

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2018

A MEETING of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on FRIDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2018 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Kevin Rodgers

Councillors John Healy, Jane Kidd, Andrea Robinson and Paul Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Martin Greenhalgh, Frank Tyas, Linda Curran, Derek Smith, Pat Haith, Eva Hughes, David Nevett, Ian Pearson, Nigel Cannings and John Mounsey.

Christian Foster, Head of Service, Strategy and Performance Unit  
Carole Fox, Senior Strategy and Performance Manager  
Debbie John-Lewis, Acting Assistant Director, Communities  
Bill Hotchkiss, Head of Service, Community Safety  
Dan Fell, Chief Executive Officer, Doncaster Chamber

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neil Gethin and Paul O'Brien (GMB) invitee

		<u>ACTION</u>
15	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	There were no items items on the agenda that contained exempt information.	
16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	Agenda Item 6: Brexit  Councillor Andrea Robinson declared that her husband is the CEO of Doncaster Deaf Trust and on page 15 of the presentation it listed key recipients of European Social Fund in Doncaster including Doncaster Deaf Trust.	

	Councillor Kevin Rodgers declared that his wife worked in the logistics industry.	
17	<u>MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER AND 4TH OCTOBER 2018</u>	
	The minutes of the meetings held on 13 <sup>th</sup> September and 4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018 were agreed as a correct record.	
18	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS.</u>	
	<p>Ann Gilbert a Doncaster resident stated:</p> <p>“I would like to thank authors for the paper which highlights the many risks to the people of Doncaster if we leave the EU with no deal or we lose the tariff free access to the single market.</p> <p>It is an unenviable task trying to evaluate the effects when the government has so much internal infighting with no strong direction of travel coming forward and a messy floor of parliament which may have to make the decision between no deal or the deal the PM comes back with – which I’m sure we all agree is not a meaningful vote.</p> <p>I will address the paper linked to the paragraphs.</p> <p><b>Risks and Assumptions</b></p> <p><u>Para 11-12 – EU Funding</u></p> <p>To date we have had £100 million from the EU and the Shared Prosperity Fund is expected to take over post 2020 – what level of confidence does the Borough have that Doncaster can access sufficient funding to meet the Industrial strategy for Doncaster – who will be in competition with – how many Local Enterprise Partnerships are there sharing the £1.6billion allocated by government.</p> <p><u>Para 14 – Migration</u></p> <p>Do we know where our migrant workforce is employed – which sectors and in what numbers? Has any assessment been made by the employers concerned about the effects it will have on their business – eg. Skill shortages.</p> <p><b>Para 15 – Impact on the Economy and our residents</b></p>	

### Access to EU airports

Do we know what the cost would be if our airport was grounded for any length of time and does that effect revenue to the Borough?

### Trading with the EU

No matter what kind of Brexit we get, our companies who deal with Europe will still have to maintain EU standards if they wish to continue to export to the EU.

What proportion of Doncaster companies trade with the EU? You mention 153 but think this is only a proportion of the real number of businesses that could be affected.

How many 'just in time' businesses do we have in Doncaster linked to trade with the EU?

If we lose access to the single market and tariff free export and imports – how many of our companies are at serious risk of going out of business?

### Productivity

We appear to have very poor levels of productivity 59<sup>th</sup>:60 in the Centre for Cities report (2017). Will this be exacerbated if we lose our migrant workforce? What is in place to improve this position – skills training, lack of job opportunities with decent wage structures to attract workers and keep workers in our Borough? What work is currently being done – Brexit or no Brexit.

### **Financial Implications**

Para 35 – You have identified as a key concern – the move to the Borough relying on income from business rates – going to 75% - means that we must keep our businesses in Doncaster, thriving. The loss of business rates directly affects the standards of delivery of statutory obligations of the Borough. Losing any of our employers also has a direct effect on work prospects for our people and in particular our young. I share that concern.

### **Human Resource Implications**

Para 38 – the loss of free movement of labour will be a disaster for this country not only for access to a migrant workforce with skills who have made a major contribution to our country as well as our Borough but also to enable our young people to take advantage of all that free movement can offer.

	<p>What support is there is place for EU citizens already in the borough with regard to settled status or citizenship applications?</p> <p>Are we aware of where the skill shortages will occur? Private and public eg. care sector, hospital professionals, agricultural etc. Do we know how we will meet those shortages to ensure that these workplaces can continue to function?</p> <p>Para 40 – You mention the Health Resilience Partnership are working with the LA – are there any published strategies to date available for Scrutiny?</p> <p>Additionally what provision has been made for potential medicine shortages?</p> <p>What provision has been made for potential food shortages to protect vulnerable people?</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Some of my observations and questions may be answered when the report is discussed following this – but I wish to thank you for the opportunity to make my contribution.”</p>	
19	<u>BREXIT</u>	
	<p>The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Service, Strategy and Performance Unit providing detail on the current Brexit position covering the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background to Brexit;</li> <li>• Key Documents and dates;</li> <li>• A “No Deal” Brexit implications;</li> <li>• Impact of Brexit on the borough and its economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What to Watch;</li> <li>- Challenges and Opportunities;</li> <li>- Wider Issues regional, national and individual;</li> <li>- Project Deliverability;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Treasury Management risks;</li> <li>• Migration; and</li> <li>• Influence – Government Policy through both established and new channels.</li> </ul> <p>The Chief Executive Officer from Doncaster Chamber outlined that the Chamber was a small business organisation that represented the private sector in the Borough equating to approximately 60,000 people. He explained that there were three business thought categories across</p>	

the sector, those that were preparing and mitigating, those watching and others that were doing neither but continuing to operate. However, what unified the business sector was the desire for proper answers from the Government, many issues of which had been covered by the Public Statement made at the beginning of the meeting.

He continued to explain that practical guidance and check lists were being provided regularly to the Borough's businesses and asked Members to remember that there were also 53 other Chambers across the Country also looking into the practicalities of a "Deal" or "No Deal" Brexit position.

The Committee recognised that 40 years of legislation was being addressed and there was uncertainty about the future but importantly, although many issues were unclear, what opportunities were available for the Council and Borough were being investigated.

The following issues were addressed by the Committee and other Members in attendance at the meeting:

Legal changes for trading – some businesses recognised the importance and were developing sophisticated plans but the micro businesses tended to be taking more of a reactionary position. Support had been available for Doncaster's businesses for some time to ensure they were prepared, particularly with a long term international trade programme. Members were pleased to note that the region had a growth hub where businesses provided joint support.

Trading outside the EU – Members were informed that there was an established Trade Carousel for experts on certain markets, including outside the EU, to promote overseas and international trade with joined up business support. It was noted that Doncaster Chamber would hopefully be attending a Trade Exhibition in China in 2019 with a number of local businesses. This visit would help build relationships both for trade and other areas, for example linking to skills and education.

It was noted that a Restructure of the Investment Team was being undertaken to maximise the Council's growth platforms and continue building momentum for international trade.

Yorkshire Wide Deal – A Member stressed, in their opinion, that if Doncaster was part of a Yorkshire Deal it would have more potential to sell and deliver using the Yorkshire brand but questioned what impact Brexit would have on this proposal. In response it was stressed that Yorkshire already held an established international brand, attractive to investors, in turn hoping that this would bring inward investment and tourism to Doncaster.

Rail Link – It was acknowledged that the rail link to Doncaster Sheffield

Airport was essential and noted that this issue was due to be considered at a future meeting of the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

Staffing in Education and other employment – It was noted that this issue was causing concern across the UK and there was a nervousness within businesses. For example, education and health professions would require certain skill sets for immigration applications. However, some businesses were concerned with the softer skills including strong work ethics and turning up in time. The Retail industry was concerned there could be a large challenge finding employees in some areas.

It was stressed that as a Borough we were all responsible for ensuring young people were employment ready holding the right skills and ensuring they were aware of all options available to them.

Agencies for international recruitment – Officers offered to provide a response following the meeting relating to concern expressed with regard to foreign vulnerable people not being supported, being left confused and lost in the state system by bogus agents. It was questioned whether a formal recruitment agency could be set up for South Yorkshire? It was stressed however that there were many good ethical recruiters across the country and from a Doncaster Partnership perspective, care and compassion was paramount.

Salaries – it was noted that 40 years ago over 50% of people worked in manufacturing but it was near 8% therefore, young people required the right skills to meet a new aspirational growth plan ensuring there were jobs of all descriptions with fairly paid wages.

Business relocation risks – Members noted that there were always risks that businesses could relocate elsewhere either nationally or internationally and there were discussions ongoing daily with the private sector.

Community cohesion – Concern was expressed that during the referendum there had been clear spikes of community tension but it was outlined that the Local Authority and partners had been working very well with communities, with any signs of tensions being monitored.

Food shortages - In response to possible food shortages, it was noted that the Emergency Planning Team was mindful of this and the position was being monitored with clear plans in place.

New channels to influence policy – There are a number of informal groups at multiple levels reviewing the impacts of Brexit; in particular the industrial communities alliance had commenced a programme of lobbying to ensure towns such as Doncaster would be given a fair contribution of external resources post EU funds, officers stressed

	<p>information sharing being key at this moment in time. Members were reminded that the Council's Chief Executive had a seat on the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders table to support the region and Doncaster at all levels, in terms of Brexit responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Residency administration for Non British residents</u> – in response to concern relating to whether support would be provided to assist people completing residency forms, it was recognised that the Local Authority would support and assist people who were in their care but there was not a clear resource identified for anyone else at present. With regard to the cost associated with the completion of the form it was understood there would be a nominal fee of between £5 or £10, expected to be waived for people in Council care.</p> <p>It was stressed that guidance was being provided to companies to help support their staff and it was also part of a suite of information that the Chamber was providing support to local businesses.</p> <p><u>Shortage of medicines</u> – concern was expressed with regard to the import of medication. A recent example relating to the shortage of Epipens was causing worry for people with allergies. It was explained that Government had given strong guidance on not stock piling medicines, that the position was being monitored and information would be provided by Public Health England to communities when available.</p> <p><u>Non British citizens currently in prison</u> – Bearing in mind the prison population in the Doncaster area, with regard to whether they would be returned to their country, it was acknowledged that there was no clear steer to date but should be covered by one of the Government's technical notices. This issue would be included in the Local Authority's risk assessment and watching brief.</p> <p><u>Non British children in local authority care</u> – A Member expressed concern that some young people would be in care at the Brexit end date and was assumed each case would be assessed on an individual basis locally but again this was an issue that would be in the Local Authority's watching brief.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That officers be thanked for the information presented and a further update be provided at a future meeting in the New Year.</p>	
20	<u>COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY</u>	
	<p>Doncaster Living</p> <p>Prior to Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, the Committee gave consideration to the Community Safety Strategy 2018-21 statutory plan. The Plan outlined how the Doncaster Community Safety Partnership would address crime and disorder, including serious and</p>	

organised crime, reduce re-offending, tackle anti-social behaviour and alcohol and substance misuse.

Key achievements were addressed in the report and the Committee was particularly pleased to see domestic abuse and motorcycle nuisance being recognised as priorities within the strategy, as this was consistent with the Crime and Disorder Committees previous consideration and recommendations.

Also addressed in the report were key challenges that remained and actions to address them including the raised threat by organised crime, where a new theme group had been established to focus on this issue.

It was stressed that incidents of begging and rough sleeping in the Town Centre remained an issue but had reduced following the introduction of the complex lives multi-agency team with displacement issues being monitored.

In response to a query raised by a Member with regard to communities that hold weddings to celebrate their culture and traditions, it was stressed that work had been undertaken and support offered to groups to ensure that, for example, they do not promote functions on Twitter or Facebook which in turn advertised that properties would be empty at specific times and therefore a potential target. The communities have also been offered "Smart Water" to ensure their neighbourhood was protected. It was confirmed that leaders in these communities would be informed that their protection was always taken seriously.

Members recalled that youth provision was now provided in a more targeted way ensuring that resources were placed in areas with serious concerns, particularly anti-social behaviour, making sure that early intervention would prevent situations worsening. It was important to note that neighbourhoods were encouraged to apply for community project funding.

It was supported that partnership working was essential, not just within South Yorkshire but with neighbouring areas, for example, with regard to off road bike nuisance, where a recent successful joint operation with West Yorkshire had stopped offenders and bikes seized. It was highlighted that motor cycle nuisance could also be a symptom of more serious illegal activities including organised crime.

With regard to funding and times of austerity, concern was expressed that resources would continue to reduce and have an impact on partners ability to support and therefore recognised that the Doncaster Community Safety Partnership Strategy was flexible to address key priorities and that the front line does not see a negative impact.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee support the Community Safety Strategy.

21	<u>WORK PLAN NOVEMBER 2018</u>	
	<p>The Committee gave consideration to the Scrutiny work plan and noted progress being made by each Panel.</p> <p>The Chair reminded Members of issues contained in the Forward Plan and suggested that the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel at its next meeting receive an outline of the key decision relating to the ESIF grant for delivery of New Business Support in Doncaster as part of the Sheffield City Region Launchpad Programme.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. that the work plan, be noted; and</li><li>2. a request be made for an update to be presented to the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Panel at a future meeting on the key decision relating to the ESIF grant for delivery of New Business Support in Doncaster as part of the Sheffield City Region Launchpad Programme.</li></ol>	