

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2018, at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Majid Khan
Vice-Chair - Councillor Linda Curran
Mayor - Ros Jones
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Duncan Anderson, Lani-Mae Ball, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Rachael Blake, Nigel Cannings, John Cooke, Mick Cooper, Steve Cox, George Derx, Susan Durant, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, John Gilliver, Martin Greenhalgh, Pat Haith, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, David Hughes, Eva Hughes, Richard A Jones, Jane Kidd, Nikki McDonald, Tosh McDonald, Bill Mordue, David Nevett, Jane Nightingale, Ian Pearson, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Tina Reid, Andrea Robinson, Dave Shaw, Derek Smith, Frank Tyas, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood and Paul Wray.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Blackham, Bev Chapman, Phil Cole, Jane Cox, Sean Gibbons, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Kenneth Keegan, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John Mounsey and Kevin Rodgers.

33 Declarations of Interest, if any

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

34 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th July, 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 19th July, 2018, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, made the following announcements:-

“It has recently been announced that Doncaster has been awarded a University Technical College. This project is being led in partnership by Doncaster Chamber, working closely with Sheffield & Sheffield Hallam Universities, industry partners and local employers; it will bring the curriculum to life through project based work. This college is part of a bigger plan to provide our young people with a choice in how they want to be educated. It will provide technical along with traditional studies from the age of 14 and give them better job prospects within Doncaster. When we invest in people to develop their skills and capabilities, we all benefit from a stronger economy

and society. The college is set to open in September 2020 and will be a welcome addition to the Civic and Cultural Quarter.

I would also like to say congratulations to all of our GCSE and A-Level students for their provisional results. They have done really well and I am pleased to see that their hard work and dedication has been rewarded.

Additionally, our Key Stage 2 SATS results figures for Doncaster schools show that outcomes have improved in all subjects; reading, writing and maths. Schools across the Borough have closed the gap on the national average in all subject areas, with Doncaster improving at a greater rate both regionally and nationally.”

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care, made the following announcement:-

“Improvements have been made with our continuing with Health Care Assessments. Health Care support is provided to people who have been identified as having long term primary health care needs. It is provided either in the form of either fully NHS funded or jointly NHS and social care packages of support. This can include funding support in people’s own home, in residential care or other settings.

The reason it is important is because people who qualify for Continuing Health Care will get all, or part of their long-term support needs met through NHS funding. NHS funded care packages attract no client financial contribution and therefore parts of the support package are effectively free of charge to Doncaster residents who are eligible.

Last year, our performance in assessing people for continuing health care needs (which has to be done in 28 days) was 60% in Q1 for people who were assessed within the 28 days and by Q4, we had 98% of people assessed, taking us from average to one of the top performers nationally for assessing continual health care needs. We are achieving 98% and the overall target set nationally by NHS England is 80%. This makes a huge difference to residents and families, and to the health and social care system and it is a very good example of the success that DMBC and Doncaster CCG have of an integrated approach working effectively.”

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

(A) Question from Mr. Stuart Exelby, on behalf of Doncaster Unite: Retired Members Branch, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Could the Mayor and Council Members give a commitment to the continuous support for all concessionary travel, because without this commitment, Doncaster will be failing the elderly, disabled and the economy of Doncaster?”

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

“The English National Concession Travel Scheme (ENCTS), which entitles senior citizens to free off peak travel on buses across England, is a national scheme. Therefore, it cannot be changed unless a decision is made by Central Government.

Only the discretionary concession of free rail travel to the disabled and half price rail fares within South Yorkshire for the elderly is a decision that can

be changed at local level. We are not aware of any plans to remove this at this time.

We recognise the benefits, not just to the economy, of this scheme, but also to the health and wellbeing of our residents. If we become aware of any threat to the scheme we will challenge this.”

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

“I welcome your response, but as you know, with the Tory Government we do not know what we have got or what we are going to get. As long as DMBC and its Councillors promise to take the Government on if they show any sign of taking the concessionary rate away in Doncaster, you will get the full backing of UNITE?”

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

“I will repeat what I said. It is a National issue and I hope all of the people in the Chamber will work with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, and engage with them and take on the Government.”

(B) Question from Mr. Stuart Adams to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“As you look to dispose of further assets and as all previous assets disposed of at Lakeside have been converted for retail and housing use, such as the large field now being turned into Willow Grange, can you at least make some provision to consult with residents and allow part of this land to be used to create a public community space such as a park, picnic or play area for all residents and users of the lake to enjoy?”

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

“The land use at Lakeside is a planning matter and the area has been allocated as a mixed use regeneration area under the UDP (Unitary Development Plan) which would take into account open space provisions as part of the land allocation process. As sites are sold under the capital disposals programme, potential purchasers are responsible for consulting with Planning and any open space provisions will be specified by Planning and I would assume reflected in the prospective purchasers offer bid to the Council.”

(C) Question from Mrs. Rachael Peace to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“As Doncaster Council has agreed to use a certain amount of funding to support extra Police Officers in the Town Centre, I would like to know where exactly is this funding to be taken from to support this and will it have a detrimental effect on the area from which it is taken?”

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

“The additional cost is being met from the use of one off Council reserves. Over the next 3 months, we will be evaluating the impact and determine the approach to dealing with the presenting issues and our future course of action. The

associated costs and funding source will be considered at this point. In terms of timing, this fits in with the refresh of the Council's budget prior to the formal budget decision being taken by Council in early 2019.

It is a sorry state for society when the Council is paying to police our streets, this is the sad result of Conservative austerity. South Yorkshire Police has lost nearly 1,000 Police Officers since 2010, meaning there are 20% fewer Police Officers on our streets. That is why we as a Council have had to act and fund the extra Police Officers to ensure there is sufficient Police presence for Doncaster Town Centre."

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

"Mayor Jones, in response I would like you to tell me how much is left in the Council reserves, how much will be spent on this trial, and after the initial 3 month period, where will the money be taken from to fund the extra police if it is continued?"

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

"We certainly have sufficient funds in reserves, but we will continue to take into account the impact of funding the extra Police. We will continue to review this and then if we need to, we will look to include this in our Medium Term Financial Plans?"

- (D) Question from Mr. Doug Wright, on behalf of 'Keep Our NHS Public' to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"The Health and Social Care Joint Commissioning Management Board (JCMB) is responsible to the Council Cabinet and Doncaster CCGB Governing Board. Unlike the CCGB, DMBC does not publish any information about JCMB meetings.

The public has the right to be involved in the consultation and planning of healthcare services, including the challenge of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw NHS (SYB) financial gap of £139.5M required by 2020/21.

Will you:-

1. Publicise JCMB meetings and minutes;
2. Agree to the public attending meetings and asking questions; and
3. Inform this meeting of DMBC's projected contribution towards SYB's financial gap of £139.5M
NB. Current CCG projected contribution is around £30m?"

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

"Cabinet Members (Councillors Rachael Blake and Nigel Ball) are Members of the JCMB and the outputs from the meeting are fed back to Cabinet by them.

The roles of the Joint Commissioning Management Board include:-

- Agreeing the strategic development priorities for joint commissioning activity;
- Co-ordinating work programmes including monitoring progress on the initial seven areas of opportunity;
- Overseeing the management of any pooled budgets (including the Better Care Fund); and
- Sharing wider transformation agendas to ensure an overall awareness across the health and social care economy.

Any decision proposed at the Joint Commissioning Management Board has to go through the Council's own decision making process (e.g. Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer Decision). This is the point at which the public are then able to access forward notice, reports and agendas and where appropriate, attend meetings.

However, we are working with our colleagues in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to increase the openness and transparency of the Joint Commissioning Management Board. The CCG already publish these minutes on their website and we will ensure that there is a link on the website directing people to the minutes. We will also be discussing with the CCG, the level of public access including both access to information and public attendance, and we will need to consider issues around confidentiality and other practicalities including access to the venue and any opportunity to ask questions."

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

"With regard to the actual detail of the decision, you're saying that it's going to Cabinet, but in fact the public can't raise questions at Cabinet unless you as the Chair, make an exception. We should not have to go to the CCG to find these minutes, they should be on here, and I would like to know when the Council will come to a decision with the CCG, to allow the public to attend meetings and ask questions as it is in the public interest as there is going to be £20m of public money lost to this in the next two years, so the least you could do is allow this?"

In response, the Mayor gave the following reply:-

"Discussions with CCG will go on, but it is not in my power to say when a decision will be made, but I assure you, we will work with them and discussions will be ongoing. The Board is not a Council Committee and I cannot determine this, but in the meantime, I will ensure a link from our Council website to the CCG JCMB Board, is made available. But, with regard to formal decisions, these are made at Cabinet, or by Cabinet Members and it is at that point they will become open for the public to view."

The Council considered a report that provided an updated State of the Borough Assessment for 2018, which aligned with the themes within the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy of Living, Working, Learning and Caring.

In presenting the report to Council, the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, stated that:-

“A year ago, we saw a major milestone for Doncaster as we jointly launched ‘Doncaster Growing Together’. This was a commitment from public services across Team Doncaster and our communities to work together on ambitious reform programmes to ensure our Borough moves forward and is a thriving place to learn, work, live and care. This plan was unanimously agreed by the whole of the Team Doncaster partnership; It is not ‘the Council plan’; it is our joint partnership for the Borough.

Alongside this, we also launched the first ever State of the Borough Assessment. For the first time, Team Doncaster and the public had a high level of strategic Borough assessment of this kind looking at the ‘state’ of our Borough, people and place.

We are now one year on and we have much to celebrate and reflect on and we have the opportunity to see two documents alongside one another as twin publications:-

1. The State of the Borough Assessment which identifies and analyses quality of life in the Borough; and
2. The Doncaster Growing Together Impact Report which demonstrates the impact of joint reforms across Team Doncaster and within our communities.

These are the reforms that we agreed at Full Council a year ago and we can now take stock of the work done within the first year of a four year programme. We of course have not finished our work. However there are clearly many achievements to be proud of across Team Doncaster and our communities.

These are both standalone documents in their own right, however we should consider these as twin publications.

I would encourage the opportunity now to discuss both the State of the Borough and the Impact Report, informing our policies, approaches and understanding of our communities and the progress we have made when we focus on working together as a collective partnership. This is the only way we can continue to transform and ensure that Doncaster continues to grow together.”

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the report.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the State of the Borough assessment be noted;
- (2) the 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);

- (3) the Doncaster Growing Together Impact report be noted; and
- (4) the assessment of Doncaster Growing Together impact over the past year, be agreed.

38 Freedom of the Borough Application - Yvonne Woodcock.

The Council considered a report, which was introduced by Councillor Richard Allan Jones, that sought approval to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Yvonne Woodcock, which would offer recognition and endorsement of her tireless charity and voluntary work and many years of Public service.

Members noted that Yvonne served as an Elected Councillor on Doncaster Council for over 20 years, as well as serving as the Civic Mayor in 1998/99 Municipal Year, during which time she raised over £20,000 for her chosen charities.

Yvonne supports countless charities and community groups in a voluntary capacity and has raised thousands of pounds for charities, arranging and attending fundraising events, regularly opening her own home and gardens on many occasions, to raise funds.

Yvonne still volunteers around the Finningley Ward and serves on the Airport Committee as an honorary member and volunteer, and also attends the Cantley Community Centre Committee and regularly assists with events. She was also the main fundraiser for the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal in that area, raising thousands each year for that charity.

Yvonne also spends a lot of time helping at the Mansion House being a longstanding and active member of the Friends of The Mansion House Group. She is also involved in Doncaster Minster and Doncaster Cultural Leisure Trust, becoming an honorary member when she stood down as a Councillor and remaining a DCLT Board Member.

The nomination was considered consistent with the requirement to bestow an award to someone who was considered a person of distinction and person, who had in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough.

In affording Members the opportunity to speak on the item, Councillors paid tribute to Yvonne and whole heartedly supported the request to confer the Freedom of the Borough. Members conveyed their thanks and appreciation to Yvonne in devoting many years to Doncaster and its residents.

RESOLVED that the Council support the application and agree to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Yvonne Woodcock.

39 Freedom of the Borough Application - Tony Sockett.

The Council considered a report, which was introduced by Councillor Bill Mordue, that sought approval to confer the Freedom of the Borough on Tony Sockett. In doing so, it would allow the citizens of Doncaster to offer recognition and endorsement of his tireless charity and voluntary work over many years.

Members noted that Tony served as an Elected Councillor for 11 years serving the Bentley community and also took on the role of Civic Mayor during the 2007/08 Municipal Year. Throughout his working life as a Teacher and Youth worker, Tony has always worked to promote the Borough and its residents and in his former role as the Council's Assistant Director of Leisure Services Directorate, he promoted youth work, sports development, cultural services international 'Town Twinning' and the Civic Theatre; all causes which remained close to his heart to this day.

Tony was also heavily involved in the community's celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of the first Doncaster Charter. He had always supported his community and worked with a range of voluntary projects including the Cooke Almshouse Trust, establishing the Bentley Area Community Partnership (BACUP) and served as Secretary to the 'A Junction' Project at Askern. He was successful in a bid to secure funds for additional youth work resources from the Department of Education and Science, and Network North was established providing support to disengaged young people across the North of Doncaster.

Tony continues to support his community ensuring the Almshouses were managed effectively and until recently, sitting as a member of the Danvm Drainage Commissioners to assist in protecting people and their property in the area against river and surface water flooding through water level management. As Secretary of the Bentley Area Community Partnership, he continues to raise funding for events and good causes in the area and his community by volunteering and serving on a number of local community groups and committees.

In affording Members the opportunity to speak on this item, Councillors paid tribute to Tony and whole heartedly supported the request to confer the Freedom of the Borough. Members conveyed their thanks and appreciation to Tony for his tireless charity and voluntary work, and years of public service.

RESOLVED that Council support the application and agree to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Tony Sockett.

- 40 To consider the following Motion, written notice of which has been given by Councillor Dave Shaw and Seconded by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Dave Shaw and Seconded by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“That this Council notes:-

- With concern that the Government has made fracking a central plank of the UK's energy policy.
- That the Government have granted exploratory licenses to allow companies to conduct shale gas testing at a number of sites across the country (mainly in the North of England).
- That in areas where exploratory drilling is under consideration, local residents have expressed concern.

- That the Labour Party manifesto at the 2017 General Election included a clear commitment to ban fracking.
- That all planning applications relating to fracking must be considered on their merits in planning terms, within the rules set out by the Government.

That this Council, therefore:-

- a) Regrets the decision of the then Liberal Democrat Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Davey, to lift the national ban on fracking in 2012.
- b) Commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property.
- c) Regrets that the Government now appear to be determined to force fracking on areas, regardless of local opinion.
- d) Supports the position taken by the Labour Party calling on the Government to ban fracking and focus on unlocking the jobs and growth that a low-carbon energy infrastructure can provide for our industry, workforce and communities.”

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

A vote was taken on the Motion proposed by Councillor Dave Shaw which was declared as follows:-

For - 40

Against - 0

Abstain - 4

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

RESOLVED that this Council notes:-

- With concern that the Government has made fracking a central plank of the UK's energy policy.
- That the Government have granted exploratory licenses to allow companies to conduct shale gas testing at a number of sites across the country (mainly in the North of England).
- That in areas where exploratory drilling is under consideration, local residents have expressed concern.
- That the Labour Party manifesto at the 2017 General Election included a clear commitment to ban fracking.

- That all planning applications relating to fracking must be considered on their merits in planning terms, within the rules set out by the Government.

This Council, therefore:-

- a) Regrets the decision of the then Liberal Democrat Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Davey, to lift the national ban on fracking in 2012;
- b) Commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property;
- c) Regrets that the Government now appear to be determined to force fracking on areas, regardless of local opinion; and
- d) Supports the position taken by the Labour Party calling on the Government to ban fracking and focus on unlocking the jobs and growth that a low-carbon energy infrastructure can provide for our industry, workforce and communities.

41 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 accepted the following questions from Elected Members during Question Time:-

A. Questions to Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster

Q. Councillor Jonathan Wood asked the following question:-

“It is a question regarding something that happened during the summer months at Skelbrooke and the quarry there. We heard a statement from Councillor Nigel Ball that we should not as a Council, let multi-nationals, the words he used, ‘rip things up and move along without any consequence’. We have in Skelbrooke, a large lagoon that was the result of quarrying operations. Quarry operators are typically granted under a 25 year temporary permission, usually with an obligation that the land was going to return to the state from whence it came. The reality is that there is a large hole there which is filled with water and has been for some time.

Sadly, we had a death this summer; a young man who did nothing more than tried to cool off and go swimming in the lake. A sad loss of life and very avoidable. Avoidable simply because if we hold companies and operators like this to account, we have the ability to

return the land to whence it came and restore the land, and make it into a park or something of that nature.

We would like your support Mayor to return things like this to whence they came and I hope you will endorse this?"

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

"I am quite shocked that this has not been brought up before because really it should be dealt with by Planning Enforcement. Therefore, if Planning Enforcement is not pursuing it, you can quite easily email Councillor Chris McGuinness and ask him to take it up as the Planning Portfolio Holder."

Q. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7, Councillor Jonathan Wood asked the following supplementary question:-

"Thank you Mayor, but it has been raised many times by the local community. You are absolutely right that it does sit in Planning and Enforcement, but unfortunately, it seems to get stuck in the 'quagmire'. If you are going to support us could you possibly 'chivvy' Chris along and if you could give some support, it would certainly be very welcome. Hopefully, you will give me a commitment that you will give Chris a 'nudge'?"

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

"Councillor Wood, I would ask you to put it in an email, copy me in and we will always pursue and answer questions."

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

"Regarding the question I asked you last month regarding the film studio in my Ward; your response was totally inadequate. I still have no information. It may satisfy you spending tax payers money, but it does not satisfy me. Why am I being denied an adequate answer?"

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

"That is your perception of it not satisfying you. I believe in actually encouraging jobs, growth and training. 360 Degrees will certainly facilitate all of this. If you require any further information, I am sure we could get them to give you further information."

Q. Councillor John Cooke asked the following question:-

"With regard to the facade we took off the old Gaumont building that is now by the side of the Museum, are we going to incorporate them in the new Cultural Learning building next door as a display rather than leave them there, next to what will ultimately be another stock room when complete?"

The Mayor, Ros Jones, referred the question to Councillor Nigel Ball as the subject fell within his Portfolio responsibilities.

A. Councillor Nigel Ball gave the following response:-

“Thank you Mayor and Councillor Cooke. What we have done with the facade at the moment is that they are at the Museum. We have professionally cleaned them and they look fantastic; there is no doubt about it. We are in consultation and discussion with the new build around the Savoy Cinema because effectively, what we thought would be appropriate would be to bring the facades that were on the old Gaumont Cinema and incorporate them into the new build on the Savoy Cinema; quite a nice touch I think. So, that is what we are looking to do at the moment, but I will keep you informed. Clearly, we need to see if it is practical; I am sure it will be, but I think it would be a fitting memorial place for them.”

Q. Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“How do we plan to bring the level of persistent absences in our Secondary Schools into line with the average for England; I think it is almost a fifth in Doncaster, but it is just over 10% in England?”

The Mayor, Ros Jones, referred the question to Councillor Nuala Fennelly as the subject fell within her Portfolio responsibilities.

A. Councillor Nuala Fennelly gave the following response:-

“We have a plan in place with the Regional Schools Director for Academies and obviously we have part of the plan in Doncaster Council. We cannot enforce everything through an Academy, but all Schools in Doncaster have signed up to an agreement that we will all work together so that we can get absences down and find out why these children are absent, and see what we can do through all our different systems that we are putting together, to ensure that when a child is absent, we know why. Sometimes with the systems we have in Schools, they do not always know why the child is absent. So, the new systems that we are putting in place will be through the Heads of Secondary and Junior Schools, because they have all signed up to it. It will be brought to Council eventually, but obviously it is in the planning stage; we have an outline agreement with all Schools that it will happen. We need to stop children being absent from School; they will not progress if we do not.”

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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“A quick question please; the Government is giving £26 billion for social housing. Will Doncaster be applying for this grant funding?”

A. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, gave the following response:-

“Yes.”

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 informed Members that any questions for Councillor Blackham 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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Councillor Fennelly, when Education in Doncaster is sufficiently below the national average, why do we need training days tagged on to every school holiday considering they have 12 weeks off each year?”

A. Councillor Nuala Fennelly gave the following response:-

“A good question and this is actually something that is enforced by the DfE in that there are so many training days per year that schools and teachers have to participate in. Whether these are school days or twilight sessions they do have to have them. It was part of the Baker Deering Institute years ago, and I don’t think they have ever been changed. It is not optional in schools and I think maybe this is something we need to pick up at a later date and write to the Government, and ask why there are so many. They actually have 13 weeks off school too through the year, not 12.”

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“In some Doncaster schools, it is common practice to reward pupils with confectionery for doing well. At a time when we are trying to control obesity, do you think that this is good practice?”

A. Councillor Nuala Fennelly gave the following response:-

“I don’t know which schools do that, but I will pick it up. Under the Health and Wellbeing Board that I sit on, it is wrong and I don’t agree with it. Children should be rewarded in better ways than that. I know a lot of private dance schools and places do it as well. If you have a word with me about this outside the Chamber and tell me where this practice is, I will discuss this with Damian Allen and get in touch with the schools. I personally do not think it is right and I can bring this up at the Health and Wellbeing Board so we can get the message across that we will not accept that.”

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 informed Members that any questions for Councillor McGuinness 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

Q. Councillor Cynthia Ransome asked the following question:-

“Making an enquiry by telephone can be a lengthy process to get through to Doncaster Council. If we are to encourage the reporting of issues and offer a service, surely this process can be made quicker?”

A. Councillor Jane Nightingale gave the following response:-

“Yes it can and yes it should be. What we are currently doing at the moment is getting more services online to become digital, encouraging more people to sign up online and report digitally. We are providing more computers in Reception which can be used so if a person does not have access at home, they can come in and use the computers downstairs. The more people that we can encourage to use ‘Apps’ and online services, it will then free up the phone lines. It just needs to get better. We are aware of the issues; it just needs to improve.”

Q. Councillor Richard Allan Jones asked the following question:-

“It’s good to hear a question from somewhere else about the same problems we have in a different area. One of my residents complained regarding their bin not being emptied, but when they checked on the website what had been done, it said the case was closed. They spent a lot of time initially on the phone, queuing and waiting and when they

followed it up, they were told it is cleared when actually the bin was still sat full of rubbish in the garden. What's happening?"

A. Councillor Jane Nightingale gave the following response:-

"All I can do is speak to Councillor Chris McGuinness and ask him. SITA can close the jobs off themselves too so it may be that it's not been closed off by us and may be the partner company, and not the Council that's done it. I will have a chat with him when he gets back from his holiday and find out what's happening."

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

In the absence of Councillor Phil Cole, Chair of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee, the Chair informed Members that any questions for Councillor Cole be submitted in writing after the meeting and a response would be provided.

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 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

In the absence of Councillor Kevin Rodgers, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Chair informed Members that any questions for Councillor Rodgers be submitted in writing to the Scrutiny Team after the meeting and a response would be provided.

42 To receive the minutes of the following Joint Authorities.

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

- A. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 30th July, 2018.
- B. Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board held on 6th August, 2018.
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 25th June (Annual), 25th June (Ordinary) and 23rd July, 2018.
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority Local Pension Board held on 7th June, 2018.

- E. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 7th June (Annual) and 7th June (Ordinary) 2018.
- F. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 2nd July, 2018.
- G. Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership held on 5th June, 2018.

CHAIR:_____

DATE:_____