team.
- In regard to the budget moving forward, it was noted that in the recent statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that public services would be protected wherever possible.
- Early discussions with the Home Office regarding budgets were ongoing and the protection of core budgets was expected where possible.
- A number of scenarios regarding the precept would be presented to the Commissioner in due course.

W Carratt commented that the Panel had attended a budget working group meeting in the previous week and had already asked S Abbott a number of questions regarding the budget that had been answered in full.

W Carratt suggested that for future budget working group meetings Members should be able to submit written questions if they were unable to attend.

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 arrangements would be made for Members to submit written questions to the budget working group meetings.

12. REPORT BACK FROM DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Due to the absence of Councillor Pickering, there were no updates from the Safer Barnsley Partnership meeting held on 23 September 2022.

Due to the absence of Councillor Milsom there were no verbal updates from the Safer Sheffield Partnership meeting held on 23 November 2022. However, Councillor Milsom circulated updates via email to the Panel in advance of the meeting.

The Chair was unable to attend the Safer Rotherham Partnership meeting held on 12 October 2022, therefore no updates were provided.

Councillor Knowles was unable to attend the Safer & Stronger Doncaster Partnership Board meeting held on 24 November 2022, therefore no updates were provided.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the feedback provided.

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.

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 2022/23 Work Programme and were reminded that they could submit issues for the Work Programme that fall within the Panel's Statutory role in supporting and scrutinising the Commissioner.

All issues would be given full consideration by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Commissioner at the pre-agenda planning meetings.

Additionally, Members were encouraged by the Chair to attend the meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge.

Members were reminded that they could also submit questions for PAB through the OPCC, with 5 working days notice prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2022/23 Work Programme.

15. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Friday 3 February 2023, 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2TA.

CHAIR

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Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership

September 2022



Present: Mayor Ros Jones, Damian Allen, Doncaster Council; Dan Fell, Doncaster Chamber; Ian Proffitt, South Yorkshire Police; Anthony Fitzgerald, Integrated Care Partnership; Dave Richmond St Leger Homes; Craig Matthews representing South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service; John Rees, DN College Group; Sheila Lloyd representing Rotherham Doncaster and South Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust; Dolly Agoro, Inclusion & Fairness Forum, Cath Witherington, Voluntary Action Doncaster, Michael Hart, Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust, Laura Sherburn, Primary Care, Johnathan Sargeant representing Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation

Also in attendance: Lee Tillman and Allan Wiltshire; Scott Cardwell and Mitchell Salter for agenda item 3i – Developing Doncaster’s Economic Strategy; Paul Bareham for agenda item 3ii – Culture Strategy; Steph Cunningham, Team Doncaster Campaigns

1. Sub Regional updates:

Partners received an update which outlined emerging opportunities for Doncaster from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). As part of this item partners were given a snapshot of the Doncaster Sheffield Airport Strategic Review and the developments to save the airport from closure, along with a verbal update about the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and its new governance arrangements

2. Team Doncaster Co-ordinating Group Update (TDCG):

As part of the Team Doncaster operating model, TDCG has been established and meets on a monthly basis. The purpose of this group is to:

- Drive and co-ordinate the delivery of the Doncaster Delivering Together priorities, with particular focus on those areas that require more attention or support
- Continue to build networks and connections locally, regionally and nationally
- Manage key cross cutting risks to the delivery of the Doncaster Delivering Together priorities
- Support the wider Team Doncaster partnership to follow the TD key principles and deliver the functions of an effective partnership.

The focus over the last two TDCG meetings has been to:

- A) Finalise the Summary Agreements:** These agreements have been developed by all the delivery groups, which sit under the Team Doncaster umbrella. The Summary Agreements contain key deliverables, key outcomes, performance measures and risks. This detail will help TDCG monitor, manage and assure the delivery of a portfolio of actions in Doncaster Delivering Together over the next 12 months (up to March 2023). A number of the delivery groups have been identified as ‘**In focus**’ groups, which include; Housing, Environment, Wellbeing Essentials and Economy. These will be monitored on a monthly basis by the TDCG. ‘**Other**’ delivery groups, which include; Homelessness; Children and Families; Education and Skills; Get Doncaster Moving; Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership will be monitored via their usual governance arrangements. Issues may be escalated to TDCG if required. The Summary Agreements will be revised annually and in focus groups reviewed.
- B) Team Doncaster Summit Preparations:** An options paper was presented to review the frequency and timing of future TD Summits. It was agreed that this year’s summit would be aligned to Doncaster officially becoming a city from 1st November, and preparations made to host a Summit in November 2022.
- C) A new Combatting Drugs Partnership** is being created in line with government guidance. This new partnership will build upon the existing ‘from harm to hope’ plan.

As part of this update the chair of TDCG prompted a discussion about the cost of living crisis, how we are preparing for the impacts across the partnership and how do we bring together a coordinated approach to provide the support required. TD Executive members endorsed the collective approach.

3. Exception reports/ updates included:

i. Developing Doncaster's Economic Strategy

The development of a new Economic Strategy for Doncaster aims to build on the intentions and priorities outlined in Doncaster Delivering Together (Borough Strategy). The presentation delivered at the meeting outlined; the engagement activities that have been taking place during the discovery phase, the economic research, the emerging themes, a mission orientated policy approach and the next steps.

ii. Doncaster Culture Strategy 2030

A presentation was given to bring members up to date on the progress, purpose and content of the Doncaster Culture Strategy 2030, as it progresses towards approval. The purpose of the strategy will bring various policies (Heritage, Arts & Culture, Arts in the Public Realm, Public Libraries) under one umbrella. This strategy is a long term vision which will align to the Borough Strategy and will link into other top level strategies i.e. Economic, health and wellbeing. The presentation gave an overview of the: cross cutting themes within the strategy, Engagement activities, Priorities, the strategy vision and the funding opportunities.

iii. Team Doncaster Campaigns

A summary of communication campaigns was provided, including campaigns and key messaging about the cost of living crisis. This is to ensure people find information, advice and guidance across the partnership in a coordinated and clearly communicated approach. Also, with the recent announcement of the Queens death, there has been a lot of activity and media campaigns activity.