

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 26 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

Central Ward

- Councillors Bruff and Dyson

Cudworth Ward

- Councillors Hayward and Houghton CBE

Darfield Ward

- Councillors Markham, Saunders and Smith

Darton East Ward

- Councillors Hunt and Spence

Darton West Ward

- Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard

Dearne North Ward

- Councillors Gardiner, Gollick and Phillips

Dearne South Ward

- Councillors Danforth, C. Johnson and Noble

Dodworth Ward

- Councillors P. Birkinshaw, Fielding and Wright

Hoyland Milton Ward

- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe

Kingstone Ward

- Councillors Williams

Monk Bretton Ward

- Councillors Green and Richardson

North East Ward

- Councillors Cherryholme, Ennis OBE and Higginbottom

Old Town Ward

- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering

Penistone East Ward

- Councillors Barnard and Wilson

Penistone West Ward

- Councillors Greenhough, David Griffin and Kitching

Rockingham Ward

- Councillors Andrews BEM, Lamb and Sumner

Royston Ward

- Councillors Cheetham and McCarthy

St. Helen's Ward

- Councillors Leech, Platts and Tattersall

Stairfoot Ward

- Councillors Bowler, Gillis and W. Johnson

Wombwell Ward

- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Daniel Griffin

Worsbrough Ward

- Councillors Carr, Clarke and Lodge

29. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to the NHS as an employee of the Service.

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 37 'Hoyland South Masterplan Framework (Round 2 Adoption)' in view of their membership of the Forge Community Partnership.

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 38 'Barnsley Leisure Care Transfer to Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL) in view of her being a member of the BPL Board.

30. Suspension of Standing Orders

Moved by Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that Standing Order 13(5) of the Council be suspended in respect of Minute 31 only 'Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) – Presentation' insofar as it relates to restrictions on Members speaking more than once.

31. Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2019/20

Mr G Mills (Engagement Lead) representing Grant Thornton, the Authority's External Auditor, made a presentation on the ISA 260 report 2019/20, the report to those charged with Governance.

Mr Mills outlined the roles and responsibilities of the External Auditor with specific reference to the work undertaken in relation to the Accounts, the Use of Resources and Value for Money conclusion as well as explaining how this role was undertaken. He also referred to the revised timescales involved and the reasons for this revision.

The following points were noted:

- In relation to the findings in the 2019/20 accounts
 - An unqualified 'clean' audit opinion was expected to be issued
 - Regular liaison had been undertaken with the Finance Team and wider Management Team
 - Good working papers had been provided and feedback sessions had been held
 - No major weaknesses in the financial systems had been identified
 - There were no audit adjustments impacting on useable reserves
 - A small number of other audit adjustments and presentational amendments had been suggested.
 - The key accounting matters related to the valuation of the Council's land and buildings and accounting for the Council's share of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund
- In relation to the Key findings in 2019/20 in respect of Value for Money
 - Risk assessment had identified two areas of focus relating to the financial standing of the Council and the arrangements in place for the Glassworks development

- There was an unqualified 'clean' conclusion on the Use of Resources/Value for Money conclusion and a good outcome for the Council based on positive findings with regard to:
 - The delivery of the 2019-20 budget and savings
 - The 2020-21 budget, reserves level and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - The impact of Covid-19 being managed, no emergency budget or Section 114 Certificate being required
 - Governance and Risk Management arrangements for the Glassworks
 - The financial impact of the Glassworks being significantly de-risked
- Key challenges for the Council remained particularly in relation to the ongoing financial environment for all Councils and the continued need to maintain strong governance, risk management and financial management of the Glassworks scheme

The External Auditors also recorded their thanks for the work for the Service Director Finance, for staff within the Finance Directorate and within Internal Audit, for SMT and all other staff who had contributed to ensuring that the Council received an unqualified opinion.

In response to questioning, Mr Mills indicated that, as summarised within the ISA 260 report, both Covid-19 and the implications of Brexit raised significant challenges that the Council would have to manage. From an External Auditor's point of view, however, the Authority was in a better position to be able to deal with those combined challenges than many other authorities particularly in view of the relatively healthy financial position that the Council had entered the 2020/21 financial year. The General Reserves had been strengthened so that there were now approximately £30m of reserves and he was satisfied with the arrangements that the Council currently had in place to deal with such challenges.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) also placed on record thanks and appreciation for the work of the External Auditors for the way in which the audit had been conducted, to the Director of Finance and his Team and to the Senior Management Team and to all officers and Councillors involved in the process. He commented that Barnsley had not always, and still wasn't, the best funded. Members had been required to take difficult decisions to keep both the Council and Services on track and this approach would continue going forward, with appropriate direction and leadership.

The Council then considered the External Auditors Audit Findings (ISA 260) report for the Council for 2019/20 and this was:

Moved by Councillor Gardiner – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the External Auditor's (ISA 260) Report 2019/20 be approved;
- (ii) That the findings on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls and the conclusions on the Council's arrangements for securing Value for Money be noted; and

- (iii) That the findings from the audit work in relation to the 2019/20 financial statements be noted.

32. Audit and Governance Committee minutes - 28th October, 2020

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 the 28th October, 2020 be received.

33. Final Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Moved by Councillor Gardiner – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED that the final Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 be approved and adopted.

34. Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Moved by Councillor Gardiner – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED that the revised audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20 be approved.

35. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September, 2020 and the Annual Council held on the 22nd October, 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

36. Communications

(a) Mr Jeff Lunn – British Empire Medal for Services to Nature Conservation

The Chief Executive was delighted to inform the Council that one of Barnsley's residents and long-standing nature conservation partner Mr Jeff Lunn had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to nature conservation. Mr Lunn was the Chair of the Dearne Valley Heart Partnership and was a leading Trustee of the Garganey Trust which ran Broomhill Flash Nature Reserve. This was an award that he richly deserved, and she was delighted that he had been able to join the virtual Council meeting this morning. The Council looked forward to working closely with him in the future in order to continue the hugely important work in restoring the boroughs habitats and natural landscapes.

Councillor Houghton, Leader of the Council, added his own personal congratulations to Mr Lunn. He commented that it was good to see that people who did all this kind of work year-round without any public recognition receive such an award. He added his thanks and support to Mr Lunn for everything he had done and stated that this was incredibly well deserved.

Councillor Saunders congratulated Mr Lunn who had done many years of work in the area and particularly for the work he had undertaken at Broomhill Flash within the Darfield Ward.

Councillor Markham also thanked Mr Lunn for the work he had undertaken within the Darfield Ward. She hoped he had a really good and memorable day when he went to receive this award.

The Mayor also added her own congratulations on behalf of the Council to Mr Lunn in receiving this award.

(b) Ms Diane Lee (Head of Public Health Improvement) – LGC Rising Star Award Winner

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that on the 28th October, 2020 at the online annual Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards Ceremony, Diane Lee, Head of Public Health Improvement, had won the Rising Star Award. This was a fantastic achievement for Diane and a great reflection on the Council. The competition had been tough, but not only had Diane got through to be one of the 9 finalists, she went on to win the award.

The judging panel had said it was clear – *‘in the 4 years Diane has worked at Barnsley Council, she’s been instrumental in making public health relevant, bold and successful. As an inspirational leader her considerable achievements in improving outcomes for Barnsley people, and her regional and national recognition speak for themselves’*

When asked by the host of the ceremony about her ambitions, she gave an excellent account of how she was able to realise her ambitions working in local government and especially here in Barnsley and in making a difference to the lives of the people who lived and worked here.

There were many Council colleagues at the online ceremony to wish her well and the Chief Executive was sure that Members of the Council would also join her in congratulating Diane.

Councillor Andrews BEM, Deputy Leader, also asked to add his own congratulation to Diane Lee. Whilst she had worked for Barnsley, Diane had raised the profile of Public Health particularly in relation to anti-smoking and other initiatives, in trying to change adult behaviour and in encouraging young people not to take up the smoking habit. She had also brought suicide prevention to the fore within the Council and she was also working widely within South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw regional hospitals as well as further afield. She had also participated in the Best Bar None Scheme and through this had put pressure on Bars to have the availability of zero sugar products available thereby helping to improve the health of the population. She was also heavily involved in the work of the Health and Well Being Board and was leading on the Mental Health Partnership. All these initiatives assisted in bringing health and wellbeing to the fore and for winning this award she was hugely congratulated.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, added his own congratulations to Diane in winning this award. This was a most remarkable

achievement but to do so as a public health officer in the middle of a pandemic was absolutely amazing and made everyone proud to come from Barnsley.

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities, also congratulated Diane at this amazing achievement. She had watched the event online on the evening of the ceremony and felt that this was a well-deserved award for someone who did excellent work and was an outstanding officer for Barnsley Council.

Councillor Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services asked to add her own congratulations to those of previous members and particularly to thank Diane for all the work she did for Children's Services to promote the health of young people as well as for the other work she did for Barnsley.

The Mayor also added her own congratulations on behalf of the Council to Diane Lee in winning this award.

(c) Property Investment Fund – LGC Driving Growth – Highly Commended Status

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council's Property Investment Fund had been awarded highly commended status at the recent LGC awards in recognition of the innovative approach on addressing commercial property viability challenges to deliver much needed employment facilities within Barnsley contributing to the wider growth agenda.

The programme had been expertly project managed by Sophie Moore (Project Manager, Strategy, Growth and Regeneration) who had maintained a focus on delivery across three very different and complex schemes.

Legal and Financial Services Section support had been provided by Lawrence Gould (Senior Legal Officer) and Rachel Atkinson (Assistant Strategic Finance Manager) respectively. This included supporting the creation of developer agreements and associated financial controls.

Tim Hartley (Group Leader Assets) had provided essential advice and guidance from an asset management perspective as well as working closely with the support partner CBRE to ensure that the overall build quality of units was provided to a high standard and fully aligned to original specifications.

Shaun Higginbottom (Business Investment Manager) had been instrumental in driving developer interest in the initiative right from the original inception of the programme and had worked tirelessly with support from the wider Enterprising Barnsley Team to secure end users for premises following completion.

Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture) asked to place on record his thanks to the Team in achieving this success. This was an incredibly complicated field and they were doing fantastic work. As long-standing Members would know, one of the chief difficulties in Barnsley was finding sites for employment and business and the success that the Council had had in this area and in bringing in inward investment had been amazing. The borough did not have enough land for this type of development and the requirement for jobs was certainly greater, but the Council was in good hands as the Team involved had done such extraordinary work.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, could only reiterate Councillor Cheetham's comments. It was great that at a time when the country was moving into crisis that the Council had such a high-quality team working on its behalf. He extended his congratulations to all staff involved.

The Mayor also added her own congratulations on behalf of the Council to members of the Team in the receiving Highly Commended status.

(d) Glassworks Phase 1 – Awards for Planning Excellence – Highly Commended

The Chief Executive was delighted to confirm that Phase 1 of the Glassworks had been highly commended by the Yorkshire Royal Town Planning Institute at their recent Awards for Planning Excellence Ceremony. This celebrated outstanding projects that demonstrated the power of planning in the region with the Glassworks being considered a great example of town centre place making.

The Chief Executive, therefore, thanked all those involved in the planning process for the Glassworks and in particular Andrew Burton (Group Leader – Development Manager (Inner Area)), James Hyde (Planning Officer), Richard Gilbert (Planning Officer) and Nick King (Senior Urban Design Officer).

Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture) congratulated everyone involved in this project which Members were all rightly proud of and would be for many years to come. Everyone could see the scheme coming together and the improvements that were being made. This was a scheme that rightfully should be winning awards and would be a beautiful development once it was completed.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, again reiterated the comments made by Councillor Cheetham. The importance of the Glassworks project to the economy of Barnsley as well as the Town Centre could not be overestimated. He extended his thanks to all involved. He also commented that the Council had a very strong planning Team and congratulations were offered to each and every member of staff.

The Mayor also added her own congratulations on behalf of the Council to the Planning Team in receiving highly commended status.

37. Hoyland South Masterplan Framework (Round 2 Adoption) (Cab.4.11.2020/6)

Moved by Councillor Gardiner – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in the development of the Masterplan Framework for Hoyland South, as set out in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that the measures proposed relating to energy, sustainability, health and wellbeing be supported; and
- (iii) that the final version of the Masterplan Framework be adopted

**38. Barnsley Leisure Card Transfer to Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL)
(Cab.4.11.2020/7)**

Moved by Councillor Cheetham – Seconded by Councillor Frost; and

RESOLVED that the Barnsley Leisure Card management, operation development and promotion be transferred to Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL), as set out in the report submitted.

39. Transfer of the Role of Proper Officer's Representative in Registration Services

The report of the Executive Director Core Services seeking to formally authorise for the transfer of the Proper Officer's Representative, which was a statutory role, to the Head of IT Service (Design and Compliance) was

Moved by Councillor Gardiner – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED that the transfer of the proper Officer's Representative from the Head of Service, Customer Support and Development to the Head of IT Service (Design and Compliance) be approved with immediate effect.

40. Appointment to Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Cherryholme – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the following changes/appointments to Outside Bodies be approved:

(a) Sheffield City Region Thematic Boards – Reserve Members

Business Recovery and Growth Board – Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE
(Reserve Member)

Education, Skills and Employability Board – Councillor Frost (Reserve Member)

Housing and Infrastructure Board – Councillor Frost (Reserve)

Transport and the Environment Board – Councillor Tattersall (Reserve)

(b) Virtual School Governors

Delete Councillor Felton and add Councillor Saunders

41. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 9th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Tattersall, MBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board held on the 9th September, 2020 be received.

42. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 28th October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Tattersall, MBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board held on the 28th October, 2020 be received.

43. General Licensing Panel - Various

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the details of the various General Licensing Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

44. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 9th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – 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 the 9th September, 2020 be received.

45. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 28th October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Tattersall – 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 the 28th October, 2020 be received.

46. Audit and Governance Committee - 16th September, 2020

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 the 16th September, 2020 be received.

47. Planning Regulatory Board - 20th October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 20th October, 2020 be received.

48. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); 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.

49. Health and Wellbeing Board - 8th October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Andrews BEM – Seconded by Councillor Platts; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on the 8th October, 2020 be received.

50. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 8th September, 2020

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 8th September, 2020 be received.

51. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream) - 13th October, 2020

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream) held on the 13th October, 2020 be received.

52. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Special Meeting) - 26th October, 2020

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 26th October, 2020 be received.

53. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving their Potential Workstream) - 3rd November, 2020

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving their Potential Workstream) held on the 3rd November, 2020 be received.

54. Central Area Council - 7th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor W Johnson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 7th September, 2020 be received.

55. Dearne Area Council - 14th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Gardiner; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 14th September, 2020 be received.

56. North Area Council - 14th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by Councillor Tattersall; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 14th September, 2020 be received.

57. North East Area Council - 24th September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on the 24th September, 2020 be received.

58. South Area Council - 25th September, 2020

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 the 25th September, 2020 be received.

59. South Area Council - 23rd October, 2020

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 the 23rd October, 2020 be received.

60. Penistone Area Council - 1st October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Wilson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on the 1st October, 2020 be received.

61. Cabinet Meeting - 23rd September, 2020

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 23rd September, 2020 be received.

62. Cabinet Meeting - 7th October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 7th October, 2020 be received.

63. Cabinet Meeting - 21st October, 2020

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 21st October, 2020 be received.

64. Cabinet Meeting - 4th November, 2020

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 4th November, 2020 be received.

65. 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.

66. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 7th September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

67. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority - 10th September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

68. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Draft) - 30th September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

69. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 14th September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

70. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 21st September, 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

71. Questions by Elected Members

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

Note: a maximum of 30 minutes was allocated for this item in accordance with Standing Order No 11 (2)(d).

(a) Councillor Hunt

‘What plans does the council have to implement more 20mph zones within residential areas and outside schools in the borough?’

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) responded by thanking Councillor Hunt for his question. There were currently 115 20mph roads in Barnsley spread across 12 zones.

Officers regularly monitored these 20 mph restrictions and they used road safety data and professional judgement to make informed decision about possible extensions or additions to other areas across the borough.

The Service invested the annual funding available for safety measures in delivering the statutory responsibilities under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Service was also looking at what measures could be implemented to further protect young people. Although not strictly speaking a 20mph initiative, officers were working on a new temporary School Streets Project that had recently been awarded funding by DEFRA. A School Street was a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applied to school traffic and through traffic. The aim of the pilot was to create a safer environment for children to get to school through creating safer active travel routes.

The Service had funding to consider this initiative for 10 temporary closed school roads which may all be at separate school locations. This project was still in the planning stages, but Members would be updated when more information became available.

If the pilot was successful, there was the potential to develop permanent road closures outside schools.

Councillor Lamb felt that all Members would agree that this was a safer method than a 20mph zone as mentioned within the question.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for his response. He stated that he very much welcomed the pilot which was examining the Schools Street/Residential Zones and he was aware that other Local Authorities were doing something similar and he believed that one was being undertaken in Rotherham. He stated the figures for 2019 revealed that deaths had increased on Barnsley's roads compared to 2018. There had been 140 incidents which resulted in serious injuries and this was an increase of 86% since 2010. In addition, studies of pedestrian injuries and car impact speed released by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents showed a fatality risk of just 1.5% at 20mph compared to 8% at 30mph and he, therefore, asked as a supplementary question if the Cabinet Spokesperson would agree with him that 20mph speed zones (and he thought these could be extended to not just outside schools but to residential areas as well) played a valuable role in reducing the number of road casualties. They had a high level of public support and complemented strategies for active travel modes such as walking and cycling. He asked if the Cabinet Spokesperson would commit to working with the Highways Department and Public Health to urgently develop a plan to significantly increase the number of 20mph zones not just outside schools but also across residential areas throughout the Borough.

Councillor Lamb stated that the supplemental question was supposed to be limited to one question rather than about four as submitted by Councillor Hunt. He would, however, in the interests of openness and transparency do his best to answer them.

He felt that everyone would agree that slower moving traffic was, generally speaking, safer as it reduced the stopping distances for the drivers, however, with all highway considerations, be that outside schools or anywhere else in the borough, there were three elements considered in terms of solutions. Firstly, education, secondly engineering and thirdly enforcement. As all Members would be aware, however, 20mph zones were only of any use if they were enforced and, of course, speed enforcement was the responsibility of the South Yorkshire Police rather than the Highways authority. He regretted, therefore, that it was very difficult for him to commit to working with the Highways Department purely on the implementation of further 20mph limits as it was not known if that would be the best solution and, in addition, it was not known if the South Yorkshire Police would be able to commit to the enforcement of those speed limits. Unfortunately, at the moment he could not commit to agreeing with that request.

(b) Councillor Fielding

'Many residents have asked me if the proposed children's play area at Penny Pie Park Gyratory can be placed in a different location further away from the traffic and the high levels of Nitrous Oxides emitted by that traffic but I am advised by the project team that it will be constructed as shown on the current plans, just yards from the new highway.'

Why is this location being used rather than one much further away from traffic?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) responded by thanking Councillor Fielding for his question. He stated that the scheme was being delivered in accordance with the planning application approved by the Planning Regulatory Board and the decision notice published in February 2019. He felt that Elected Members and indeed members of the public would expect nothing less of the Council than to comply with its own planning decisions.

Councillor Fielding wondered whether the Cabinet Member was aware that when the development was proposed the Council had commissioned a green space appraisal from their consultants Aecom in 2018. That proposal put forward three possible layouts for the green space within the park all of which located the play area in the north eastern corner of the green space as far away from the traffic and its pollutants as possible and he, therefore, asked as a supplementary question why the Council had not only ignored residents concerns on this matter but also the recommendations of its technical consultants.

Councillor Lamb, in response, stated that it was not for him to answer for the decisions of the Planning Regulatory Board and he suggested that Councillor Fielding raise this question with the Planning Regulatory Board as all the Council was doing was implementing the decisions of that Board.

(c) Councillor Kitching

'On 19th February this year Councillor Lamb issued a statement in response to concerns about the high costs of security at Penny Pie Park in which he said 'The anticipated cost for the security services, including the purchasing and hiring of fencing, totals £220,000'.

A little more than 6 months later, a report to Cabinet stated that the costs of security and fencing at Penny Pie Park now stand at £447,000.

Why have these costs more than doubled in this short time and can the Cabinet member please confirm that these increases are not as a result of scheme enhancements requested by residents.

What is the anticipated final cost for the security and fencing at Penny Pie Park?’

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Kitching for the question and responded by stating that as members would be aware, officers had carried out a detailed review of both the forecast and actual expenditure to inform the revised budget for the A628 Dodworth Road/Broadway Junction road improvement scheme. This had been set out in the recently approved Cabinet report regarding the awarding of the main Civil Works Contract.

Security was an essential part of the overall scheme budget as it was important to protect employees and residents. Members would also recall that an employee had actually been attacked on site and had required hospital treatment.

The revised budget had updated costings under the security budget at £447,000. Previously some of these costs had been allocated and shown against the contingency budget.

The estimated cost for security and fencing currently remained at £447,000.

Councillor Kitching thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and as a supplementary question asked if, given the massive increase in the cost of the scheme compared to what was estimated previously by the Council, why the Council taxpayers of Barnsley should have confidence in the figures issued by the Council in relation to capital projects such as this one going forward.

Councillor Lamb stated that he was unable to answer for every project in every scheme that the Council operated as it would not be possible for him to manage every one of those. He felt, however, that Council taxpayers should have every confidence in the costs of projects and value for money and this had been highlighted in agenda item 3 of today’s meeting as the Council had been given a ‘clean bill of health’ by independently appointed external auditors.

(d) Councillor Hunt

‘The Section 106 agreement accompanying the granting of outline planning permission for the former North Gawber Colliery site in Mapplewell, under planning reference 2014/0452, required the developer to pay a sum of £77,580 as a Highways Infrastructure Contribution towards improvement works associated with Swallow Hill Road, Mapplewell. This sum has been paid by the developer. Please can an update be provided on the plans of the council to implement these much-needed highway improvement works?’

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Hunt for his very timely question. He stated that the Highways and Engineering Services was currently undertaking a feasibility study focused on

the western end of Swallow Hill Road. The study would identify options for highway improvement works.

The Service would assess these options to find the best approach for the area, within the allocated budget.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for the updates which he welcomed as he had been trying to obtain an answer to his question for some time. He then, as a supplementary question, asked if Councillor Lamb could provide some firm timescales around when the feasibility work would be completed and when it was likely that the residents would see the benefit of these highway improvement works.

Councillor Lamb stated that, as all Members would be aware, the country was in the middle of a pandemic and he felt it would, therefore, be inappropriate for him to make any forecasts on behalf of the Highways and Engineering Department. He would, however, raise this question outside the meeting with the Head of Highways and Engineering in order that Councillor Hunt could be provided with an answer to his supplementary question.

(e) Councillor Hunt

‘On 23rd May the Secretary of State for Transport announced an active travel fund to support local authorities in implementing facilities for cycling and walking. The funding is in two tranches:-

- tranche 1 supports the installation of temporary projects for the COVID-19 pandemic*
- tranche 2 supports the creation of longer-term projects*

Please provide an update on the amount of funding that the council has secured in relation to this opportunity and what its plans are to implement schemes in relation to each tranche of funding.’

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Hunt for his question which was an area of the Council’s business that was very close to his own heart.

The Council very much welcome the money received from the Government’s Active Travel Fund. It had enabled the Council to move forward with plans for active travel improvements across the borough.

As Councillor Hunt had identified, there were two tranches. For the first tranche the Authority would receive £241,000 plus an additional £65,000 which was an underspend from other authorities.

The following progress had already been made on the tranche scheme:

- Improvements from the Town Centre link to the Trans Pennine Trail.
- Links from the Interchange through to Regent Street South, then Eastgate and onto the Barnsley District General Hospital.
- Links from the Hospital to Dodworth

The tranche 2 funding had not been confirmed but it was expected that around £90,000 would come into the borough.

The plans proposed would look at how improvements could be made to low traffic neighbourhoods and quiet streets in various locations.

Schemes were also proposed for Goldthorpe (which linked into the Stronger Towns Bid) and in Elsecar with links to the Elsecar Heritage Centre and the Trans Pennine Trail.

There were currently no timescales for the delivery of these projects, but work was ongoing to look at feasible of a range of options.

It was also reported that the Council had been awarded money through the Transforming Cities Fund which would be used to further enhance the active travel infrastructure across the whole of the borough.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and he asked, as a supplementary question in relation to the tranche 1 funding, which in total was around £300,000, if all the projects mentioned in the response had actually been completed as he was not aware, and neither were residents and it was not felt that there had been a great deal of visibility or publicity in relation to what had been done. He was aware that work had been undertaken to try to get better cycle connectivity to the hospital but questioned whether the other projects had been completed.

Councillor Lamb stated that as far as he was aware, progress was being made but if Councillor Hunt had a question in relation to a specific area of activity, he would be more than happy to take that away and have it looked at in greater detail.

72. Question by a Member of the Public

The Council received a written question received from a Member of the Public together with the response provided by the appropriate Cabinet Support Member.

The Mayor reminded Members that this was the last meeting of the year and, therefore, she extended to all, her best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

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Chair