

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2017

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2017, at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor George Derx
Vice-Chair - Councillor Majid Khan
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Mick Cooper, Tony Corden, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, John Gilliver, Martin Greenhalgh, Pat Haith, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, David Hughes, Eva Hughes, Richard A Jones, Jane Kidd, John McHale, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, Jane Nightingale, Ian Pearson, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Andrea Robinson, Derek Smith, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood and Paul Wray.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Blackham, Bev Chapman, Kenneth Keegan, Nikki McDonald, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, David Nevett, Kevin Rodgers and Dave Shaw.

33 Recent Death of Former Councillor Barbara Hedley

Prior to the commencement of formal business, Elected Members, Officers and members of the public, observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and remembrance in relation to the recent death of former Councillor Barbara Hedley, who passed away on 11th August, 2017.

34 Declarations of Interest, if any

Councillor Andy Pickering declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 7, by virtue of being a proprietor owner of a Licensed Premises'.

Councillors Pat Haith, Charlie Hogarth and Cynthia Ransome declared a Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 11, by virtue of being Members of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillors Susan Durant and John Mounsey declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 13, by virtue of being Members of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority.

Councillors David Hughes and Sue Wilkinson declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item No. 13, by virtue of being Members of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

35 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th July, 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday, 13th July, 2017, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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 George Derx, made the following announcement:-

“The Council is unable to bring its financial plan for the period 2017 to 2021, the current Mayoral term, to this Council meeting this evening as initially intended, due to uncertainties in the budgets and financial forecasts, in particular those related to the Pension Fund.

It is unlikely that greater clarity can be gained on these matters until the middle of November. The Council’s budget also needs to take account of any changes in the Government’s Budget, which will be announced on 22nd November.

A financial plan cannot therefore be finalised and proposed by the Mayor until the middle of December and thus, a late December meeting is needed allowing time for the proper circulation of papers etc.

Therefore, can Members please note that the Full Council meeting scheduled on 23rd November, 2017, will now be held on Thursday, 21st December, 2017 at 2.00 pm.”

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

“On Monday, the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority met to consider proposals to proceed with new consultation to progress Devolution in the region. It followed the Judicial Review brought by Derbyshire County Council against the Sheffield City Region in respect of the previous consultation exercise.

At the meeting, both Doncaster and Barnsley indicated that we did not wish to proceed with that new consultation.

In the last few days, I’ve been asked why Doncaster does not want to be part of Sheffield City Region. It is a fair question, but it is not a case of Doncaster not wanting to be part of the Sheffield City Region. We’ve always played a full and supportive role in the region. It is a question of what is the right form of Devolution for people and businesses in Doncaster over the next 30, 40 or 50 years.

What will deliver the most economic benefits, particularly once we have left the EU? How do we make sure our region is represented at the top level along with London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, so that Yorkshire receives the investment it deserves and requires?

We all know how dramatically things have changed since 2015. In addition to Brexit, Bassetlaw and Chesterfield have now pulled out of their plans to join the Sheffield City Region as full members, leaving just the four South Yorkshire Authorities.

We believe that Sheffield City Region's deal is too small in this new landscape. In contrast, wider Yorkshire Devolution represents a bigger, stronger, more powerful option, and a world famous brand that we can capitalise on. That approach has a great deal of support both locally and regionally. 17 of the 20 Yorkshire Councils have said they want it to go forward.

Doncaster Chamber has already asked local businesses for their views and had a good response. Most supported a Yorkshire Devolution model. Trade Unions, politicians from all Parties in this Council and our local MPs, have also indicated their support for a Yorkshire deal. We will also be talking to local residents, to hear their views.

My view is that a wider Yorkshire Devolution deal can deliver transformational economic change in our region, tackle major transport issues and provide a better footprint for public sector reform. I believe that would be good for Doncaster and everyone in Yorkshire.

We will therefore work hard to convince Government of the benefits of developing a wider Yorkshire Devolution deal and make the case for Doncaster to be part of it."

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, made the following announcement:-

"In the absence of Councillor Chris McGuinness who covers Community Safety, I'm sure colleagues would like to join me in sending the Council's best wishes and unreserved support to the Police Officer who was seriously injured in the line of duty on Tuesday morning.

We need to state that we greatly value the contribution that the Police and other emergency services make to Doncaster, safeguarding our communities often in extremely difficult circumstances, and putting their personal safety at risk."

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

(A) Question from Ms. Louise Harrison, 101 Elmfield Road, Hyde Park, Doncaster, DN1 2AZ, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones.

"South Yorkshire Women's Aid is a vital service. Many of Doncaster Council's own agencies refer clients to it. Nevertheless, DMBC has still stated that it has no money to fund the service after December. However, in DMBC's statement of accounts 2016/17, it states that it has £97 million in 'usable' reserves, £20 million being 'unallocated'. The Department of Education also awarded DMBC £3.1 million for DV services, of which SYWA received none. You also have a pot of around £1 million of grant under spends for the stronger families programme. Therefore, will DMBC use these monetary resources to fund SYWA?"

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

"Thank you for your question Ms. Harrison.

Domestic Violence is wholly unacceptable and can have a devastating impact on victims and their children.

Since 2010, Doncaster Council has been forced to cut more than £200 million from its annual revenue budget and faces further significant funding cuts in the coming years. Notwithstanding this, the Council has prioritised tackling Domestic Violence as a key issue and spends in excess of £1m per year on related services, including:-

An Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service and coordination of Doncaster's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference;

A Women's Refuge and dispersed homes with support services;

A Floating Support Service, helping people in their own homes; and

A Domestic Violence Helpline.

Following the decision by the Trustees of Doncaster Women's Aid to close the organisation, local people wanted to set up a new successor charity. We supported that aim and provided a one-off grant of £30,000 and assistance from Council Officers.

However, as with all independent charities in Doncaster, South Yorkshire Women's Aid must plan to exist without reliance on funding from Doncaster Council, which unfortunately is simply not in a position to provide financial assistance to every VCS organisation facing financial pressures.

In terms of the specific funds that you have identified, the majority of the £97 million detailed in the Council's 2016/17 statement of accounts, is already ring-fenced for specific purposes. This leaves £15 million general fund uncommitted reserves at the end of March 2017. We currently estimate that by the end of March 2018, this will have reduced to £10 million, which would support the Council for less than two weeks.

In March 2017, the Council identified a potential call on general uncommitted reserves of up to £9.5 million. These reserves are therefore not available to fund SYWA on an ongoing basis.

With regards to the Growing Futures Project, the Department for Education has not awarded the Council £3.1 million for current services. However, the Council has identified £3.1 million funding for the Doncaster Children's Trust to maintain current programmes. This includes the previously Government funded Growing Futures project which focuses on support for children and young people. We also support the delivery of perpetrator programmes aimed at men who commit domestic violence, in order to reduce the number of repeat incidents.

Where delivered by external providers, services are commissioned through an open and transparent process in line with the Council's legal obligations.

At the end of March 2017, the Council held £1.2 million in earmarked reserves for the Stronger Families Programme, to provide an integrated approach to supporting families with additional needs. A significant element of the funding is performance based and as such, the level of funding is difficult to forecast. However, at current income levels, the earmarked reserve is forecast to be fully drawn down in the next financial year. Any reduction in these reserves will have

a detrimental impact on the programme and thus impact on families in Doncaster.

I was disappointed to learn that at the present time, South Yorkshire Women's Aid has submitted only a very limited number of funding bids, which even if successful, the trustees do not believe would be sufficient to keep the organisation running. Notwithstanding this, I would like to see South Yorkshire Women's Aid continue its work.

The Council is therefore continuing to meet with the Trustees and I will work with them to sustain South Yorkshire Women's Aid, if they are able to develop a credible plan for the future financial sustainability of the organisation."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.10, Ms. Harrison asked the Mayor, the following supplementary question:-

"How many people here in this Chamber have visited the new Women's Aid? Who is going to pay for the next funeral of a woman who dies or commits suicide? We are asking for no more than £30-60,000."

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

"I reiterate what I have said; we will meet with Women's Aid in the next couple of weeks. If they provide a sustainable plan, we will work along with them."

- (B) Question from Mr. Steve Merriman, 10 Cedric Avenue, Conisbrough, Doncaster, DN12 3PB, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones.

"NHS – Accountable Care Systems

John Major and particularly Tony Blair, used PFI to boost private sector profitability and saddle the public sector with unsustainable debt. Complicated contracts and narratives designed to allay public opinion were used to disguise profit extraction for the private sector.

STPs and Accountable Care Systems are being similarly engineered. It is not difficult to conclude, that the man leading their introduction, Simon Stevens, Head of NHS England, has one ambition - to hand over a newly packaged NHS to his former colleagues in the USA Health Insurance Industry.

By default, DMBC is colluding in this; why?"

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

"Thank you for your question Mr Merriman.

The role of Doncaster Council and its health and care partners is to secure the best health and wellbeing for Doncaster people from the public resources entrusted to us.

I cannot comment on the motivation or ambition of other individuals or your conclusion. I do not agree with your assertion that the Council is colluding in this.

However, what is clear to me is that there are always opportunities to improve health and care. Where these improvements could lead to better quality of care or patient experience of care, the Council and its partners would be foolish to ignore them.

As yet, the Council and Team Doncaster partners are unaware of any proposals for service change arising from the Accountable Care System. Any proposal for service change would be subject to our usual decision making processes and major NHS service change proposals are also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny process.

Finally, our over-riding concern is about the impact any proposal has on Doncaster people.”

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

“The PFI was sold as the only game in Town. Now, STPs and ACS are being marketed in the same way. Do you believe that ACS will look to improve the health of your children and grandchildren?”

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

“I will always seek to improve the health and care of the residents of Doncaster.”

- (C) Question from Mr. Doug Wright, on behalf of ‘Keep Our NHS Public Doncaster and Bassetlaw’, 15 Chantry Close, Cantley, Doncaster, DN4 6RX, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones.

“South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Accountable Care System

The current plans for the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Accountable Care System ensures that control of the Council's Better Care Fund is taken away from the Council and given to a myriad of unelected SYB Regional Officers/Committees.

We believe that paragraphs 6 and 7 of the current Memorandum of Understanding, shows how the SYB are illegally taking decisions away from the Council without their authorisation and consultation with the general public.

Following our consultations with the public, will the Mayor agree to oppose both the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Accountable Care System and Memorandum of Understanding, and consider taking legal advice to protect the future health of our Doncaster people?”

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Wright.

The Better Care Fund is a programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their

communities for as long as possible. It is run by NHS England, the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System has no control or input into the Doncaster Better Care Fund Plan, which was submitted to the national Better Care Fund team on the 11th September.

Sections 6 and 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding concern the direction of travel and key milestones' and 'governance, accountability and assurance'. The Memorandum is clear that Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups are not delegating any powers to the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System.

The Council notes the Memorandum of Understanding and there is support 'in principle' for the direction of travel.

We do have concerns in relation to the projected funding gap of £571 million within the plan over the next 5 years and the implications of this on the care, health and wellbeing of local people.

Our ambition is to improve health outcomes for all residents, reduce health inequalities and focus on ensuring the availability of services closer to home. These are the issues that resonate with our residents.

We are keen to see the importance of Place Plans reflected in the Accountable Care System. We know that only through collaborations, partnerships and adequate funding matched to need within and across communities, will there be a significant shift in the health outcomes for our population.

Therefore, Council's efforts and focus must be located in working constructively with partners locally, to address the wider determinants of health.

We must ensure that prevention and early intervention remain at the forefront of activity, as well as improving pathways and services across a range of social and medical services for those that need it.

We welcome the opportunity to draw in additional funding to local places to aid the transformation in health outcomes we want to achieve for our residents.

We also welcome the opportunity to share learning across the different places within South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, and will be working collaboratively to achieve this.

Given the importance of place, whilst supportive of the direction of travel and the ambition, each local area must be free to decide its position on proposals or service changes that have a bearing on their residents.

As such, Doncaster Council may in future, decide to take its own position on proposals or service changes that have a bearing on our citizens and place specifically, while remaining committed 'in principle', to the overall vision described in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Accountable Care System to represent the needs and views of Doncaster. We would welcome further dialogue to recognise the unique role of Elected Councillors and their health & wellbeing responsibilities within the existing oversight and assurance arrangements.

A meeting to discuss this further would be beneficial at the earliest opportunity.”

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

“Thank you. I have a petition here disagreeing with what you are saying. In noting the Memorandum you are in effect agreeing it. This is not good, bad or indifferent. I came to the Council 9 months ago and asked the same question as to how this will affect 308,000 residents of Doncaster and still I have no answer. Will you hold an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss this issue which is going to be established as the new Shadow Health Body in April next year?”

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

“I always want to ensure that the residents of Doncaster get the best possible care. I have no problem in referring your question to Overview and Scrutiny.”

38 New Business Rates Relief Schemes

The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, presented a report to Council detailing the new Relief Schemes announced by the Government in the Spring Budget. These schemes were aimed at supporting local businesses affected by the rise in their Business Rates bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation of non-domestic properties.

Members noted that as a result of the Relief Schemes, up to 115 local pubs would receive £1000 reduction on their Business Rates bill for 2017/18. This scheme was for one year only and had been designed in line with Government guidance and eligibility criteria, and it ensured that the Council would be fully reimbursed by Government for any relief awarded.

The Mayor informed Council that the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme would support businesses in the Borough who faced the steepest increase in their bills, with the Council given the responsibility to design the scheme as it saw fit. Doncaster Council’s proposed scheme would look to limit the increase in Business Rates payable to 7.5% for eligible businesses in 2017/18, with up to 312 local businesses benefiting from this proposal. The total relief awarded of up to £437,000, would fall within the Government funding.

This funding would run for the next four years, but would reduce year on year. Future proposals for the following three years of the scheme would be presented to future Council meetings.

The Mayor informed Council that she felt the proposals would deliver a sensible approach which would look to support businesses in Doncaster and recommended the report to Council for approval.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Pubs Relief Scheme, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; the scheme being designed in line with the Government guidance and eligibility criteria to ensure that the Council is fully reimbursed for the relief awarded;
- (2) the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be approved; the proposed scheme will limit the increase in the amount of Business Rates payable in 2017/18 to 7.5% for qualifying businesses. Up to 312 local businesses would receive relief under this option. The proposed scheme criteria is in line with the Government's intentions in providing funding for the relief and is also based on representations from the Federation of Small Businesses and criteria in other published Local Authority Discretionary Schemes; and
- (3) the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme be set for 2017/18 only and that further proposals for each of the following three years, be presented to future Council meetings.

39 State of the Borough Assessment

Mayor Ros Jones informed Council that she was very pleased to present Doncaster's first State of the Borough Assessment which looked to provide a single, overall assessment of how the Borough was changing and what the quality of life was for its residents, using the following indicators:-

- Demographic information about Doncaster's population;
- Key quality of life indicators; and
- Case studies on the real life experiences of residents and communities.

It was outlined that all these points would look to put into context the important work undertaken by the Council, and with its partners in Team Doncaster.

The Mayor reported that she felt it was fitting that the Council received and reviewed the document, alongside the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy, as it formed an evidence base for the ambitious reforms that the Council would be driving. It was noted that the findings were already being used to focus on the issues that mattered most to the Borough and its residents.

The State of the Borough Assessment had of course identified areas of success along with challenges that needed collectively addressing with the following points highlighted to Council:-

Doncaster Learning

Whilst the majority of Doncaster's 5 year olds were experiencing a good level of education and a foundation for a fulfilling life, further progress was needed when it came to GCSE attainment in order to close the gap with comparators and persistent absence in Secondary Schools was still relatively high which was an ongoing concern.

Doncaster Working

Over the past year, Doncaster's employment rate had hit an 11 year high and Doncaster had reached the UK Top 10 for growth in private sector jobs. However, despite these positives, wage rates still needed to increase further as they remained significantly lower than the national average.

Doncaster Living

Whilst life expectancy was increasing, it still remained lower than many of its comparators. Additionally, whilst it was pleasing to see that progress had been made in increasing the number of houses available, it was still a priority to reduce the number of homeless people within the Borough.

Doncaster Caring

The rate of permanent admissions to hospital had reduced alongside an increase in the number of people the Council had helped to remain in their own homes and live independently. Additionally, Council noted that since its peak in 2012, the number of children referred to Social Services had reduced.

The Mayor communicated to Council the importance of collective working by Team Doncaster in order to improve the quality of life for people in Doncaster and that by working together and growing together, success would be achieved.

Council noted that the document would be a 'go-to' document for all to use, including the Public, Team Doncaster and both Members and Officers of the Council. It would be publically available for all those people who wished to engage and would be built on each year, in order that the depth of information continued to develop and grow. The development of the document gave the opportunity to consider the whole picture and obtain an overall sense of the 'state of Doncaster'. Therefore, the Mayor recommended the report to Council for approval in order to use its content and the insight it provided to improve the quality of life in Doncaster.

Following consideration of the report, the Chair of Council afforded Members in the Chamber the opportunity to comment on the report.

Members commended the report and felt that it was a good plan which was well presented and welcomed in advance of the positivity it was hoped it would bring to the Borough.

RESOLVED that

- (1) State of the Borough assessment be noted; and
- (2) the State of the Borough Assessment be used to inform priorities to improve quality of life in Doncaster in line with its constitutional role to inform the policy and budget setting process.

Prior to consideration of the report, the Chair of Council welcomed Jon Gleek, Head of Research, Evaluation and Intelligence, to the meeting to present a short video introducing Doncaster Growing Together.

Mayor Ros Jones introduced the report and outlined the background behind the Strategy. The Mayor reported that Doncaster had made a lot of progress over the last few years and with a growing economy, over 10,000 new jobs had been created between 2013 and 2015, and with a number of exciting new developments in the pipeline, this would bring even more jobs to Doncaster. However, the journey of recovery for the economy, families and public services in Doncaster was a long one, and this was reflected in the report with a delivery programme leading up to 2021.

The Doncaster Growing Together Strategy was the next step on the improvement journey for Doncaster and was so called as its central aim was to grow the local economy and Doncaster as a place, and develop public services in order that all of Doncaster's local people and communities benefited. It was a confident and bold ambition for Doncaster's future, but one that would confirm its recovery.

The Mayor reported that the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy was a partnership strategy based on collaboration from a wide range of public services, voluntary and community sector organisations, and the wider business community in Doncaster. It proposed new ways of working whereby public services would work together and target their attention and resources on the issues that mattered the most, and most importantly, it was noted that Doncaster's citizens would play a key role.

Elected Members across the Council had played a key part in the development of the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy, with it having been considered in detail by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as well as discussions at a dedicated Members Seminar and in a series of engagement sessions.

The four themes contained within the report mirrored those within the State of the Borough Assessment, these being:-

- Doncaster Learning – The aim of Doncaster Growing Together was to prepare children and young people for a fulfilled life, infusing their education with powerful life experiences;
- Doncaster Working – This theme would look to enable people to pursue their ambitions and contribute in the societies in which they lived, working in a job with purpose and meaning;
- Doncaster Living – Doncaster Growing Together would look to create an environment that was vibrant and be full of opportunity where people enjoyed living and were able to make the most of the opportunities it provided; and
- Doncaster Caring – This looked to develop a collective responsibility to care for the most vulnerable people within society and would transform the way the Council supported vulnerable children, families and adults, and elderly people as well as those with disabilities, veterans and any other individuals facing disadvantage.

Members noted that Doncaster Growing Together; the Four Year Borough Strategy, set out a clear and deliverable programme for the Borough, which would help to drive it forward, benefiting local people throughout the Town.

Members welcomed the Doncaster Growing Together Borough Strategy and felt that it was a positive move for the Borough, and the ambition and drive within it was what the Town needed.

Following the Mayor's recommendation of the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy to Council for approval, the Chief Executive paid tribute to the work undertaken by Lee Tillman, Assistant Director, Strategy and Performance and his staff, who had been instrumental in the production of this Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy and Programme, along with the draft prospectus document, be approved.

41 Independent Remuneration Panel Appointments

The Council considered a report that sought approval for the appointment of two new Members to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

It was reported that the Council had a duty to have an Independent Remuneration Panel which comprised of a minimum of three Members, none of whom could be a member of the Local Authority, or of its Committees, or an employee of the Council in order to make recommendations with regard to the allowances and expenses for Elected Members and Co-Optees of the Council.

It was noted that following the resignations of Edward Laud, Derek Morris and Rosemary Young, the Panel currently only had two remaining members, Keith Marriott (Panel Chair) and Ranjan Talukder, and would therefore be inquorate. As a result of a recent recruitment exercise, applications to serve on the Panel had been received from Stuart Highfield and Sue Williams. Profiles of both applicants were detailed within Appendix A to the report for Members' information, and further to interviews held with the applicants by the Governance and Member Services Manager, it was felt that both individuals possessed the skills and attributes required to join the Panel.

It was also proposed within the report to give delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to appoint one additional Panel member. This would increase the pool of Panel members to a total of five, which would greatly increase flexibility to ensure that all Panel meetings were quorate and enable the review to be carried out in line with the estimated timescales prescribed within the report.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Stuart Highfield and Sue Williams be appointed as Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- (2) it be noted that Keith Marriott and Ranjan Talukder continue to be Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel;

- (3) the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to approve 1 further appointment to the Panel in order to increase the pool of Independent Remuneration Panel Members to a total of 5 individuals, to ensure the required quorum can be maintained throughout the review; and
- (4) the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel be paid £150 for drafting and presenting the Panel's report and recommendations to Council on levels of Members' Allowances.

42 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor John Gilliver and Seconded by Councillor John McHale, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1:-

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor John Gilliver and Seconded by Councillor John McHale:-

"This Council calls upon the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Nick Hurd MP, to re-introduce Fire Safety Inspections following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers and to look into a better funding settlement for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in the light of increased fire calls and fire deaths over the last 7 years.

The effects on South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service have been disproportionate due to a combination of the inadequacy of the fire formula and the 'blanket' approach to fire sector cuts. Since 2010, the County of South Yorkshire has lost five Fire Appliances and two Aerial Appliances. This has meant that during a recent fire call to a high rise block in Doncaster, another Aerial Ladder Appliance had to be sent for from Sheffield which was over 20 minutes away.

This Council calls upon South Yorkshire Fire Authority, in light of Grenfell and other high rise incidents, to reconsider with immediate effect the position of the Doncaster Aerial Ladder Platform to reinstate a full time dedicated crew."

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

An amendment to the Motion was MOVED by Councillor Jonathan Wood and Seconded by Councillor R Allan Jones, in that the first paragraph read as follows:-

"This Council calls for the reintroduction of Fire Safety Inspections following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers and do this by considering a number of funding measures to include the release of reserves."

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

For – 13

Against – 32

Abstain – 0

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

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

For – 36

Against – 1

Abstain – 8

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

RESOLVED that this Council calls upon the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Nick Hurd MP, to re-introduce Fire Safety Inspections following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers and to look into a better funding settlement for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in the light of increased fire calls and fire deaths over the last 7 years.

The effects on South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service have been disproportionate due to a combination of the inadequacy of the fire formula and the 'blanket' approach to fire sector cuts. Since 2010, the County of South Yorkshire has lost five Fire Appliances and two Aerial Appliances. This has meant that during a recent fire call to a high rise block in Doncaster, another Aerial Ladder Appliance had to be sent for from Sheffield which was over 20 minutes away.

This Council calls upon South Yorkshire Fire Authority, in light of Grenfell and other high rise incidents, to reconsider with immediate effect the position of the Doncaster Aerial Ladder Platform to reinstate a full time dedicated crew.

43 Questions by Elected Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.2 and 15.3:-

A. Questions on Notice

No questions on notice 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 Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster

Councillor Andy Pickering asked the following Question:-

(Q) "Following Councillor Julie Dore's intemperate remarks in relation to our Chief Executive Jo Miller, Councillor Dore used words like 'betrayal'... 'a serious failure of trust'... 'we do deals together'... 'we don't go behind closed doors'...and most surprisingly... 'the worst case of political vandalism in her 17 years in Local Government'.

Would the Mayor agree with our view that Jo Miller is guilty of none of the scurrilous allegations and that in fact, the HS2 manoeuvrings by Sheffield City Council surrounding the Meadowhall route suggests that those allegations appear to be the stock in trade of Councillor Dore herself and in fact, Jo Miller simply has done the right thing by the people of Doncaster in removing the grip of Sheffield and a discredited Leader?”

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

- (A) “Thank you for your question Councillor Pickering. The Chief Executive has always acted in a professional manner; Jo Miller has always acted in the best interests of the people of Doncaster, helping to drive the Borough forward. It is inappropriate to try and bring someone into disrepute and Jo Miller will continue to take Doncaster further forward as she already has.”

Councillor Phil Cole asked the following Question:-

- (Q) “Mayor Jones, if we’re talking about discredited Leaders, can I refer to our Prime Minister, Teresa May, who has sadly continued the pay cap on Public Service workers that has been in place since 2010. Do you agree that this pay cap should be scrapped and people in the Public Services finally be fairly paid?”

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

- (A) “Thank you Councillor Cole. I absolutely agree with you that our hard working Public Service staff deserve to be fairly paid. They have carried the burden of austerity personally through the below inflation salary cap, and also in their everyday roles, as the Government cuts budgets for delivering services. Through all of this, they continue to work tirelessly and provide vital services for local people.

The 1% pay cap has now been in place for seven years. Between 2010 and 2016, Public Service workers had seen their pay rise by just 4.1%, but the cost of goods and services had increased by 17.7% in that period.

The average Public Service worker is now thousands of pounds worse off than if their pay had matched inflation. So I agree that the Government should lift the pay cap for all workers and stop tying the hands of the pay review bodies.

However, I must stress they should also promise to meet pay increases with additional funding, to avoid imposing further cuts to our vital Public Services.”

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

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

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

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

D. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services

In the absence of Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Joe Blackham should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after the meeting and a response would be provided.

E. Questions to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

There were no questions put to Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

F. Questions to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following Question:-

(Q) "I'd like to ask a question in terms of education, particularly in relation to our Secondary Schools. How is it acceptable for them to finish at 2.30 pm in the afternoon? Are they getting a good standard of education by doing this and how are we preparing our young people for their working lives?"

Councillor Nuala Fennelly gave the following response:-

(A) "Thank you for your question Councillor Ransome; I totally agree with you, but we don't have a lot of control over the Academies as they set their own timetables. I will however write to the Regional Schools Director of the Academies and put this question to him."

G. Questions to Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment

In the absence of Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Chris McGuinness should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after the meeting and a response would be provided.

H. Questions to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development

There were no questions put to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development.

I. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services

There were no questions put to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate Services.

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

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

K. Questions to Councillor Phil Cole, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee

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

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

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

M. Questions to Councillor Kevin Rodgers, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

There were no questions put to Councillor Kevin Rodgers, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

44 To receive the Minutes of the following Joint Authorities:-

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Briefing Note of the following Joint Authorities, be noted:-

- A. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 12th June and 17th July, 2017.
- B. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee held on 8th May, 2017.
- C. Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 12th June and 17th July, 2017.
- D. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 26th June (Annual), 26th June (Ordinary) and 24th July, 2017 and Section 41 Briefing Note for September, 2017.

- E. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority/South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Joint Local Pensions Board held on 20th July, 2017.
- F. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 15th June (Annual) and 15th June (Ordinary), 2017.
- G. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 2nd June and 7th July, 2017.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____