

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday 27 July 2023
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Stowe)

- Central Ward - Councillors Moyes and O'Donoghue
- Cudworth Ward - Councillors Cherryholme, Hayward and Houghton CBE
- Darfield Ward - Councillors Markham, Osborne and Smith
- Darton East Ward - Councillors Denton and Hunt
- Darton West Ward - Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard
- Dearne North Ward - Councillors Bellamy, Cain and Morrell
- Dearne South Ward - Councillors Bowler and Moore
- Dodworth Ward - Councillors Christmas, Fielding and C. Wray
- Hoyland Milton Ward - Councillors Franklin and Shepherd
- Kingstone Ward - Councillors Mitchell and P. Wright
- Monk Bretton Ward - Councillors Green, Richardson and Sheard
- North East Ward - Councillors Booker and Ennis OBE
- Old Town Ward - Councillors Lofts and Pickering
- Penistone East Ward - Councillors Barnard, Burnett and Wilson
- Penistone West Ward - Councillors Greenhough and Lowe-Flello
- Rockingham Ward - Councillors Sumner and A. Wray
- Royston Ward - Councillors McCarthy and Webster
- St. Helen's Ward - Councillors Leech, Tattersall and N. Wright
- Stairfoot Ward - Councillors K. Dyson, Murray and Shirt
- Wombwell Ward - Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Higginbottom
- Worsbrough Ward - Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Lodge

55. Appreciation

Members took the opportunity to give thanks to two departing Council officers for whom this would be the last Full Council meeting whilst at the authority.

In praising the work of Joe Jenkinson, outgoing Head of Planning, Policy and Building Control, Councillors Houghton CBE, Frost, Richardson, Sumner, Hunt, Greenhough, Howard, Clarke, Higginbottom, Franklin, Wilson and the Mayor gave thanks.

In celebrating the work and upcoming retirement of Julia Burrows, outgoing Executive Director for Public Health and Communities, Councillors Houghton CBE, Cain, T. Cave, Sumner, Greenhough, Hunt, Howard, Tattersall and the Mayor gave thanks. Councillor Cain additionally gave thanks on behalf of Councillor Makinson who was not in attendance.

56. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to Age UK Barnsley as their employer.

Councillor Moyes declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to GMB Trade Union as their employer.

Councillor Sheard declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to Barnsley Hospital and their position as a governor.

Councillor Burnett declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to the NHS as their employer.

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 67 insofar as it related to Berneslai Homes and their position on the board.

Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 67 insofar as it related to Berneslai Homes and their position as a tenant.

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 67 insofar as it related to Berneslai Homes and their position on the board.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 61 insofar as it related to the Corporate Parenting Panel and their position on this body.

Councillor Markham declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to Age UK Barnsley and their position on the board.

57. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May and 25th May, 2023 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

58. Communications

Gold South Yorkshire Be Well @ Work Award

The Chief Executive announced that the Council had achieved the Gold South Yorkshire Be Well @ Work Award. This award reflected the Council's commitment to improving its employees' health and wellbeing, which was a top priority across the organisation, so that employees were happy and well, and able to deliver Council services.

The award was designed to help businesses work towards and develop good practice in workplace health and wellbeing. In 2021, the Council was awarded the Silver level award which was reviewed every two years and on recent reassessment, the authority achieved the Gold level which was a fantastic achievement.

Colleagues from across the Council had been included in focus group discussions with the external assessor to confirm that they were aware of the support and resources in place to support their wellbeing. Assessor feedback stated that wellbeing was high on the Council's agenda, employees were informed and knew where to access the relevant information. Feedback from employees highlighted that working for and being a representative of the Council was something people were proud of.

The Chief Executive added that successes in the year so far had really shown what Barnsley Council was capable of, and this couldn't be achieved without the dedication of Council employees.

Thanks and congratulations were expressed to Callum Ball, Janet Glover, Helen Weldon, Tracey Priestley, Julia Sykes, Simon Dobby, Phil Quinn, Louise Ingham, Emily Grayson, Jeremy Ward and Dawn Faulkner.

Councillor Houghton CBE and the Mayor added their thanks for the contribution of Council employees in achieving the award.

Alexandra Rose Vouchers – Early Start & Families, Children's Services

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to announce that Barnsley had been the first location outside of London to launch Rose Vouchers in partnership with the Alexandra Rose Charity. Since its launch in 2016, it had grown to become one of the charities biggest projects, with over 1,800 families supported over the last six years, by 10 family centres across the area. The team worked with Barnsley Market at the heart of the town centre, where a fantastic selection of fruit and vegetables were available.

From its inception in 2016 staff in the Council's Early Start & Families service within the Children's Services directorate had worked tirelessly to develop distribution routes which made sense to families and to promote uptake to those families who may have struggled to access fresh fruit and vegetables. This had become even more of a lifeline to many families struggling within the context of financial pressures brought about during the Covid-19 pandemic, in in the context of the ongoing cost of living crisis. Families also received support to plan meals and budget, cooking and recipes and access to advice around healthy lifestyles.

Rose Vouchers had supported 1,872 families in Barnsley since 2016. This had resulted in more than 40,000 vouchers being issued with a face value equivalent to

approximately £270,000 being redeemed through local market traders and providers who were registered with the scheme.

This success was further marked with Barnsley being selected as the location for the 2 millionth Rose Voucher to be issued, in recognition of the fantastic work that was going on within the Borough to not only support families to access fruit and vegetables to promote better health, but also to support the markets over the prior 7 years during the redevelopment of the markets and the Glassworks.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to give recognition to the contributions made by the Early Start and Families Service and individual staff members in making the project such a success, namely Sharron O'Rourke, Sarah Hickey, Colette Muir, Rachel Sung, Sarah Sykes, Abigail Wray, Jennifer Wolsey, Margaret Young and Julie Harrison.

Councillors Houghton CBE, T. Cave, Clarke, Cain and the Mayor added their thanks for the work of the team, which had been rightly recognised.

Marketing Award winner at the Public Sector Catering Awards 2023 – Barnsley Schools Catering Team

Members were informed by the Chief Executive that Barnsley Schools Catering were delighted to be recently named the winner of the Marketing Award at the Public Sector Catering Awards.

The Public Sector Catering Awards recognised and celebrated organisations from across both public and private sectors who had demonstrated their commitment to supporting public sector catering provision, including organisations such as the NHS, Armed Forces, Prisons, other Local Authorities and private providers.

Judges recognised the innovative borough-wide, multi-media marketing campaign to encourage free school meal registration and increase uptake, which had been a huge success. Overall, free school meal registration rose by 27% in 2022, and meal uptake from 63% to 77% over the same period. This meant more children across the borough were now able to enjoy a healthy, nutritious school meal.

Working collaboratively with colleagues in Benefits and Taxation and Area Councils, the Catering Team was able to increase their campaign reach and engagement. The service had experienced a real transformation in recent years and was playing a key role in supporting the Council's Healthy Barnsley ambitions.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to reflect on winning such a prestigious award and how this demonstrated the hard work and dedication of the team, the fantastic work they did, and the efforts made across the Council and schools to support the ongoing campaign.

Thanks and congratulations were expressed to Cat Pantry, Donna Wildsmith, Kerry Sylvester, Josie McCullen, Julie Whitely, Lucie Machin, Brandon Turner, Robert Smith, Anna Mountford, Janine Atkinson, Alex Griffin, Reanne Smith and Nina O'Brien.

Councillors Houghton CBE, Bowser, T. Cave and the Mayor added their thanks for the work of the team in achieving the award.

Council of the Year

The Chief Executive announced to Members great pride was felt in Barnsley Council being a double award-winning council of the year. History had been made by Barnsley Council becoming the first council to win the two most prestigious awards in local government in the same year, The Local Government Chronicle Council of the Year and the MJ Local Authority of the Year.

Both the awards were the last awards of the night to be announced and both had gruelling judging processes, including online submissions, a judge's visit to Barnsley and presentations by the Chief Executive and the Leader. The awards highlighted Barnsley's excellent reputation nationally and put the borough on the map as a place to live, work, shop and visit.

Positive feedback had been received on the Glass Works development and town centre, with accolades from independent experts in local government. The judges had also recognised the Council delivered high levels of service across the board compared to other areas, with less money spent than other areas and projects being delivered which stood out.

Thanks were given to, and pride expressed in, what Council employees, members, partners and communities had achieved for Barnsley.

Councillors Houghton CBE, Higginbottom, Sumner, Hunt, Wilson, Clarke, Barnard, Howard, Webster, Markham, Tattersall, Franklin and the Mayor added their thanks for the contribution of all individuals who had played a part in achieving the pair of awards.

59. Adoption of Updated Design of Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Cab.31.5.2023/11)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Moyes; and

RESOLVED that approval be given to adopt the updated Design of Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

60. Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Cab.31.5.2023/12)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Moyes; and

RESOLVED that approval be given to adopt the updated Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

61. Outcomes of the Ofsted Focused Inspection of the Experience and Progress of Young People Leaving Care (Cab.14.6.2023/6)

Moved by Councillor T. Cave – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

RESOLVED that the outcomes of the recent Ofsted focused visit on the experience and progress of young people leaving care in Barnsley, together with the next steps, be noted.

62. Barnsley's Children and Young People's Plan (2023-26) (Cab.28.6.2023/6)

Moved by Councillor T. Cave – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

RESOLVED that the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026) be approved for adoption.

63. Asset Management Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28 (Cab.28.6.2023/7)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Moyes; and

RESOLVED that:-

1. Approval be given for adoption of the Asset Management Strategy (AMS) covering the period 2023/24 to 2027/28; and
2. Support be given to the approach to adopt a 5-year strategic land disposal programme; and
3. Commitment be given to the approach identified to manage the asset base and support achieving the £5.5M efficiencies set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS); and
4. Delegated authority be given to both the Executive Director of Growth and Sustainability and Director of Finance/S151 Officer to approve any investment required (against the £1m already set aside) to deliver the key actions of the AMS, within their delegated authority. Anything outside of this would be referred to Cabinet spokesperson/s and/or Cabinet as appropriate.

64. Appointment of Deputy Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (Cab.12.7.2023/6)

Moved by Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that approval be given to appoint Wendy Popplewell as:-

- a) Deputy Electoral Registration Officer; and
- b) Deputy Returning Officer

to operate with the full powers of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer if they are unable to discharge them. This will apply at all elections, referenda and other polls in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council area.

65. Submission to Local Government Boundary Commission on the future size of the Council (Cab.12.7.2023/7)

Moved by Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that the draft submission contained in Appendix 1 be approved for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

66. Statement of Licensing Policy Review Consultation 2022/23 (Cab.12.7.2023/8)

Moved by Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that the Statement of Licensing Policy appended to the report (Appendix 1) be adopted by the Council and published in accordance with the statutory requirements.

67. Planned Regulation Changes for the Social Housing Sector Implications for the Local Authority and ALMO and review of the existing Clienting Assurance Framework (Cab.12.7.2023/11)

Moved by Frost – Seconded by Councillor Moyes; and

RESOLVED that:-

1. The update provided be noted in relation to social housing reform and the implications that these proposed changes had for the Council and the assurance that it needed from the ALMO in terms of its management and maintenance of the Council's Housing Stock under the Services Agreement 2021-2031; and
2. Endorsement be given to the proposed Governance Structure to comply with duties under the Fire Safety and Building Safety Bills; and
3. Endorsement be given to the appointment of the Accountable Person within the Council; and
4. Delegated responsibility be given to the Fire and Asbestos Compliance Officer to register the Council's high-rise buildings and prepare and submit building safety cases, as required; and
5. Support be given to opportunities to enhance the current Assurance Framework and the draft Action Plan which included an independent review of current governance arrangements by Campbell Tickell.

68. Revision of Contract Procedure Rules

Moved by Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that:-

1. Approval be given to the proposed amendments to the thresholds to enable these to be implemented whilst the further revisions to the full document are finalised; and
2. The thresholds be revised as follows;
 - a) £0 - £50,000 – For contracts valued up to and including £50,000 an Executive Director shall proceed in a manner which ensures value for

money and the efficient management of the service. Where possible this process shall prioritise the placing of orders with local businesses.

- b) £50,001 - £70,000 – For contracts above £50,000 and up to and including £70,000 the Executive Director must seek to achieve competition and for that purpose invite at least three quotations via YORtender. Where appropriate at least two of the companies invited to quote should be local businesses.
- c) £70,000 - All procurement above £70,000 in total contract value must be undertaken by the Strategic Procurement Team. For procurements above £70,000 to the FTS threshold for goods and services, an open tender procedure must be followed.

69. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

RESOLVED that the following changes to representation on the Outside Bodies detailed be approved:-

Danum Drainage Board

Cabinet Support Member Environment and Highways

Migration Yorkshire Board

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Chair for a 2-year term)

Shaw Lands Trust

Mr Kevin Williams

The Alcohol Alliance

Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Support Member Environment and Highways – Substitute Member

Virtual School Governors

Councillor Moore

Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Migration Group

Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Member Development Working Party

Councillor Webster

SACRE

Councillor McCarthy

70. Audit and Governance Committee - 31 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 31 May 2023 be received.

71. Planning Regulatory Board - 13 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Richardson – Seconded by Councillor Leech; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 13 June 2023 be received.

72. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub Committee - 5 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-Committee held on 5 June 2023 be received.

73. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 21 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on 21 June 2023 be received.

74. General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel - 27 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel held on 27 June 2023 be received.

75. Appointment Panel - Executive Director Public Health and Communities - 11 July 2023

Moved by Councillor Cain – Seconded by Councillor Sheard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Appointment Panel held on 11 July 2023 be received.

76. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by Councillor Bowler; and

RESOLVED that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

77. Health and Wellbeing Board - 1 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Cain – Seconded by Councillor Sheard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on 1 June 2023 be received.

78. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 25 April 2023

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 April 2023 be received.

79. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) - 6 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2023 be received.

80. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 27 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2023 be received.

81. Dearne Area Council - 22 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Cain – Seconded by Councillor Moore; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on 22 May 2023 be received.

82. North Area Council - 22 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by Councillor T. Cave; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on 22 May 2023 be received.

83. Central Area Council - 24 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Dyson - Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on 24 May 2023 be received.

84. North East Area Council - 25 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor McCarthy; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 25 May 2023 be received.

85. Penistone Area Council - 8 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Greenhough – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 8 June 2023 be received.

86. South Area Council - 16 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Markham – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on 16 June 2023 be received.

87. Cabinet - 31 May 2023

Moved by Councillor Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 May 2023 be received.

88. Cabinet - 14 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 June 2023 be received.

89. Cabinet - 28 June 2023

Moved by Councillor Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 June 2023 be received.

90. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business

The Chief Executive reported that she had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

91. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 5 June 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

92. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 12 June 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

93. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Meeting (Draft) - 19 June 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

94. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Ordinary Meeting (Draft) - 19 June 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

95. Questions by Elected Members

The Chief Executive reported that she had received several questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

Councillor N. Wright

I hereby ask if this council could facilitate some basic mental health training to all ward councillors should the elected member wish to do so.

With this training elected members could gain a basic understanding to the sign & symptoms some of our residents may be demonstrating as a result of a mental health illnesses whilst out and about serving within our communities.

This can only help achieve a better understanding of how to identify individuals in need of help and along with knowing where to quickly signpost these individuals to such as dedicated mental health organisations and helplines.

Councillor Howard, Cabinet Spokesperson without Portfolio, responded by advising there were differences in the training that the Council provided to its employees and the support offered to councillors. Councillor Howard explained the relationship between councillors and residents was clearly not the same as employers and employees. Therefore, in terms of mental health, any training should be limited to awareness raising and signposting to appropriate support services.

Having liaised with the Member Development colleagues in Human Resources and Organisational Development, it was explained that options would be explored to provide a resource for members to use for the purpose of signposting to mental health support services.

For a general overview of mental health awareness, the Mental Health Awareness e-learning module on POD was available, taking approximately 45 minutes. Councillor Howard advised if enough members were interested, an information session could be arranged, either face-to-face or via Microsoft Teams which would take about an hour and a half. If Members were interested in this Mental Health Awareness information session, they should register their interest by emailing member development.

Further clarity was given that the Member Development Working Party also existed to take forward any Member development requirements. There were also external resources available to help on specific topics related to mental health, for example, the Zero Suicide Alliance Training which helped people to understand how to respond if someone may be at risk of suicide. The free course had a completion time of around 20 minutes.

Councillor N. Wright took the opportunity to ask a supplementary question as to whether a sub-group of members could be established, to determine which mental

health courses were best suited for members developing a knowledge base to implement when serving communities.

Councillor Howard further clarified that the Member Development Working Party was the body established to explore this, and that members should get in touch with member development officers to take forward any work in this area.

Councillor Hunt

In 2020 the council purchased new Speed Indicator Devices and radar boxes. At Full Council on 3rd February 2022 in response to my question regarding the deployment of these important road safety assets the then Cabinet Member reported that the 4th COVID wave had impacted the council's capacity to roll out the Speed Indicator Devices at that time.

The then Cabinet Member went on to say that "I am pleased to report to Members that this is a temporary situation, which officers are working tirelessly to resolve. In the coming weeks, we will deploy Speed Indicator Devices to Staincross Common (Darton East), Intake Lane (Darton West) and Racecommon Road (Kingstone) - each for a period of 4 weeks."

Can the cabinet member please explain why the Speed Indicator Device eventually deployed to Staincross Common has remained there, not working, for several months?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded advising that regrettably the planned rollout of Speed Indicator Devices, including the removal of the device at Staincross Common, had faced delays due to ongoing recruitment challenges in the Traffic Team.

The Traffic Team was working on developing a policy and deployment program across the whole borough. When the policy had been approved, Speed Indicator Devices would be installed in suitable locations across Barnsley. Elected members and communities would be kept updated on the progress of this rollout.

In asking a supplementary question, Councillor Hunt reflected upon the Council's stated ambition on road safety – to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the borough's roads by 50% by 2030. Councillor Hunt questioned how the Council would achieve this if the basics weren't deliverable and asked what would the Cabinet Spokesperson do to significantly improve the delivery of road safety initiatives within his portfolio?

In responding, Councillor Higginbottom drew attention to the road safety strategy developed by the Environment and Highways service in collaboration with Public Health. It was explained that road safety was a key priority across the borough and that data suggested a move in the right direction, although there was always more work to be done. Councillor Higginbottom explained that the combination of a fully staffed Traffic Team with a wide range of initiatives would further improvement. Initiatives included neighbourhood road safety schemes and school safety schemes centred around rolling out 20mph zones. Partnership working also formed part of initiatives delivered, including working with South Yorkshire Police to enforce where educational methods had been unsuccessful and working with South Yorkshire Safer

Roads Partnership to deliver a county-wide approach to road safety as part of shared vision zero ambitions.

Councillor Burnett

Like many parents I often enjoy walking my children to and from school. The physical and mental wellbeing benefits for children are extremely important, especially with the high levels of childhood obesity within the borough, without even mentioning the environmental benefits.

I'm pleased to see the phased introduction of 20mph speed limits outside the Borough's primary schools, following a successful trial earlier this year. Making sure our roads are safe is vital in helping encourage parents and children to walk or cycle to school.

Could the cabinet member for highways please give us an update on the roll out of the scheme and a rough projected timespan?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways thanked Councillor Burnett for his continued interest and engagement on this important issue.

In response, it was advised that after the successful installation and ongoing operation of the pilot scheme at five schools, the Traffic Team would install an additional twenty-five signs at eleven primary schools during this summer break. These signs would be fully operational at the start of the autumn term. An order had also been placed for eight more signs to serve four primary schools, with the same aim to install these during the summer break.

The service was exploring whether these signs could be installed at an additional seven schools, with further updates to be provided as soon as the feasibility assessments were completed.

In Penistone East ward, Oxspring and Thurgoland primary schools were in the first phase and the 20mph signs would be in place for the start of the new school term in September. The option to install signs at Cawthorne, Hoylandswaine, Silkstone and Silkstone Common was also being investigated and further updates would be provided as soon as the feasibility assessments were completed.

Councillor Burnett thanked the Cabinet Spokesperson for his update and stated it was great to hear about the scheme that would help protect the borough's children. Road safety and encouraging children to walk to school was stated to be more complex than lowering speed limits and in asking a supplementary question, Councillor Burnett asked the Cabinet Spokesperson to outline what additional measures could be taken.

Councillor Higginbottom requested attention be drawn to his response to previous supplementary question, in terms of the range of initiatives being delivered by the Council. It was stated that Council initiative and policy alone was not enough, with education on road safety for children from early years an important factor in improved road safety, particularly around schools. Active travel schemes were also highlighted as a means of children and families utilising alternative modes of travel to school, such as walking, cycling and scootering. Schemes being delivered included the Park

and Stride initiative, the RampUp initiative, the Bikeability scheme and public health funding for in-school education.

Councillor Fielding

Will Trinity School on Broadway be ready to take students by September 2024, by which time the school should be accommodating 720 students?

Councillor T. Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services responded, advising that the Department for Education and the Trinity Academy Trust were responsible for making sure that the school was open for pupils in September 2024.

The Department for Education had provided assurance to the Council that this remained on track, with progress continuing to be monitored through regular meetings with both organisations.

Councillor Fielding asked a supplementary question, given lack of good quality and now shrunken outside break and green space, does the Cabinet Spokesperson think the then current school site on Eastgate is a suitable site for pupils to be attending for a lengthy amount of time?

Councillor T. Cave advised that the regular monitoring meetings allowed for early notice for any potential delays so that action could be taken to address those delays. Any contingency arrangements would be established by the Department for Education and the Trinity Academy Trust, with the Council to provide support as required.

Councillor P. Wright

Does the cabinet member support Age UK Barnsley's "Take a Seat Campaign", which aims to support older people in Barnsley to get out and about more by providing suitable resting places?

Councillor Cain, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities responded by confirming that the campaign was very much supported.

The Council was a member of the Age-Friendly Communities Network which was supported by the Centre for Ageing Better and committed to making Barnsley age-friendly. The area of work fell under the Age Friendly Barnsley programme and reported to the Early Help and Stronger Communities Partnership.

The 'Take a Seat Campaign' supported people to move a little more by placing seating in strategic positions to allow people to take a rest. There were 41 benches across the borough in places of natural beauty and these were promoted with the hope that people would take the opportunity to walk, rest and enjoy the landscape.

Councillor Cain stated this was a great way of improving physical and emotional well-being of individuals, with further information on the benches included on the Council website. It was advised the Council was also improving and increasing seating areas in many of the borough's local villages, and working with Age UK Barnsley and other partners to look at where seats could be placed in retail areas.

Councillor P. Wright took the opportunity to ask a supplementary question as to the reason that a broken bench on Racecommon Road, Kingstone ward had been removed, rather than repaired when reported in July 2023.

Councillor Cain confirmed this would be investigated and a response provided in writing.

Councillor Greenhough

Bullhouse Bridge on the Transpennine Trail at Millhouse Green has been closed since May 2022, forcing trail users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and families to negotiate a diversion via the busy A628.

Can the cabinet member please tell us when the bridge will be reopened?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded that the Council was unable to provide a definitive date on when the reopening could take place as this would be influenced by several factors, some of which were outside the Council's control. Councillor Higginbottom took the opportunity to give a summary of the issues being faced.

The overlay surfacing panels gave the impression that the deck was in okay condition, but the load-bearing plywood deck panels underneath were rotting at the deck joints had failed in multiple areas across the deck. The plywood deck was not safe for people to cross. Several options had been considered for the replacement of the plywood deck including a like-for-like plywood deck replacement that had a 15-year lifespan, and a composite bridge deck that had a 50-year lifespan.

It was stated that not many companies provided both the materials and carried out installation, so they could pick and choose which jobs they estimate for. The Council had been trying to find companies that had availability so the procurement process could be commenced. The ambition was to have the same company supply and fit, to ensure the process for getting the work completed was seamless.

Councillor Higginbottom clarified this was not a challenge unique to Bullhouse Bridge, with it becoming increasingly common in areas that needed highly specialised engineering expertise, particularly in the economic climate at that time. The Council had secured £24,000 of Section 106 funding to help partially fund the work, but costs had come back significantly higher than originally estimated, with other sources of funding looking to be secured.

Councillor Higginbottom stated that there was a consensus that all wanted Bullhouse Bridge to reopen and thanked ward members and regular users of the bridge for their continued patience throughout this process.

Councillor Greenhough asked a supplementary question, with safety in mind would the Cabinet Spokesperson do everything in his power to resolve this issue? Councillor Higginbottom provided confirmation he would.

96. Questions received from Members of the Public

The Council received six questions from members of the public, together with responses provided by the relevant Cabinet Spokespersons.

RESOLVED that the questions and responses be noted.

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Chair