

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

A MEETING of the COUNCIL was held at the CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2016, at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor David Nevett  
Vice-Chair - Councillor George Derx  
Mayor - Ros Jones  
Deputy Mayor - Councillor Glyn Jones

Councillors Nick Allen, Nigel Ball, Iris Beech, Elsie Butler, Bev Chapman, Phil Cole, John Cooke, Tony Corden, Jane Cox, Steve Cox, Jessie Credland, Linda Curran, Susan Durant, Nuala Fennelly, Neil Gethin, Sean Gibbons, Pat Haith, John Healy, Rachel Hodson, Charlie Hogarth, Mark Houlbrook, Eva Hughes, Glyn Jones, Richard A Jones, Ros Jones, Majid Khan, Ted Kitchen, Pat Knight, Sue Knowles, Chris McGuinness, Sue McGuinness, John McHale, Bill Mordue, John Mounsey, Jane Nightingale, Andy Pickering, Cynthia Ransome, Andrea Robinson, Kevin Rodgers, Craig Sahman, Dave Shaw, Alan Smith, Clive Stone, Austen White, Sue Wilkinson, Jonathan Wood and Paul Wray.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Blackham, Rachael Blake, James Hart, Sandra Holland, Kenneth Keegan and Jane Kidd

30 Recent Death of Councillor Alan Jones, Ward Member for Norton and Askern

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 death of Councillor Alan Jones, Ward Member for Norton and Askern on 16th August, who had passed away after a short illness.

Members noted that Councillor Jones had been an Askern Spa Ward Member from May 2011 to 2015, and more recently, a Ward Member for Norton and Askern. During his time as a Councillor, he had sat on the Planning Committee since his election in 2011, and had served on all four Overview and Scrutiny Panels as well as the Audit Committee, and additionally represented the Council on the Scrutiny Panel for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

31 Declarations of Interest, if any

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor Craig Sahman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation Agenda Item No. 10, as his property was in close proximity to the revised proposed route of the HS2 project.

32 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2016

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July, 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33 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 David Nevett, made the following announcements:-

“Brodsworth Hall and Gardens has won a Gold medal at the recent Britain in Bloom with the Royal Horticultural Society for the Yorkshire area at the York award ceremony. Brodsworth won in the Category 8E Country House, Estates, Parks and Gardens.

I would also like to offer our congratulations to Doncaster’s Jo Butterfield, who won the gold medal in the F51 Club throwing at the Rio Para Olympic Games with a world record throw of 22.81m. Well done Jo.

I would also like to announce that Doncaster Council has been selected for a Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. It demonstrated how Doncaster supports and advocates the employment of veterans. This is a huge honour as few authorities have received this accolade.”

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

“I would like to place on record my thanks and gratitude to people for their kind words and support over the recent difficult weeks.”

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Equalities made the following announcement:-

“Members will recall that we’ve previously agreed in this Chamber to a Sheffield City Region Devolution deal that would bring new powers to the Combined Authority, provided it was headed by an Elected Mayor. The deal would see an extra £30million per year for 30 years placed in the Combined Authority’s hands, for economic growth in the City Region as part of a wider Devolution deal, with new powers and funding totalling £1.3billion. This Chamber unanimously signed up to that proposal on the basis that Devolution did require an Elected Mayor and could not take place without one. Since that deal was signed, lots of things have happened, including the Brexit vote and a new Prime Minister with a new Government. There is significant uncertainty around Devolution and the position of the Elected Mayors, which has raged all over the summer.

I’ve represented the Council twice recently at the Combined Authority, as consultation has taken place across the region about the devolution of powers and funding. The consultation showed that local residents and businesses were supportive of devolving powers to the City Region and to Bassetlaw and Chesterfield joining as full constituent members. At present, City Region Mayoral elections are scheduled to go ahead next year, although the actual powers of the Mayor are not yet formalised. These must be finalised within the next six weeks and placed into statutory orders, if the existing timetable is to be met.

On Monday, the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority met and agreed to submit responses to the public consultation to the Secretary of State, marking the next step in the Devolution journey. However, in view of the Government's uncertainty over Elected Mayors, slower than expected progress has been made in moving the deal forward, as the Government has bedded in, and in light of legal action from Derbyshire County Council, who object to Chesterfield joining. I must therefore advise the Council that a City Region Elected Mayor is not yet a done deal.

We need a conversation with Government as to whether a deal can be done without a Mayor, which is our preferred option, and Doncaster won't give its final go ahead until we are sure the Devolution deal continues to be the best outcome for our residents, with no other options available. With all that in mind, it's hard to see how we can resolve all these matters in the next month or so. In my view, that almost certainly means May next year presents a highly improbable timescale for City Region Mayoral elections. We remain committed to Devolution, but we must get this right. We shouldn't, and we won't rush this at any cost.

Whilst Full Council has endorsed the deal and devolved future matters to Mayor Ros Jones and the Council's Chief Executive to progress, before finally signing any order on the Council's behalf, the Mayor will wish to discuss this at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and at a session to which all Members would be invited in advance of the final decision."

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

"The GCSE and A Level figures I am going to announce are all provisional and will be verified by Government sometime in October.

All the figures are based on data received from Schools; all measures collected this year have improved in the last 12 months at GCSE Level. The percentage of 5 GCSE passes at A\* – C grades, including English and Maths, is now 56%, a 6% increase on last year, and very close to the national average for the first time.

A\*–C English: up by 7% (63% last year to 70% this year).

A\*–C Maths: up by 4% (63% last year to 67% this year) which is excellent.

Provisional results for A level pass rate based on the results we have received from Schools show 99.4% of pupils gained at least 1 A level pass and the proportion of A\* and A grades has increased this year to 22% from 19% last year, although we can't really compare this year's A level grades with previous years as they are now calculated on a different scale.

Our Schools are improving, as 68% of the 106 Schools inspected in Doncaster are now judged as Good or Outstanding; this is an increase overall of 11% since the Mayor came into office in 2013. Currently, 73% of Primary Schools are now judged as Good or Outstanding and an increase of 14% over the same period of office.

In the last quarter, Doncaster Children's Services Trust and some Council Services have been subject to 2 external scrutiny exercises:-

- The Local Government Association (LGA) in July reviewed how the Trust is keeping children safe and progress made following its Ofsted inspection last October, and a 2 day monitoring visit from OFSTED in August;
- Both reports reflect confidence in the improvement and significant progress made to improve services for children and young people and found no evidence of children being left at risk of significant harm.

Also, regarding the Inspection of Children Homes, all our Children's Homes in Doncaster run by Doncaster Children's Services Trust have been graded either Good or Outstanding by OFSTED between November 2015 and August 2016; this is excellent news for the whole of Doncaster.

Tickhill Square, Denaby (November 2015) - Good  
 Marston Grove, Thorne (May 2016) - Outstanding  
 Cromwell Drive, Sprotborough (August 2016) - Good  
 Oakland's, Hatfield (May 2016) - Good  
 Pinewood, \*Armthorpe (no longer in use but was good)

Children, parents, teachers and schools in Doncaster, have made a massive effort this year to show that we are as good as any other cities across England and we should be proud of the results and what our young people have accomplished. With continued improvement, we are preparing our children to take advantage of all the new developments and opportunities across Doncaster that will provide jobs and growth, and a sustainable future for Doncaster.”

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture, made the following announcements:-

“I thought I would mention the new X4 Bus Route. The opening of the Great Yorkshire Way has created a direct link from the motorway network to the Airport and the introduction of this bus greatly enhances the offer of the Airport, making it more accessible to the Doncaster region. The bus runs every 30 minutes, starting at 5am until just before midnight. This means that the Airport has the opportunity to market itself much wider and attract customers who can travel to Doncaster by train and still get home.

I would also like to say well done and offer my congratulations to Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT), who were awarded the Winners Title of 'Best Service Team in Sports, Leisure and Culture' at the Annual National Association Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards. The APSE Awards recognise Local Authority and partner contracts through assessment of a range of targets such as financial performance, innovation and business planning. As the organisation delivering DMBC's Leisure Services, DCLT have shown how far we have come as a partnership. So, may I say again, well done and thanks for all your hard work.”

Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing, made the following announcement:-

“On Tuesday of this week, I had the opportunity to attend the Tenant's Choice Awards at St Leger Homes.

The Community Champion was awarded to Samantha Siddall of Edlington Community Organisation.

The Young Person of the Year was awarded to Linzi Williams who has been working at The Foyer.

The Community Group of the Year went to ECO, Edlington Community Organisation.

The Good Neighbour Award was dedicated to Tom Haslam from Stainforth, who counts himself as just a normal neighbour, helping out where he can. I'd also like to mention from the Good Neighbour Awards, Chaz Prouten, who is an active member in the Conisborough area, who has also been nominated in the National Neighbour Awards later this year.

Everyone who attended the awards were Community Champions and it was pleasing to meet so many who work tirelessly helping others and their communities."

34 Order of Business

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Chair of Council, Councillor David Nevett, proposed the variation of the order of business to consider Agenda Item 10 immediately after Agenda Item 6, due to the level of public interest in the issue.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the order of business be varied by considering Agenda Item 10 immediately after Agenda Item 6.

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

(A) Question from Mr. A. Foley, 15 Don View, Mexborough, S64 0JE, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Will DMBC consider a point where financial benefits to the Borough outweigh the negative impact of HS2 Ltd's revised route, if so, what does DMBC consider a fair price for the sacrificing of approximately 250 homes and businesses, years of disruption to an arterial route through the Dearne Valley and the destruction of the environment in Old Denaby, Mexborough and Barnburgh?"

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

"Thank you for your question Mr Foley.

My position is that the damage to our area, particularly the devastating impact on the Shimmer estate and its residents, is entirely unacceptable. I will not support this proposal under any circumstances. What makes the situation even more astonishing is that we are being asked to accept this enormous damage and at the same time gain less economic benefit.

I believe that an appropriate proposal for HS2 in our region could deliver economic growth, create jobs and help improve opportunities, whilst vastly reducing the impact on local residents and communities.

This proposal does not achieve that aim. Instead, it will:-

Destroy much needed brand new and high quality houses, forcing people out of their homes;

Compromise potential new housing sites, limiting our ability to drive forward regeneration in the area;

Cut the number of trains serving the Sheffield City Region from five per hour to only 'up to 2 per hour';

Increase journey time to the region from 68 minutes to 83 minutes (up to 22%); and

Cut all services to Birmingham and Leeds.

Regrettably, I am not confident that HS2 Ltd is focused on maximising economic benefits to our region, or minimising the impact on residents. It is clear to me that these new plans were put forward simply to drive forward a project in difficulty and save £1bn from the cost pressures it faces. That is being done at the expense of our region. It is unacceptable and we will oppose the proposals.”

- (B) Question from Mr. P. Douglas, 72 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“When was Doncaster Council first aware of the route change (as announced by HS2 - David Higgins on 7th July) that meant approx 250 homes would need to be demolished within the Doncaster boundaries?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Douglas.

The Council and colleagues across the region have been in contact with HS2 for a number of years, primarily regarding the location for the station in our region, which has been the subject of much discussion.

The longstanding recommendation from HS2 Ltd was that the station should be located at Meadowhall, in order to deliver economic benefits and connectivity throughout South Yorkshire. Doncaster Council first became aware that a change to the recommended station location was likely to be announced at meetings on 21st June and 27th June this year. The Council also became aware that this was also likely to influence the proposed eastern route of the line, impacting the west of the Doncaster borough. However, very limited information was provided. The Council was not given detailed maps of the proposed route, advanced copies of the associated reports or full information about the properties and businesses that may be affected.

Clearly at that stage, Doncaster Council was not in a position to make any public comment on any prospective announcement by HS2 Ltd, or fully understand the impact that it may have. However, in the following days I did take the opportunity to speak to the then Secretary of State for Transport to

raise my objections to potential changes to the existing route. At the same time, we briefed local Councillors on what we did know.

On 7th July, a formal announcement was made and the Council gained access to the full set of documents and the detailed route proposal.”

- (C) Question from Mrs. R. Ridler, 74 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“How is DMBC working to stop HS2 affecting the Doncaster area, what assistance will it give local residents if the route is approved in November, or are you just focused on getting a Parkway Station in the Borough?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mrs. Ridler.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate that I object to the new proposals for HS2 in our region and I hope that the Council will support the Motion proposed by myself and Cllr Andy Pickering. Our primary focus is challenging these new plans, which Sir David Higgins himself had previously rejected as the wrong solution.

I have already raised my objections with the Government and HS2 Ltd. I am working closely with local MPs and other colleagues to challenge the proposals. The Deputy Mayor and I worked with colleagues in the region to change the recommended position of the Local Enterprise Partnership, which was being asked to support the proposals. I am pleased that it rejected this recommendation, recognised the damage to local communities and acknowledged that the proposal delivered a poorer service to the region.

We will be making further submissions to HS2 Ltd and the Government, and I will advocate on behalf of residents. I would also encourage residents to make their views, and the reasons for them, clearly known to Government and HS2, including through a petition. If the Secretary of State decides that these punitive new proposals should proceed, then we will press hard for proper compensation from HS2 Ltd. Any residents who are directly affected should end up ‘better or no worse off’ as a result of the plans.

It is interesting to note that whilst delivery of a Parkway Station was widely reported, Sir David Higgins has at this stage only recommended that HS2 ‘should undertake a study to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the potential for a Parkway Station on the M18/Eastern leg which could serve the South Yorkshire area as a whole’. I am not yet convinced that a compelling economic case for a Parkway Station in South Yorkshire will be made, and there is clearly a risk that any Parkway Station proposal will never be delivered. I certainly will not trade my support for people in Mexborough and the surrounding area for a Parkway Station in the region.

Connectivity within our region is certainly an issue. Doncaster currently has excellent links to London through the East Coast Mainline, and growth around the region’s airport, yet at the present time you can’t even get a train from Barnsley to Doncaster or Rotherham. In fact, it takes around an hour to travel just 14 miles between the centres of Barnsley and Doncaster, limiting

business interaction and hindering access to employment for residents in both towns.

If other options to serve the economic interests of South Yorkshire as a whole are to be investigated as part of this process, then that review should not focus narrowly on a Parkway Station in the South Yorkshire countryside.”

- (D) Question from Mr. M. Huddleston, 42 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Firstly, I would like to say that we should be pushing to halt the HS2 route as we all agree that it is a complete and utter waste of public money. But we all know that there is a possibility that this will go ahead. So, as a resident at the Shimmer Estate, I would like to know if the Council has the same powers as Sheffield Council in turning down the new proposed route through Mexborough. Do they have the power to put forward alternative routes that miss out our estate or any other residential housing within the area?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mr Huddleston.

Unfortunately Doncaster Council does not have the power to turn down the proposed new route for HS2. However, I have made clear my objections to HS2 Ltd and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Sheffield Council does not have these decision making powers either. It is true that Sheffield have a long held view that the HS2 station for our region should be in the City Centre. However, Sheffield’s preference was for a new station at Victoria in order to drive regeneration and job creation in the City Centre, and they have been not been successful in achieving that.

I know that Sheffield welcomes the new proposal for its City Centre station, but it is also true that this was not the first choice of anyone in South Yorkshire. Under these plans the region’s HS2 service is dramatically reduced. HS2 Ltd wants to save £1bn and it is proposing doing so at the expense of residents and businesses in our region, who are being asked to accept a second class service.

In terms of alternative routes, I have already requested that HS2 Ltd consider potential alternative routes that would reduce the negative impact on local residents and communities. This region has been let down and suffered as a result of national policies before. The Government should make very clear to HS2 Ltd that it has no intention of letting down the people, businesses and communities of Doncaster and other parts of South Yorkshire again, by roundly rejecting these poorly considered proposals, which appear to have been developed in haste and based on incomplete information.

The Public Accounts Committee report published yesterday makes clear that many important questions remain unanswered.

We will see what decision the Secretary of State makes in the coming weeks, but I would like to assure residents that, if the proposal advances to the next



stage, it will not be the end of the matter. We are in this for the long haul and will support our communities all the way."

- (E) Question from Mr. D. Goddard, 16 Benita Avenue, Mexborough, S64 0NB, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

"Where exactly does Doncaster Council stand with regard to HS2. Does it:-

- a) support all those affected by the route change as announced on 7th July 2016;
- b) want an additional benefit to the region despite all those constituents affected and blighted;
- c) oppose HS2 as not required as the capacity and speed can be achieved with no demolitions within the councils boundaries;
- d) other - (if other please detail)?"

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

"Thank you for your question Mr. Goddard.

I have previously been supportive of the HS2 project. The Government and HS2 Ltd have set out what they believe is the national challenge that lies ahead, particularly in terms of transport capacity, connectivity and economic growth. Successive Governments have clearly stated that HS2 is part of their solution. It also had support from towns and cities that are set to benefit from the project.

Our view has always been that, if the project does go ahead, then wherever possible, we should get the best deal for Doncaster and its residents. Through this approach, we have been successful in securing our town as one of the sites for the new National College for High Speed Rail. This is vitally important in helping to address some of our own key issues, bringing high level skills provision and well paid jobs to the Borough, benefiting local people and businesses.

However, as costs appear to spiral, questions are increasingly being raised about the overall value of the project. Choosing to cut escalating costs by reducing long term economic benefits makes no sense. If the project is of national importance, then it must be done properly and this proposed change for HS2 in our region is unacceptable in my view.

I remain broadly supportive of the overall project, but not at any cost. Some people are now talking about the prospect of the budget rising to even more eye watering figures. If that is true, it is not necessarily how I would choose to spend tens of billions of pounds to deal with national infrastructure needs and rebalance the nation's economy.

I do fear that HS2 is rapidly becoming a 'them and us' project, which will primarily benefit London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. It is increasingly looking like it will do little for millions of people who live outside

these major cities. In the recent Referendum, many of these people expressed their clear frustration at the way they, and their towns, were being left behind by national politicians and civil servants.

If this proposal goes ahead, people in South Yorkshire will justifiably feel that the Government has taken absolutely no notice of them.

I want a better route, which does not destroy homes, devastate communities and deliver fewer economic benefits for our region. It does not have to be this way and alternatives must be worked up.”

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

“If the new route was not the best route, was the original route better?”

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

“Sir David Higgins said the old route was the best route for the City Region. In ‘Rebalancing Britain’ published in October 2014, he expressly stated that the Meadowhall route was the best route.”

- (F) Question from Mrs. S. Douglas, 72 Comelybank Drive, Mexborough, S64 0EP, to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“What practical help can be offered by the Council for those whose blighted homes are to be demolished and also those whose homes are permanently blighted but not to be demolished. For example, could there be a reduction in council taxes for the blighted properties, interest free loans for those in need of monetary assistance, assurances that people whose homes are to be demolished will be able to buy a new home of the same standard including flooring etc and alternative accommodation offered to those in rental properties?”

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

“Thank you for your question Mrs Douglas.

If the Secretary of State decides that these punitive new proposals should proceed, then we will press hard for proper compensation from HS2 Ltd. Any residents who are directly affected should end up ‘better or no worse off’ as a result of these plans. This means as a bare minimum, the ability to buy or move to like-for-like replacement homes without being made financially worse off and we are collecting evidence to support residents if this is required. Individual circumstances should be catered for, for example relating to new build properties and the investment that people have made in their new homes.

Proper measures should also be put in place to mitigate noise, environmental damage and visual intrusion. I will also be happy to consider proposals put forward by local residents and seek to advocate on their behalf.

HS2 Ltd and the Government must do the right thing by local people and businesses. I will work therefore with residents and Elected Members to hold them to account. However, I do not think we should let HS2 Ltd and the Government off the hook by indicating that a good compensation package is good enough. It is absolutely not good enough and we will fight this proposal to the end.

It is unfortunate that HS2 Ltd have chosen to put the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State in a very difficult position. If the Prime Minister is serious about her promise that the Government will be driven by the interests of ordinary people, then she must act on issues like this. Theresa May pledged that when her Government takes the big calls, it would think of working class families, like residents in Mexborough, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley, not the privileged few. She said that when it comes to opportunity, they won't entrench the position of those who already have advantage. That means turning her back on the second class service being offered to hundreds of thousands of residents and businesses across South Yorkshire.

It is a second class service that even Sir David Higgins, the man behind the proposal, thought was a bad idea and will not deliver the outcomes required."

Members noted that the responses provided by the Mayor of Doncaster would be made available on the Council's Web-site.

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

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

"This Council objects to the new proposals for HS2 in the Sheffield City Region, which were announced on 7th July.

When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas.

This proposal is bad for local residents, communities, Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region. Doncaster Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State to reject the recommendation."

An amendment to the Motion was Moved by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, in that the second paragraph of the Motion be amended to read as follows:-

"When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough and the Wards it affects, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas."

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

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

For – 48

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

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

RESOLVED that Council objects to the new proposals for HS2 in the Sheffield City Region, which were announced on 7th July.

When compared to the previous recommended HS2 route and Station at Meadowhall, the new proposals put forward by HS2 Ltd will provide fewer train services, reduce job creation, reduce connectivity, damage the environment and have a devastating impact on communities in our Borough and the Wards it affects, in particular the destruction of over 200 homes in Mexborough and the surrounding areas.

This proposal is bad for local residents, communities, Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region. Doncaster Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State to reject the recommendation.

37 Adjournment of Meeting

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 32.1, the meeting stand adjourned at 7.10 p.m. to be reconvened, on this day, at 7.15 p.m.

38 Reconvening of Meeting

The meeting reconvened at 7.15 p.m.

39 Core Annual 'Define & Deliver' Cycle

The Council considered a report, presented by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, which proposed an improved core annual 'define & deliver' cycle which more clearly linked together the key annual processes for defining and delivering improved outcomes for residents.

It was reported that Doncaster Council had come a long way in the last three years by improving governance arrangements, coming out of Government intervention early and delivering a three year budget to effectively manage the national austerity measures. Doncaster was now one of the most improved Councils in the country, as recognised by the Local Government Chronicle in 2015.

In expressing her appreciation to everyone including Councillors, Officers and partners who had helped to make that happen, the Mayor stated that further improvements

could always be made to continue to drive the Council forward. The Mayor therefore recommended an improved annual Council approach for linking knowledge about the needs of residents to priority setting and in turn action that impacts on quality of life for local people.

Members were informed that the Council had already embarked upon a modernisation programme and was beginning to deliver services in innovative ways. Looking to the next four years, the Council's purpose remained the same; to ensure that communities thrived, create the right climate for good growth and deliver modern value for money services with a strong sense of partnership. Continuing to improve governance was essential to achieving this.

It was also reported that each year the Council updated its priorities and agreed a budget to deliver them, the timetable of which was planned well in advance. However, the effectiveness of this process would be improved by:-

- An annual State of the Borough assessment and engagement which would provide an up to date understanding of how the Borough was changing and the needs of residents;
- Improvements to the service planning and staff performance review processes to ensure that the priorities agreed by Council were translated into effective action earlier;
- Better integrating the assessment of Strategic Risks in the priorities and budget setting process; and
- Consolidating the previous year's corporate quarterly monitoring reports into an Annual Report to show the Council's contribution to delivery of Borough outcomes.

Annex 1 to the report, proposed a high-level annual timetable for completing these interlined processes within a 4 year Strategic Planning horizon, which aimed to ensure that the efforts of the Council were focussed on the improvements that mattered most to residents and the long-term success of Doncaster.

The Mayor was delighted that the proposal had already been supported through the cross-party Overview and Scrutiny process and thanked Elected Members for their involvement.

RESOLVED that

- (1) an annual timetable be established for completing the key processes of a 'define & deliver' cycle, as a key building block of good governance;
- (2) the annual timetable be captured on the Council's Forward Plans (including the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and the rolling agendas);
- (3) the Constitution be amended to include within Article 3.01 – Functions of Full Council: 'to receive State of the Borough assessment each year to inform the budget and policy setting process';

- (4) Overview and Scrutiny support the State of the Borough assessment by considering undertaking reviews into thematic areas where there are gaps in the Council's knowledge; and
- (5) an Annual Report on the Council's contribution to delivering Borough-wide outcomes be made available to Full Council by the end of August each year, which will draw upon the previous year's corporate quarterly monitoring reports.

40 Appointment of Section 151 Officer

The Council considered a report presented by the Chief Executive, Jo Miller, which sought approval to appoint Stephen James Mawson as Doncaster Council's Section 151 Officer, with effect from 1st October, 2016.

It was noted that the position of S151 Officer was currently held by Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services. However, in line with the Council's Flexible Working Policy, Simon Wiles was reducing his working week to 4 days and as a result, considered it appropriate to relinquish the role of S151 Officer.

Steve Mawson currently held the role of Deputy Section 151 Officer and held the required qualification of a CIPFA Qualified Accountant. Faye Tyas would take on the role of Deputy Section 151 Officer, supporting and covering for Steve Mawson in his absence.

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

RESOLVED that

- (1) Stephen James Mawson be appointed as Doncaster Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 1st October, 2016, until further determination; with effect from 1st October 2016, Stephen James Mawson's title will become 'Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director - Finance'; and
- (2) the Monitoring Officer update the Constitution where necessary, to reflect the changes to Officer designations outlined within the report.

41 Appointment of Conservative Councillor Representative to Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's Transport Committee

The Council considered a report which sought the appointment of a Conservative Councillor, in accordance with the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's (SCRCA) political balance requirements, as Doncaster Council's representative on the SCRCA's Transport Committee, following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox from this body.

It was reported that at the meeting of Full Council on 7th March 2013, it was agreed that Doncaster Council would join the SCRCA, which became a legal entity on 1st April, 2014. Since that time, the Council had appointed Member representatives to the SCRCA's Overview and Scrutiny, Transport and Audit Committees.

Members noted that the membership of the SCRCA Transport Committee was subject

to political proportionality across the 4 South Yorkshire districts. Currently, this equated to Doncaster Council being entitled to nominate 3 representatives (voting members) on this body, i.e. 2 x Labour and 1 x Conservative. Following the recent resignation of Councillor Steve Cox, the Council was asked to appoint a replacement Member representative from the Conservative Group, to join the remaining two representatives; Councillors Joe Blackham and Bill Mordue.

RESOLVED that Councillor R. Allan Jones be appointed as the Conservative representative on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority's Transport.

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

A. Questions on Notice

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

B. Questions Without Notice

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.2, the Chair accepted the following questions from Elected Members during Question Time:-

A. Questions to Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster

Q. Councillor Jonathan Wood asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“Today is a historic day for Doncaster; we have come together and done things the right way and I would like to congratulate the Mayor on receiving a unanimous vote for the Motion.

I have spoken to you out of the meeting about the HS2 and its detrimental effect on the affected Wards in the Borough.

I would like to bring to your attention a Petition against the HS2, and ask that everyone signs this E-Petition. If you search for this petition on the internet, by googling ‘Yorkshire Against HS2 Provision’ (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/162601>), it will bring you to the link to access the petition and sign your name.

If we get 100,000 signatures against this petition, it will be debated in Parliament. This Petition has come out of Wakefield and Rotherham but it needs support from our Council. Additionally, there are groups working very hard together in Sprotbrough and the rural villages to fight this proposal, and have produced a pre-written letter against the HS2 that I would ask you to send out in your name on our behalf, one to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, and one to Chris Grayling. We need to choke this off before it goes out to consultation.

Please will you support us?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“Subject to reading what you’re asking me to support; yes. If it says what you have summed it up to say, then yes, I will sign the E-Petition, and I am happy for you to pass on your letter to the Communications Team who will look at that with me.”

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

“I wouldn’t expect anything more at this point; this is about getting the people participating. There are 55 Members of this house, they need to get on line and read the petition?”

A. The Mayor gave the following response:-

“I will read it. I meant everything I said today. I proposed and endorsed the Motion, your answer is there, but I will never agree to signing anything without reading it first.”

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

Q. Councillor Sean Gibbons asked the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones:-

“There is to be a public meeting held in Mexborough on the 29th September in opposition to the HS2. Would the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor, Members of Cabinet or any Senior Officers support us at the meeting on the night?”

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

“Subject to my availability, as I don’t have my diary with me at the moment to check, but subject to that, I don’t see why that can’t happen.”

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

“Thank you for that Councillor Jones. There have already been a number of meetings on the HS2, some of which have been more successful than others, and without going into detail as to what happened at the 1st August meeting to look at the issues, it’s imperative that we have the right venue and are provided with the right information.”

A. Councillor Glyn Jones gave the following response:-

“Absolutely and I hope the dialogue continues. I will meet with Members next week as it is important that we speak as one voice.”

C. Questions to Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation

In the absence of Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transportation, the Chair of Council informed Members that any questions for Councillor Blackham should be submitted in writing to the Executive Office after this meeting and that the Cabinet Member would respond accordingly.



D. Questions to Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services

No questions were put to Councillor Tony Corden, Cabinet Member for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services.

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

No questions were put to Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

F. Questions to Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

No questions were put to Councillor Pat Knight, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing.

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

No questions were put to Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment.

H. Questions to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture

No questions were put to Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture.

I. Questions to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing

No questions were put to Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing.

J. Questions to Councillor John Mounsey, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Q. Councillor Jonathan Wood asked Councillor John Mounsey:-

“We have heard a great deal of debate about HS2. I do not remember any issue that has galvanised as much support and discussions from so many politicians and members of the public as this one.

I am not going to ask you exactly what you are doing, but what can we expect in respect of the commitment from Overview and Scrutiny to put this into Committees, whether it be to produce the bodies of evidence that will be required to support the case that there is no economic benefits to the current route being proposed, the damage to the environment and all the rest of it; it is up to you to choose which Committees and when, but I think it might be important for us to try and get a commitment to at least pursue something that we build this bank of evidence that will be required when it

goes to formal public consultation, so people can respond in an appropriate manner?”

A. Councillor John Mounsey gave the following response:-

“Take it as given Councillor Wood; thank you for your question. In conjunction with the Mayor, Cabinet and all 55 Members who voted for this tonight, there is no other way we can do it and we will look at these proposals through Overview and Scrutiny in conjunction with the Mayor and Cabinet.”

43 To receive the Minutes of the following Joint Authorities

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

- A. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held on 4th March, 2016;
- B. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority held on 9th May, 20th June, 27th June and 1st August, 2016;
- C. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 27th June (Annual), 27th June, (Ordinary), and 25th July, 2016 and Section 41 Briefing Notes for June and July, 2016; and
- D. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority held on 26th May, 9th June (Annual), 9th June (Ordinary) and 30th June, 2016.

CHAIR:\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:\_\_\_\_\_