

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 4 February 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interests

To receive any declarations of interest of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary nature from Members in respect of the items on this agenda (other than those recorded within the Minutes submitted for consideration at this meeting).

2. Minutes (*Pages 7 - 24*)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26th November, 2020.

3. Communications

To consider any communications to be submitted by the Mayor or the Chief Executive.

Item for Decision

4. Appointment to Outside Bodies

(a) Shaw Lands Trust

Proposed – 1 Member

(b) Safer Barnsley Partnership Board

Proposed – 1 Member drawn from the Police and Crime Panel

Recommendations to Council

All reports detailed below are subject to Cabinet recommendation and are available to download from the Council's website. The Cabinet Spokesperson for the Service in question will respond to any comments or amendments concerning these minutes.

5. Housing Revenue Account - Draft 2021/22 Budget and Investment Proposals 2021-26 (Cab.13.1.2021/8) (*Pages 25 - 38*)

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (i) that the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in Section 4 of the report submitted be noted;
- (ii) that the Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget for 2021/22 be approved, as outlined in Section 5, including the proposed revenue

investments and savings, as outlined in Section 6, with any final amendments/additions being delegated to the Cabinet Spokespersons for Place and the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);

- (iii) that a rent increase in line with the Government's rent policy be approved;
- (iv) that it be noted that there is no proposed change to non-dwelling rents, service charges and heating charges for 2021/22;
- (v) that the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee at paragraph 7.7 be approved, with any final amendments/additions delegated to the Cabinet Spokespersons for Place and the Service Director, Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);
- (vi) that the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee for both Gypsy and Traveller Sites be approved and in respect of the ESF Grant, both of which are charged to the Authority's General Fund, detailed at paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 respectively;
- (vii) that approval be given to the commitment to the decarbonisation of the Council house stock with an initial investment of £1.9M in 2021/22;
- (viii) that approval be given in principle, the proposed emerging capital priority schemes as detailed in Section 8, subject to individual reports as appropriate, in line with the Council's governance arrangements;
- (ix) that the Core Housing Capital Investment programme for 2021/22 be approved and that the indicative programme for 2022/23 through 2025/26, outlined in Section 8, be noted.

Minutes of the Regulatory Boards

- 6. Planning Regulatory Board - 24th November, 2020 (*Pages 39 - 42*)
- 7. Audit and Governance Committee - 2nd December, 2020 (*Pages 43 - 60*)
- 8. General Licensing Panels - Various (*Pages 61 - 62*)
- 9. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various (*Pages 63 - 64*)

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committees

- 10. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Strong and Resilient Workstream) - 1st December, 2020 (*Pages 65 - 70*)
- 11. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 12th January, 2021 (*Pages 71 - 76*)

Minutes of the Area Councils

12. Central Area Council - 2nd November, 2020 *(Pages 77 - 82)*
13. Dearne Area Council - 16th November, 2020 *(Pages 83 - 88)*
14. North Area Council - 23rd November, 2020 *(Pages 89 - 94)*
15. North East Area Council - 26th November, 2020 *(Pages 95 - 98)*
16. Penistone Area Council - 3rd December, 2020 *(Pages 99 - 102)*
17. South Area Council - 18th December, 2020 *(Pages 103 - 106)*

Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings

18. Cabinet Meeting - 18th November, 2020 *(Pages 107 - 108)*
19. Cabinet Meeting - 2nd December, 2020 *(Pages 109 - 114)*
20. Cabinet Meeting - 16th December, 2020 *(Pages 115 - 118)*
21. Cabinet Meeting - 13th January, 2021 *(Pages 119 - 124)*

(NB. No Cabinet decisions have been called in from these meetings)

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

Minutes of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, and Police and Crime Panel

Any Member of the Council shall have the opportunity to comment on any matters referred to in the following minutes.

The relevant representatives shall then be given the opportunity to respond to any comments made by Members on those minutes.

23. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 12th October, 2020 *(Pages 125 - 136)*
24. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 23rd November, 2020 *(Pages 137 - 144)*
25. Police and Crime Panel - 10th November, 2020 *(Pages 145 - 148)*
26. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 14th December, 2020 *(Pages 149 - 164)*
27. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 16th November, 2020 *(Pages 165 - 174)*

28. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority - 10th December, 2020 (Pages 175 - 184)

29. Questions by Elected Members

To consider any questions which may have been received from Elected Members and which are asked pursuant to Standing Order No. 11.

(a) Councillor Wilson

'South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy - One of the key priorities of the Strategy is to encourage our residents to recycle more. When is the Council going to be in a position to allow residents to recycle more plastic waste? At present we only recycle plastic bottles.'

(b) Councillor Lodge

'In November 2019, the Cabinet Member for Place (Regeneration and Culture) advised Members that the Council had launched an energy tariff to support residents at risk of fuel poverty. At the time, the partner energy provider was experiencing financial difficulties and despite these difficulties, residents were still encouraged to sign up. Since then, what has been done to ensure residents aren't out of pocket with their energy transfer to a Big 6 Supplier and support residents at risk or experiencing fuel poverty in the future?'

(c) Councillor Kitching

'Please can the Cabinet Member for Core Services supply a month-by-month breakdown of:

- a) The amount of Council Tax arrears*
- b) The amount of Berneslai Homes rent arrears*

since the start of the pandemic in March 2020?'

(d) Councillor Lofts

'If we are to enable residents to get out of their cars and choose alternative transport we must ensure they are safe to travel on our roads. Whilst Barnsley has many kilometres of safe off-road cycle ways; how many kilometres of safe, dedicated cycle lanes are there on Barnsley's roads?'

(e) Councillor Lodge

'Given the change in working habits, there has been a significant increase in recyclable and non-recyclable waste in households across the Borough. In order to limit the impact of this increased waste, is it now time look at increased waste collection?'

(f) Councillor Greenhough

'Has there been a drop off in the number of foster carers taking on short term and

emergency placements since the start of the pandemic in March 2020? This has been reported elsewhere due to foster carers shielding and anxieties about bringing others into the household.'

(g) Councillor Hunt

'How many reported incidents of fly tipping have there been in the last year, and how does this compare to previous years?'

(h) Councillor Kitching

'How many children have been deregistered from schools since they re- opened in September, 2020?'

(i) Councillor Kitching

'How many children who were de registered from schools since September 2020 were previously identified as vulnerable?'

(j) Councillor Kitching

'How many vulnerable individuals have been helped by the Council's Covid hardship fund so far?'

(k) Councillor Kitching

'How many of individuals who have been helped by the Councils Covid Hardship fund are older residents who receive winter fuel allowance?'

(l) Councillor Kitching

'In relation to the Council's Covid hardship fund, how much money has been given out and to how many people?'

Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6

30. No Cuts in Universal Credit - Let Families keep the £20 increase

Proposer - Councillor Ennis OBE

Seconder – Councillor Cherryholme

Aim: To maintain the income of low and middle income families

This council notes:

- Next April the Government plan to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent) announced by the Chancellor on 20th March as part of his pandemic response package.
- The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit. Exactly because that increase was a very

significant and welcome move to bolster low- and middle-income families living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.

- Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real-terms level since 1990-91, and it's lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed, the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was – at £73 a week (£3,800 a year) – less than half the absolute poverty line.
- The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.
- The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

This council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor, Rushi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
- Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.



Sarah Norman
Chief Executive

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

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 Gyrotory 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.

.....
Chair

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Item 5

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

JOINT REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORE / S151 OFFICER

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – DRAFT 21/22 BUDGET & INVESTMENT PROPOSALS 21-26

1) Purpose & Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the proposed HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy, the revised HRA Reserves Strategy, the 2021/22 HRA draft budget and the 2021/22 through 2025/26 Housing Capital Investment Programme.

2) Context & Strategic Overview

- 2.1 The HRA report is set within the broader context of changes within the housing sector. The recently published Social Housing White paper "The Charter for Social Housing Residents" marks a step change in regulation and focus for all housing providers. The Regulatory framework includes both the Regulator of Social Housing, the new Building Safety Regulator and strong links to the Housing Ombudsman. Local Authorities and Arms Length Management Organisations will be part of a new inspection regime and will be required under the white paper proposals to strength and focus their work on health and safety, tenant empowerment and the decarbonisation agenda. This will have financial implications for the future investment in council homes, with enhanced decent homes standard including energy efficiency.
- 2.2 Within this context, work has commenced to identify the implications for Barnsley Council and Berneslai Homes on the delivery and investment requirements. This year's draft budget includes some initial investment on the decarbonisation agenda and further work is underway on the additional requirements for investment in future years to meet the requirements of the white paper. A new asset management strategy coupled with a review of the 30 year business plan will be undertaken in early 2021.

3) Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) note the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in Section 4;
 - (ii) approve the Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget for 2021/22, as outlined in Section 5, including the proposed revenue investments and savings, as outlined in Section 6, with any final amendments / additions being delegated to the Cabinet Spokesperson for Place and the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);
 - (iii) approve a rent increase in line with the Government's rent policy;
 - (iv) note that there is no proposed change to non-dwelling rents, service charges and heating charges for 2021/22;
 - (v) approve the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee at paragraph 7.7, with any final amendments / additions delegated to the Cabinet Spokesperson for Place and the Service Director, Regeneration & Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);

- (vi) approve the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee for both Gypsy & Traveller Sites and in respect of the ESF Grant, both of which are charged to the Authority's General Fund, detailed at paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 respectively;
- (vii) approve the commitment to the decarbonisation of the council house stock with an initial investment of £1.9M in 2021/22;
- (viii) approve in principle, the proposed emerging capital priority schemes as detailed in Section 8, subject to individual reports as appropriate, in line with the Council's governance arrangements;
- (ix) approve the Core Housing Capital Investment programme for 2021/22 and that the indicative programme for 2022/23 through 2025/26, outlined in Section 8, be noted;
- (x) resolve to recommend to full Council.

4) **Medium Term Financial Strategy & HRA Reserves Strategy**

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

- 4.1 On 11th December 2019, the Council set a balanced HRA budget for 2020/21 and considered a medium-term position that included a framework for delivering a balanced budget in 2021/22. Table 1 describes the movement in the financial position from the previously reported baseline MTFS as described above, including the impact of the review of key assumptions that underpin both key expenditure lines and income streams, together with updates in respect of previously agreed decisions and other fixed and ongoing costs. The table also considers the level of efficiencies identified as part of the planning process which results in the amount of resources available for investment at this time. **Recommendation i) refers.**

TABLE 1: HRA MTFS Position 2021-23

	2021/22 £M	2022/23 £M	Comments
Initial (Surplus) / Gap as at Dec 19	(0.374)	(0.680)	
Rental Income	0.650	1.030	Reduction in CPI Rate from the expected 2% due to Covid pandemic. [0.5% in 21/22 / 1% assumed in 22/23], partially offset by stock numbers being higher than anticipated.
Repairs & Maintenance	(0.213)	(0.317)	Reduction in CPI Rate from the expected 2% due to Covid pandemic. [0.5% in 21/22 / 1% assumed in 22/23]
BH Management Fee	-	(0.119)	Reduction in CPI Rate from the expected 2% due to Covid pandemic. [0.5% in 21/22 / 1% assumed in 22/23]
Provision for Bad Debt	0.130	-	Additional provision given expected impact on collection rates as a result of Covid 19
Other Costs	(0.085)	(0.200)	Other reductions in costs in relation to CPI being less than expected.
Revised (Surplus) / Gap as at Jan 21	0.108	(0.286)	
Efficiency / Savings Proposals			
Contribution to Capital - Permanent	(1.000)	(1.000)	Assumed savings as a result of revised PRIP contract
Contribution to Capital - Temporary	(0.300)	-	Review of 21/22 District Heating Programme
Pension Deficit	(0.328)	(0.328)	Reduction in pension deficit contributions

	2021/22	2022/23	Comments
Revised (Surplus) / Gap as at Jan 2021 Post Efficiencies	(1.520)	(1.614)	

- 4.2 The worsening HRA position (before any efficiency proposals) in both 2021/22 and 2022/23 is largely due to the effect that Covid 19 has had on the CPI rate, which is the key driver in respect of the HRA base budget, specifically on the rents that are set for tenants. This is somewhat offset by the expected reduction in the increase in prices of certain elements, e.g. repairs and maintenance.
- 4.3 A number of efficiencies have been identified to provide scope for some revenue investments, the most significant of those relating to the Council's new arrangements for its PRIP contract with partners Berneslai Homes and Wates. The S151 Officer's advice is to consider investment proposals accordingly for 2021/22 and beyond within the £1.5M recurrent funding currently available. Section 5 of this report identifies these revenue investments. This is subject to an ongoing review of the Council's capital plan in respect of its investment programme in its council house stock and other key assumptions.

The HRA Reserves Strategy

- 4.4 The HRA has accumulated reserves totalling £31.8M as at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, as reported in the Housing Revenue Account Final Accounts Report (Cab.10.6.2020/8 refers). A review of existing HRA reserves has been undertaken by the Council's S151 Officer and a reprioritisation exercise completed, reflecting the current risk environment within the HRA (Table 2 refers).
- 4.5 Berneslai Homes Ltd has also accumulated a level of surpluses from previous few years. In 2018/19, the Council identified resources totalling £8.9M that were made available for Council and Berneslai Homes priorities. Since that time, £1.2M has been incurred on those priorities, which leaves £7.7M remaining.
- 4.6 The Council also retains an element of the capital receipts that are generated from the sale of Council Houses. The Section 151 Officer has released £1.0M of these resources to support the housing capital investment programme.
- 4.7 The Council also receives Section 106 (S106) contributions from housing developers as part of the agreements to allow house building in the borough. The Council currently has restricted S106 funds of £3.3M specifically for housing purposes which have been fully committed against schemes identified as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.
- 4.8 Table 2 shows the currently available reserves, the amounts committed against those reserves in terms of approved schemes and the subsequent remaining resources for consideration.

TABLE 2: HRA Resources Position

	Reprioritised Reserves As at 1 st April 2020	Current Commitments	Remaining for Consideration
	£M	£M	£M
Resources Position:			
<u>Housing Reserves</u>			
<i>Earmarked For:</i>			
Housing Growth Reserve	20.2	(18.4)	1.8
Welfare Reform Reserve	2.0	(2.0)	-
New Build Bungalows Reserve	0.4	(0.4)	-
Compliance / H&S Programmes	0.7	(0.7)	-
Minimum Working Balance	7.0	(7.0)	-
Financial Recovery – Covid 19	0.6	(0.6)	-

	Reprioritised Reserves As at 1 st April 2020	Current Commitments	Remaining for Consideration
	£M	£M	£M
Review of 30 Year Capital Plan	0.9	(0.9)	-
Housing Reserves	31.8	(30.0)	1.8
Berneslai Homes Reserves	7.7	(7.3)	0.4
Capital Receipts	1.2	-	1.2
S106 Contributions	3.3	(3.3)	-
Total	44.0	(40.6)	3.4

5) Housing Strategy & Approach

- 5.1 The Council's strategic approach for investment in its housing services, for both revenue and capital investment mirrors the approach for general fund services, as agreed in the Council's Capital Investment Strategy and tracks the principles outlined in the Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 and External Funding Strategy, as described in Section 8 of this report. Available resources are identified over the medium term with housing priority proposals being submitted for consideration. This allows a more effective, robust and consistent planning process together with maintaining a flexible approach in respect of addressing emerging issues.
- 5.2 A business planning workshop was held in July 2020 between the Council and Berneslai Homes with the aim of identifying key priorities and the overall strategic direction of the HRA, moving forwards. Further discussions have since taken place with Berneslai Homes with additional priorities linked to service transformation being identified by the CEO. These priorities have been considered within the overall financial context of the HRA and are incorporated within this report.
- 5.3 Strategic investment priorities were agreed which focussed on ensuring Regulatory Compliance alongside wider priorities such as homelessness / inclusive growth, zero carbon and housing growth, which can be found in Sections 6 and 8 respectively.
- 5.4 The strategy and approach for defining longer term priorities will now be considered collaboratively as part of the Council's emerging 2030 Place Based Plan including subsequent updates to both the Council's and Berneslai Homes' corporate plans.

6) Revenue Investment Proposals

- 6.1 In line with the strategy outlined in Section 5, and within the financial context explained in Section 4, a number of revenue investment proposals have been identified by both Berneslai Homes and Council services for consideration.
- 6.2 These proposals have been assessed in line with the agreed process (per Section 5) ensuring that resources are aligned to the Council's housing priorities. The investments prioritised for consideration are summarised in Table 3. Further information is available on request.
- Recommendation ii) refers.**

TABLE 3: HRA Revenue Investment Priorities 2021-23

Permanent Revenue Investment Proposals	2021/22 £M	2022/23 £M	Investment Theme
Revised (Surplus) / Gap	(1.520)	(1.614)	
HRA 1 - Investment in Regulatory Compliance Programmes e.g. Electric, Gas, Fire Checks	0.658	0.658	Compliance / Regulatory
HRA 2 – Investment in Additional Capacity (Berneslai Homes)	0.500	0.500	Service Transformation
HRA 3 - Investment in Occupational Therapist	0.060	0.060	Service Transformation
HRA 4 - Increase in Cost of Utilities	0.096	0.096	Cost Pressures
HRA 5 - Performance Officer **	0.024	0.024	Service Transformation
HRA 6 - 16-17 Year Old Supported Housing for Complex Needs *	0.182	0.182	Homelessness / Inclusive Growth
Sub Total – Investments	1.520	1.520	
Revised (Surplus) / Gap	-	(0.094)	

* Agreed as part of 2020/21 Budget Setting Process

** No overall impact on HRA revenue position as capitalised against capital programme

7) **Housing Revenue Account Proposed Budget**

- 7.1 Table 4 shows the approved revenue budget for 2020/21 together with the proposed budget for 2021/22 and indicatively for 2022/23, on the basis that the identified efficiencies and the proposed revenue investments are approved. Paragraphs 7.2 – 7.11 provide further explanation of the key components of the budget, particularly where approval is required. **Recommendation ii) refers.**

TABLE 4 - HRA Proposed Revenue Budget 2021-23

	2020/21 Approved £M	2021/22 Draft £M	2022/23 Draft £M	Paragraph
INCOME				
Dwellings Rent	(69.754)	(70.690)	(71.799)	7.2 – 7.4 7.5
Non Dwellings Rents	(0.361)	(0.361)	(0.364)	
Heating Charges	(0.525)	(0.525)	(0.530)	
Other Charges for Services and Facilities	(0.465)	(0.465)	(0.470)	
Contributions Towards Expenditure	(1.057)	(1.057)	(0.911)	
	(72.162)	(73.098)	(74.074)	
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs and Maintenance (Including Fees)	19.171	19.527	19.629	7.6 – 7.10 7.11
Berneslai Homes' Management Fee	12.162	13.266	13.399	
Other Supervision, Management & Special Services	5.962	6.064	6.120	
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	0.254	0.257	0.259	
Provision for Doubtful Debts	2.093	2.269	2.154	
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	12.383	12.383	12.383	
Debt Management Costs	0.098	0.100	0.101	
	52.123	53.866	54.045	
Net Cost of Services	(20.039)	(19.232)	(20.029)	
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	11.256	11.256	11.360	
Investment Income	(0.130)	(0.057)	(0.057)	
Net Operating Expenditure	(8.913)	(8.033)	(8.830)	
Appropriations				
Transfer to/from Major Repairs Reserve	8.767	7.887	8.590	
Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.146	0.146	0.146	
Base Budget	-	-	(0.094)	

Dwelling Rents

- 7.2 The Government has confirmed that from 2020/21 dwelling rents can be increased in line with CPI inflation (Consumer Price Index), plus 1% for the 5 year period through to 2024/25.
- 7.3 The rate of CPI as at September 2020 was 0.5%. It is proposed that dwelling rents will be increased in 2020/21 by **1.5%** in line with the Government's rent policy and the requirement from April 2020 for local authorities to comply with the Regulator of Social Housing Rent Standard. **Recommendation iii) refers.**
- 7.4 The proposed average rents for the various types of properties, for 2021/22 are shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5: Average Rent by Property Type

Property Type	Number of Bedrooms	Average Rent per Week (Based on 48 Weekly Bills)	
		2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Bedsit	0	£51.58	£52.35
Flat	0	£60.85	£61.76
	1	£60.31	£61.21
	2	£67.59	£68.60
	3	£72.34	£73.43
Bungalow	1	£62.03	£62.96
	2	£69.27	£70.31
	3	£81.43	£82.65
	4	£122.95	£124.79
House	1	£63.84	£64.80
	2	£70.05	£71.10
	3	£74.96	£76.08
	4	£80.84	£82.05
	5	£88.45	£89.78
	6	£108.45	£110.08
Maisonette	3	£75.11	£76.24
OVERALL AVERAGE WEEKLY RENT		£80.50	£81.71

Non-Dwelling Rents, Service Charges and Heating Charges

- 7.5 The Council recognises that there have not been any increases to the current level of non-dwelling rents, service charges and heating charges respectively over the past few years. As a result of the Covid pandemic and the significant impact that it has had on people's incomes, it is therefore proposed that no changes are applied to the current level for the 2021/22 financial year. A fundamental review will be undertaken during 2021. **Recommendation iv) refers.**

Berneslai Homes Management Fee

- 7.6 The proposed Berneslai Homes Management Fee in respect of the HRA is estimated at £13.266M for 2021/22 and indicatively £13.399M in 2022/23 as detailed in Table 6.

TABLE 6: Berneslai Homes HRA Management Fee

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
BH HRA Management Fee Bfwd	12,162,442	13,266,082
<u>Fixed / Ongoing Costs</u>		
Inflation, Pay Award & Increments	238,640	132,661
	238,640	132,661
<u>Investment & Other Policy Decisions</u>		
HRA 2 - Investment in Additional Capacity (Berneslai Homes)	500,000	-
HRA 3 - Investment in Occupational Therapist	60,000	-
HRA 4 - Increase in Cost of Utilities	96,000	-
HRA 5 - Performance Officer **	24,000	-
HRA 7 - Environmental Improvement Apprenticeship Scheme *	185,000	-
	865,000	-
Proposed BH HRA Management Fee	13,266,082	13,398,743

* Agreed as part of 2020/21 Budget Setting Process

** No impact on HRA Revenue Position as capitalised to the Capital Programme

- 7.7 The additional management fee proposal has been developed as part of the review of the governance and management of Berneslai Homes during 2020. The proposal increases resources to support the delivery of the new strategic plan, introducing much needed Head of Service roles within the Customer Services Directorate and a Head of Governance & Policy. In addition, the restructure introduces new 'housing coach' roles, aimed at increasing support to tenants and sustaining tenancies, reducing both council tax and rent arrears. The new Occupational Therapist will address the significant delaying in major adaptations having a significant impact on the backlog of people awaiting life changing adaptations to their homes and reducing void loss. The environmental improvement scheme is to be expanded to develop community refurbishment schemes to improve neighbourhoods and provide much needed apprenticeships to young people of Barnsley.
- 7.8 On the basis that the proposed investments and efficiencies are approved, the BH management fee has been increased overall by a total of £1.104M from the 2020/21 fee, predominately as a result of the new investments proposed. **Recommendation v) refers.**
- 7.9 In addition to the proposed management fee charged to the HRA as per Table 6, Berneslai Homes also propose to charge the Council's General Fund in respect of two specific items which are described below:
- for the management of the Gypsy & Traveller sites in the Borough, which totals a proposed £0.065M for 2021/22 (£0.064M in 2020/21); and
 - The Council and Berneslai Homes have been successful in securing European Social Fund (ESF) grant for two employment support projects, "*Sector Routeways*" and "*Tenants First*". The costs of the two projects are split between the two respective organisations. The Berneslai Homes' element is transferred to the Council's General Fund via the management fee. The Council will receive the full grant entitlement. The expected cost to Berneslai Homes totals £0.134M in 2021/22.
- Recommendation vi) refers.**
- 7.10 Therefore, the proposed Berneslai Homes Management Fee to the Council in totality for 2021/22 totals £13.465M.

Other Supervision, Management & Special Services

- 7.11 The HRA is charged for its share of General Fund services that it consumes in providing services to tenants. The proposed changes are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7: Other Supervision, Management & Special Services Budget 2021-2023

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Other Supervision, Management & Special Services Bfwd	5,961,592	5,961,591
<u>Fixed / Ongoing Costs</u>		
Inflation on General Fund Services	89,590	56,111
	89,590	56,111
<u>Investment & Other Policy Decisions</u>		
HRA 6 - 16-17 Year Old Supported Housing for Complex Needs *	181,540	-
	181,540	-
<u>Capitalisation of Staff Costs</u>		
HRA 7 - Environmental Improvement Apprenticeship Scheme *	(145,000)	-
HRA 5 - Performance Officer	(24,000)	-
	(169,000)	-
Proposed Other Supervision, Management & Special Services	6,063,722	6,119,832

* Agreed as part of 2020/21 Budget Setting Process

8) 2020 - 26 Council Housing Investment Programme

- 8.1 The Council's Housing Capital Investment Programme consists of two components:

- **Housing Growth** – These capital programmes relate to supplementary, added value investment in both the Council's housing stock and housing related activities; and
- **The Core Programme** – These capital programmes relate to maintaining the housing stock at decency, including reactive replacements and elemental works together with a number of supplementary capital programmes relating to works on adaptations and major structural works etc.

Housing Growth

- 8.2 A number of capital investment proposals have been submitted by both Berneslai Homes and Council officers for consideration in line with the agreed process at Section 5. The investments prioritised at this stage, and requiring approval are summarised in Table 8, with further information available on request. **Recommendation viii) refers.**

TABLE 8: Capital Investment Priorities 2021 – 2025 (Subject to Approval)

Capital Investment Proposals	Investment Theme	2021/22 £M	2022/23 £M	2023/24 £M	2024/25 £M	Total £M
HRA A – Fire Safety Works	Compliance / Regulatory	0.100	-	-	-	0.100
HRA B – Lang Avenue Flooding Resilience *	Compliance / Regulatory	1.007	-	-	-	1.007
HRA C – Sprinkler Installation	Compliance / Regulatory	0.350	-	-	-	0.350
HRA D – Energy Efficiency – Air Source Air Heat Pumps	Zero 2045	1.100	-	-	-	1.100
HRA E – Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Pilot / Match Funding	Zero 2045	0.800	-	-	-	0.800
TOTAL		3.357	-	-	-	3.357

* This scheme is subject to an external funding bid. Should this funding bid be successful, then the resources will be released and reprioritised accordingly.

- 8.3 These schemes have been included in Tables 9 and 10 and are subject to formal approval.
- 8.4 The schemes that have, at this stage, been deferred, will form part of the Council's pipeline of schemes moving forwards in line with the Council's Capital Investment Strategy and External Funding Strategy, whereby should any further resources be identified, then these schemes will be considered accordingly.

The Council's Core Investment Programme

- 8.5 The Council's Decency Programme relates to capital replacement of components within the Council's housing stock, thereby maintaining the Barnsley Homes Decency Standard. The core programme targets those properties where elements such as kitchens; bathrooms; heating systems; windows and external doors need replacing. Investment in the council housing stock ensures properties remain lettable and the rental income ensures the viability of the HRA. In terms of 2021/22, the savings identified from the new PRIP contract has allowed the budget to be reduced by £1.000M, whilst the same outcomes / outputs are still achievable i.e. 1,400 dwellings maintained at decency. The investment proposed for 2021/22 totals £13.528M.

Recommendation ix) refers

- 8.6 The Council also plans a series of supplementary investment works to support the Core Investment Programme and relate to supporting district heating networks, funding major adaptations to properties, providing works to void properties to bring them up to standard, and more fundamental structural works that are required to the Council's housing stock. The investment proposed for 2021/22 totals £5.102M. **Recommendation ix) refers.**
- 8.7 Berneslai Homes are currently developing a new asset management strategy, which will ensure a more effective approach to the investment in the Council housing stock. Following the Grenfell tragedy, the focus on fire safety and compliance has resulted in additional investment requirements to ensure the safety of tenants. In addition, work is underway to utilise more effectively the data held in the asset management system, PIMSS and collating information on stock condition including EPC levels. This data will be used in future to develop the investment requirements in the HRA business plan. The longer term ambitions for the stock are to ensure that all homes meet the zero carbon targets, EPC level C as a minimum. Work will be undertaken during 2021 to assess the level of investment required to meet the zero carbon, building safety and general stock condition over the life of the business plan. The information will be used to develop the Council's investment requirements from 2022/23.
- 8.8 Table 9 summarises the capital investment into the Council's housing stock, including both the Core Programme and Housing Growth, and shows the funding stream proposed to fund these programmes. Approval is sought for £21.987M and is shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9: Council Housing Investment Programme 2021 - 2026

	2020/21 £M	Existing Approvals 2021/22 £M	For Approval In Principle 2021/22 £M	Indicative				TOTAL (Inc. 2020/21) £M
				2022/23 £M	2023/24 £M	2024/25 £M	2025/26 £M	
Core Programme:								
Barnsley Homes Standard	18.465	-	13.528	13.915	14.317	14.734	15.180	90.139
Heating Works	1.387	-	0.781	1.081	1.081	1.081	1.081	6.492
Major Adaptations	2.016	-	2.007	2.007	2.007	2.007	2.007	12.051
Structural Extensive Works	1.675	-	1.685	1.685	1.685	1.685	1.685	10.100
Other	0.544	-	0.629	0.629	0.629	0.629	0.879	3.939
Sub Total – Core Programme	24.087	-	18.630	19.317	19.719	20.136	20.832	122.721
Housing Growth Investment:								
New Build	3.955	7.900	-	1.260	-	-	-	13.115
Acquisitions / Conversions	3.088	2.207	-	1.000	1.000	-	-	7.295
Regulatory / Compliance	-	1.400	0.450	-	-	-	-	1.850
Zero Carbon Initiatives	-	0.250	1.900	0.250	0.250	0.250	-	2.900
Other Housing Growth	0.931	1.846	1.007	1.395	0.395	0.195	-	5.769
Sub Total – Housing Growth (Table 10)	7.974	13.603	3.357	3.905	1.645	0.445	-	30.929
Total Expenditure	32.061	13.603	21.987	23.222	21.364	20.581	20.832	153.650
Resources:								
Major Repairs Reserve	(24.086)	-	(18.630)	(19.317)	(19.719)	(20.136)	(20.832)	(122.720)
Capital Receipts	-	-	(1.118)	-	-	-	-	(1.118)
1-4-1 Capital Receipts	(0.969)	(0.487)	-	-	-	-	-	(1.456)
HRA Reserves	(4.737)	(9.068)	(1.816)	(2.538)	(1.645)	(0.445)	-	(20.249)
Grants & Contributions	(2.191)	(4.048)	(0.423)	(1.367)	-	-	-	(8.029)
RCCO	(0.078)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(0.078)
Total Resources	(32.061)	(13.603)	(21.987)	(23.222)	(21.364)	(20.581)	(20.832)	(153.650)

- 8.9 Members should note that the capital programme for approval, as part of these budget proposals, totals £21.987M and is shown in the yellow column in Table 9, including the £3.357M new housing growth proposals as outlined in Table 8.
- 8.10 It should also be noted that included in the Core Programme 2020/21 position, includes schemes that have been delayed from 2019/20.
- 8.11 A full breakdown per scheme of the Council's current housing growth investment schemes (£30.929M in total) can be found in Table 10, which includes the 2021/22 investments that are subject to approval, which are highlighted in blue and shown in the yellow shaded column.

TABLE 10: Housing Growth Investment Programme – 2020 – 2026

	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Housing Growth		Existing Approvals	For Approval				
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
New Build							
Billingley View	2.501	-	-	-	-	-	2.501
Sunnybank / Overdale	-	0.315	-	0.280	-	-	0.595
Laithes Lane	-	0.500	-	0.700	-	-	1.200
Goldthorpe Hotel Redevelopment	-	0.280	-	0.280	-	-	0.560
King Street, Hoyland	-	2.800	-	-	-	-	2.800
St Michael's Avenue	1.181	4.005	-	-	-	-	5.186
Kenworthy Road	0.176	-	-	-	-	-	0.176
Other	0.097	-	-	-	-	-	0.097
	3.955	7.900	-	1.260	-	-	13.115
Acquisitions / Conversions							
Strategic 106 Acquisitions	1.410	-	-	-	-	-	1.410
Empty Homes Acquisitions	1.581	0.783	-	-	-	-	2.364
Property Conversions	0.097	0.424	-	-	-	-	0.521
Strategic Acquisitions	-	1.000	-	1.000	1.000	-	3.000
	3.088	2.207	-	1.000	1.000	-	7.295
Regulatory / Compliance							
Sprinkler Systems to 4 Independent Living Schemes	-	0.400	-	-	-	-	0.400
Sprinkler Systems to Sheffield Road Flats	-	1.000	-	-	-	-	1.000
HRA A - Fire Safety Works	-	-	0.100	-	-	-	0.100
HRA C - Further Sprinkler Works	-	-	0.350	-	-	-	0.350
	-	1.400	0.450	-	-	-	1.850
Zero Carbon Initiatives							
Installation of Solar PV	-	0.250	-	0.250	0.250	0.250	1.000
HRA D - Air Source Heat Pumps / Decarbonisation	-	-	1.100	-	-	-	1.100
HRA E - Social Housing Decarbonisation - Pilot Match Funding	-	-	0.800	-	-	-	0.800
	-	0.250	1.900	0.250	0.250	0.250	2.900
Other Housing Growth							
HRA Surveyor	-	0.101	-	-	-	-	0.101
HRA B - Lang Avenue Flood Defences	-	-	1.007	-	-	-	1.007
Supported Housing Proposal	0.475	0.124	-	-	-	-	0.599
Feasibility Studies	-	0.100	-	-	-	-	0.100
Customer Services IT System	-	1.000	-	1.000	-	-	2.000
Increase Equipment & Adaptations Budget	0.400	0.200	-	0.200	0.200	-	1.000
Environmental Improvements	0.056	0.177	-	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.818
Other	-	0.144	-	-	-	-	0.144
	0.931	1.846	1.007	1.395	0.395	0.195	5.769
Housing Growth Investment Programme *	7.974	13.603	3.357	3.905	1.645	0.445	30.929
KEY: 2021/22 Investment Proposals							

9. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that individual dwelling rents be decreased in line with the Government's rent policy. The capital programme is affordable over the five year period and consistent with the Council's approved Housing Strategy.

10. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- 10.1 The budget has been developed with the aim of ensuring wherever possible that existing approved policies and support of corporate strategies can continue to be delivered. From the many alternative approaches available the package of proposals in this report is considered to best achieve this intention.

11. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

- 11.1 The effective management of the HRA helps to consistently drive forward service improvements for the benefit of both council tenants and the wider community and ensure investment and maintenance in council housing.
- 11.2 The capital programme is designed to meet decency standards and has aspects within it to help reduce fuel poverty and to maximise opportunities to invest in affordable warmth initiatives. The major adaptations budget also supports the continued independent living of vulnerable people.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 These proposals set a balanced budget for 2021/22 with a framework to achieve a balanced position for 2022/23, including increasing rents in line with the Government's rent policy at CPI + 1%.
- 12.2 The total estimated cost of the 2021/26 core capital programme (including 2020/21) is £122.7M and is affordable over this period.
- 12.3 The proposals contained within the report includes £3.4M of new investment in the Council house stock for 2021/22. The total estimated cost of the current Housing Growth Investment capital programme, including the £3.4M, totals £30.9M, which is to be funded by specific resources currently held within the HRA.
- 12.4 From these budget proposals, service provision to tenants and capital investment to maintain housing stock at decency levels have both been maintained.

13. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Any employee implications will be addressed as detailed scheme proposals are developed and approved.

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 None

15. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 None

16. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 Communications and Marketing will work in partnership with Berneslai Homes to communicate the outcomes of this report through their established channels.

- 16.2 Berneslai Homes will use their established channels to engage with their tenants who will be directly affected by the proposed capital works.

17. CONSULTATIONS

- 17.1 Discussions have taken place with the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer) and the Executive Director – Place.
- 17.2 Consultations have and will continue to take place with Berneslai Homes and tenants.
- 17.3 Consultations with local members on the Barnsley Homes Standard and on any other major capital schemes in their area will continue to take place.
- 17.4 Consultations on the Council Housing Capital Investment Programme have and will continue to take place with BMBC Planning and Highways, Legal Services, Internal Audit and NPS Barnsley where appropriate.

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 Welfare and Work Act 2016
- 18.2 Housing and Planning Act 2016 21.3 Budget working papers containing exempt information - not available for inspection.

Report author: Neil Copley

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MEETING:	Planning Regulatory Board
DATE:	Tuesday, 24 November 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Richardson (Chair), T. Cave, Danforth, Eastwood, Fielding, Frost, Gillis, Gollick, Green, Greenhough, David Griffin, Hand-Davis, Hayward, Higginbottom, W. Johnson, Leech, Makinson, McCarthy, Mitchell, Noble, Phillips, Spence and Wright

In attendance

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary interest in respect of any of the applications on the agenda.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. Land at Barugh Green Road and Cannon Road Junction, Barugh Green, Barnsley - 2019/1567 (LBC) and 2020/0027 (PP) - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on Planning Application 2019/1567 (LBC) & 2020/0027 (PP) - Highways works comprising construction of new roundabout to create a road link into MU1 Local Plan allocation site and associated alterations to existing road alignment and relocation of grade II listed milepost, Land at Barugh Green Road and Cannon Road Junction, Barugh Green, Barnsley.

RESOLVED that both applications be approved in accordance with the Officer recommendation, subject to the imposition of a further condition requiring painting and refurbishment of the listed milestone as part of its relocation.

4. Land at Higham Common Road, Higham, Barnsley - 2020/0028 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on Planning Application 2020/0028: Highways Infrastructure Proposal at Higham Common Road at land at Higham Common Road, Higham, Barnsley

RESOLVED that the application be approved in accordance with the Officer recommendation.

5. Former Belmont Care Home and adjacent farmland between Garden Close and Back Lane, Monk Bretton, Barnsley, S71 2DY - 2019/0991 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on Planning Application 2019/0991: Demolition of former care home, existing farmhouse and farm buildings and erection of residential development of up to 82no. dwellings (outline with all matters reserved apart from means of access) at Former Belmont Care Home and adjacent farmland between Garden Close and Back Lane, Monk Bretton, Barnsley, S71 2DY.

RESOLVED that the application be approved in accordance with the Officer recommendation and subject to the completion of a S106 Agreement on the terms explained within the report and the list of conditions

6. Enforcement Quarterly Report - July to September 2020

Planning Regulatory Board Members were provided with an update on Planning Enforcement Service activity covering the Quarter 3 period of this reporting year 2020/2021 (July to September 2020). The report included a breakdown of the requests for service received and included details of key actions and enforcement case outcomes during the quarter

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. Member Consultations - October 2020

The Head of Planning and Building Control presented a report summarising the outcomes of the planning applications agenda pack issued as a Board Member consultation in lieu of the Planning Regulatory Board meeting held on 20th October 2020.

RESOLVED that the consultation report be noted.

8. Planning Appeals - 1st to 31st October 2020

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted an update regarding cumulative appeal totals for 2019/20.

The report indicated that 3 appeals were received, none were withdrawn and 5 appeals were decided in October 2020.

It was reported that 21 appeals have been decided since 01 April 2020, 18 of which (86%) have been dismissed and 3 of which (14%) have been allowed.

RESOLVED that the appeals update be noted.

Chair

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MEETING:	Audit and Governance Committee
DATE:	Wednesday, 2 December 2020
TIME:	4.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Loftis (Chair), Barnard, P. Birkinshaw and Richardson together with Independent Members - Ms K Armitage, Ms D Brown, Mr S Gill, Mr P Johnson and Mr M Marks

8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th October, 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Written responses to questions arising from the Minutes by Members of the Committee were provided as follows:

- In response to questioning it was reported that Grant Thornton were subject to 6 Financial Reporting Council (FRC) reviews across their NHS and Local Government client base in 2018/19. Of those, 5 had been rated at '2b'. It should be noted that these 6 audits only represented a small proportion of their NHS and Local Government client base (where they had 33% and 45% of the external market respectively) and by the FRC's admission, they selected the higher risk audits. None of the 6 files reviewed were in Yorkshire.

Clearly the results of these reviews were not the outcomes that Grant Thornton were looking for. The FRC's principal finding with the files was in relation to the level of audit work performed and challenge to clients and their valuers in respect of the valuation of PPE (Property, Plant and Equipment) (fixed assets). Grant Thornton had discussed at previous Committee meetings the FRC's focus on this area of public sector accounts.

In response to the findings, for the 2019/20 audits they had engaged their own 'auditor's expert' (Wilks Head Eve LLP) to enhance and augment their work on the valuation of PPE, using them to consider assumptions and judgements used by their clients and their valuers.

In relation to the Council an assurance was given that Grant Thornton had performed a comprehensive and robust review of the PPE balance as part of the 2019/20 audit. They had performed extensive testing of PPE valuations, vigorously challenging both the Finance Team and the Council's valuer to justify their valuations of PPE.

It was hoped that the actions taken in their 2019/20 audits were acknowledged by the FRC in their review of the 2019/20 audit files which would take place in 2021.

- It was noted that Grant Thornton had signed their opinion on Monday 30th November, 2020, which followed their presentation to full Council on the 26th November, 2020. The opinion was an unqualified 'clean' opinion on the accounts with emphasis of matter paragraphs on the valuation of PPE and the Council's share of the Pension Fund assets – both as a result of Covid-19. The Value for Money conclusion had also been unqualified
- The National Audit Office revised audit code for Value for Money work was to be effective from the 2020/21 audits. There would be a minimum level of work to be performed across 3 areas (financial position, governance and agreements to secure Efficiency, Economy and Effectiveness). There would be a separate report produced by the auditors summarising the VFM work. It proposed that the External Auditors would summarise the new approach to the Audit and Governance Committee in the New Year
- It was also proposed that Grant Thornton would contribute to a future Audit and Governance Workshop on the findings from their public interest report findings at both Nottingham City Council and the London Borough of Croydon in terms of the lessons to learn/red flags that resulted in the circumstances at these two councils
- It was noted that the contract with NPS Barnsley Ltd would terminate on the 31st March, 2021. The contract with NORSE would terminate on the 31st July, 2021

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL LETTER 2020 - REVIEW REPORT

Further to Minute No 82 of the meeting held on the 16th September, 2020, the Executive Director Core Services submitted a report presenting the findings of a review following the receipt of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGSCO) Annual Review Letter. The letter from the Ombudsman and proposed Action Plan detailing the service improvements to address the issues identified were appended to the report.

The report, which was presented by the Executive Director and Mrs K Liddall, Head of Programmes, Projects, Feedback and Improvement outlined in some detail the following:

- The background to the work of the LGSCO and the role and responsibility of the Council in responding to complaints received
- The detailed findings of the Ombudsman's Letter. It was noted that 57% of complaints investigated were upheld compared to an average of 67% in similar authorities; 100% of the Ombudsman's recommendations had been implemented; and 25% of upheld complaints had been found to be satisfactorily remedied prior to the escalation to the Ombudsman compared to an average of 11% in similar authorities
- The failure to respond to and implement the LGSCO recommendations in a timely manner was disappointing. The reasons for this were outlined and the difficulties encountered particularly in relation to complex cases were referred

to. It was important, however, to ensure that timely responses were provided and, therefore, an immediate and fundamental review of processes and procedures had been initiated which had been supported by the Data Protection Officer.

- Of the 54 complaints received, only 8 cases were upheld, 2 of which required no further action. A 'deep dive' into the remaining 6 cases had, however, identified delays and failings in service delivery
- The reasons for the review, the way in which this had been undertaken and a precis of the issues identified were outlined
- In accordance with the remit of this Committee as outlined within the Terms of Reference 'to consider any payments in excess of £2000 or provide other benefits in cases of maladministration by the authority within the scope of Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2000' it was noted that one payment had been made in excess of this amount following a recommendation of the Ombudsman which related to the provision of Special Educational Needs and Support
- An explanation was provided of the improvements in processes and procedures proposed as outlined within the Action Plan. Reference was made to the introduction of a new SharePoint online system to effectively track and manage the end to end customer journey (including both Ombudsman complaints, other Information Requests and Subject Access Requests), the development and publication of directorate complaint management dashboards and the development of a robust communication plan to strengthen messages around the issue of delays and the need to respond quickly and appropriately in accordance with agreed timescales

In the ensuing discussion the following matters were raised:

- Reference was made to the receipt of inappropriate and vexatious complaints and to how these were dealt with. It was noted, however, that the vast majority of complaints received were valid and required investigation
- Whilst delays in responding to the Ombudsman was disappointing it was pleasing to note that out of that had come a system that would provide a better response for the public

Written responses to questions asked by members of the Committee were provided as follows:

- It was noted that comparable data showing how previous LGSCO cases had been handled compared to those actioned in 2020/21 could be provided to the Committee. It was hoped that comparisons in future would demonstrate the effectiveness of the service/system improvements and further evidence how delays would not be tolerated
- Mitigation/reasoning for delays in implementing recommendations varied across differing Services, however, the majority focused on the lack of resources available to respond to LGSCO enquiries. In some service areas, a high turn over of staff and agency workers had contributed to the problem. This in turn had contributed to a lack of ownership and the timely implementation of recommendations. This, however, had been addressed with the appointment of permanent resources to field such enquiries in the areas concerned

- In relation to comparisons to previous years and to the first 6 months of this year, it was reported that the Council had received 41 contacts from the Ombudsman's Office in 2018/19 which was an increase from the previous years reported position (33). Four of these contacts originated from the Housing Ombudsman Serviced (HOS) and 37 from the LGSCO. Twenty-four of these required the Ombudsman to undertake a formal investigation. Improvements to service delivery were recommended in respect of 6 cases (14%).

Whilst there had been an increase in the number of LGSCO cases received, delays in the timely completion of recommendations was two-fold. The lack of resources available to action LGSCO recommendations contributed to this issue, however, significant fault rested with the Customer Feedback Information Team which delayed in circulating LGSCO final decision reports/recommendations with the services concerned.

Lessons had been learned and all LGSCO complaints were now tracked and managed through the new SharePoint Online system.

Delays in the first 6 months of this year had occurred. The LGSCO review report captured cases up to and including March 2020 and mitigation measures implemented. Also, the Customer Feedback Information Team Service had been suspended from mid March to mid June in order to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The LGSCO had been notified and was supportive of this approach. The LGSCO had agreed to place all cases on hold until the Service was reinstated.

Following the receipt of the LGSCO Letter and implementation of the new tracking and management system, there had been no delays to service delivery

- It was suggested that given that there had been issues about the timely manner in which responses had been made to the LGSCO and also previously issues in relation to internal audit queries/recommendations, that an appropriate reminder should be issued on this issue at some time in the future

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report and letter of the LGSCO be received and the contents noted; and
- (ii) That the findings from the fundamental review of corporate processes and the introduction of new systems to ensure a higher level of compliance in response to the LGSCO's letter be noted and supported.

11. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2020/21

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report providing a summary of the Internal Audit activity completed, and the key issues arising from it, for the period 1st July to 15th November, 2020 and providing information regarding the performance of the Internal Audit function during that period.

The report, which was presented by Mrs S Bradley (Audit Manager), outlined:

- The progress of the Internal Audit Plan delivery up to the 15th November, 2020 analysed by the number of plan assignments producing a report and the audit days delivered by Directorate/Service. It was reported that 68% of the Internal Audit and Corporate Anti Fraud plans had been delivered. Including the external clients, the assurance work and the DPO role, 59% of the planned work had been delivered to date
- The increase in the number of Corporate Directorate Days was as a result of redeployment of staff to support other services during the Covid pandemic. That currently stood at 32 days for Internal Audit and 75 days for the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team.
- The increase in the number of days allocated to the Core Directorate was because that included all unplanned Covid 19 related assurance work that covered assurance activity across all Directorates
- There was a variance of 5 assignments completed against those planned due to the draft reports not yet being discussed and agreed with management although meetings had been scheduled. A total of 20 final reports had been issued during the period (of which 16 related to Covid-19) with 4 being issued in the previous reporting period. No major or significant issues had been identified as a result of these reviews
- Work undertaken in relation to the Covid-19 emergency funding which had resulted in a positive assurance opinion acknowledging that, at that time, the funding was being allocated quickly to support social care, businesses etc. and processes were still being developed
- The sample testing of expenditure (SAP and procurement cards) gave assurance that the moratorium was being complied with
- A number of audits had been deferred, added to or deleted from the Audit Plan following DMT meetings, to ensure that Internal Audit resources continued to focus on priority areas (i.e. the impact of Covid 19 had resulted in more Plan changes than previous years)
- The 20 reports finalised during the period were available upon request. A summary of assurances and the number and categorisation of recommendations included in the reports was outlined
- No audit reports had been issued during the period that had a limited or no assurance or negative opinion
- Details were provided of the outcome of other Internal Audit Activities concluded not producing a specific assurance opinion
- Information was provided about other Internal Audit work undertaken together with a summary of the current states of all planned work
- Information was provided on the following up of Internal Audit Report agreed management actions together with a summary of work in progress. Information on the status of those management actions by directorate/maintained schools due for completion was provided. It was reported that there were no concerns in relation to this and any changes/delays in timescales were understandably around the pressures of Covid-19 or other priorities
- Details of Internal Audit performance against Performance Indicators was outlined and everything was on track and positive feedback had been received from clients

- Based on the audits reported in the period an overall reasonable assurance option was considered to be appropriate

A written response to a question asked by a member of the Committee was provided in relation to the increase in Corporate Directorate Days. As detailed above, it was reported that 32 days had been 'lost' to date. The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team had provided 75 days to the Covid-19 response to date.

Flexibility planning and good liaison with Executive Director's and their Departmental Management Teams had meant a reprioritisation of work, largely in the same way as a 'normal' year, but the extent of change was greater.

The need for continued liaison would continue through to March 2021 but it was not known at the moment what the impact would be in relation to redeployments. There had, however, been no major impacts as such, it was a matter of ensuring that assurance was derived from all Internal Audit days whatever they were spend on.

CIPFA had issued guidance for Heads of Internal Audit with regard to their annual assurance opinions where, potentially, insufficient work had been undertaken and on how that related to the professional standards. The view of the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance was that unless anything changed significantly, he would be able to provide an opinion based on sufficient coverage in breadth and depth across controls, governance and risk.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the issues arising from the completed internal audit work for the period along with the responses received from management be noted;
- (ii) that the assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's Internal Control Framework based on the work of Internal Audit in the period to the 15th November, 2020 be noted;
- (iii) that the progress against the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 for the period to the 15th November, 2020 be noted; and
- (iv) that the performance of the Internal Audit Division for the period be noted.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND STRATEGIC RISKS

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report providing an update on the development of the new Risk Management process and sharing a summary of the current risks on the Strategic Risk Register.

It was reported that work was continuing with the IT Service to develop a supporting 'system' using SharePoint to record risks. In addition, the Business Intelligence Team had been enlisted to develop business intelligence tools which would integrate with this system to create dashboard reports for the Senior Management and individual Departmental Management Teams which would enable them to identify risks and concerns at a granular level and thereby take appropriate action.

Work was also continuing on the Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Procedures and these would be presented to Committee in the New Year.

A new register of Strategic Concerns and Issues had been formulated in discussion with the Senior Management Team and a copy was appended to the report which detailed the key areas of risk and a brief outline of the key actions and assurances required. Further work was required, however, in order to identify specific actions, assign responsibility and allocate timescales. As could be seen, there were no concerns regarded as being critical with most being regarded as important. This reflected the need to keep matters under close monitoring rather than requiring urgent action.

The full register, once fully developed, would include how the actions and or/assurance activity was being implemented to provide senior management and the Committee with information and assurance. Work was now underway in earnest to support this new approach with clear policy, guidance and training materials.

Written responses to questions asked by members of the Committee were provided as follows:

- With regard to community cohesion and asylum seeker accommodation, it was noted that the Council worked closely with Migration Yorkshire and all Yorkshire and Humberside authorities in its approach to Migration. More recently the Council had submitted its response to the Public Accounts Committee and details of this had been circulated to members and could be made available upon request.

The Authority continued to have regular liaison meetings with the provider to ensure that in housing individuals, this was done respectfully taking into account individuals' ethnic origins and in consideration of general community cohesion factors

- The difficulties associated organisational resilience and the fact that assurance could not be given when dealing with external factors, such as Brexit, without the necessary information available were noted
- In relation to pressures on Mental Health Services for both Adult Services and Children's Services it was noted that CAHMS waiting times for children accessing the service had reduced. The comments with regard to the pressure on the Council to provide/commission services that could not be provided without more funding were noted. The Health and Care Recovery Plan recognised these risks and had developed a reset plan to seek to address the legacies of Covid. The Health and Well Being Board had also identified mental health as a specific focus and a new Mental Health Partnership was to be established in early 2021
- Reference was made to the impact of Covid-19 on young carers and their mental health and it was suggested that perhaps some reference should be made to this in remedial action
- In relation to the External Market in Adult Care, it was noted that Adult Social Care had seen a demand in need for residential care beds both as a consequence of the pandemic but also as a consequence of the strategy to support people to return home wherever possible. The Service would be

working with the care sector and were developing a Market Position Statement which would be brought forward in 2021. This Statement would describe what housing and support arrangements needed to be developed in Barnsley and would detail how this would be achieved. With regard to visits to Care Homes it was noted that new national guidance was now available and had been made available to Members of the Committee

RESOLVED that the update on the development of the new Risk Management process, including the new register of areas of strategic concern and focus be noted and the action taken be approved insofar as this Committee is concerned.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT 2019/20

The Executive Director Core Services submitted a report, for information and reference, presenting issues in the 2019/20 Health and Safety Report which also provided a comprehensive overview of health and safety performance within the Authority. A copy of the full Health and Safety Report 2019/20 was appended to the report.

The report, which was presented by Mr S Dobby (Head of Corporate Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience), indicated that the year April 2019 to March 2020 had seen further improvements in the Council's health and safety performance and also the implications of challenges faced in the delivery of these services and maintenance of the performance. Positive indicators were summarised with comparative data for 2018/19.

There had, however, been some negative indicators and these were also summarised together with comparisons to the previous year. Mr Dobby also briefly outlined the reasons for these negative indicators.

The information and data collected provided a number of opportunities for improvements and these, together with proposals to address them, were outlined within the report. These related to the completion of risk assessments and the implementation and monitoring of risk controls; the need for the reporting of 'near misses'; and a review and implementation of the Council's occupational health and safety management system

Despite the negatives, the Council had not experienced any formal enforcement action by the Health and Safety Executive or by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. In addition, the Council had achieved the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Order of Distinction for Occupational Safety and Health and the British Safety Council International Safety Award.

It was noted that this year reiterated the need for a greater reliance on Business Units to fulfil aspects for the overall health and safety function and ensure that good health and safety practice was embedded and evidenced within services.

The full Health and Safety Report provided information on:

- The major causes of accidents to employees together with the remedial, responsive and proactive measures taken to reduce the risk of injury and work-related ill health

- The causes of accidents, the types of injury occurring, and the parts of the body injured. It also incorporated a summary provided by the Service Director Finance of the Employer's Liability Claims
- The issue of work-related violence and aggression to employees. It outlined the number of reported work-related violent incidents to employees and also provided details of the services of the Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Services as they related to statutory occupational health

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were raised:

- Mr Dobby explained why 'near misses' needed to be recorded as this, amongst other things, allowed an analysis of underlying causes and hopefully thereby prevent accidents occurring in the future
- Reference was made to the two major accidents that had occurred during the year and to the review of risk assessments and safe systems of work that had been undertaken

Written responses to questions asked by members of the Committee were provided as follows:

- Questions were asked about accident numbers in the first 7 months of the year and to the financial impact of days lost. It was reported that numbers in quarters 1 and 2 had been much lower than in previous years. There had been 9 accidents in Quarter 1 and 18 in Quarter 2. Fourteen accidents had been reported to date in Quarter 3. Services had been consulted on the reasons for the reduced numbers and managers were content that there had not been unreported accidents or accident forms awaiting submission. All services had been requested to revise their risk assessments and safe systems of work on the basis of Covid-19 and this may have had a positive effect on accident numbers. The accident reporting process had been revised in April 2020 to ensure it was reflective of increased remote working to ensure the ability to report accidents was maintained. Campaigns had been developed to remind employees of the importance of accident reporting.

The cost of accidents had been estimated and shared with the Senior Management Team.

- It was noted that the Health and Safety audit programme, which would commence in Quarter 4 and routine monitoring within services would ensure that Business Units had completed the required Risk Assessments and also that the Occupational Health and Safety Management System had been implemented
- The detailed explanation of each accident was not inputted within the Health and Safety Report. This information would, therefore, have to be collated manually from individual accident forms. Each incident form submitted was reviewed and followed up as necessary to ensure that any actions required to prevent recurrence were taken. Incidents occurred in a variety of places from offices to public places to schools due to the varying nature of work activities
- The underlying cause of the reported absence type was not centrally collated but was discussed with the employee through the Council's sickness absence processes. Estimates from anonymised generic feedback/categorisation from

counselling indicated a roughly 50-50 split of cause, in the employees' view, being work/non work related.

Overall sickness absence for this year was as follows:

- Quarter 1 – 1.82 days per employee
- Quarter 2 – 1.71 days per employee.

From the results from the Health and Wellbeing survey and both Pulse Surveys, a Mental Health Support Programme had been developed which included Mental Health training for all managers and employees. This would also include training employees to become mental health First Aiders. Wrapped around this was an Employee Assistance Programme which was now available to all employees which provided a 24/7 helpline, online portal and App

- Procedures were in place to ensure that accident risk assessments were reviewed, and actions taken. This included individual follow up with managers where a risk assessment was not indicated as being available. This was inherent to the Health and Safety Audit Programme that would recommence in Quarter 4 and the 'internal' monitoring undertaken within services
- In relation to incidents in relation to assaults on staff, it was reported that incident numbers in quarter 1 and 2 were much lower than in previous years: 6 in Quarter 1 and 8 in Quarter 2. Five had been reported to date in Quarter 3. Services had been consulted on the reasons for the reduced numbers and managers were content that there had not been unreported accidents or accident forms awaiting submission. All services had been requested to revise their risk assessments and safe systems of work on the basis of Covid-19 and this may have had a positive effect on accident numbers. The accident reporting process had been revised in April 2020 to ensure it was reflective of increased remote working and to ensure the ability to report accidents was maintained. Campaigns had been developed to remind employees of the importance of accident reporting.

RESOLVED that Health and Safety Report 2019/20, and the continuous efforts made to improve upon performance in this area, be noted.

14. INFORMATION SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRESS - UPDATE

The Committee received an Information Security and Governance Progress update presentation.

Simon Marshall (ICT Technical Security Lead) commenced the presentation by outlining the current position with regard to the work of the Information Governance and Information Security Teams. He made particular reference to the following:

- The publication of the first ever Cyber Security Strategy
 - The rationale for its introduction
 - The Strategic view ahead, detailing the policies and procedures of the Team and how this could inform the Council's Cyber Security posture for the Council going forward
 - The links to the Council's Vision, IT Strategy and Digital First Programme

- The approval of the Strategy by the Information Governance Board and Cabinet in March 2020
- The Strategy's alignment to international best practice and advice from the National Cyber Security Centre
- It was a document that progress could be measured against. Information was also provided about progress to date and on how the Strategy was monitored by the Team
- Its inclusion as part of a longer-term strategy with annual updates
- The preparations being made towards the 2021 Strategy which would incorporate both Information Governance and Information Security into a single strategy as the two teams aligned
- The current position and plans being prepared with regard to Brexit
 - Formal advice was awaited from the Government. In the absence of any advice currently the Authority was planning for the 'worst case' scenario
 - All IT Supplier contracts were being reviewed
 - An analysis of exactly where data was stored was being undertaken – this would enable to Council to know exactly where to target resources
 - An analysis was being undertaken into Data Flows in order to examine where interactions might be affected
- The changes that had been introduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and particularly in relation to remote working by most staff within the Council
 - Guidance and training had been rolled out to all staff specifically centring on remote working and on the changes that Covid-19 had brought about
 - User behaviours were being audited, monitored and checked and additional training had been provided to cover areas that had simply not been required prior to the pandemic
 - It was obvious that things wouldn't return to exactly as they had before and, therefore, changes to the strategy were being examined and the service was looking at new ways to secure the Council hence, turning a potential weakness into an opportunity. This would also include an examination of where resources on the Council could be reduced whilst at the same time improving customer experience
 - Members were informed that the IT department had been shortlisted for two security awards. One for keeping the Council working during the pandemic for the speed at which they were able to roll out changes and additional solutions and the second for strength of the IT policies and the fact that there had not been the need for wholesale changes in order for people to carry on working (this was because the Council had been working to support this for a number of years). The Service would find out if it had been successful on the 11th December, 2020
- The changes being introduced to secure email and the Council's secure email tool, Egress
 - The Council had already secured its emails within public sector domains in accordance with Government guidance but had also adopted Egress as the tool of choice for non-public sector email addresses
 - Blocks to known phishing scams and known fraudsters had been implemented. The way in which this worked was outlined
 - Unusual email activity was automatically questioned
 - Emails were automatically encrypted based on content

Rob Winter, in his role as Data Protection Officer, then gave a presentation on Data Protection activity and assurances. Particular reference was made to the following:

- DPO Assurance reviews included:
 - Cyber Security – there was a positive assurance and a number of actions as referred to previously. The next review would cover, in more detail, the application of the Strategy
 - Incident Management – there was a positive assurance but scope to improve the timeliness of responses from Business Units
 - Awareness Survey – this had been issued to approximately 2,000 employees. Positive messages had come out of that but there were a few areas for further action which were being followed up
 - Contracts – further work led by Strategic Procurement was required to ensure that all BMBC contracts had the appropriate Data Protection and GDP clauses. It was reported that all new contracts contained the necessary requirements
- Other DPO Activity and Assurances included:
 - Brexit – including input to the EU Transition Group
 - Data Protection Impact Assessment Reviews and sign off
 - Liaison with the Information Commissioner's Office where appropriate
 - Provision of support and advice to the Customer Feedback Information Team and Services regarding complex complaints and information requests
 - The Customer Feedback Information Team review for which he provided challenge and support
 - Regular liaison with Information Governance and Security Team and the Senior Information Risk Officer
- Data Protection Officer Assurance was ensured via
 - Specific Assurance Reviews
 - Awareness of good Data Protection practice which was clear across the Authority
 - The strong support from the Information Governance and Security Teams – albeit these were small teams and there could be a risk in the event of long-term staff absences
 - Clear strategies, policies and guidance in place all of which were regularly reviewed
 - The developing training offer and regular communications to raise Data Protection awareness amongst staff
 - Robust Information Governance Board arrangements
 - The Data Protection Officer and Senior Information Risk Officer liaison

In conclusion he stated that there was positive assurance and a good direction of travel in terms of actions and responses.

In response to a written question the following response was provided.

The Cyber Security Strategy had been published for the first time earlier this year and, as such, much of the content related to developing policies to progress and improve the Cyber Security function of the Council. As a result, no specific Key Performance Indicators had been defined at this stage, but the

Strategy did include a number of success factors, against which progress could be measured.

RESOLVED that the Information Security and Governance Progress update be noted.

15. CORPORATE FINANCE PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

The Executive Director Core Services and Service Director of Finance submitted, for information only, a joint report detailing the financial performance of the Authority during the second quarter ended 30th September, 2020 and assessing the implications against the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The report also provided an update on the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the Council's 2020/21 budget.

Reference was made to the size of the debt and to the repayment plans. It was acknowledged that this was a high level of debt relative to near comparators, however, the Council had made conscious decisions previously to invest in a brand-new secondary school estate and also on the new Town Centre. The Service Director Finance was confident that the costs associated with that debt were affordable and sustainable in accordance with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The Minimum Revenue Position detailed the minimum that the Council had to repay each year on its debt portfolio and the debt was scheduled to be repaid over a 50 year period.

Written responses to questions asked by members of the Committee were provided as follows:

- Given the plans in place to recover the 2020/21 projected deficit and subject to the delivery of the recently updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Director of Finance assessed the potential for him to have to issue a Section 114 Notice (Local Government Finance Act 1988), as being very low
- The projected deficit for the entire year based on all currently available information/plans was £15.5m. A financial recovery plan was in place to mitigate the deficit in full by year end such as by postponing planned investments to the extent that was necessary. The recently revised Medium Term Financial Strategy factored in estimates of the potential ongoing impacts stemming from the pandemic both in terms of the impact on the cost base and income losses
- In relation to consultation with residents, it was reported that a whole borough consultation and engagement exercise had been carried out earlier in the year to seek residents (and other key stakeholders) views on the places where they lived and on what they wanted for the future. This would inform the Barnsley 2030 placed based vision for the Borough (with actions over 4 themes to be delivered by all strategic partners, not just the Council) and the next iteration of the Council's Corporate Plan (the Council's contribution to the Barnsley 2030 vision). Specific communication, consultation and feedback on the budget would take place later (with residents, and more formally with the business community as required by legislation)

- In response to questions regarding the CIPFA Financial Resilience Index (2018/19) and the indicators of Financial Stress, it was noted that the figures quoted were from the 2018/19 accounts as at 31st March, 2019. The Committee would be aware that from the Treasury Management Strategy at that time the Council's forecast capital financial requirement looking forwards for the following three year period was in excess of £1bn – the increase from the £875m quoted being almost entirely due to a decision made by the Council at that time to proceed with the Glassworks project.

This had been the rationale for the Section 151 Officer highlighting the indicator(s) at the time. Consequently, the budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy included the following advice/mitigations from the Section 151 Officer:

- Advice not to undertake any additional material borrowing for major infrastructure projects until such time as the Glassworks had been completed and de-risked; and
- To safeguard the Council from interest rate risk to introduce an active strategy/target to de-risk the Council's debt portfolio, whereby a maximum of 30% of debt carried interest rate risk (i.e.. 70% fixed and not subject to interest rate movements)

The capital financing requirement had remained broadly in line with forecasts made 2 years ago as part of the 2019/20 budget and, therefore, the advice had been followed

The strategy and targets in relation to interest rate risk had been met as reported to the Committee at year end.

Based on this and on the proviso that the plans in place for the wider Medium Term Financial Strategy were delivered, the Service Director Finance considered the current debt levels to be prudent, affordable and sustainable

The Service Director Finance would bring updated Financial Resilience and Treasury Management strategy papers to a future meeting as part of the forthcoming budget round

- The income shortfall for Educational Psychology, Education Welfare and SEND Support Services was predominantly related to school closures
- The expected impact of the latest lockdown and tighter restrictions of Tier 3 had been factored into detailed plans and reflected in the £15.5m forecast deficit.
- There remained some unknowns in relation to the Council's role in deploying the vaccine/mass testing and the level of funding that would accompany that
- Information on bad debt and assumptions on the bad debt provision were outlined and had been circulated to all Members of the Committee

- The borrowing requirement of the Council had been based on approved capital plans and was not impacted by Covid -19

RESOLVED that the update report on the financial performance of the Authority during the second quarter ended 30th September, 2020, the implications against the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the Council's 2020/21 budget be noted.

16. COVID-19 PANDEMIC - UPDATE

The Executive Director Core Services provided the Committee with an update of the current situation and work being undertaken both by the Council and by its partners in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He stated that a report was to be submitted to Cabinet in December outlining in more detail the work that had been taking place. In particular there had been an LGA Peer Review that had assessed the Council's recovery plan and this would be a useful document to present to Committee at the next meeting.

The work that had been ongoing over the last month or so had been all about moving from Tier 3 into lockdown together with all the challenges that this brought with it – communications and ensuring that legislation was complied with including work with businesses and residents.

The move from lockdown back into Tier 3 had also brought significant challenges particularly in relation to the hospitality industry. Work was also ongoing with regard to the development of a programme around vaccination which would pose huge logistical issues and staff within the Authority, including Mr S Dobby (Head of Corporate Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience) and the Health and Safety Team were actively involved in this process. Whilst no firm date had been determined as to when vaccination would commence, it was important for all preparations to be made in advance. Consideration was also being given as to whether or not the Authority would be involved in a community testing programme.

The good news was, however, that the infection rates within Barnsley had been dropping over the last three to four weeks and this was a great sign in terms of the challenge faced by the hospital and the health care services.

The borough's position within Tier 3 was to be reviewed in two weeks' time.

RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

17. AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received the indicative work plan for the Committee for the period June 2020 to April 2021.

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance indicated that work was progressing to produce a schedule of reports/presentations to reflect the wider governance remit of the Committee but also to make better use of the Committee Awareness/Training sessions held immediately prior to meetings.

Arising out of this, reference was made to the following:

- The intention to bring forward reports and/or training on issues identified and lessons learned within other authorities to adverse audit reports
- A request for a presentation to be made on the implications for Councils of issuing a Section 114 Notice. This matter would be addressed at an Awareness Session to be arranged with Grant Thornton into their findings following an audit of the London Borough of Croydon and Nottingham City Council
- the submission of written questions on items coming before the Committee. It was noted that on many occasions Elected Members may have received information within other meetings that supported their role and work on this Committee. The value of the questions submitted by Independent Members was noted as these gave a significant level of check, challenge and scrutiny. Arising out of this discussion reference was also made to the value that the Authority placed on having a majority of Independent Members on the Committee.

RESOLVED that the core work plan for meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee be approved and reviewed on a regular basis.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from this meeting during the consideration of the following item because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

19. GLASSWORKS - UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation giving an update of the current position with regard to the Glassworks Development.

The presentation which was given by Mr Andrew Osbourne (Regeneration Projects Group Leader) and Mr S Loach (Head of Finance) made particular reference to the current position with regard to:

- construction works - which were anticipated to be completed next year
- the leasing arrangements and the update to the Leasing Strategy
- the Governance arrangements and the submission of reports to Cabinet/Council
- the Financial Position

The presentation engendered a full and frank discussion during which matters of a general and detailed nature were raised and answers given to Members questions where appropriate. Particular reference was made to:

- the current position with regard to occupancy rates, anticipated occupancy upon opening and future occupancy projections
- market demand/building use options (including the flexibility of the project to meet current demand as well as adjust to future changing demand)

- income generation and financial arrangements
- the current position with regard to the leisure and public realm aspects of the project
- construction progress
- Leasing options
- Governance oversight of the project and particularly the involvement of Internal Audit

RESOLVED that the report be received.

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Chair

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Item 8

NOTES OF GENERAL LICENSING REGULATORY BOARD PANEL

12th January, 2021

Present: Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), Clarke and Danforth together with Councillor Hayward (Reserve Member).

Members of the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting.

1 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

2 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence – Determination – Mr A R M

The Panel considered a report of the Service Director Legal Services requesting the determination of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence held by Mr A R M.

Mr A R M attended the meeting virtually and gave evidence in support of his case. He also submitted video evidence in support of his case.

After considering all the information and representations made the Panel determined that there was sufficient justification for Mr A R M to be allowed to retain his Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence subject to:

- Him being issued with a Written Warning which will be kept on file for 12 months as to his future conduct
- Him being required to undertake a Council approved Safeguarding Course at the earliest opportunity possible (once they become available) and at his own expense

The decision was made on the following

- The manner in which he presented himself and his acceptance that he displayed unacceptable behaviour which constitute a safeguarding concern
- The explanation of the circumstances surrounding the incidents
- The genuine remorse shown at the incidents and the assurance given that such incidents would not occur again
- The fact that no complaints had been received about his driving or conduct since he became a licenced driver in 2017
- The fact that he had provided sufficient extenuating circumstances to convince the Panel that he was a fit and proper person to hold such a licence

The decision of the Panel was unanimous.

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Item 9

APPEALS, AWARDS AND STANDARDS REGULATORY BOARD

(a) School Admission Appeals Panel – 24th November, 2020

Kirk Balk	1 Allowed 1 Refused
Outwood Academy Darfield	1 Refused
Barnsley Academy	1 Refused

(b) School Admission Appeals Panel – 1st December, 2020

Outwood Academy Carlton	1 Refused 1 Withdrawn
Penistone Grammar	1 Allowed 1 Withdrawn

(c) School Admission Appeals Panel – 4th December, 2020

High View Primary	1 Refused
Horizon	1 Allowed 1 Refused
Kings Oak	1 Allowed 1 Refused

(d) School Admission Appeals Panel – 14th December, 2020

Laithes	1 Withdrawn
Birdwell	1 Refused
Kirk Balk	1 Allowed
Barnsley Academy	1 Allowed

(e) School Admission Appeals Panel – 21st December, 2020

Astrea Dearne	1 Refused
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(f) School Admission Appeals Panel – 12th January, 2021

Burton Road	2 Withdrawn
Kings Oak	1 Allowed
Outwood Carlton	1 Refused
Wombwell Park Street	1 Withdrawn

(g) School Admission Appeals Panel – 19th January, 2021

Horizon	1 Allowed
	1 Refused

Appeals withdrawn prior to the allocation of a date

Athersley South Primary	1 Withdrawn
Burton Road Primary	1 Withdrawn
Cherry Dale Primary	1 Withdrawn
Churchfields Primary	1 Withdrawn
Holy Trinity Primary	1 Withdrawn
Kirk Balk	1 Withdrawn

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 1 December 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Fielding, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, McCarthy, Phillips, Pickering, Smith, Wilson and Wraith MBE.

1 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies/Apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

To minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 26th October and 3rd November, 2020 were noted.

4 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (BMBC's) Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Zero Carbon Engagement, Governance and Delivery Proposals

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

- Paul Castle, Service Director, Environment & Transport, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Richard Burnham, Head of Housing & Energy, Place Directorate, BMBC
- David Malsom, Group Leader, Housing & Energy, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Cllr Chris Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson - Place (Environment and Transportation)

Members were invited to consider the report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Place regarding BMBC's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which sets out the Council's ambitions for Zero40 and Zero45 and how it plans to achieve these targets through engagement, the adoption of key principles and partnership working. It was explained that

Barnsley's approach will consist of 5 year 'chunks' of activity to improve people's lives concentrating on fuel poverty, an inclusive economy and putting young people at the heart of our economy, with the three elements of civic leadership, positive engagement and positive action.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Councillor Wraith referred to an issue which had arisen around additives in diesel causing problems with Council vehicles. An explanation of the problem was provided by Councillor Leech. It seems there was too much water in the additive which is mixed with the fuel and caused a problem with the vehicles. This issue has been addressed with suppliers who have identified an issue with the facility and re-using of barrels whereby a residual amount of water was being left in the barrels which affected the mixture. Discussions are ongoing with the suppliers and the issue will be resolved within the next few days.

A member raised concerns regarding the cost of bio mass boilers and ground source heat pumps in Berneslai Homes communal properties. In these instances the residents are unable to switch suppliers to save money on the open market. Officers are aware of the higher costs in communal schemes but were under the impression that the cost is subsidised to similar levels as in other properties. Discussions with Berneslai Homes are ongoing and further information will be provided outside of the meeting. It is imperative that higher costs associated with de-carbonisation do not fall on vulnerable people.

Members sought reassurance that the Economic Recovery Plan post-Covid will be in line with carbon neutral targets. It was acknowledged that Covid has affected society in many ways, but with some positives in terms of a reduction in carbon already seen as a result of behaviour changes and also by presenting opportunities to reduce carbon emissions by retro-fitting housing, creating jobs and thus aiding the economy. It was explained that the Government has made available various grants and initiatives for decarbonising private sector property and public sector buildings, partly to aid recovery and also to reduce carbon emissions and aid achievement of the carbon reduction targets.

Partners and stakeholders in the climate action agenda include Berneslai Homes, Barnsley Premier Leisure, schools, Sheffield City Region, Leeds City Region; Sheffield University (who are a world leading facility in food production), Energise Barnsley and Northern Powergrid. A lot of work is being done, but there is a need to do more, particularly in terms of encouraging and growing the capacity of community groups and working with the private and voluntary sector. There is a need for an open dialogue with 'big emitters' - such organisations need to make changes themselves, with an input from Central Government in terms of initiatives and sanctions for carbon emissions, whilst ensuring that companies don't decide to move businesses abroad to avoid sanctions. A programme is being developed to help SMEs to become more efficient, grant funding dependent. In addition the Council has an ambitious aim to plant 10,000 trees in the Borough, working with a range of partners including the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Water and others. Work with younger people is crucial in the carbon neutral agenda as it is about their future.

The biggest threats to achievement of the targets set is the cost and responsibility thereof. For example, by 2035 every property should have an EPC certificate. At the moment 85,000 homes in Barnsley will need work to bring up to EPC C standard which will cost around £1billion, with no clear plan in place to do this. BMBC has no

jurisdiction in terms of private property compliance. Transport and industry are other areas which need attention and depend largely on the actions of central Government.

Strong local engagement and consultation is key to the development of the 2030 Framework and Plan within the Sustainable Barnsley theme.

Barnsley ran a scheme called Better Homes Barnsley which attracted funds which were invested in private sector and owner-occupied households to improve energy efficiency. This is no longer running, but funding from other sources is being explored and pilot programmes will be put in place. There is expertise within the team to support householders, publicising schemes via various means whilst recognising that there is no statutory obligation placed on households to comply.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution, and
- (ii) Members note the report.

5 Road Safety in Barnsley

The following witnesses were invited to the meeting:

- Paul Castle, Service Director, Environment & Transport, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Matt Bell, Head of Highways & Engineering, Place Directorate, BMBC
- Phil Ainsworth, Public Health Senior Practitioner, BMBC
- Cllr Chris Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson - Place (Environment and Transportation), BMBC
- Cllr Dave Leech, Barnsley Councillor and Chair of South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership (SYSRP)
- Joanne Wehrle, Safer Roads Manager, SYSRP
- Superintendent Paul McCurry, Head of Operations, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
- Inspector Jason Booth, SYP
- Scott Dernie, Safety Camera Manager, SYSC

Members were invited to consider the report of the Executive Director Core Services, the Director of Public Health and Executive Director Place in respect of Road Safety in Barnsley. The purpose of this report was to inform the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the findings of the recently completed Road Injury Health Needs Assessment (HNA) 2020, detailing the number of people injured or killed in the borough broken down into three broad age groups, and the next steps required to respond to those findings. It was highlighted that it is too early to say how COVID-19 has impacted on road injuries in Barnsley, although the report considers how residents may have been affected. In addition, the report outlines the road safety activities carried out in 2019, by both BMBC and its partners, and the local governance arrangements for road safety in Barnsley.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Members expressed concern that the report indicated a 229% increase in the number of people killed and injured between 2015 and 2018, with child injuries three times the national average. It was explained that in 2016 a new recording system for road traffic collisions was introduced, which reclassified how accidents were recorded, making it impossible to compare pre 2016 and post 2016 when system came in. The Department for Transport acknowledges that comparison is not possible and produced adjustment factors which show that killed and serious casualties would have been much higher pre 2016 if an injury based recording system had been in place earlier. A graph showing this was to be shared after the meeting. Whilst any loss of life on our networks is not acceptable, the number of deaths has remained consistent across the years, with between 8 and 13 deaths on the network. Road safety was reviewed around 18 months ago, with a change of perspective from an engineering/highway point of view. The road safety education, training and publicity function had transferred to public health, which demonstrates how important it is to address the issues. Financial constraints have made this a challenging period. However, it is important to acknowledge that there were over 1,697 fewer casualties reported as injured on the roads in South Yorkshire in 2019 than 10 years ago (5,437 casualties in 2009 and 3,231 casualties in 2019). The number of people killed and seriously injured has increased across all age groups and road user types, not just for the 0 to 15 age group.

A Councillor reported that In the UK, 2.1 million speeding fines are issued annually (with a minimum individual fine of £100); meaning that £210 million is raised, £6.5 billion from vehicle excise duty and £28 billion from vehicle fuel duty. However, there appears to be no money available to save lives, which is deeply frustrating for local councillors, who are passed from agency to agency without resolution.

It was reiterated that responsibility for the roads network is taken seriously. There are around 740 miles of highway in Barnsley to look after. Unfortunately, there is a £70m backlog for works. Resources are limited and approaches are data driven, using a 'worst first' approach to prioritise. However, a gap remains. Some initiatives are to be brought forward in the New Year, including an expansion of the Radar Box Programme to try to leverage local needs out of the wards and put investment into them, which will go to Cabinet in February. An issue regarding speeding at Ardsley was taken to the Safer Roads Partnership earlier in the year but remains unresolved. It was acknowledged that this year in particular has been challenging in terms of communications, although efforts have been made to involve all Area Councils, contact details for reporting highways issues will be re-issued.

A Member felt that more enforcement is needed. It was explained that the Police had seen a decrease in resources along with other public sector agencies and it is not always possible to respond to individual issues. However, use is made of Community Speedwatch delivered via the local Neighbourhood Teams, although this has slowed recently due to Covid, which has led to increased frustration. Social media is used to highlight the amount of work which is done. Barnsley now has 18 new community concern sites for mobile camera enforcement, identified within the last 12 months and South Yorkshire Safety Cameras is happy to receive new requests from Council members or the community through the website.

Data on life changing injuries is not routinely broken down to that level of detail and is not published in the report. There are 3 levels of severity within the serious category. Some initial analysis has been undertaken but more detailed work is required to look at the split. SYSRP is currently carrying out some benchmarking with other Safer Roads Partnerships across the country. Some partnerships are setting targets for the reduction of fatal and the highest level of serious injury.

A Councillor was aware of 4 local fatalities due to driver error and speed, particularly with younger drivers. It was acknowledged that younger drivers are over-represented in accident statistics. Education and training is offered through the Safer Roads Partnership. A Young Driver Package is currently being developed which gives access to classroom sessions and e-modules through to post-test practical training. All young people from Year 12 onwards are eligible to access the sessions via schools, colleges and driving instructors, free of charge. Normally around 6000 young people access the training across South Yorkshire annually. BMBC also has a Road Safety Technician who delivers training in schools but this has been difficult this year due to the virus. During 2018/19, 29 interventions were delivered in primary schools and 1100 in secondary schools and colleges. Road Safety is very much on the curriculum in schools and colleges and is also on the agenda for all recently passed drivers. HGV drivers have to take a refresher test every 12 months and would reduce accidents if this was rolled out amongst other drivers.

A Councillor felt that a central referral point is needed to refer issues to, with the expectation of a timely response, which is not always received. This will be provided after the meeting. Barnsley, in line with other authorities, uses a transparent data driven process to identify where investment needs to go. Local initiatives brought forward next year may help with this. Also, as explained earlier, SYP now identifies new locations of 'community concern' whereby preventative enforcement is carried out on sites without the serious accident data.

Barnsley has Local Neighbourhood Teams who can be a first point of contact for any local issues, PCSOs attend many local meetings and can listen to concerns.

It was felt that performance indicators relating to road safety should be included within the Corporate Performance Data Set. This will be taken away and raised with the Director of Place. The Safer Roads Partnership incorporates all 4 South Yorkshire Authorities, with a county wide strategy and full governance structure in place, reporting to the South Yorkshire Chief Executives and Leaders. It was felt that the budget is inadequate and needs to be at a realistic level. In the future the emerging Barnsley Road Safety strategy and the complementary South Yorkshire Safer Roads Strategy will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Barnsley Board before going to Cabinet/Full Council.

SYSRP will be running a drink driving campaign over the Christmas period from 1st December through to 1st January. However, drink driving and drug driving enforcement is carried out all year round. A media launch has already taken place and paid for advertising will run throughout the month. Additional measures have been put in place for Covid, against a backdrop of fewer pubs, works parties etc. and results will be put out over media channels.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Graphs showing the adjusted data regarding accidents due to a change in recording method be circulated to the committee;
- (iii) Officers re-issue contact information to Members with regards to reporting highways/road safety concerns;
- (iv) Consideration be given to the inclusion of Road Safety Key Performance indicators within the corporate performance data set, and
- (v) Consideration be given to key reports on Road Safety to be taken to Full Council.

Chair

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 12 January 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, T. Cave, Clarke, Fielding, Frost, Gillis, Gollick, Higginbottom, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lofts, Makinson, McCarthy, Newing, Noble, Phillips, Pickering, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE.

6 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies/Apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

7 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

8 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the following meetings were received and considered by Members: Full Committee, held on 8th September 2020; Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream, held on 13th October 2020; Special Call-in Meeting, held on 26th October 2020; People Achieving Their Potential, held on 3rd November 2020 and Strong & Resilient Communities, held on 1st December 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meetings be approved as a true and accurate record.

9 Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley 2019-20

Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services in respect of the Provisional Education Outcomes in Barnsley for the 2019-20 academic year. The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Nick Bowen, Head Teacher at Horizon Community College and Joint Chair of Barnsley Alliance;
Paul Crook, Principal at Penistone Grammar School and Chair of the Barnsley Alliance Secondary Heads Group;
Yiannis Kouris, Principal, Barnsley College;
Toni Rhodes, Vice Principal Quality and Access to Learning, Barnsley College;
Mel John-Ross, Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC;

Nina Sleight, Service Director, Education, Early Start & Prevention, BMBC;
Darren Dickinson Interim Head of Barnsley Alliance, BMBC;
Liz Gibson, Virtual Headteacher, Looked After Children & Vulnerable Groups, BMBC;
Angela Stephens, Business Improvement & Intelligence Advisor, BMBC;
Cllr Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, BMBC;

The Executive Director Children's Services, BMBC introduced the item, highlighting the very positive nature of the report which sets out what real improvement has been made in the Borough and expressing pride in this achievement.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

It was highlighted by Nick Bowen that there were only a handful of appeals questioning the grades which secondary school students had received. Parents were only able to appeal about the procedure and that schools had followed the guidance. There were no changes as a result of these appeals. The Principal of Barnsley College also confirmed that two appeals had been received on procedural grounds and these were not upheld.

A member queried the number of Year 11 students who had become NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training). It was highlighted that Barnsley College had 7 Year 11 learners who had been referred to TIAG (Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance Service) and had not re-enrolled in education. Penistone Grammar School had zero NEETs. All schools work hand in hand with TIAG to make sure all transitions are monitored closely, particularly the most vulnerable, ensuring wrap around support is available for them. Close monitoring is done every year but with a heightened focus in 20/21 to ensure young people are on the right provision and are able to progress in that provision.

With regard to the examinations and centre assessed grades situation, Members queried what had been learned from last year's experience. Paul Crook explained that Secondary School Leaders had been challenged and are now in a much better position than previously and can provide ample evidence that the grades which students are given accurately reflect what they would have achieved in examinations. Schools are working hard to ensure nobody is at a disadvantage because they cannot take the examinations. Clear plans are in place to keep students motivated and to enable them to achieve to the best of their ability. Yiannis Koursis confirmed that Barnsley College is also better prepared this year. One of the challenges is that over 2000 vocational exams planned for January have been cancelled alongside GCSE and A Level examination and these are often overlooked. However, students will still receive a grade relevant to their ability and will be able to progress.

In terms of Barnsley College, it was highlighted that the Government has provided limited support for vulnerable students who may not have IT equipment/wifi at home and that the College itself provided devices with 4G connectivity for some students. Vulnerable students are also provided with a facility or a space at the college to work in.

BMBC did a lot of work last year to ensure that vulnerable pupils have access to devices and wifi connectivity. This was achieved through a variety of means but included donations from businesses and MATs (Multi Academy Trusts). Barnsley has a remote learning platform which is fit for purpose. Vulnerable and 'digitally disadvantaged' children can also access learning on site if they haven't got a device or a quiet study space at home. All Looked After Children are offered a school place, with £400 per Barnsley child put into school budgets in November to provide an appropriate device, which is carefully monitored. Looked After Children from other authorities have a similar scheme in place.

Barnsley has a Vulnerable Children's Tracker which closely monitors the attendance of vulnerable and key worker children. The tracker also provides information around which agencies have seen children face to face during the current situation. Remote learning access is also monitored. Work is underway to support families who are reluctant to send their children to school with Early Help and Education Welfare.

It is recognised that Covid has impacted on children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. A holistic support programme is in place with partners to address this. Vulnerable families are identified to ensure Early Help is in place through family centres. Before September it was envisaged that lots of children would struggle getting back to school after the lockdown, but this wasn't the case, with most really keen to get back to school. Covid has had an impact with concerned parents and families but a lot of support is in place.

The emotional wellbeing of teaching staff is vitally important and schools and colleges have staff wellbeing strategies in place. It seems that although some schools had staff absences of around 25 - 30% due to Covid, absence due to other issues has reduced, which indicates the strategy is working. It was highlighted that there are lots of resources available to staff to support their wellbeing and they have been incredibly resilient despite frustrations around the situation. Staff have risen to the notion that there are many people in the country who are much less fortunate than they are. Lots of staff are choosing to be in school to work and deliver lessons, with tea and cake essential to enhance camaraderie. Barnsley College has a staff wellbeing mobile phone app; access to counselling and support and an in-house wellbeing team. All schools and college staff also have access to wider mental health and wellbeing support offered through BMBC, with regular team meetings and contact with managers.

As highlighted in the report, there is a very positive trend in educational outcomes in Barnsley, with every school showing improvements. Only one school still needs to make significant improvements. When compared nationally, we can be confident that the results are a true reflection of Barnsley's direction. Core subjects of maths and english are a particular strength, with areas requiring further focus including history, geography, languages and science.

Everything is being done to minimise any disadvantage due to the pandemic for all children. There will undoubtedly be an impact across all year groups but this is being mitigated as much as possible. This includes 'live' learning every day, school assemblies and lots of pastoral contact with students, particularly years 10 and 11 to ensure appropriate transition to their next phase. Post 16 providers keep in close contact with schools and school leavers to help them to catch up, working closely

with students to quickly rectify any problems. This increased communication across partners is proving to be a great success to offset any 'learning loss' as a result of Covid, with the aspiration that by the end of their second A level year learners are able to progress to university etc., as they would have done prior to Covid.

It was reported that 10% of Penistone Grammar School students didn't get into the university of their choice due to the algorithm problem. When this decision was overturned the students in question had gone through clearing and their preferred university places had been filled. 5 students out of 135 had decided to take a year out from university with a view to going in September 2021. Some students decided not to go to university at all as it was felt that they wouldn't be able to have the full university experience whilst still paying tuition and accommodation fees. Barnsley College reported a similar situation with some students not getting in to the university of their choice and a large number of students also deferred their application.

At secondary school level parental involvement in home schooling is minimal as schools are doing it. Many parents have thanked the schools for what they have done. It was acknowledged that the situation may be different for primary schools.

RESOLVED that representatives be thanked for their attendance, contribution and the hard work they had done to improve the educational outcomes for Barnsley's children and young people in these very challenging times.

10 Measures to Strengthen and Support Barnsley's Exam Cohort for 2020-21

Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services, co-produced with Secondary Heads, Barnsley Alliance and Barnsley College around the impact to the 2020/21 exam cohort. The report sets out how preparations for a change around exams going ahead was planned for and that Members should be assured that the strength of school leadership and the partnership arrangements put in place to minimise disruption for Years 11 and 13 in particular are robust.

In the ensuing discussion, and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

Principles and standards with regard to the remote learning offer are agreed by Barnsley Alliance. There are a number of options regarding the remote learning platform which are agreed individually by MATs or governing bodies linked to their current IT systems and the support they receive. Schools are also supported to publish their remote learning offer by 26th January on their websites. The DfE sets out the detail of what should be offered. Primary schools may need additional support with putting together their offer but this is improving day by day.

Maximum use is made of 'catch up' funding, including one to one work, group work, additional lessons, additional tutors and after school and Saturday sessions organised. Careers professionals are on hand in school to offer extra careers advice. There are also much improved resources on school websites. It was pointed out that Barnsley students work best with staff they know and trust rather than using the resources of large national tutoring organisations. 'Live' daily lessons are helping to

close any learning gaps. Youth workers are also helping support young people with advice around healthy eating, sleeping etc. to support schools to do what they do best.

An advert for the Programme Manager post to co-ordinate and support implementation of the programme is being advertised this week. Other resources are being redirected to focus on this project (which is time limited) and backfilling any gaps.

It was reiterated that some students had decided to defer a university place last year because of the disruption. It is envisaged that there may be more Year 13 students this year who also do this so that they can have the university experience they are dreaming of, both educational and social. Some students may take this as an opportunity to do voluntary activities to add to their CV. Indeed, some Year 1 students have been doing tutoring with current students although the current restrictions in place for volunteering in communities make this difficult.

There are no guidelines as yet regarding centre assessed grades and the appeals process, although it is likely to be an appeal against the process once again rather than the teacher assessment. Use of supply teachers varies from school to school but Horizon and Penistone Grammar school currently do not employ supply teachers, particularly as no visitors are allowed on school sites and it is not appropriate to use staff who are working across a number of schools during the pandemic as this could lead to more positive cases in school. There have been difficulties but these have been carefully managed through closure of 'bubbles' and other teachers covering online classes. The situation may be different around primary schools.

RESOLVED that representatives be thanked for their attendance and contribution.

11 Children's Social Care Performance

Members were provided with a redacted version of the Children's Social Care Performance Report, for information only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

13 Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS): Annual Conversation with Ofsted

Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Children's Services in respect of the annual conversation with Ofsted, the accompanying Self-Evaluation of Children's Social Work Practice in BMBC and the letter from Ofsted in response to the meeting and self-evaluation.

The Executive Director, Children's Services outlined the report, highlighting that Ofsted had confirmed that there will be a focussed inspection regarding assurance around the pandemic. It was felt that this will be challenging but Barnsley is confident when considering the context in which the sector is working. It will not be a full inspection so will not be graded and is welcomed as it will outline areas for improvement and will in readiness for the full inspection.

The results of a recent Peer Review regarding a 'front door' health check are currently awaited. Lots of work has been done on the 'voice of the child'. It was reported that the Targeted Youth Service and Early Help are doing fantastic work with Looked After Children and the Youth Council, moving from consultation to coproduction and making real differences, although there is still more to do around working with parents and carers of young people.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and thanks offered to all the teams who are working so hard, in challenging circumstances, for Barnsley's Children and Young People

14 Children's Social Care Performance

Members were invited to consider a cover report relating to Children's Social Care Performance in relation to the Data Report and the Explanatory Document.

Debbie Mercer, Service Director Children's Social Care & Safeguarding, BMBC, was welcomed to the meeting. It was highlighted that good performance has been maintained in the majority of areas throughout the report. Strengths were outlined, including Early Help and rate of re-referrals. Areas to note include the rise in the number of children in care and the length of court proceedings. It was reiterated that Barnsley remains committed to maintaining a stable work force and agency staff are not used. Reduction of caseloads is also a priority.

RESOLVED that Debbie be thanked for her attendance and contribution and the report be noted.

Chair

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 2 November 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Williams (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Bruff, Carr, Clarke, Fielding, Gillis, W. Johnson, Lodge, Mitchell and Wright.

1. Appreciation

The Chair wished to place on record his thanks for the work undertaken by the outgoing Chair, Cllr W. Johnson, both at the Area Council and behind the scenes.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Carr declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 4 and 5 due to position as trustee of DIAL.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 7th September, 2020 (Cen.02.11.2020/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 7th September, 2020.

Members discussed the progress being made in order to tackle hotspots where there were high levels of flytipping and of rubbish. It was noted that 'walkabout' had taken place with officers, with a further one planned. A project would be then proposed to officers in Waste Management.

Members discussed the need for further action, and the willingness of many volunteers throughout the area to support such action was noted.

It was noted that a tree would be planted in memory of Cllr Doug Birkinshaw, and that this would be funded through donations and would not utilise any public monies.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 7th September, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

4. Performance Management Report (Cen.02.11.2020/3)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, reminding Members that many of the contracts had flexed their delivery in response to the pandemic.

In relation to the contract held by YMCA, the new service had commenced in April and had been undertaking weekly sessions in each Ward, doing detached and street-based youth work. In addition, contact had been maintained with young people through email and other electronic means.

Previously the service had worked closely with schools, but schools were obviously cautious about external services coming on to their premises.

The service had seen a significant increase in traffic on their website, which indicated the level of demand. Support for young people lacking in self-esteem and confidence continued, however it was noted that face-to-face work may be curtailed due to recent restrictions.

Members requested further details in relation to numbers engaged, and it was agreed to include these in future reports.

In relation to the contract to provide environmental enforcement services, Members heard that 163 notices had been issued, with 153 of these for littering, and 10 for dog fouling. This had resulted in £6,910 of income generated.

Due to the current situation it had not be possible for young people who had been issued notices to undertake litter picks in lieu of the fine, and therefore they had been rescinded.

Members noted that the officers had also been providing signage in areas, which had seen a corresponding reduction in issues. Those present went on to discuss the proposed Public Space Protection Order in relation to dog fouling. This could raise the fine for dog fouling from £50 to £100 and could make not carrying dog fouling bags an offence.

Where possible, Members asked for further details of offences in their Ward to be provided, and of the streets patrolled.

In relation to the contract held by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, Members heard how the team had acted promptly on all intelligence provided, with positive feedback received. 95 provider led social action interventions had been delivered, together and 10 events/actions supported. In addition, two new groups had been supported and one existing group.

Members heard how that 404 incidences of fly-tipping had been reporting in July and August through the SLA to address Targeted Household Fly-tipping. It was noted that figures were lower than the previous year, perhaps impacted by Covid-19, but were still significant. Work continued in targeted areas, making contact with landlords and tenants, and providing information in a number of languages. Support was provided in order to avoid issues escalating. Members praised the continued hard work in this area.

In relation to the SLA to support new tenants in private rented accommodation, the impact of the pandemic in making contact with tenants was noted. However, 24 new tenants had been supported within the quarter, with much of the contact via email and telephone. Of the 24, all required some form of intervention, with 14 properties subsequently improved and 10 cases still open. 16 informal requests had also been issued, providing advice and warning of potential consequences should improvements not be made.

Members heard that some of the performance indicators for the contract held by Family Lives were rated as amber, with figures seen significantly lower than the targets set. The Area Managers had worked with the service and partners to

address issues in order to stimulate referrals. Issues such as eligibility based on geography had been identified, and it was hoped increased awareness of who could access the service would help encourage further referrals. Where clients were not eligible, conversations were taking place with other Area Council Managers regarding how they could be supported.

It was noted that conversations were also being held with officers in Public Health and elsewhere to assist in increasing the numbers of referrals.

Notwithstanding the low number of referrals, the positive impact the service had on those engaging was noted. It was suggested that a future meeting of the Area Council could consider the service in more detail including the referral process.

Those present went on to consider projects funded through the Wellbeing Fund.

Creative Recovery had been particularly active during the half-term holidays, reaching out to those socially isolated. The doorstep activities, working with a musician and closely with Bernelsai Homes, were noted. Though engagement was difficult due to Covid-19 the impact this had was acknowledged.

DIAL had supported 944 residents since June, 2019 with 596 volunteer hours provided. Members noted the case studies and the impact the service had on the lives of clients. Overall £938,508 of unclaimed benefit had been generated since the start of June, 2019.

Hope House Connects had focused on the mental health of children, supporting families and assisting them to support each other. Adapting delivery, Facebook rooms had been used to engage families, using resources provided through home visits. Some socially distanced face-to-face engagement had also taken place in Locke Park.

Noted was the planning work undertaken to reopen the facility, but it was acknowledged that this may need to be postponed.

Updates were then provided on Youth Work Fund Projects. Members heard how TADS had provided an end of project report, noting that this had been delayed due to staff being furloughed. The project had not been able to provide face to face support, but some had been provided online. Concerns were raised as to whether appropriate delivery had been provided in light of the funding allocated. The Area Council Manager agreed to discuss provision and how this could meet area priorities with officers when new staff were in place.

The Youth Association continued to engage young people through its intensive summer programme which included team building, arts and crafts, and sports. 32 youth work sessions had been delivered to 84 individuals. Promoting social action, young people had been supported to develop their own activities such as clean-ups and litter picks. A street-based curriculum had also been delivered covering issues such as drug awareness, communication skills, and conflict management.

Members praised the work of the Youth Association, but questions were raised about the provision across the Wards, and it was suggested that figures could be provided on this in future reports.

In relation to the project delivered by the YMCA in Dodworth, with young males more regularly engaged. The project had delivered sport and field activities, but also covered issues such as social responsibilities during the pandemic and mental health.

Finally an update was provided in relation to the service to support older and vulnerable people with no support network, provided by Age UK Barnsley. All targets had been met or exceeded. Members noted that the service focused on the most vulnerable and 56 residents had been supported, including by providing interactive home based activities.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That figures in relation to young people engaged by The Youth Association and the YMCA are provided;
- (iii) That a breakdown of fixed penalty notices issues, and areas patrolled by enforcement officers be provided; and
- (iv) The Area Manager discusses TADS provision with relevant officers.

5. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.02.11.2020/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to the previous approval to establish a Challenge Fund to address loneliness and isolation. A virtual market engagement event had been held on 13th October, with 37 organisations booked to engaged. Feedback on the fund and approach being taken had been positive. Comments had been taken into account in revisions to procurement documentation.

Members noted the financial information supplied, and it was acknowledged that only actual finance from Fixed Penalty Notices had been included. Previous years could not be used to predict figures due to the impact of the pandemic.

Members heard how additional funding had been sourced to extend the provision provided by Age UK Barnsley until 31st March, 2021, which would then usefully dovetail with services provided through the Challenge Fund.

In response to questions regarding the service provided by CAB in each of the Wards, Members heard how recruitment was taking place and delivery would commence as soon as officers were in place. It was suggested that the overall performance of the provision could be considered as part of the report in to the Area Council.

In relation to Holiday Hunger programmes, Members were assured that a report featuring an overview of both summer and October half-term provision would feature at the next meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the overview of Central Area Council's current priorities, current contracts, Service Level Agreements and Wellbeing Fund projects be noted;
- (ii) That the actual financial position to date for 20/21 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 2023/24 as outline in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report be noted'
- (iii) That cumulative performance of the service provided by CAB in each features in future performance reports;
- (iv) That an overview of holiday hunger provision is provided at a future meeting of the Area Council.

6. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.02.11.2020/5)

The meeting received the notes of the following Ward Alliance Meetings:-
 Central Ward Alliance, held on 26th August and 23rd September, 2020;
 Dodworth Ward Alliance, held on 18th August and 22nd September, 2020;
 Kingstone Ward Alliance, held on 9th September, 2020;
 Stairfoot Ward Alliance, held on 14th September and 12th October, 2020;
 Worsbrough Ward Alliance, held on 10th September, 2020.

A number of Councillors commended the work undertaken to address holiday hunger, including the work of many volunteers and the Area Team.

Members noted the 'Small Sparks Fund' established by the Worsbrough Ward Alliance to support small volunteer led projects to bring communities together. This had been very well received, and it was suggested that other Ward Alliances may wish to consider this approach.

RESOLVED that the notes and feedback from the Ward Alliances be received.

7. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.02.11.2020/6)

The report was submitted for information.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

 Chair

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MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 16 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gardiner, C. Johnson and Phillips.

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 14th September, 2020 (Dac.16.11.2020/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Dearne Area Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Dearne Area Council meeting held on 14th September, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Goldthorpe Investment Plan - Paul Clifford (Dac.16.11.2020/3)

Paul Clifford, Head of Economic Development, was welcomed to the meeting.

A brief overview of the government programme was given. Interventions of up to £25m were to be supported, with 90% of funds for capital expenditure. It was envisaged that the investment would be for up to five years, and that this would help encourage further investment from either the private sector or other areas of government.

Members noted the intention of creating sustainable growth through urban regeneration, skills and enterprise infrastructure, and through connectivity.

Those present were made aware of the Town Board which oversees the investment plan. Noted was the wide representation on the board, including from the community, from local businesses, and from other stakeholders such as the MP, and agencies such as the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Members noted the vision for Goldthorpe, for it to act as a growth catalyst for the Dearne Valley, and that around £500k had been made available for accelerated projects to be completed by 31st March, 2021. Proposals put forward as part of this included a strategic acquisition on Goldthorpe High Street, the creation of a green active travel route, enhancement on the Embankment site, the relocation of the Market site and the creation of a community orchard/growing space.

Members heard of the themes within current plans, which included creating a new heart for Goldthorpe, addressing housing challenges, improving connectivity and enhancing the community/cultural offer.

It was noted that the plan would be submitted 11th December, 2020, and that detailed business cases for projects would then be developed. Feedback from the first cohort submitting their plans was encouraging, with their plans uniquely developed to recognise the local situation.

Whilst Members were generally supportive of proposals, questions were raised around the proposed siting of a new playground. Members were concerned that this may lead to a rise in anti-social behaviour, and that there may be issues with regards to ongoing maintenance. Reassurances were made that Members concerns would be taken into account during more detailed planning work.

Suggestions were made as to whether there was an opportunity to duplicate support to that provided by DECV in Thurnscoe, and it was agreed that this could be considered.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation.

4 Performance Report Q2 (Dac.16.11.2020/4)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager spoke to the item.

With regards to the Employability Service provided by DECV, provision had moved to be provided virtually due to restrictions, but as these were lifted more face to face session had been conducted in a covid secure way. It was acknowledged that this would not now be the case.

Despite restrictions 20 learners had been recruited in quarter 2, with 20 receiving a qualification and 4 securing employment. 23 learners had also progressed on to further training. Members noted the case studies provided, and the changes to assessment to enable qualifications to be granted by OCR.

The impact of Covid-19 on the operation of the Housing and Migration Officer was acknowledged. However, despite this, 103 contacts had been made. Two vulnerable households had been identified and referred for additional support.

The officer had made 14 requests to landlords and 32 improvements to premises had been seen. The officer had been effective in dealing with waste on premises, with a number of Community Protection Notices issued. Members noted that the officer had detected 44 flytipping incidents and these had been reported.

The Environmental Education Service provided by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had been flexed due to Covid-19 and continued to work alongside Neighbourhood Services to report fly-tipping and clear areas.

As the team were restricted in working with schools and volunteers, they had increased their independent work, addressing issues in areas identified as hotspots.

Members heard how B:Friend had received a significant number of requests from people wishing to volunteer within quarter 2. 'Bundles of Joy' had been distributed and contact with those isolated had been maintained through phone or other virtual means. Quizzes had been conducted with groups on social media.

With regards to the Dearne Development Fund, it was noted that a number of funded projects had to cease due to Covid-19. Members were reassured that these would be monitored and recommenced when safe to do so.

Members heard how TADS continued to work with students at Astrea Academy Dearne, with 10 receiving assistance over six weeks, with a further cohort of 10 planned. The main issue young people highlighted was anxiety, with this heightened due to Covid-19.

DIAL had moved to providing support via the telephone and remained extremely busy. 144 enquired had been dealt with during the quarter. A similar situation was seen with the service provided by CAB, and Members noted the case studies provided.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

5 Dearne Area Council Commissioning and Financial Update (Dac.16.11.2020/5)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager spoke to the report previously circulated.

An overview of the financial position was provided. The Area Council had an opening budget of £204,720.67, which was supplemented by an additional £10,000 from the hardship fund. Members had approved the Education, Environment and Volunteer Service, Housing and Migration Officer, Employability Service and Social Connectivity Service, together with an allocation of £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund. It was noted that £163.67 remained. However, £9,500 from NESTA to support the Social Connectivity Service had been received, leaving a total of £9,663.67 unallocated.

Following the allocation of £28,000 to the Dearne Development Fund, together with £10,000 from the hardship fund, and finance carried forward from 2019/20, £41,650.68 was available to distribute. Members noted that awards had been given to DIAL and CAB, and that £23,427.68 remained in the fund.

The attention of Members was drawn to the duration of the current contracts held by B:Friend, with this in the first of two years of the contract, and the service level agreement for the Housing and Migration Officer which was in its final year.

Members noted that the contract with DECV had been granted on a 1+1+1-year basis and was at the end of the first year. A recommendation was made to approve its continuation until 31st March, 2022.

Similarly, the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had been granted on at 2+1+1 year basis, and a recommendation was made to extend this into its third year until 31st March, 2022

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the current financial position and the impact on future budgets be noted;
- (ii) That the latest position with regards to commissioned services be noted;
- (iii) That approval be given for the Education, Environment and Employability Service to continue in to the third year of the contract from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022 at a cost of £85,000;
- (iv) That approval be given for the Employability contract to continue into the second year of the contract from 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022 at a cost of £33,000.

6 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.16.11.2020/6)

Members received the notes of Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 17th September, and 15th October, 2020. The Ward Alliance had discussed projects just as Healthy Holidays and the distribution of hundreds of fruit and vegetable boxes. Noted was the success of virtual events such as soup making and pumpkin carving.

Members heard of the planned distribution of Winter Warmth packs in conjunction with the Public Health team and Active Dearne.

It was noted that the provision of Christmas Trees on Goldthorpe High Street had also been discussed.

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 16th September, and 15th October, 2020. The meeting had also considered a number of joint Ward Alliance applications as well as those from Big Local and Station House. Similarly to the Dearne South Ward Alliance, plans were being made to erect Christmas trees, and for the distribution of Winter Warmth Packs.

Thanks were given to Marie Sinclair, Community Development Officer, for her continued hard work in this area.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

7 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.16.11.2020/7)

Claire Dawson, Dearne Area Council Manager, provided an update in relation to the Ward Alliance Funds for Dearne North and Dearne South wards.

Members noted that Dearne North had a balance of £12,247.12 at the start of the financial year, which included Covid support funds and finance carried forward from 2019/20. Eight projects had been funded leaving balance of £932.92.

Dearne South Ward Alliance had a balance for 2020/21 of £16,605.12, which included Covid support funds and any remaining finance from the previous year. Following the funding of seven projects £4,453.72 remained for allocation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Community Safety - Fiona Tennyson (Dac.16.11.2020/8)

Fiona Tennyson, Community Safety Team Leader, was welcomed to the meeting to discuss issues in the area.

Issues in Bolton on Dearne were discussed and it was noted that additional patrols had been requested. In addition, issues with parking around The Green were considered. Inconsiderate parking had led to issues with access for emergency services. It was noted that this may have subsided, but this may be due to lockdown closing the Prospect Road Centre. This would be followed up in due course once the centre reopened.

Members questioned whether there had been Covid related patrols in the area. It was noted that they had commenced, with a dedicated officer responding to intelligence.

A question was raised as to whether issues had changed due to Covid-19 and it was noted that crime patterns had changed, and officers were increasingly dealing with breaches of Covid-19 restriction. However, congregating young people often dispersed on seeing officers.

RESOLVED that the feedback be noted.

Chair

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MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 23 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Leech (Chair), A. Cave, Hunt, Lofts, Newing, Pickering, Platts, Spence and Tattersall

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor Leech welcomed attendees to the meeting, which is being streamed live on the internet. Introductions were made for the benefit of those attending.

2 Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th September 2020

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 14th September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Housing and Cohesion (Bradley Beatson and Carolyn Nicholls)

Carolyn Nicholls and Bradley Beatson were welcomed to the meeting and gave an overview of Bradley's role of Housing and Cohesion Officer. Bradley has been in post since 19th October and has already done a number of walkabouts and is becoming familiar with Council systems. Bradley has created a letter for tenants which explains his role and the help and support he can provide. He has already established a presence in the community, familiarising himself with the area. People in the community seem keen to have a conversation with Bradley while he is out and about, which gives him an opportunity to explain his role. Whilst acknowledging that he has lots to learn, Bradley is clearly enthusiastic and is looking forward to the role and working with the Councillors in the future. It is likely that Bradley will be funded to do the HHSRS qualification, which will enable him to be able to categorise hazards and chase up problems with landlords once he is able to enter premises.

RESOLVED that Bradley and Carolyn be thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. Councillors also expressed their gratitude at having both officers on board to support the work of the North Area Council.

4 Young People's Resilience Grant - update

The North Area Council Manager introduced this item and apprised Members of the current position regarding the outcome of the Young People's Emotional Resilience

Grant Panel. The opportunity will support Covid-19 Recovery in the short term and transition work in the longer term.

Since the last Area Council meeting, the, multi disciplinary panel of experts with reps from junior and senior school has been very busy. Two providers have been asked to come on board - YMCA and Ad Astra, with a geographic split. The model has been slightly adapted due to Covid and budgetary requirements. All schools identified for the projects have been offered flexible support but some are experiencing difficulty with bubbles etc. and keeping students and staff safe. New relationships and trust is being established between schools and our voluntary and community sector organisations, which will take time to embed.

It was explained that the 6 primary schools were identified and approached through looking at indices of multiple deprivation, free school meals eligibility, special educational needs and layered the statistical information on top of each other. The Area Council Manager also confirmed that funding given to Emmanuel Church was in the last financial year and has come to an end and so will not duplicate funding.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress in this priority area

5 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The North Area Council Manager introduced this report, providing Members with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed. Some projects have had to be flexed due to the impact of Covid. The report explains what this has looked like and where additional funding has been applied to projects.

Items of specific note included:

The Anti-poverty community outreach project has been waived for a further 12 months and may be put out to tender in the early summer of next year unless there is an opportunity for a further waiver. The Clean and Green service may be advertised as a new opportunity from April of next year with an adapted specification. Members have now met the new Housing and Cohesion Officer Bradley Beatson. DIAL's Warm Connections project is now in the 3rd year of delivery and may be retendered next summer. In terms of the Stronger Communities grant, some projects have had to be postponed or adapted so that they could continue to provide a service during the emergency situation where appropriate. Age UK has been working hard in the area, endeavouring to ensure that older people stay mentally and physically active whilst being as independent as possible. The project is to be extended until June 2021 after a hard winter. The grant opportunity for the Environmental Contract should be advertised at the end of the month.

Members were made aware of the adaptations to the budget contained within the report which have occurred as a result of projects requiring more funding or starting later than envisaged. A Member commented that substantial progress has now been made on the Fleets project and that the report should be published on the North Area Council web page to reassure residents.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council should note the existing budget position and funding commitments;
- (ii) Members also note the update regarding the Housing and Cohesion Officer,
- (iii) Members note the updated table showing the proposed spend versus the current forecasted spend for the year, and
- (iv) The Fleets progress report be published on the North Area Council web page for the benefit of residents

6 Area Commissioning Performance Report

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, providing the Area Council with a comprehensive Performance Report for the period July – September (2020/21 Quarter 2) together with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed.

The report demonstrated how all the North Council contracted services contribute to the achievement of each of the North Area Council's agreed outcomes and social value objectives and making a massive positive intervention in people's lives, particularly during this very difficult time. Case studies demonstrated the difference that is being made to individual families.

Projects highlighted included the CAB & DIAL Community Outreach Project; Twiggs Grounds Maintenance and DIAL Social Isolation and Warm Connections project.

It was reported that Darton Cricket Club has not yet had the opportunity to use sports equipment purchased last year, it is anticipated that a report will be submitted by the end of June 2021. 'Reds in the Community' has struggled in some areas, the programme that started in October is now being delivered virtually. This will give an opportunity to engage virtually with Fit Reds, which is helpful for people who may suffer from low mood.

In terms of this year's grant funding, some remodelling has had to be done and providers have had to meet many challenges in this period. Members were provided with detailed information about the Emmanuel Church projects; CAB and DIAL; YMCA youth work and the Dementia café.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Performance Management Report be noted.

7 Covid-19 Recovery Older People's Resilience

The Area Council Manager introduced this report, which proposes to extend funding that will support older people in the COVID-19 Recovery Phase whilst trying to ensure that money contributed to the projects get well utilised. All providers are continually adapting their service delivery to reflect the current Covid safe working practises and lockdown restrictions. Really strong partnerships have been formed,

with partners talking to each other for the benefit of older people in the community, supported by the Health and Wellbeing group and the Community Matron.

An additional £2000 has been provided for winter warmer packs to be distributed to older people in the community. The packs will also include falls prevention and exercise information; reminiscence activities; toothbrush packs and information on local organisations providing help and support.

It was reported that when vaccines are rolled out, possibly as early as next month, there may be a role for the Area Council in terms of providing transport to vaccination centres. Once more is known, this will be brought to the North Area Council, as it is likely that older and vulnerable people will be a priority group.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The North Area Council continues to fund Age UK Barnsley to provide support for older people in the North Area for a further 6 months; and
- (ii) Provides £2000 of additional funding for the Winter Warmer Packs.

8 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council with regard to the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. Members were asked to keep aware of what is happening in communities and to help to identify any projects which may need funding during this difficult situation.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid19 Recovery Plan document when developing projects during the remainder of 2020/21, and
- (ii) Each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2020/21, in line with the guidance on spend.

9 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East Ward Alliance held on 8th September and 13th October 2020; Darton West Ward Alliance held on 16th September and 21st October 2020; Old Town Ward Alliance held on 8th September and 13th October 2020; and St Helen's Ward Alliance held on 19th September 2020.

Further updates included:

Darton East – There will be a solo Christmas lights switch on by Cllr Spence. Christmas trees have been funded for outside the Co-op in Mapplewell, at Woolley colliery and one at Windhill. Spring bulbs have been funded, planted by the Greenspace group across the area with the help of volunteers. There has also been a campaign to promote shopping locally in Mapplewell, which initially led to an upturn in business. It is hoped that this can continue.

Darton West – Three projects have been recently completed: the car park at Darton park has been well received and has led to a noticeable increase in use of the park; the Dearne Hall Road project is now complete with low fencing around some green space and Harry Road Rec now has new fencing which should help combat anti-social behaviour.

Old Town – 4 of the 5 Christmas trees have now been planted, a 9ft tree has been donated by a resident together with 500 crocus bulbs and 200 snowdrop bulbs donated by residents. Lights for the trees have been provided by Council and they will be dressed shortly. The community planter will be installed and planted up shortly. The Blackburn Lane play area has now been recovered and spring bulbs planted by the Yorkshire Wildlife Team.

St Helen's – Lots of community groups have been bidding for Covid recovery funding. £1687 has been returned from St Helens church as they no longer needed the funding which can now be put to good use elsewhere. Spring bulbs have been planted around the area. Christmas tree events will take place shortly but may be online. Laithes Chapel is planning to hold a memory tree service under Covid guidelines but if this does not go ahead people will still be able to put their own tags on. Activity packs and selection boxes have been agreed and will come from Good Food Barnsley CIC and will be distributed to families in need throughout the ward.

RESOLVED that the notes of the respective Ward Alliances be noted.

Chair

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MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 26 November 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Hayward (Chair), Cherryholme, Ennis OBE, Green, Higginbottom, Makinson, McCarthy, Richardson and Wraith MBE

1 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest with respect to Item 9 on the agenda. Councillor Ennis took the Chair for this item and Councillor Hayward left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 24th September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes of the Following Ward Alliances with Feedback from each Ward Alliance Chair

The meeting received notes from the Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston Ward Alliances held throughout September, October and November. The following updates were noted:-

Cudworth – It was reported that the new Development Officer will be in post from 7th December. Veggie boxes and pumpkin packs went out to people in need and activity packs have gone out to vulnerable families in the area. The pilot programme for toddlers toilet training packs is ongoing. The annual Christmas tree and motifs have been erected. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers for their ongoing support and the fantastic job they do throughout the year.

Monk Bretton – There was a live stream of the service at St Pauls church for Remembrance Sunday. Winter warmer packs are ready to give out. Santa will be turning on the Christmas lights remotely this year.

North East – A number of funding applications have been agreed, including picnic tables at Shafton and spring bulbs. 50 veg boxes have been distributed (including 20 at Grimethorpe), whilst following safe Covid guidelines. Winter warmer packs will be going out soon following advice from health visitors.

Royston – 30 extra DIAL sessions have been funded in addition to the usual weekly sessions. Green space volunteers have continued to meet and there is a new tenant in the Pavilion, which is very good news given the hard work that has been done. Christmas tree lights and new decorations will be switched on tonight. Distribution of Winter Warmer packs and the Christmas toy donation project is underway.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

4 The North East Area Council update about the Young People's initiatives with Ad Astra

Michelle Cooper was welcomed to the meeting and updated Members about the work of Ad Astra with young people across the communities of the North East Area Council. For the Outwood academies, listening support continues to be provided, now with 3 groups of 6/8 students supported by 2 staff. Topics covered include anxiety levels (which have increased exponentially through the lockdown), problems with access to IT/no internet provision; estranged families, with some families breaking down during the pandemic; job losses and financial worries; bereavement and associated guilt. Careers, sexuality, relationships, confidence building, conflict in friendship groups and lack of access to services eg youth clubs have also been covered. Support provided seems to be highly valued by the children, young people and the schools. Of the children who have been involved with Ad Astra, 68% have self harmed; 55% have reported feeling suicidal and 93% report being anxious at the moment. Period poverty has also been addressed, with delivery of health packs which are discreetly packaged so as not to draw attention to what is in the package. A Facebook appeal led to a huge influx of products for the project. An elderly Royston gentleman recently donated £1000 worth of goods, which were delivered to the centre at New Lodge and are now stored safely by Cllr Leech. Cllr Makinson expressed a wish to thank the gentleman personally in her role as Mayor and Royston Councillor. Summer holiday provision has continued in the Royston area and it was reported that over 5 weeks in the summer 149 activity packs were provided (with a different topic each week) along with 170 lunch packs. There was also a socially distanced litter pick in Royston Park, which was well received despite the heavy rain. During the October half-term Halloween activities took place with crafting sessions, packed lunches and a 'Tinky dance session' for preschool children which was very well received by families

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Michelle be thanked for her attendance and the excellent work she has been doing with young people across the area;
- (ii) Liaison take place with the Mayor's Office regarding arranging an official 'thank you' from the Mayor for the gentleman who donated £1000 of goods for the Period Poverty Project;
- (iii) Councillor David Leech be thanked for his help with storage of products, and
- (iv) £2000 of funding be provided by the Area Council for purchase of sanitary products.

5 North East Area Council Project Performance Report - update on the delivery of commissioned projects

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting progress regarding projects aligned to the agreed outcomes and social value objectives of the North East Area Council and drawing attention to a number of projects and case studies, including the work of Age UK, District Enforcement and the Exodus project.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the commissioning budget and financial analysis for the period to 2020/21. Spend is on target, however some projects which are in the pipeline have been delayed due to the current situation with Covid.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

7 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members regarding the North East Area Council Budget and Ward Alliance Funds. It was reported that all Ward Alliances are flexing projects to meet the needs of the community during the Covid-19 crisis and action plans are being developed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

8 Staffing Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, highlighting that the new Development Officer, Lawrence, starts on 7th December, with virtual meetings involving Councillors hopefully taking place before Christmas. Louise Hunt has also joined the team. Louise is aligned to public health and will work to support local communities with the ongoing Covid situation. A new Performance Monitoring officer is due to start in January and Councillors will be kept up to date with regard to this.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

9 Report of the North East Area Council about the Community Traineeship commission

At this point in the meeting Councillor Ennis took the Chair due to a declaration of non-pecuniary interest from Councillor Hayward in this item. Councillor Hayward removed himself from the meeting and was not involved in any discussions on the subject.

The Area Council Manager outlined the proposed North East Area Council 's specification for the Environmental Education Community Traineeship commission, explaining that the Environmental Steering Group had met to consider the specification for the Trainees, with a view to giving as many young people as possible a chance to get work experience in communities through working with the Environment Team. The first recruits should be in post by the beginning of the next financial year, April 2021. Members were reassured that despite the possible

implications of leaving Europe in 2021, due process will continue until any new legislation is in place.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the North East Area Council approve the specification for the Environmental Education Community Traineeship commission, and
- (ii) that the contract price shall not exceed £223,000 per annum.

10 Report of the North East Area Council about the Environmental Enforcement Commission and Service Level Agreement

The North East Area Council Manager introduced this report, seeking a decision from Councillors regarding continuation of the Environmental Enforcement commission with District Enforcement, and the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley MBC's Enforcement Services contract for a further year, from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Environmental Enforcement commission with District Enforcement continue to be funded to run from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022, at a cost of £65,000 per annum;
- (ii) the Service Level Agreement with Barnsley MBC's Enforcement Services continues to be funded for a further year, from April 1st, 2021 to the 31st March 2022, at a cost of £14,840 per annum, and
- (iii) printed dog bags should be given to dog owners to encourage them to pick up after their dog by the Enforcement Officers at a cost of £1,000.

Chair

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 3 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough,
David Griffin, Hand-Davis, Kitching and Wilson

1 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

2 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 1st October, 2020 (Pac.03.12.2020/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st October, 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 1st October, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 8th October, 2020 (Pac.03.12.2020/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 8th October, 2020.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 8th October, 2020 be received.

4 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.03.12.2020/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the report circulated. Members noted the total figure available for distribution in 2020/21, which included monies carried forward from the previous financial year, allocation for the current financial year and income from finance to support recovery from Covid-19. A total figure of £38,247.45 was available.

At the time of the report being published £24,808.25 remained for allocation, however Members noted that the Ward Alliance had recently met and recommended four applications for approval, which would further reduce this figure.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

5 Presentation on Performance (Pac.03.12.2020/5)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to the great work undertaken by Age UK Barnsley supporting vulnerable and isolated older people in the Penistone area, prioritising those with few contacts.

83 Service user contacts had been made in quarter 2, with this slightly reduced from quarter 1 as restrictions eased.

25 volunteers had committed 278 hours, with some of this providing socially distanced face-to-face support where possible. As well as walking for health programmes being arranged when appropriate, home based activity programmes had been extremely positively received with 31 taking part.

17 service users had received information and advice with an estimated benefit gain of £12,753. Though the Community Car Scheme had recommenced for essential journeys, take up remained low.

Members noted some groups had recommenced in line with guidance, but had since been postponed. However, U3A had started some activities via Zoom. It was also noted that the SOPPA network had met virtually and discussed how to collectively provide support over winter.

The services provided by Age UK provided a valuable support for older and vulnerable, and also acted as a sign posting service. Members noted the activities planned, including the continuation of activities at home and the distribution of winter warmth packs.

During the restrictions Twiggs Grounds Maintenance worked in innovative ways to support 15 community groups, with assistance from 2 businesses. 36 individual projects had taken place. Some were only small but made significant impacts. This included clearing walkways to schools and restoring seating.

Members noted that the equipment bank had been established using Ward Alliance Fund finance to provide resources for residents and community groups to use in their clean and green work.

The information and advice service provided by DIAL had moved to being provided online and via telephone. With some additional funding from the National Lottery, this had also enabled the service to be provided over 4 of 5 days. There had been a significant rise in users, with 162 benefitting from support within the quarter. Within the quarter an estimated £27,939.60 in additional benefit had been gained. This had a significant impact on the wellbeing of clients, including improvements in the levels of anxiety in users, their health and wellbeing and reductions in their feelings of isolation.

Members heard of the performance of the CAB service in the area, which assisted 42 clients within the quarter against a target of 15. Noted was the return on investment of £17 per £1 invested. There had been a growth in the demand for legal advice in relation to families and neighbours. 6 volunteers had also supported delivery of the service. Since April 2019 the service had assisted the management of £70,015 debt and helped residents to claim £145,623 of additional benefits.

Members were made aware of the work of the Area Team within the quarter. Links with community groups had continued to be maintained and advice provided in relation to accessing Covid support funds and Ward Alliance Funds. In addition, advice had been provided in relation to the safe operation of groups that had recommenced.

The 'Healthy Holiday' provision had been piloted with Springvale Primary, School, working with Café Generation. There are plans to develop this further with other schools and with the Children and Family Service.

The team continued to work with the Targeted Youth Support Service to develop proposals to utilise finance from the ringfenced Working Together Fund budget.

Though it was not possible to arrange an event to celebrate volunteering, it was noted that space in Penistone Living had been utilised in order to praise volunteers and to promote services provided by the Area Council.

Members noted that the team had worked to re-establish community responder volunteers, with a number of requests for assistance being received. Support will continue to be provided where required and referrals made to other relevant services in more complex cases.

Work continued with Age UK and Public Health to coordinate the distribution of Winter Warmth Packs, which included information on falls prevention and warm homes, as well as activity packs and warm clothing.

Support continued to be provided to the Principal Towns programme, with two artists being recently appointed to lead on art installation and way marking. Members noted that the artists would be engaging the community in the new year.

Members heard of the recent appointment of a neighbourhood engagement officer, who would provide support in relation to Covid-19. This included providing guidance to licensed premises, gyms etc and supporting test and trace arrangements.

Those present wished to place on record their thanks to SPAR in Penistone and other local businesses for their support provided to services provided by the Area Council. Also thanked were all the volunteers involved in the area. In addition Members praised the continued hard work of the Area Team.

Questions were raised in relation to the use of the £10,000 hardship fund and it was suggested that this would support continuation of advice services in the area provided by DIAL and CAB.

Members discussed engaging residents who were not digitally enabled, and it was noted that this was being considered by the Area Team and was a reason space was taken in Penistone Living Magazine. In addition, Age UK helped to make residents aware of support who were not on the internet, and noticeboards around the area were also used for promotion of services

RESOLVED that the feedback on performance be noted.

6 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.03.12.2020/6)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report previously circulated. Members were reminded of the previous approval of the development of a further grant process to support vulnerable and isolated older people. In light of the recent lockdown and current restrictions, and that the demand was likely to rise during the winter period, it was suggested that the current services should be extended for a further six months. This would allow continuity for service users and in delaying the grant process would mean that proposals could more adequately reflect the impact of Covid-19.

It had been suggested that the Working Together Fund would be advertised widely, with a deadline for applications of 27th November, 2020. However, due to many organisations taking time to consider how to operate in light of the pandemic it was suggested that any deadline be removed and that the fund continue to be promoted.

A financial summary was provided, with an in-year budget of £50,225 remaining. However, with the approval to continue support services provided by Age UK for a further six months, this was reduced by £15,225.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** That the update on procurement be received;
- (ii)** That the establishment of a grant scheme to support isolated older people be delayed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (iii)** That the current contracts funded through the Supporting Isolated and Older People's Grant Fund be continued for a further period of six months at a cost of £35,000 to address the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on vulnerable older people in the Penistone area;
- (iv)** That the update and the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted;
- (v)** That the update on funds ringfenced within the Working Together Fund for activities to support young people be noted;
- (vi)** That the updates on the Clean and Tidy contract be noted;
- (vii)** That the financial position be noted.

Chair

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 18 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Markham (Chair), Andrews BEM, Eastwood, Franklin, Frost, Lamb, Saunders, Shepherd, Smith, Stowe and Sumner

6 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 due to his position as director of Forge Community Partnership.

Councillors Frost and Markham each declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 due to their positions on the board of Age UK Barnsley.

7 Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 23rd October, 2020 (Sac.18.12.2020/2)

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 23 October, 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 23rd October, 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

8 Notes and Feedback from the Ward Alliances (Sac.18.12.2020/3)

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Wombwell held on 16th November, 2020; and Darfield held on 19th November, 2020.

Councillor Sumner provided feedback from the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance, noting that many community members had issues attending Ward Alliance meetings. Digital Champions were working with members to address issues. The Ward Alliance had found alternative means to approve funding for such as Healthy Holidays. In addition, the Ward Alliance had been planning a sizeable project to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with quad bike use. The Alliance was also looking at ways to support local businesses affected by the pandemic.

Councillor Frost spoke about the work of the Wombwell Ward Alliance, and the work to support Healthy Holiday provision. This included delivering food boxes to vulnerable families which had been supplied by local businesses. Members also heard about the distribution of activity packs and festive craft packs. Notes were the Christmas dinners cooked by the Luncheon club and delivered by volunteers. These had been very well received.

Councillor Smith gave an update on the work of Darfield Ward Alliance, including the allocation of Ward Alliance Funds to the Basket Ball Club, Cricket Club and to support Healthy Holidays provision.

Though it had not been possible to organise Christmas decorations, it was hoped a new group would be established in January, 2021 to consider Summer decorations such as hanging baskets as well as festive lighting in future years.

The Darfield Ward Alliance had discussed CCTV provision, and it was hoped that this would be funded through the Principal Towns Programme.

All Members thanked the hard work of the Area Team in their continued support of the Ward Alliances and work throughout the area.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

9 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.18.12.2020/4)

The report was received for information. It was noted that each Ward Alliance Fund had finance remaining for allocation.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

10 Presentation from Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau (Sac.18.12.2020/5)

David Andy from Barnsley Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was welcomed to the meeting.

It was noted that since lockdown the service had been delivered via telephone and digital means, rather than face to face. This had worked very well, and residents could access the service every day. Should local telephone lines be busy clients would be redirected to other CAB offices. Plans had been made for clients to be able to video call in the new year.

It was noted that the County Courts had been suspended in lockdown, and only recently reconvened to consider the most pressing cases. This had impacted on the types of issues being dealt with by the service with clients tending to have fewer housing and debt issues. However, there had been an increase in demand of employment advice. Numbers of contacts were slightly down on the previous year and the number of clients was significantly down, however those seeking advice had more complex issues which required a greater level of support.

Numbers of vulnerable clients seen had reduced, which was thought to be attributable to certain processes at the Department of Work and Pensions being paused. It was thought that numbers would increase once the pandemic eased.

During the year 1,219 issues had been dealt with and clients were seen on average three times. Members heard that clients accessed from all wards, in a pattern similar to previous years.

The service had assisted clients to manage £117,000 of debt this year and gain £770,000 of additional benefit. It was acknowledged that both were lower than the previous year, but this was attributed to pauses in court hearings and in DWP processes.

Members asked if plans in place for when courts were more widely opened, and it was noted that arrangements were in place to support clients when required.

Those present discussed the impact of the pandemic and anticipated job losses, and a suggestion was made to consider what additional support could be provided to those looking for work or to reskill.

Discussed was the lack of access to appropriate IT, and it was noted that support was available in the form of tablet computers accessible through Neighbourhood Engagement Officers.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation.

11 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.18.12.2020/6)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report previously circulated, and a brief presentation was given to highlight the pertinent points.

Members were reminded of the current contract with District Enforcement which was envisaged would help encourage behavioural change; keeping traffic flowing in centre and reducing dog fouling across the area. The contract was due to finish at the end of March, 2021. A number of options were considered, with a recommendation that the contract be extended for a further 12-month period, and that Darfield patrols formally recognised in contract documentation.

Those present were then reminded of the work of the One Stop Shop, delivering impartial and confidential advice. The contract was due to cease on 30th June, 2021 and there was no option available to extend.

Members were reminded of previous discussion on the subject, including at a Members' briefing on 12th November, 2020. A number of options were considered. The national and local economic issues and consequent need anticipated in the area was acknowledged.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** That the contract with District Enforcement be extended for a period of one year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March, 2022 at a cost of £18,220, with Darfield 'Hotspot' areas formally included in the contract;
- (ii)** That the One Stop Shop Advice Service be retendered at a value of £83,000 per annum for a period of three years (one year with two further periods of one year, subject to an annual review of performance, continued evidence of need and availability of funding);
- (iii)** That the Area Council manager drafts a specification of requirements and all other necessary tender documentation and that the Executive Director Communities be authorised to approve all necessary paperwork in order to procure a One Stop Shop Advice Service following consultation with Members of South Area Council;
- (iv)** That the timescales proposed for the procurement of a One Stop Shop Advice Service be approved;
- (v)** That Councillors Markham and Stowe take part in the tender process including scoring tender submissions and being part of the interview panel.

Chair

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 18 November 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Frost (on behalf of Cheetham), Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors T. Cave, Cherryholme, Franklin, McCarthy, Shepherd and Tattersall

9. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillors Franklin and Lamb declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the Forge Community Partnership in respect of Minute Number 16. Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Berneslai Homes Board in respect of Minute Number 15.

10. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 4th November, 2020 had been called in.

11. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th November 2020 (Cab.18.11.2020/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

12. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.18.11.2020/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

13. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.18.11.2020/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

14. Women's Reproductive Health Service [Procurement of a Provider (Cab. 18.11.2020/6)]

RESOLVED that the award of a contract for a Women's Reproductive Health Service on completion of a competitive tender process, as set out in the report now submitted, be agreed.

15. ESF Sector Routeways and Tenants First Projects (Cab.18.11.2020/7)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the European Social Fund (ESF) grants for the SECTOR ROUTEWAYS and TENANTS FIRST projects and contributions of required match funding, be accepted; and
- (ii) that the service level agreements with the respective lead partners for each project, Sheffield City Council and Berneslai Homes be agreed and with it the undertaking to deliver Barnsley activity as detailed.

16. Land Disposal Stead Lane/Parkside Recreation Ground Hoyland Common - Objections Received to Public Notice under Local Government Act 1972, Section 123 (1) 2(a) (Cab.18.11.2020/8)

RESOLVED:- AGREED

- (i) that consideration be given to objections received to the decision to dispose of the land known as the Stead Lane/Parkside Recreation Ground, for the relocation of the Rockingham Sports Ground, following statutory notification of the Council's intention to dispose of the land (ref: Cab.21.10.2020/13) and duly noted;
- (ii) that the freehold sale of the highway land should proceed on the basis that it is of minimal impact to the continued existence of the open space; and
- (iii) that the Executive Director Place and the Service Director Legal be authorised to finalise the terms and complete the disposal of the land to Forge Community Partnership by way of a long lease and to Newlands Developments by way of a freehold disposal.

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Chair

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 2 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors T. Cave, Cherryholme, Franklin, Frost, Shepherd and Tattersall

17. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest as Goldthorpe Town Fund member in respect of Minute Number 22. Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as Berneslai Homes Board and Barnsley Premier Leisure Board member in respect of Minute Number 23.

18. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 18th November 2020 had been called in.

19. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2020 (Cab.2.12.2020/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

20. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.2.12.2020/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

21. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.2.12.2020/5)

RESOLVED that the report notifying the receipt of the following petition be noted and the recommended actions for responding to them be endorsed:-

- (a) Containing the signatures of 4 signatories, in respect of the height of trees on Council property which are close to properties on Queens Gardens and Saville Court at Hoyland Common, Barnsley.

The trees were inspected on 9th October 2020 and no imminent or developing health and safety concerns were identified.

The actions recommended are based solely on a maintenance programme. The timescales for the recommended works identified in the Visual Tree Inspection reports are in line with those described in the Council's Tree Risk

Management Framework; in this instance the following recommended works should be completed within 6 months of the inspection date by 9th April 2021.

The recommended works are as follows:

- 1 Formative prune of tree no.2; clearing low branches and branches extending over the boundary with the neighbouring properties.
- 2 Remove several branches from tree no.3 that will in time overhang the roof of a nearby property.
- 3 Remove low branches which are causing an obstruction to the grass cutting machinery.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

22. Towns Fund Goldthorpe (Cab.2.12.2020/6)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be given to the submission of the Town Investment Plan to the Ministry for Homes Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), on or before 11th December 2020 seeking Towns Fund grant to fund the delivery of the schemes contained therein, as detailed in the report now submitted;
- (ii) that, subject to the bid to MHCLG being successful and in line with MHCLG guidance, appraisal of the individual Town Investment Plan business cases be delegated to the Council's Capital Oversight Board which was an established body within the One Council Framework overall governance structure;
- (iii) that, subject to the bid to MHCLG being successful, the Legal Service Director and Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Executive Director Place be authorised to:
 - conclude any necessary approval and funding processes with MHCLG (including negotiating the terms and conditions of, and final approval of the Town Investment Plan, subsequently releasing this into the capital programme in line with grant funding once approved);
 - accept tenders, appoint where necessary a contractor/contractors to implement the delivery of the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan, subject to the costs being contained within the Town Investment Plan Grant Funding Agreement;
 - where necessary apply for any consents, licence arrangements, prepare details of and publish a Side Roads Order under sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 to deal with any required changes to the existing highway network to accommodate any of the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan and to submit the order to the Secretary of State for Transport for confirmation and to take all necessary steps to secure confirmation of the Order including (if necessary) supporting the order at a local public inquiry;

- in principle, where necessary complete due process and documentation required to make and publish a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) pursuant to relevant legislation, noting that specific details of any identified CPOs will be subject to further Cabinet approval;
- (iv) that the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to:
- where necessary, to enter into negotiations with any third party landowner(s) or property owners to acquire any interests or enter into agreements to occupy land now in the ownership of the local authority necessary to deliver the projects identified in the Town Investment Plan, by agreement where possible. Also, to complete any variation to any existing leases on the occupation of land owned by the local authority and where necessary negotiate compensation payments;
 - negotiate the terms and conditions of any development agreements required with relevant private developer(s) or parties to deliver the Town Investment Plan;
- (v) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture, in line with MHCLG guidance, be authorised to:
- convene a Town Deal Board, with community and business representatives to facilitate the development of the Town Investment Plan;
 - engage with businesses and the wider community throughout the development and delivery of the Town Investment Plan;
 - procure the necessary technical expertise to assist with developing the Town Investment Plan and wider business case development;
 - under the terms of the Barnsley Contract Procedure rules, if necessary, seek tenders for any aspect of the project including the procurement of necessary technical expertise to assist with developing the Town Investment Plan and wider business case development and appoint the successful tender on the basis of most economically advantageous bid; and to consider whether the works, services or goods can be provided in-house, subject to value for money considerations;
 - submit the Town Investment Plan prepared by the Town Board;
- (vi) that the progress made with establishing the Towns Fund governance structure required in line with MHCLG guidance be acknowledged, but still recognising that the Council has overall accountability for the delivery of any Towns Fund monies received;
- (vii) that the Executive Director Place be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to secure development and delivery of the Towns Investment Plan;

- (viii) that the Service Director Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Service Director Environment and Transport be authorised to seek any necessary planning permission, (outline or full) required for the delivery of the projects included in the Town Investment Plan.

Core Services Spokesperson

23. Quarter 2 (2020/21) Corporate Performance Report (Cab.2.12.2020/7)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Corporate Plan Performance Report for Quarter 2 (July to September 2020), as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted
- (ii) that the report be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform and support their ongoing work programme; and
- (iii) Cabinet thanked officers for all their hard work during this period.

24. Quarter 2 (2020/21) Corporate Finance Performance Report (Cab.2.12.2020/8)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Corporate Finance Performance Report for Quarter 2 (July to September 2020), as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- a) Corporate Financial Performance
 - (ii) that the current forecast General Fund Revenue overspend of £47.0M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19 be noted;
 - (iii) that the current forecast Housing Revenue Account overspend of £3.4M incorporating the ongoing impact of COVID-19 be noted;
 - (iv) that the overall net impact (after all Government funding) of £15.5M be noted;
 - (v) that the continuation of the moratorium on all non-essential expenditure and the suspension of non-urgent one-off investments originally approved to commence in 2020/21 be approved;
 - (vi) that the write off of historic bad debts totalling £1.5M be approved;
- b) Capital Programme
 - (vii) that the forecast position on the approved Capital Programme be noted;
 - (viii) that the external funding position highlighted in paragraphs 4.1 be noted.
- c) Treasury Management
 - (ix) that the key messages from the Council's Treasury Management activities be noted.

25. 6 monthly Analysis of Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance April 2020 to September 2020 (Cab.2.12.2020/9)

RESOLVED that the Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severances which have taken place in the period April to September 2020, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

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Chair

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MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 16 December 2020
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING IS TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Cherryholme, Gardiner, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors T. Cave, Franklin, Frost, McCarthy, Shepherd and Tattersall

26. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as Berneslai Homes Board member in respect of Minute Number 36.

27. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 2 December 2020 had been called in.

28. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2020 (Cab.16.12.2020/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

29. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.16.12.2020/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

30. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.16.12.2020/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

Core Services Spokesperson

31. LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel Report Findings (Cab.16.12.2020/6)

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the areas of good practice identified and are informed and assured on the progress against areas for further consideration.

Adults and Communities Spokesperson

32. Winter Plan - Adult Social Care 2020-21 (Cab.16.12.2020/7)

RESOLVED the contents of the Winter Plan – Adult Social Care 2020-21 and the associated resourcing of the plan, be noted.

Children's Spokesperson

33. Measures to maximise and strengthen support to the Borough's examination cohort (2021) (Cab.16.12.2020/8)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the current arrangements to support Barnsley's young people due to take exams in the academic year 2020/21, be noted; and
- (ii) that the additional measures to mitigate the impact of Covid19 on the exam cohort as detailed in Paragraph 4.6 of this report, be endorsed.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

34. Employment and Skills – Digital Boost and Strategic Commissioning Framework (Cab.16.12.2020/9)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) to agree to accept the ESF grant for Digital Boost project on approval and contribute the required match funding, be agreed;
- (ii) to sign a contract with DWP to manage Digital Boost on behalf of the project partners, conclude service level agreements with the project partners and undertake the responsibilities of delivering the Barnsley activity;
- (iii) that the Council agrees to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) approach as the preferred route;
- (iv) that the Council begins a procurement exercise to establish the DPS;
- (v) that the Council agrees to allow other authorities to use the DPS; and
- (vi) to delegate the award of the contracts to the successful tenderers for the DPS to the Executive Director of Place, or their duly authorised representative.

35. Grant of 10-year lease of Elmhirst Playing fields to Hoyland Common Falcons Junior Football Club (Cab.16.12.2020/10)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the Council as freehold owner of the Elmhirst Playing Fields approves the grant of a 10-year lease to Hoyland Common Falcons Junior Football Club;

- (ii) that the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for the proposed 10-year lease; and
- (iii) that the Service Director Legal Services be authorised to complete the 10-year lease, subject to the necessary consents being achieved.

**36. Berneslai Homes IT Upgrade of Repairs and Maintenance System
(Cab.16.12.2020/11)**

RESOLVED that the release of earmarked funding to Berneslai Homes for IT developments, be approved.

**37. Natural England Great-crested Newt District Licensing Scheme
(Cab.16.12.2020/12)**

RESOLVED that the Council signs up to the District Level Licensing Scheme for Great-crested Newts run by Natural England.

38. Sale of Land and Grant of Easements to National Grid - Visual Impact Scheme, Dunford Bridge (Cab.16.12.2020/13)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the granting of the necessary easements, lease and land disposal in relation to the Visual Impact Project proposed by National Grid for the removal of 7 Overheads Towers at Dunford Bridge as part of their Visual Impact Project funded by Ofgem, be approved;
- (ii) it is noted that the Overhead Towers are to be replaced by underground cables to be laid within the easement route which shall run under the Trans Pennine Trail between the public car park at Dunford Bridge and the sealing end compound where it will reconnect to the Overhead Towers;
- (iii) that approval be given to the granting of a 2 year lease of land is required for site compound purposes allowing for the works to be undertaken and will be used for storage of materials during the works. At the same time National Powergrid are to replace the local overhead low voltage power supply network with an underground power supply to facilitate the Visual Impact Project as it currently traverses the National Grid overhead line;
- (iv) that the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise Heads of Terms for the option agreements relating to the sale of land required for a sealing end compound;
- (v) that the Corporate Asset Manager shall by way of Officer delegation dated May 2018 para 23 (j) (iii) and (v) grant, a temporary 2 year lease for site compound purposes and cable easements required by National Grid;

- (vi) that the Corporate Asset Manager shall by way of Officer delegation dated May 2018 para 23 (j) (v) grant to Northern Powergrid a way leave in relation to the underground power supply where it affects the land owned by the Council within the car park at Dunford Bridge; and
- (vii) that the Executive Director Core Services (Legal) be authorised to complete the necessary documentation so that the option agreements can be completed together with the land transfer, lease and easements as part of National Grids Visual Impact Project at Dunford Bridge.

**39. Proposal to Surrender the Current Lease at Wellington House, Barnsley
(Cab.16.12.2020/14)**

RESOLVED that the terms are accepted to surrender of the lease arrangements at Wellington House on the 31st December 2020.

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Chair

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 13 January 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors T. Cave, Cherryholme, Franklin, Frost, Shepherd and Tattersall

40. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as Berneslai Homes Board member in respect of Minute Number 52.

41. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 16 December 2020 had been called in.

42. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2020 (Cab.13.1.2021/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

43. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.13.1.2021/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the weeks ending 4 and 18 December 2020 were noted.

44. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.13.1.2021/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

Core Services Spokesperson

45. Calculation of Council Tax Base 2021/22 (Cab.13.1.2021/6)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2021/22 be approved;
- (ii) that the Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 shall be 65,226.24. This figure has been calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012;

- (iii) that calculated in accordance with the above regulations the Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 in respect of each Parish being listed in the table below:

Parish Area	Band D Equivalent Chargeable Properties	95% of Band D Equivalent Chargeable Properties
Penistone	4,407.90	4,187.51
Billingley	97.00	92.15
Great Houghton	653.50	620.83
Little Houghton	183.50	174.33
Shafton	942.70	895.57
High Hoyland	69.10	65.65
Hunshelf	163.80	155.61
Langsett	111.30	105.74
Cawthorne	617.90	587.01
Dunford	251.10	238.55
Gunthwaite and Ingbirchworth	298.30	283.39
Thurgoland	756.90	719.06
Tankersley	690.50	655.98
Wortley	304.20	288.99
Oxspring	465.90	442.61
Silkstone	1,213.10	1,152.45
Stainborough	164.00	155.80
Barnsley and other Non-Parish areas	57,268.50	54,405.01
Total	68,659.20	65,226.24

- (iv) that a premium of 300% (400% council tax charge) be applied to properties left empty and substantially unfurnished for longer than 10 years.

46. 2021/22 Business Rates - Calculation of the Authority's Local Share (Cab.13.1.2021/7)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the process for estimating the retained Business Rate Local Share for 2021/22, as set out in the report now submitted, be noted and that the 'local share' for Barnsley be agreed for £22.364M (excluding S31 Grants) in line with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS); and
- (ii) that the final submission be approved by the Service Director Finance - S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson for Core Services.

Joint Regeneration and Culture and Core Services Spokespersons

47. Housing Revenue Account - Draft 2021/22 Budget and Investment Proposals 2021-26 (Cab.13.1.2021/8)

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL ON 4 FEBRUARY 2021:-

- (i) that the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in Section 4 of the report submitted be noted;
- (ii) that the Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget for 2021/22 be approved, as outlined in Section 5, including the proposed revenue investments and savings, as outlined in Section 6, with any final amendments/additions being delegated to the Cabinet Spokespersons for Place and the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);
- (iii) that a rent increase in line with the Government's rent policy be approved;
- (iv) that it be noted that there is no proposed change to non-dwelling rents, service charges and heating charges for 2021/22;
- (v) that the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee at paragraph 7.7 be approved, with any final amendments/additions delegated to the Cabinet Spokespersons for Place and the Service Director, Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151);
- (vi) that the 2021/22 Berneslai Homes Management Fee for both Gypsy and Traveller Sites be approved and in respect of the ESF Grant, both of which are charged to the Authority's General Fund, detailed at paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 respectively;
- (vii) that approval be given to the commitment to the decarbonisation of the Council house stock with an initial investment of £1.9M in 2021/22;
- (viii) that approval be given in principle, the proposed emerging capital priority schemes as detailed in Section 8, subject to individual reports as appropriate, in line with the Council's governance arrangements;
- (ix) that the Core Housing Capital Investment programme for 2021/22 be approved and that the indicative programme for 2022/23 through 2025/26, outlined in Section 8, be noted.

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

48. Goldthorpe Masterplan Framework (Round 1 Consultation) (Cab.13.1.2021/9)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in the development of the Draft masterplan framework for Goldthorpe, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted, and;
- (ii) that the proposal to undertake a Community Consultation exercise planned to commence during January 2021 be approved.

Children's Spokesperson

49. Proposed opening of a new BMBC Managed Children's Residential Home (Cab.13.1.2021/10)

RESOLVED that Option 1 outlined in Paragraph 5.1 of the report now submitted for an additional 5 bed Local Authority residential unit to secure greater sufficiency and outcomes for Barnsley children be approved.

50. Exclusion of Public and Press (Cab.13.1.2021/11)

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, as follows:-

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Type of Information Likely to be Disclosed</u>
12	Decommissioning of the Multi-Systemic Therapy Service - Paragraph (2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
13.	Homeless and Rough Sleeper Plan - Acquisition of Cluster Accommodation and Recruitment of Intensive Housing Management Team - Paragraph (3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

51. Decommissioning of the Multi-Systemic Therapy Service (Cab.13.1.2021/12)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the outcome of the review of Barnsley's Multi-Systemic Therapy Service, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted;
- (ii) that approval be given for the de-commissioning of the Multi-Systemic Therapy Service with effect from 14 February 2021;
- (iii) that approval be given for the financial resources currently allocated to this Service to be re-invested elsewhere in the Children's Services system in supporting vulnerable children between 2021-2023; and
- (iv) that approval be given for the financial resources to be offered up as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as part of Children's Services future cost savings in 2023/24.

Cabinet Spokesperson without Portfolio

Joint Adults and Communities and Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

52. Homeless and Rough Sleeper Plan - Acquisition of Cluster Accommodation and Recruitment of Intensive Housing Management Team (Cab.13.1.2021/13)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the direction of travel established in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Recovery Plan, as detailed in the report, be agreed and the incremental delivery of the key elements contained within it;
- (ii) that the Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to agree Heads of terms for the acquisition of a suitable property to repurpose as accommodation to help meet the needs of Barnsley's long-term rough sleepers;
- (iii) that the Service Director Legal Services be authorised to complete the acquisition of the property, subject to the necessary planning consent being achieved as necessary;
- (iv) that recruitment into the "core team" to provide intensive housing management and support to those in housing crisis and threatened with rough sleeping in the borough be endorsed; and
- (v) that the re-allocation of capital and revenue to meet housing needs identified when Holden House was decommissioned into the purchase and repurposing of the identified suitable property be endorsed.

.....
Chair

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

12 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, R Frost, P Haith,
C Hogarth, P Price, S M Richards, C Ross and Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, S Booth and D Nichols
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, I Rooth, M McCoole and L Noble (Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime
Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor C Ransome, N Copley, S Loach, M Potter,
S Norman, ACO T Carlin and A Mullen

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Cave referred to the Equality and Inclusion Awareness Session that had been held for Members on 6 October 2020. He expressed his thanks to L Hayhurst and colleagues for the very useful, inclusive and interactive course that had been provided on a virtual platform.

Councillor Taylor echoed Councillor Cave's sentiments.

Councillor Damms referred to a telephone call he had received from a Councillor who had raised concerns regarding flooding at the Stocksbridge Leisure Centre. Councillor Damms had liaised with CFO Johnson, and the Service had provided the Councillor with the appropriate advice.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Councillor Ayris commented that he had not received the information regarding the number of disputes in relation to the staff grievance process, and whether there had been an increase in the number of disputes due to Covid-19.

L Noble stated that the information had been provided to Members via email on 29 September 2020. She would ensure that the information was resent to Councillor Ayris.

CFO Johnson reported that the collaborative LGA and NFCC submission on the Fire Spending Review proposal had been submitted to the Government. She had shared the document with the Joint Authorities Governance Unit and this would be forwarded onto Members. The detailed document covered the request for increased baseline funding, funding for flooding capability, precept flexibility regarding pay increases, detriment claims on McCloud and Sargent, the Fire Safety Bill and the Building Safety Programme etc. The Service continued to be informed that this would be 3 year settlement, although it was considered more likely to be a one year settlement. The overall funding settlement would be known just prior to Christmas 2020, and the Service would be informed of its actual funding settlement in the New Year.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 14 September 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE - A SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide a bi-annual update on Procurement Services, its activities and how it was effectively supporting the various aspects of SYFR businesses as well as a log of FS323 Request to Contracts Standing Orders (CSOs) Waiver activity in the preceding 6 months for the period October 2019 to April 2020.

Over the past 6 month period, the main focus of the Procurement Service had been in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Service had continued to maintain a stock of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including sanitising hand cleansers and equipment, and all of the fire stations had been adequately supplied at all times. A new pandemic stores had been established which stocked all essential items.

The SYFR structural firefighting kit had now been procured, with a regional award made to Ballyclare Ltd on 14 August 2020. This would achieve a saving of £26,600 for SYFR against the national framework for procurement of structural PPE, and the new kit will be rolled out for operational use in Quarter 3 of 2021. The rescue jackets had been purchased, and an after care service provision would be entered into to ensure that the kit was cleaned and returned within adequate time.

Members noted the stock check deficiency of -£591.51 for the year to April 2020.

Councillor Ayris suggested that it would be useful for Members to be informed of the number of tenders that were submitted under the various categories within the report. He queried the recommendations for improvements following the Compliance Review Audit. In relation to the end-to-end procurement review, he considered that it should be borne in mind that some of the previous practices had not initially been picked up by the previous internal or external auditors i.e. the roofing contracts and the servicing of the emergency stand-by generating plant. He queried whether a further explanation could be provided to the FS323 Request to CSO Waiver Log at Appendix A, together with further clarification of the discrepancies at Appendix C to the report.

D Nichols stated that a final audit report had not yet been issued. There had been some mismatch between the guidance documents, which had highlighted a need to ensure consistency across all of the documents. He would provide Members with a copy of the full request for waiver document. In relation to Appendix C to the report, there would be items within their own ticket i.e. catering, batteries and cleaning which would show both ups and downs against multiple items, and would achieve either a net loss or net gain.

S Booth highlighted that the Procurement Service report had been provided to the Authority on a six monthly basis for the last 3 ½ years. Over the past 3 year period, the audit recommendations had been subject to an annual audit from either KPMG, Deloitte or BMBC's Internal Audit. RSM UK Ltd, the new internal auditors, did not feel it necessary to undertake an audit this year given the conclusions derived from BMBC's Internal Audit. In relation to the recommendations, the outline detail had been presented to Members at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 14 September 2020, on the procurement audit and findings. Members had been informed that the final report was awaited from BMBC's Internal Audit. He reassured Members that a positive assurance had been given on the work undertaken by BMBC's Internal Audit. He would ensure that any inconsistencies in some of the paperwork did not continue moving forwards. In relation to the Waiver Log at Appendix A to the report, details on the current status of the waivers had been included within the reports for at least the past 2 years. In relation to Appendix C to the report, he considered that the stock discrepancies should be seen as a very positive position, given the amount of stores held by the Service and

the value of the issues that went through those stores. He considered that overall, the report presented a very positive position. He did not believe that there was another procurement service that had received sign off by the internal and external auditors, and had opened itself up for scrutiny like SYFR's Procurement Service.

Councillor Richards referred to the current stock availability which had returned to normal and the pricing which had begun to return to pre Covid-19 levels. She queried whether any predictions could be made, bearing in mind a potential second wave of the Covid-19 lockdown.

D Nichols referred to the exercise underway to achieve accurate pricing. FFP3 and Type 2R masks had recently been sourced, and the Service had just over 15,000 masks currently in stock which equated to approximately an 8 week supply for use on all front line vehicles. Adequate supplies were available within the supply chain and the pandemic stores.

Councillor Haith queried the latest position regarding the replacement of the three boiler systems.

D Nichols stated that currently two of the three boiler systems were currently out to tender and had been awarded. The Training and Development Centre's (TDC) heating system required a major upgrade and would be replaced shortly.

In relation to the Procurement Services savings between May 2020 to October 2020, a number of Members queried whether the £129,633 within Appendix E to the report was, in fact, real savings as it related to the savings between the highest and lowest tender bids. Members also queried whether they could be informed of the real savings that had been made by the Procurement Services.

Members were informed that this was the standard reporting procedure that had been adopted by the sector throughout the country. The total of £129,633 indicated that by conducting a tender exercise, the Service had been able to obtain better pricing. Savings in the region of £2m had been made over the past 2 years, some of which had been real negotiated savings. There was a degree of artificiality around the figures which could be misinterpreted. Some of the savings related to cost avoidance by undertaking a competitive process, whilst remembering that some of the amounts related to a mixture of capital investment and revenue money, together with genuine budgetary savings.

Councillor Taylor stated that the report presented was consistent with previous reports. He requested that future reports provided an explanation in order to eliminate discrepancies.

S Booth would liaise with D Nichols to provide further transparency to the figures in future reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.

Councillor Taylor requested that a vote be taken to determine whether the Procurement Service six monthly update report should become an annual update report.

Councillors Ayris and Damms voted against the proposal for the Procurement Services report to be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

All other Members voted in favour of the proposal for the Procurement Services report to be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

S Booth commented that any exceptional or extraordinary circumstances would be reported to the Authority as necessary.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and endorsed the ongoing positive work of the Procurement Services team.
- ii) Agreed that future Procurement Service update reports be provided to the Authority on an annual basis.

11 COVID-19 UPDATE

DCFO Kirby gave an update on SYFR's response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past couple of months, the focus had predominately been to update staff on the latest guidance, to consider staff welfare arrangements, to protect the critical 999 response service and to deliver prevention and protection services in a risk based manner.

SYFR's Headquarters and TDC had progressed to become Covid-19 secure workplaces. This had enabled a number of support staff to return back into those premises where it was considered appropriate, in a risk approached manner and on a rotational basis, to ensure that none of the departments exceeded a specific level of occupancy and that the total building occupancies had significantly reduced in comparison to pre-Covid-19 levels. However, communication had recommenced with support staff in relation to the increased requirements to work from home wherever possible, to align with Government guidance.

A workplace safety video had been produced together with relevant guidance documents to assist the support staff returning back into the workplace which included information on the general directional flow of people within the buildings, use of relevant hand sanitising workstations and to try to limit and reduce the number of contact points within the buildings. The Pulse Surveys had provided good staff feedback, and feedback was that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) had taken their welfare and safety seriously to enable them to return back into the workplace.

Work had been undertaken with representative bodies and staff on the procedures to resume the broader prevention and protection work especially around home safety visits. The SLT had agreed a training plan to enable the safety critical training to resume, and two firefighter training courses had been successfully delivered.

The Government's recent increase in the Covid-19 threat level from 3 to 4 had started to potentially impose restrictions at a local level in an attempt to control the spread of the virus. A Government COBR meeting would be held today to discuss the current situation of increased community transmission, with an expected announcement on a new three tier alert level approach which would impose additional restrictions across the country. It was uncertain which tier South Yorkshire would come under. Operational activity parameters had been drafted to align to the three alert levels; it was also intended to align the Service's prevention and protection activity to these. The Service would continue to protect its 999 response service activity, which to date had not been impacted upon by the pandemic.

The Service was engaged with the Local Resilience Forums (LRF) which met twice weekly to focus on recovery and response to the pandemic, together with an LRF Compliance and Regulations Cell. The Service could also connect into the multi-agency communications cell that had been established to provide support on the broader communications across the local area. The Service's response to the pandemic has quickly evolved to respond to the rapidly changing situation, and the internal dedicated response meetings had been re-established. The Service would provide support to the increased compliance checks and enforcement activity throughout the county, provided that they were covered by the national tri-party agreement. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) was working at a national level with representative bodies to negotiate a potential extension to the national tri-party agreement to enable the continuation of work to support local partners into the New Year.

The Service would continue to communicate messages within the community regarding compliance with self-isolation and face coverings, which were aligned with the Local Resilience Plan process.

Since the re-opening of schools, there had been a slight increase in staff sickness levels, although this had not significantly impacted upon service delivery. A limit had been placed on the amount of time that the operational staff spent off station, with the exception of 999 response work and essential training at TDC. The 999 Control Room had been locked down to limit the number of visitors to protect those members of staff.

On 23 September 2020, the Senior Officers had taken part in an LRF strategic exercise in relation to the Service's response to Covid-19 together with additional Winter month challenges i.e. flooding incidents, which had tested the Service's plans and preparation.

The NFCC had been working with Public Health England in relation to the possibility of fire and rescue service staff being exempt from the requirement to self-isolate provided that the strict guidance was followed around compliance with

Covid-19 secure workplace arrangements. This presented a critical challenge when riding the fire appliances. The Service had followed guidance from the NFCC and had updated the internal guidance to enable firefighters to wear Type 2R face masks. Local PHE officials have confirmed that there is no guarantee that the Service's staff would be allowed to become exempt from the Track and Trace and isolation requirements.

Councillor Ayris expressed his thanks for the comprehensive update provided. He queried, ahead of the Government's imminent announcement, whether the Service would be presented with an issue in the event that the county was split into more than one tier.

DCFO Kirby commented that such a scenario would impact upon the Service's prevention and protection arrangements. Engagement had recently taken place with representative bodies on the potential issue. A request had been made from the LRF perspective and the four local authority Leaders, to apply a single tier across all of the local authority areas. The Service would continue to provide safety advice and information to people within their homes and businesses as undertaken since the initial lockdown period via electronic communication and telephone. Dedicated prevention staff would potentially undertake essential home visits to install vital safety equipment in order to protect the Service's dedicated 999 response, until the tier levels began to reduce.

CFO Johnson provided Members with an update on the hot debrief that she had attended on 25 September 2020, following the virtual HMI inspection during w/c 21 September 2020. The inspection had identified that the Service had up to date pandemic, flu and business continuity plans which had been activated and that the Service had been able to make an early response. The Service continued to provide its core statutory duty and the prevention and protection activities had continued in line with the NFCC guidance. The inspectors had commented that the Service's wholetime duty firefighters had not routinely been used for the additional Covid-19 activities, most of which had been carried out by non-operational staff. CFO Johnson had informed them that operational staff were on standby to drive ambulances to the Nightingale Hospital, and that a number of operational staff had assisted in the receipt and distribution of PPE. The inspectors had discounted the operational staff driving the ambulances as this had not been actively used. The inspectors had recognised that the Service had maintained its Control Room function despite staff shortages and had trained resilience staff. The inspectors had also recognised that the Service's finances had not yet been affected by the pandemic and that it had drawn down on the Covid-19 funding, but had not used reserves. The inspectors had been complimentary on the health and wellbeing of staff and the new ways of engagement with staff that had been introduced. The findings of the inspection were yet to be moderated, although CFO Johnson was cautiously optimistic of a positive result, which was expected in late December 2020/early in the New Year.

Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks for updates provided and for all of the work undertaken by the Service to protect its staff and to maintain the service provided to the people of South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

12 BID FOR SSCR FUNDING

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted for Members to consider the application for funding from the SSCR Sprinkler Fund by Sheffcare, which was a major provider of Dementia care in South Yorkshire, for a 50% contribution towards the cost of the sprinkler system installation. The estimated cost of the installation was £105,420 which would require the Authority to provide a contribution of £52,710. The funding would enable Sheffcare to develop their ambition to sprinkler all their buildings on a future programme, to be funded by themselves.

Members noted the following breakdown of costs:-

System with Pump and Tank	£67,650
Drawings of Building (unless suitable ones can be provided)	£5,700
Fire Stopping (mandatory requirement)	£4,000
Electrical Works for Alarm Systems and Pumps	£6,500
Extra's Decorating and making good	£4,000 (to be provided by another company therefore not included in contract)
Total	£87,850 + 20% vat = £105,420

Councillor Ross was very supportive of the application made to provide funding for these extremely vulnerable people within South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members accepted the application for joint funding for the installation of a fire sprinkler system in Knowle Hill Residential Dementia Care Facility in Sheffield.

13 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Members were presented with the key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 September 2020.

Councillor Buckley requested an update in relation to the Halloween and Bonfire Night period and the Dark Nights initiative.

DCFO Kirby stated that there was a legislative requirement for the Service to ensure the compliance around the rules and regulations for the sale of fireworks. The Service was working across the LRF partnership to send out clear messaging to deter people from hosting bonfire/firework events within their own gardens, which were unlikely to be undertaken in a risk assessed manner. In relation to the Dark Nights initiative, he would arrange for a specific briefing to be provided to

Members by the Area Manager for Prevention. He was aware that arrangements were in place to support the partners across each of the local authority areas. The Bonfire Night period this year was of specific concern to the Service, due to the fact that no organised events would be held due to the pandemic.

Councillor Buckley also expressed his thanks to L Hayhurst and her team for providing the Equality and Inclusion Awareness Session that had been held for Members on 6 October 2020.

CFO Johnson stated that the Service inspected those premises which stored / sold fireworks. The LRF had discussed the issue of fireworks in some detail. The licensing, quantity and size of fireworks that could be sold to members of the public would also be looked at to try to deter large fireworks being procured for use within gardens. She would pass on Councillor Buckley's thanks to L Hayhurst and her team.

RESOLVED - That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 September 2020.

14 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 14 September 2020.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To provide Members with feedback from the dedicated comprehensive spending review team for the sector.	When complete	CFO Johnson	<p><u>Update 12-10-20</u></p> <p>The collaborative LGA and NFCC submission of the Fire Spending Review Proposal was emailed to Members.</p> <p>ACTION DISCHARGED</p>
2	To present information to Members over the next 12 months to enable the Performance Management Framework to be shaped, prior to Authority approval.	CAG	ACO Carlin	<p>On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) (NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</p>

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
3	To provide Members with an update on Power Bi at a future CAG meeting.	CAG	J Patrick	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i>
4	To provide sufficient detail on apprentices within the Financial Performance Reports.		S Booth	
5	Digital and ICT Development Plan 2020-2021 Update.	FRA 11-01-21	S Locking	
6	Workforce Development Strategy Report.	Future FRA meeting		
7	To present the final version of the IRMP.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
8	To present a final Annual Service Plan to Members for approval.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
9	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.		M McCarthy	
10	To resend to Councillor Ayris the information in relation to staff confidence and the grievance process, to inform on the number of disputes and whether there had been an increase due to Covid-19.		M McCoole	<u>Update 12-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
11	To provide Members with a copy of the full request for waiver document.		D Nichols	<u>Update 20-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED
12	To provide further transparency to the figures in future Procurement Service reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.		S Booth and D Nichols	
13	To provide Members with a specific briefing in relation to the Dark Nights initiative.		Area Manager for Prevention	<u>Update 20-10-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

23 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, R Frost, P Haith,
C Hogarth, P Price, C Ransome, S M Richards, C Ross and
Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, ACO T Carlin and S Booth
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, M McCoolle and I Rooth
(Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from N Copley, M Potter,
L Noble, S Norman and A Mullen

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the recent Business Continuity Institute's Global Awards Ceremony, the Service had been awarded the Most Effective Recovery Award for the support provided in the recovery arrangements to the South Yorkshire flooding incident that had occurred in November 2019. The award had been presented to the Service's Internal Resilience Planning and Contingency Team, whilst recognising the wide ranging support that had been provided by the Control staff, operational firefighters, support services and senior officers. It had been recognised that the Service had rescued more than 300 people during the incident and had pumped away an estimated 363 million litres of flood water.

Members acknowledged the significant challenges and hardship that had been encountered by those individuals effected by the flooding incident. The Service would release a communication on the matter today, via social media.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That agenda item 19 entitled '2015 Trade Dispute' be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Frost expressed his thanks, on behalf of the BMBC Members, to DCFO Kirby for the virtual meeting held on 17 November 2020. At the meeting the IRMP had been presented and discussions had ensued in relation to the consultation on the proposed response strategy, together with other topics.

Councillor Taylor also gave his thanks to DCFO Kirby, on behalf of the RMBC Members.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12 October 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 COVID-19 UPDATE

Members were provided with an update on SYFR's response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Service and the communities within South Yorkshire continued to be effected by the local and national restrictions that had resulted from the rise in the number COVID-19 cases. In October 2020, the Service had published a set of operational parameters which had been aligned to the 3 tier system that had been introduced by the Government in terms of the local alert systems. This had enabled the Service to align its non-emergency response activity to the 3 tiers that the Service may operate in at any one time. The operational parameters had been communicated well with teams internally, whilst endeavouring to ensure that the Service continued to maintain some element of its core activities during the highest level of the restrictions. Physical visits would continue be made to commercial properties and homes, if it was warranted following thorough risk assessments from a fire safety perspective.

As a result of the increased restrictions, the Service had restricted the access to the 999 Control Room, which was a critical area of service. A compliance framework had been introduced across the Service to ensure that the guidance was being followed, and local managers undertook daily checks to ensure that the relevant arrangements were in place, to enable the workplace to be as safe as possible. Following the introduction of the new national restrictions, the support staff had been advised to continue to work from home wherever possible, unless it was essential to come into the workplace. The Service had observed the benefits of agile working, together with the experience and learning that had been gained from the first lockdown period.

The Service continued to play an active role in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which continued to meet twice weekly. CFO Johnson co-chaired the LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group. The meetings specifically focused upon the recovery and response arrangements. This provided an opportunity for agencies to seek support from across the LRF. The Service had been identified as an organisation which may be able to provide support within a number of areas. The Service continued to operate underneath a national tri-party agreement, which allowed fire and rescue services to apply their resources to a number of other areas to support the wider response and recovery efforts around the pandemic; an extension to this was being sought through the National Fire Chiefs Council. The Service had received very good feedback from partners in relation to its 'can do' attitude and the way in which the Service had responded to the pandemic.

The Service had observed a general reduction in the number of staff that had been effected by the pandemic, in comparison to the position a few weeks ago. On 20 November 2020 a total of 44 members of staff had been self-isolating, which on 23 November 2020 had reduced to 30 members of staff that were self-isolating and six confirmed COVID-19 cases.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2020/21

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented as the second in a series of reports that Members would receive throughout the financial year, to inform them as to the likely financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2021. The report included an estimated revenue outturn position when compared to the annual budget set on the 10 February 2020, together with an updated reserves position statement, an update on the capital programme, and a narrative commentary to explain the key financial changes that contributed to each of them.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Noted the emerging underlying estimated revenue performance which showed a potential operating underspend of £2.785m for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

- b) Noted the underlying and significant financial risks likely to be facing the Service and Sector and UK public services during the remainder of this financial year and into 2021/2022.
- c) Noted the latest estimated change in General and Earmarked Reserves as set out in Section C of the report and the proposed approach for using any operating underspend for the financial year ending 2020/21.
- d) Noted the adjusted capital programme for the financial year ending 2020/21, which was broadly in line with expectations due to Covid-19 restrictions.

12 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2022

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted which outlined the business cases that had been approved in principle by the Senior Leadership Team at the workforce planning event in July 2020, for Members to consider as an investment as part of the wider Service Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the business cases contained within the Workforce Investment Plan to support the Service’s strategic objectives and Service Improvement Plan.

13 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021 - 2024

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer was presented which provided an early insight and understanding as to the likely financial performance and position of the Service ahead of the Government’s Spending Review and Settlement (November/ December 2020), and the proposed Annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting report which was due to be considered by Members at the Authority meeting to be held on 22 February 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Accepted the updated MTFP for the financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24 noting the contents of this report, and in particular the likely implications of the different funding scenarios for the operational service and future financial position.
- b) Endorsed the proposed approach for managing reserves as set out in Section C of the report in particular, the proposal to increase the Generally Available Reserve by any in year (2020/21) operating underspend until such time as there was greater clarity on the funding position in relation to the Covid pandemic and/or the longer term Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and to note the likely use of those useable earmarked reserves over the term of the Plan.
- c) Noted the up to date approved capital investment programme spending and financing projections 2020/21 to 2023/24 (Section D of the report).

- d) Agreed to consider new, additional capital investment schemes for approval into the current capital programme as part of the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax Setting Report (Section D of the report).
- e) Noted the known financial risks, uncertainties and events that would need careful consideration and management in the run up to and when setting the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax (Section E of the report) and beyond this date.

14 REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an overview of the Service's collaboration with regional Fire and Rescue colleagues, notably the advancements of Command Support collaboration and the co-procurement of Personal Protective Equipment.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress of the current regional collaborations.

15 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION UPDATE

Members noted that the Service was working very closely with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) on a range of matters in relation to COVID-19 including the tripartite, information and intelligence sharing, and the Local Resilience Forum.

The Heads of Occupational Health at the Service and SYP were undertaking collaborative working in order to provide a more efficient and effective occupational health system. Both organisations continued to deliver training to each other whilst ensuring that the courses were at full capacity, and facilities continued to be shared. Work was underway across the board regarding equality, diversity and wellbeing to ascertain learning from SYP on the recruitment of a more diverse workforce. Rose Regeneration was in the process of undertaking an external evaluation of the collaboration programme, which would be presented to the Authority in the New Year. The Service's stores workshop at the Eastwood site was now up and running, which had a significantly reduced footprint and a more modern and professional racking system had been installed. The Joint Community Safety Department continued to operate as 'business as usual'. During the last calendar year, a total of 26,500 children had received fire school packages, 4923 home visits had been undertaken and almost 17,000 children had attended Crucial Crew.

A decision had been made at a recent Police and Fire Collaboration Board meeting, to commission work on the amicable uncoupling of the Estates joint management arrangements and to develop an accompanying exit strategy and plan.

CFO Johnson had produced a briefing note, which would be circulated onto the Members to provide further information.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

16 LOCAL PENSION BOARD KEY ISSUES AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2020

Members were presented with the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

The Local Pension Board and the Chair of the Authority had submitted a joint response to the McCloud/Sargent consultation which had closed on 11 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

17 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association Meeting held on 15 October 2020.

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

19 2015 TRADE DISPUTE

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update provided in relation to the 2015 Trade Dispute.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To present information to Members over the next 12 months to enable the Performance Management Framework to be shaped, prior to Authority approval.	CAG	ACO Carlin	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) (NB: <i>slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP</i>) <u>Update 24-11-20</u> Members received a presentation on the proposed revisions to the performance management framework.

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
				The Service will liaise with Cllrs Buckley and Cave on the detail with a view to a discussion at a CAG in the New Year.
2	To provide Members with an update on Power Bi at a future CAG meeting.	CAG	J Patrick	<p>On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i></p> <p><u>Update 24-11-20</u></p> <p>Members received an update on the roll-out of Power Bi and the training for Members. <i>NB: Training for 12 Members of the FRA fixed for w/c 23rd November 2020.</i></p>
3	To provide sufficient detail on apprentices within the Financial Performance Reports.		S Booth	
4	Digital and ICT Development Plan 2020-2021 Update.	FRA 11-01-21	S Locking	
5	Workforce Development Strategy Report.	Future FRA meeting		
6	To present the final version of the IRMP.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	

7	To present a final Annual Service Plan to Members for approval.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
8	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.	FRA 26-04-21 (Provisional)	M McCarthy	
9	To provide further transparency to the figures in future Procurement Service reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.		S Booth and D Nichols	
10	To provide Members with a briefing note in relation to the Police and Fire Collaboration Update		M McCoole	<u>Update 23-11-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD VIRTUALLY

10 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor D Nevett (Doncaster MBC) (Chair)

Councillor S Sansome (Rotherham MBC) (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), P Short (Rotherham MBC) - (part attendance due to technical issues), J Steinke (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, J Field, L Noble and A Shirt
(Barnsley MBC)

Guest in attendance: S Abbott (Candidate)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council)

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

3 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That the Confirmation Hearing be held in public with exception of the deliberation by the Panel in respect of the proposed appointment which would take place at the end of the Confirmation Hearing in the absence of the public and press.

4 CONFIRMATION HEARING - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE
SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Police and Crime Panel considered a report of the Police and Crime Commissioner in regard to his proposed appointment of Ms Sophia Abbott to the post of Chief Finance Officer.

The Chair, Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the Hearing. He reminded Members that the Confirmation Hearing process was a requirement under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, that the Police and Crime Panel holds Confirmation Hearings for the appointment of the Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, PCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.

Councillor Nevett outlined the process to be adhered to as stated in the LGA Confirmation Hearings Guidance document which had been circulated to all Members. He reminded the Panel that, this was not a re-run of the interview process, but the opportunity for the Panel to review the appointment and make their recommendation to the Commissioner.

Councillor Nevett invited the Commissioner to address the meeting to explain the recruitment process which had been undertaken to select the Commissioner's preferred candidate, Ms Abbott.

The Commissioner gave a short overview of the process followed to select his preferred candidate, Ms Abbott. He was satisfied that Ms Abbott has all the professional qualifications which he was looking for in accountancy. Ms Abbott also had a background in audit and commissioning.

Furthermore, Ms Abbott had been undertaking the role as Interim Chief Finance Officer since March 2020, which she had performed very well. The Commissioner was pleased that the candidate, Ms Abbott, was able to effectively carry out horizon scanning, which was a quality he was looking for. Furthermore, Ms Abbott was able to inform him of issues which would impact policing and the services which the Force provide.

Crucially, Ms Abbott was a good team worker; she was able to challenge the Commissioner, but would work with him, his office and South Yorkshire Police Force and their finance department, which he had seen been demonstrated. The Commissioner concluded that Ms Abbott was an excellent candidate and commended her to the Panel.

Panel Members then questioned Ms Abbott regarding her suitability for the role. Ms Abbott was asked questions relating to the challenges faced, professional competence, personal independence and measures of success.

At the conclusion of the Panel's questions and responses from Ms Abbott, Councillor Nevett thanked Ms Abbott for attending and answering the questions from the Panel.

At this point in the Hearing, Ms Abbott, Dr Billings and M Buttery were asked to leave the virtual meeting so that the Panel could deliberate its decision.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

6 PANEL DELIBERATIONS ON THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Panel, having gone into exempt session, considered the statements and answers provided by Ms Abbott to their questions, in addition to the introduction provided by the Commissioner and all relevant paperwork provided.

In light of the responses given relating to the professional competence and personal independence required of the post of Chief Finance Officer, the Panel unanimously endorsed the Commissioner's appointment of Ms Abbott to the post of Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Reviewed the proposed appointment of Ms Abbott as the Commissioner's permanent Chief Finance Officer.
- ii) Agreed to make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed appointment of Ms Abbott in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Act.

CHAIR

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SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

14 DECEMBER 2020

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

PRESENT: Councillor D Nevett (Doncaster MBC) (Chair)

Councillor S Sansome (Rotherham MBC) (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), P Short (Rotherham MBC), J Steinke (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery, S Abbott, S Parkin, F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner) and K Wright (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, M McCoole, J Field, L Noble and A Shirt (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC)

1 **WELCOME BY CHAIR**

Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was noted as above.

3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Nevett welcomed Barnsley MBC's new Panel representative, Councillor Clive Pickering to his first full meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

The Chair thanked Barnsley MBC's previous Panel representative, Councillor Kath Mitchell, for all her contributions to the Police and Crime Panel.

4 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

5 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

7 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

7A TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7B TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Panel.

8 MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

L Noble reported that, in relation to Minute 15, paragraph 5 'Home Office Grant – Police and Crime Panel', the Panel had been allocated a grant of £64,340 for 2020/21, and not £64,030 as stated in the minutes.

L Noble provided Members with an update on the Panel's Action Log.

The following updates were noted:-

Restorative Justice

The action was marked as 'live' pending the session on Restorative Justice, which had been arranged for Tuesday 15th December 2020.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Cyber Crime

The Panel agreed that this item be referred to the Performance meetings for further discussion and marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Stop and Search

A copy of the Independent Ethics Panel's 5 year report had been circulated to Members. It was recommended that the action should remain 'live' until the Panel had had time to read and digest the documents.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained on the Action Log as 'live'.

Regional Collaboration

Members noted that an 'off camera' briefing on Collaboration would take place after Panel on 3rd February 2021.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Update on South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board

Members noted that an update South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board was contained within Item 13 – 'PCC's Update'.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Lead Member Role (E&I) & National Association etc.

Members noted that this item has been overtaken by events.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Rules of Procedure

Members noted that, subject to agreement, the Panel's Rules of Procedure would be considered on today's agenda at item 15.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Hate Crime

Members noted that a response was circulated on 23rd November 2020 to the questions raised.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' and moved to the 'Closed Action Log'.

Referring to agenda item 9 (Monitoring Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – Appendix A Quarterly Report – July to September), Professor James asked if separate tables showing the numbers of Stop and Searches and numbers of Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity could be combined to enable Members to see the number of outcomes in relation to ethnicity.

K Wright acknowledged the request. He agreed to examine the Stop and Search data to ascertain if the numbers of Stop and Searches and numbers of Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity could be combined and presented in future reports to the Panel.

RESOLVED –

- i) That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 7th September 2020 be agreed as a correct record.
- ii) Noted that K Wright had agreed to examine the Stop and Search data to ascertain if the numbers of Stop and Searches and numbers of Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity could be combined and presented in future reports to the Panel.

9 **MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020)**

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to present the Quarterly Report for the period July – September 2020 (Quarter 2, 2020/21), produced from the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Police and Partners Performance Framework.

The report aimed to provide information about how the police and partners, as well as the Office of the PCC (OPCC) are working to achieve the outcomes and priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire.

The Commissioner and K Wright provided Members with a summary of the key headlines contained in the Quarterly Police and Crime Plan Performance Report attached at Appendix A to the report.

Councillor Short asked if the CSE Reporting Portal had now gone live and how many individuals had reported incidents directly to the Force via the Portal.

K Wright said that the CSE Reporting Portal had gone live during mid-November. Unfortunately, no data was currently available on its usage. However, this would be monitored by the OPCC in future months.

Councillor Short asked if an update could be provided periodically at future Panel meetings on the CSE Reporting Portal's usage and the engagement which had taken place with members of the public.

Councillor Sansome asked what measures were in place by the Force to control hate crimes and prosecute perpetrators during the current pandemic.

K Wright replied that Barnsley's District Commander Sarah Poolman was the Force's lead for hate crime. The Panel was provided with assurances that hate crime was taken very seriously by the Force. Individuals were reporting hate crimes to the Force, which was viewed as very positive. This allowed the Force to respond and deal with those crimes.

Furthermore, the Force had recently conducted a review of how hate crime was managed. As a result of that review and learning from how the Force deals with domestic abuse cases, the Force had focussed on ensuring that all hate crime victims are attended to, or dealt with by appointment, meaning that victims are seen within 24 hours.

The Commissioner added that, hate crimes were under-reported due to victims being reluctant to report to the Police. There were other agencies where victims could report hate crimes and the Force did encourage this.

The Commissioner said he was satisfied the Force had the correct Officer leading on hate crime and she was doing everything to ensure that officers know what they have to do and how to encourage victims to report hate crimes.

Referring to residential burglary, Professor James said that there was data to suggest the rates between Doncaster and Barnsley were very similar, and likewise, the rates between Rotherham and Sheffield. He asked if these were simply coincidences, or whether there were patterns of offending across the adjacent areas.

The Commissioner replied that, residential burglary was something which was giving him cause for concern. The levels of residential burglary in South Yorkshire were higher than anywhere else in the UK. This had prompted the Commissioner to ask the question why this should be. His further concern was that, the Force recognised, prioritised and took action regarding residential burglary.

The Commissioner said he was assured that the Force were taking action to address residential burglary across South Yorkshire and within each district based on priorities and hotspots in each area. Within the Barnsley District officers were producing an Action Plan to address residential burglary. Good practice and guidance pilots would filter across the whole Force.

Councillor Short asked if details could be provided on the results which had been obtained from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings (MACE). Furthermore, he asked if South Yorkshire Police were talking to teachers and schools about the dangers of grooming. He also asked if, when schools closed for the Christmas holidays, were the Force planning to resume and re-engage in these areas.

The Commissioner replied that, MACE meetings were a route to identifying those children at risk. It was important that all partner agencies were able to share information so that no one falls through the gaps; which was the whole purpose of the multi-agency meetings. In relation to schools, the Commissioner said he was concerned about what may be happening due to Covid restrictions.

Councillor Nevett noted that the average call waiting times for 101 had started to increase as lockdown eases. He asked if call waiting times would be reduced further over the coming months when the new intake of staff at Atlas Court had been fully trained.

The Panel noted that the new intake of staff at Atlas Court had now commenced and were currently being mentored by experienced staff. It was anticipated that Members would start to see an improvement in the number of abandoned call rates and wait times reducing during the coming months as a direct result of there being more call handling staff available to receive calls.

Councillor Otten asked if there was a change in the way abandoned call rates were being measured.

K Wright responded that he not examined the average abandoned call rates. He added that, overall, people abandoning calls was reducing.

Professor James recalled that he had previously requested the median and mode of call wait times.

In relation to the reduction in abandoned calls, Professor James asked if this was in relation to Call-back Assist.

K Wright said that he was unaware if the performance data in relation to Call-back Assist was available. If an individual requested a call-back then they would not leave the call queue.

Councillor Grocutt asked how many individuals were now part of the Commissioner's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. She also asked if Independent Custody Visitors were now visiting all of the Police Stations in South Yorkshire and, if so, how often. Furthermore, she asked if Independent Custody Visitors were assigned to particular Stations and if there were any concerns being received from the feedback provided by the Independent Custody Visitors which the Panel should be aware of.

S Parkin reported that the Commissioner had suspended the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The scheme had re-commenced in June 2020 when the guidance provided more flexibility to run the Scheme. At this time there were only three Visitors available to carry out visits due to various factors.

Form June 2020 onwards, weekly visits had been undertaken at all three Custody Suites in South Yorkshire. Two new Independent Custody Visitors had been recruited and were now carrying out visits. The OPCC was currently awaiting Vetting on a further four new Independent Custody Visitors.

The Independent Custody Visitors were not currently being asked to examine custody records, but the OPCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny Officers were examining five custody records each week to undertake a dip-sample to ensure that this element of the ICV was being undertaken.

Councillor Garbutt asked if information on the ethnicity of the Independent Custody Visitors could be provided to Members.

In response, S Parkin said that, currently all of the Independent Custody Visitors were white British. One individual who was currently awaiting Vetting was a different ethnicity. Members were encouraged to refer any BME or other ethnicity groups to the Commissioner's website for further details on how to apply to become an Independent Custody Visitor.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

10 QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

A report of the Chief Finance Officer, OPCC was presented setting out the forecast financial position based on the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.

The report provided Members with a consolidated position on the current budget and expenditure managed by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police force and budgets managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members noted that, based on current assumptions, the forecast outturn position for the revenue budget was an overspend of £1.297m.

As at 30th September 2020, the projected year end outturn position was a £1.297m overspend on the Chief Constable's budget, net of external funding. Further details were presented in the Chief Constable's budget monitoring paper, attached at Appendix A to the report.

Based on information as at 30th September 2020, the PCC and OPCC budget forecast year end position was an underspend of £215k. The main reasons for the underspend and variances from the budget were presented within the report for Members' information.

As previously reported, the PCC had approved the revised capital programme on 5th August 2020. The approved programme was now standing at £14.34m in 2020/21, with the caveat that funding would be available should some ongoing approved schemes be delivered in 2020/21 ahead of anticipated completion dates.

Expenditure to date amounted to £3.1m, the current projection being £18.9m, generating a projected overspend £4.8m. As outlined in the PCC's decision paper, this would be subject to a further request for funding.

Paragraph 7 of the report set out a number of risks and uncertainties in the reported financial position in addition to Covid-19 expenditure.

Councillor Steinke asked the Commissioner if he could foresee any difficulties in spending the additional grants which had been received during the year, and if there would be any penalties for not utilising the grants.

S Abbott replied that the OPCC had received assurances from providers that they would be able to spend grants prior to the year-end.

The Commissioner added that he, and other PCC's, had made representations to the Home Office that, whilst they welcomed the grants, the timescales for spend were very short. The Commissioner paid tribute to the work undertaken by S Abbott, OPCC staff and to the voluntary sector for submitting bids within very short timescales.

Councillor Sansome asked if the Commissioner could provide clarity on Police Officer numbers following the recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement.

The Commissioner replied that Government were still committed to recruiting an additional 20,000 extra Police officers. However, the share for South Yorkshire was not yet definitive.

The Commissioner added that, in South Yorkshire there had been a commitment back in 2018 to increase Police officer numbers by 220 by 2023/24.

In 2019/20, 50 officers had been recruited into the Force utilising its own resources. During the current financial year 2020/21, 73 officers would be recruited from its own local resources.

Utilising Government resources, 151 officers would be recruited in 2020/21. The Commissioner was currently assuming that a further 185 officers would be recruited in the final year making a total of 487 officers.

Councillor Otten asked for assurances that the Force's Capital Programme for 2020/21 would be delivered. Furthermore, he asked why the Vehicle Replacement Programme had been removed out of the Capital Programme.

The Commissioner said that he too shared Councillor Otten's concerns about the deliverability of the Force's Capital Programme. He provided the Panel with assurances that, during discussions with the Force, he repeatedly queried if the Capital Programme was deliverable.

It was confirmed that the Vehicle Replacement Programme itself had not been removed from the Capital Programme. The Vehicle write-offs element had been stripped out of the Capital Programme.

Professor James asked if the Commissioner had any comments to make in relation to the likely impact of the new Probation Services arrangements on commissioning and partnerships.

The Commissioner replied that he was currently in discussion with the Community Rehabilitation Companies and Probation Service in relation to co-commissioning.

Councillor Garbutt asked to what extent climate change was being considered when decisions are made with regards to revenue and capital spending.

In response, the Commissioner said that the Force did have a Sustainability Strategy covering vehicles, vehicles replacement, the future of the fleet and examining the implications of moving to an all-electric fleet. In every aspect, whether this be Force buildings or the fleet, the Sustainability Strategy in place would guide the decisions made. Furthermore, the Commissioner said that he anticipated the new Police Station being built in Doncaster would be state of the art in terms of its carbon footprint and sustainability.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

11 EXTERNAL FUNDING REPORT 2020/21

A report of the Chief Finance Officer, OPCC was submitted to set out the external funding position for the OPCC based on the period of 1 April 2020 to 31 October 2020.

The report provided an update on external funding managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), such as Partnerships and Commissioning, and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) over and above the original budget agreed for 2020/21.

Section 5 of the report provided Panel Members with details on further funding which had also been secured by the Partnership and Commissioning Team.

It was noted that the Partnership and Commissioning Team were currently preparing a needs assessment which would feed into the 2021/22 budget planning process.

Councillor Steinke asked if there had been any indication from the Home Office around any post-Covid emergency funding available for partner agencies.

S Abbott replied that, unfortunately, there had been no indications from the Home Office around additional grants which may be available in the future. Representations continued to be made to Ministers, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice by the Commissioner.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

12 ATLAS COURT UPDATE

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members of the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Atlas Court review and progress made in terms of the Atlas workforce plan and uplift.

Members noted that the Commissioner was taking an overview on progress with the Atlas Court Review, as part of his holding to account arrangements.

Members were informed that a Review Board had been established which an officer from the OPCC attends. The Review Board reports into the Tactical Change Board, chaired by Jacqueline Bland and then into the Strategic Change Board, chaired by Chief Constable Watson.

The OPCC Head of Governance attends the Tactical Change Board and the Chief Executive attends the Strategic Change Board.

The Commissioner also receives progress updates at his Public Accountability Board.

Furthermore, an officer from the OPCC also attends the Atlas Court Quarterly Performance Review meetings and has access to high level Atlas Court management information including the number of calls received and the wait times.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

13 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Chief Executive and Solicitor introduced a new reporting format presented to the Panel for the first time to provide Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities since 1st April 2020.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the last meeting on 7th September 2020.

Members noted that the report presented at today's meeting followed the headings of the OPCC Delivery Plan. Future PCC Update reports would focus on activity that had occurred since the last Panel meeting.

Professor James asked how much funding the Commissioner anticipated would be available to fund some of the important initiatives in relation to prevention resettlement and rehabilitation services. Furthermore, he asked if any services that are commissioned and funded would have evaluation systems built in.

M Buttery replied that the Commissioner was extremely interested in evidence based decision making and commissioning decisions. In terms of the budget which would be allocated to commissioning and co-commissioning opportunities, it was noted that this was currently being worked through now as part of discussions with the Planning and Efficiency Group, the Commissioner and with Force colleagues.

In relation to budget allocation, there remained a number of uncertainties around how much funding would be provided centrally and to the region. It was anticipated this would become clearer when the Chancellor made his announcement on or around 16th/17th December 2020.

Following a request from Professor James for further information on the OPCC's assessment tool. M Buttery explained that, an evolving assessment tool had been developed to assist the OPCC Senior Leadership Team in determining areas to be priorities for assurance, evaluation and scrutiny activity.

Following discussion, M Buttery agreed to provide Professor James with further information on the OPCC's arrangements and assessment tool.

Councillor Steinke commented that the new report format presented at today's meeting was excellent. He asked if future reports could contain an executive summary of the contents included within the report.

M Buttery acknowledged the request.

Councillor Steinke commented that he was anxious about the anticipated changes to probation services being delivered on time. He asked if a report could be provided to the Panel in relation to progress being made in meeting the deadline of June 2021.

Referring to victims, Councillor Steinke said he was encouraged to note there was a longer term commitment to focus on victims, but in the short term, due to the Coronavirus pandemic he was worried about victims being lost in the system.

M Buttery anticipated that she would be able to provide an update to the Panel on the Probation Services Reform once the Chancellor had made his announcement on or just after 16th December 2020, and following the January meetings of the Local Criminal Justice Board and Yorkshire and Humber Rehabilitation Partnership Board.

In relation to victims and the impact of the current situation, M Buttery said that deep dive assurance work was currently being undertaken. It was noted that Victim Support and other key agencies were involved in the work. A discussion would take place at the January meeting of the Local Criminal Justice Board on early findings.

Councillor Sansome asked if local districts could be flexible in their use of Restorative Justice.

M Buttery replied that a framework of contracts were in place for current providers of Restorative Justice. The Commissioner also had ongoing dialogue with Force colleagues in relation to responding to district needs.

It was noted that District Commanders were consulted every year with regards to the Commissioner's planning timetable and commissioned services. Furthermore, there were in-year discussions around the reallocation of in-year spend if there was an underspend or a higher priority to fund.

Councillor Nevett asked when the Magistrates' Courts and Crown Court's backlog of work was anticipated to return to normal.

The Commissioner replied that the backlog of work for both the Magistrates' Courts and Crown Court had improved and were beginning to return to normal. Nationally, the number of cases now was no greater than before the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Noted that M Buttery had agreed to provide Professor James with information on the OPCC's arrangements and assessment tool.
- iii) Noted that future reports would contain an executive summary of the contents of the report.

- iv) Noted that an update report on Probation Services would be presented at a future Panel meeting.

14 COMPLAINT REVIEW UPDATE

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to update Members on the changes to the police complaints system and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) within that.

Members were reminded that the Police Complaints System underwent a major overhaul during 2019/20, the first since the Police Reform Act was introduced in 2002. These reforms, under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, were designed to increase public confidence in policing and to make the whole process simpler to manage and administer. The new system was intended to be more customer focused.

The PCC had decided on 15 August 2019, not to extend his role beyond the minimum required by the new legislation.

Members noted that the regulations to the complaints and discipline system were laid in Parliament on 10th January 2020 and had come into force on 1st February 2020.

The PCC's role in relation to complaint handling from 1st February 2020 was set out in paragraph 6 of the report and noted by Members.

Members noted that, with the exception of the Chief Constable, the appropriate authority for handling all other complaints remained with the Chief Constable of the Force. The new legislation also made significant changes as to how the Force handles complaints, conduct matters and DSI matters.

The PCC had asked the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) to provide both the Chief Constable and himself with assurances that legislation changes have been implemented and are working effectively. To help fulfil this role the IEP appointed one of its Members to link in with those responsible for complaint handling.

Members were informed that the PCC had received 58 requests for a complaint review between 1st February 2020 and 30th November 2020. 26 had been concluded, with a further 32 at various stages of consideration.

It was confirmed that most of the reviews had resulted in the PCC determining that the Force had acted in a reasonable and proportionate manner and no further action was appropriate. Some reviews had led to the provision of more information to the complainant to help them understand the decision reached by the Force. One review led to the PCC directing the Force to make further contact with the complainant to address their issues.

Assurances were provided that monitoring arrangements were in place to oversee the efficiency and effectiveness of the OPCC in gathering the information required to inform the PCC's decision-making.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

15 AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

A report of the Panel's Legal Adviser was submitted reminding Members that, at the last Police and Crime Panel meeting, Members remained concerned at the wording of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure and, in particular, concerns were expressed about whether the drafting limited the Panel's powers of appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair .

The amended Rules of Procedure provided at Appendix A to the report setting out the changes, which limited the period of appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair and amendments to reflect the appointment of and delegation powers of the Monitoring Officer previously approved on 20th July 2020.

A recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

For approving the amendments to the Rules of Procedure (10) Councillors Garbutt, Grocutt, Nevett, Otten, Pickering, Sansome, Short, Steinke, Wilkinson and Mr Carter. Against the amendment (0) and abstained (1) Professor James.

The amendments to the Rules of Procedure were approved.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Considered and approved the amendments to the Rules of Procedure.
- ii) Agreed to publish the amended Rules of Procedure on the Panel's website.

16 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER APPOINTMENT - CONFIRMATION HEARING

A report of the Monitoring Officer to the Panel was presented setting out details of the Confirmation Hearing process for the appointment of the Chief Finance Officer within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) held on Tuesday 10th November 2020

The Panel unanimously agreed to recommend the appointment of Sophie Abbott as Chief Finance Officer, and this was communicated (in writing) to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the 10th November 2020.

The minutes of the Confirmation Hearing held on 10th November 2020 were presented at Appendix A of the report for approval.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the confirmation of Sophie Abbott to the role of Chief Finance Officer within the OPCC.

- ii) Agreed that the minutes of the Confirmation Hearing held on 10th November 2020 were a correct record.

17 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A report was submitted to update Members on current events – national, regional and local, together with future plans in respect of learning and development for the Panel.

A summary of the events which had taken place since the last meeting were set out within the report for Members' information.

It was noted that the session with the four District Community Safety Partnerships had been well received and feedback from both Panel Members, and from Community Safety Partnership representatives, had been extremely positive with a willingness to repeat the sessions at least annually.

A Carter said he remained concerned about the level of Elected Member representation from Sheffield City Council at meetings of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board.

Councillor Steinke replied that the absence of political representation had been raised directly with the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board.

Panel Members who had attended the virtual Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels conference held over 23rd-25th November 2020 provided feedback on their experience of attending a virtual conference.

Members were reminded that a virtual Restorative Justice Session with REMEDI and officers from the OPCC would be held on Tuesday 15th December 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to provide suggestions for future learning and development.

18 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2021 Work Programme and were reminded that they could submit issues for the Work Programme that fall within the Panel's Statutory role in supporting and scrutinising the Commissioner.

All issues would be given full consideration by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Commissioner at the pre-agenda planning meetings.

Additionally, Members were encouraged to attend the meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge. These were currently being held virtually and Members could obtain details to 'dial in' to the meeting. Any questions from Panel Members could be

submitted to the Panel's Support officer who would forward these to the Commissioner. Members were asked to submit any questions with five clear working days' notice prior to the PAB meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2021 Work Programme.

19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Nevett thanked Members and officers for their contributions at Panel meetings throughout the year and took the opportunity to wish everyone Season's Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 10:00 am and Members will be notified of the arrangements for this meeting nearer the time.

CHAIR

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SCR - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION, 11 BROAD STREET WEST,
SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ



Present:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Julie Dore
Mayor Ros Jones CBE
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE
Councillor Alex Dale

MCA Mayoral Combined Authority
Rotherham MBC
Sheffield City Council
Doncaster MBC
Barnsley MBC
NE Derbyshire DC

Officers in Attendance:

Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	MCA Executive Team
Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	MCA Executive Team
Steve Davenport	Principal Solicitor & Monitoring Officer	MCA Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	MCA Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	MCA Executive Team

In Attendance

Melanie McCoolle (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Councillor Garry Purdy
Councillor Simon Greaves
Councillor Steve Fritchley
Councillor Tricia Gilby
James Muir

Derbyshire Dales DC
Bassetlaw DC
Bolsover DC
Chesterfield BC
Chair of LEP Board

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and he introduced the Members present.

The Mayor addressed the meeting in respect of the latest position on the coronavirus pandemic. The country was now 12 days into a new national lockdown. Prior to the new national restrictions, South Yorkshire had been in the highest level of the regional tiered restrictions. There was no doubt that South Yorkshire, alongside much of the North of England was, and very possibly would remain, in an incredibly vulnerable and dangerous position in relation to the spread of the virus. On that basis, it had been agreed with the Government for South Yorkshire to enter into Tier 3. The same considerations of health and wellbeing for the communities would drive any future decisions about how South Yorkshire must respond as the national restrictions were eased in December 2020. These were difficult times for the communities, businesses and the public services across local government, together with social care and the health services.

It was hoped that the restrictions would start to bring down the case numbers and enable matters to resume back to normal as soon as possible. A coronavirus vaccine was now in sight, which for the first time in 2020 was a cause for optimism and hope. It was considered that science, technology and a great mobilisation of the public health system, army and local government would get us through this difficult time. The Mayor considered that it was perhaps now the time for the Government to acknowledge that it was indeed the experts, whether they be the scientists or local government, that they should listen to.

In relation to the coronavirus restriction support, the Mayor stated that setting aside the hope for 2021, focus was being given to the here and now. He was pleased to observe that today's meeting demonstrated the commitment to deliver real and tangible support to help the economy and weather the shock. This included extending the employment scheme Working Win to support a further 450 people with mental or physical health conditions to stay in or find work until March 2021, to put in place a £30m package of support for businesses that worked with the national support schemes, to support the local councils with financial support to deliver to the communities across South Yorkshire, to continue getting spades in the ground and cranes in the sky with the capital programme and to agree the investment of a further £45m of resources to deliver business support schemes, skills and employment support and a further programme of capital works to enable the economy to move.

The Mayor stated that in relation to the Flood Summit, that whilst COVID-19 had been a focus, the impact on the communities across South Yorkshire following the flooding that had occurred just 12 months ago had not been forgotten. The Government had been pressed hard at the long-awaited Flood Summit, on their commitment to South Yorkshire, and they had subsequently been challenged to match the new commitment of £5.5m to protect 860 homes across South Yorkshire and to help ensure that the transport system was more resilient.

In relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Mayor stated that he had kept up the pressure on the Government to help South Yorkshire build back better with a submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending

Review, whilst pressing the importance of a longer term funding settlement for the region. The Mayor recognised that this was an incredibly busy time for everyone. He believed that this was a moment where the value of the Mayoral Combined Authority was being demonstrated.

The Mayor was grateful to the Local Enterprise Partnership Board Members and all of the business groups that had contributed to the plans, together with the Members of the Mayoral Combined Authority that had worked long days and nights to make all of this happen.

3 Urgent Items

Members were informed of the means by which the meeting would be conducted, to be compliant with appropriate legislation and pursuant of SCR's own Constitution.

4 Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press

None.

5 Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members

It was noted that non-constituent Members were welcome to participate in the discussion of every item on the agenda.

6 Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

Councillor Read declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund and Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council schemes, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Mayor Jones CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council scheme, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Councillor Houghton CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to any schemes relating to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

Councillor Dore declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund and Item 14 Programme Approvals in relation to Sheffield City Council schemes, by virtue of being the Leader of the council.

The Mayor declared an interest at agenda Item 13 Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund, by virtue of being a Barnsley MP.

7 Reports from and questions by members

None.

8 Receipt of Petitions

None.

9 Public Questions

None.

10 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

11 Covid Tier 3 Restrictions Support

A report was presented to update the Board on the outcome of negotiations with Central Government together with an outline of how the funds received would be deployed.

The Mayor stated that on Saturday 24 October 2020, South Yorkshire had entered into Tier 3 of the Covid restrictions as set out by Central Government, which had been at the end of the negotiations with the Mayoral Combined Authority, South Yorkshire local authority leaders and the Government. The tier system had then been replaced by a month-long national lockdown for England from 5 November 2020. Nevertheless, there was a need for decisions to be made on the £41.3m support that had been secured comprising of £11.3m support for track and trace and public health related activities, together with a £30m package for businesses and residents to mitigate the economic and social effects of the restrictions.

Councillor Dore stated that this had been an incredibly difficult time for everyone. The £30m package was very welcome, but she considered that it was definitely not enough when looking at the individuals and organisations in particular the small businesses, freelance workers, sole traders and the self-employed that had fallen through the cracks in the Government's scheme. She considered that the work undertaken across South Yorkshire had been incredibly difficult, however she was really pleased that this had collectively and collaboratively concluded with a common scheme across South Yorkshire which would help those people that the Government had allowed to slip through the cracks in the scheme. She expressed her thanks to colleagues and officers who had worked incredibly hard to get South Yorkshire to this point.

The Mayor stated that he was sure that Councillor Dore's sentiments would be shared across the MCA.

Councillor Houghton CBE reiterated the positive nature of the Government's scheme and the help that was required by the businesses. However, prior to the national lockdown, South Yorkshire had been allocated £30m as a Tier 3

area, but the money had been utilised to support the impact of the national lockdown. At the same time, the Government had allocated equivalent amounts of funding to other areas within the country going into the national lockdown. Therefore, South Yorkshire would be no better off than other areas within the country. The Government had indicated that post lockdown, that the areas would move back into their tiers which would mean that those areas returning back into Tiers 1 and 2 would have a financial advantage over South Yorkshire, as the restrictions placed upon Tier 3 were much more severe than those in Tiers 1 and 2. It was important for South Yorkshire to receive additional funding to support the position in December 2020. He had raised the position with the Local Government Association who would address the matter with the Ministers.

Mayor Jones CBE concurred with the comments made by Councillor Dore and Councillor Houghton CBE. She emphasised the need to press the Government hard that South Yorkshire should not be put at a disadvantage, and that its businesses and residents deserved better. She was delighted to note that Councillor Houghton CBE had liaised with the Local Government Association who would press the Government.

The Mayor agreed with the comments made and the urgent need to continue to press Government for additional financial support for the businesses and communities within South Yorkshire. The Spending Review would take place next week, which would provide a further opportunity for the Government to invest into the region.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Noted the agreement reached with the Government to support public health activities and also businesses and residents and the subsequent work on the detail of those strands.
- ii. Agreed to accept the grant of £30m for the purposes set out above.
- iii. Delegated authority to the Section 73 Officer to accept the money and put in place sub arrangements.

12

Renewal Action Plan

A report was submitted which presented the priority interventions that had been endorsed by the Thematic Boards for implementing the Renewal Action Plan objectives in the immediate term.

The Mayor stated that in response to the social and economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the Renewal Action Plan had been published and submitted to the Government earlier this year. The Plan had laid out how £1.7bn of investment in the region's people, businesses and places could kick-start the fightback to the ongoing crisis. The Plan had also formed the core of the submission to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which later this month would be drawn down to a one-year review. He added that regardless of the Government's decisions, the process of prioritising and delivering some of the much-needed interventions must commence.

Councillor Read considered that it was correct to provide as much support as

possible within the MCA's gift to support the local economy through what was likely to be an incredibly difficult situation over the next few years, in particularly to help people get into work or to stay in work, and to support local businesses. He considered that it was correct to agree the report in principle, and he looked forward to helping to develop more detail around the schemes moving forward.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Considered the RAP interventions that had been prioritised by the Thematic Boards as set out in Annex 1 to the report.
- ii. Approved the use of £16.5m of gainshare revenue funding and £29m of gainshare capital funding to enable detailed development of the priority interventions.

13

Gainshare: Emergency Recovery Fund

A report was submitted which sought authority for the award of grant totalling £5.75m to the South Yorkshire local authorities in support of Covid economic recovery efforts, with a proposal that it be funded from gainshare resource. The report also outlined the proposal to release a further £0.74m of gainshare funding to resource MCA pressures, and sought approval to progress the development of a Project Feasibility Fund and an Investment Framework.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Approved the award of grant totalling £5.75m to the four South Yorkshire authorities to support local Covid economic recovery efforts.
- ii. Approved the release of £0.74m of gainshare resource to support MCA financial pressures related to Covid.
- iii. Approved the creation of a revenue 'Project Feasibility Fund' to enable pipeline Development.
- iv. Approved the continuing development of an 'Investment Framework'.
- v. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive and the Section 73 Officer to transact the grant awards to the South Yorkshire authorities in the most efficient means possible.

14

Programme Approvals

A report was presented which sought MCA approval in relation to the following items:-

- i) Approval of three schemes with a total value of £8.18m Getting Building Fund (GBF).
- ii) Approval of one Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Outline Business Case with a total value of £5,458,141 and early release of up to £546k development funding.
- iii) Approval of five change requests for existing Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects.
- iv) Approval for the acceptance of a grant totalling £40.16m for the A630 Parkway Widening Scheme and the onward award of that grant to Rotherham MBC.
- v) Approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Head of Paid service

in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreement for the schemes.

An award of £33.6m GBF had been made to the MCA on 30 June 2020 to invest in 'shovel-ready' projects that would provide stimulus to local economies, with the funds to be utilised by 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved:-

- i. The acceptance of a grant from the Department for Transport totalling £40.16m for the A630 Parkway Widening Scheme, and the onward award of that grant to Rotherham MBC.
- ii. Progression of Heart of the City Breathing Spaces to full approval and award of £4m grant to Sheffield City Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- iii. Progression of Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan to full approval and award of £2.18m grant to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- iv. Progression of Century BIC II to full approval and award of £2m grant to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- v. Progression of iPort Bridge to Full Business Case and award of up to £546k business case development costs to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table.
- vi. Project change request from "Digital Engineering Skills Development Network" to agree an extension to works completion from September 2020 to September 2021, reprofile of £1.2m grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- vii. Project change request from "M1 J37 Phase 2" to agree a reprofile of up to £4.07m grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- viii. Project change request from "M1 J36 Phase 1 (Hoyland)" to agree an extension to works completion from 20/21 to 21/22, reprofile of up to £544k grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- ix. Project change request from "Greasbrough Road Corridor" to agree an extension to works completion from April 2021 to September 2021 and reprofile of £1.05m from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- x. Project change request from "First Group Customer Contact" to agree an extension to works completion from March 2021 to March 2022, reprofile of £406K grant from 20/21 to 21/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- xi. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes covered above.

15 Potholes and Challenge Fund Allocation

A report was submitted to present the MCA with a proposal for the allocation of Transport Infrastructure and Investment Fund - Pothole and Challenge Fund Allocation from the Department for Transport (Dft).

In May 2020, the DfT had announced that it had awarded Sheffield City Region £13.605m from the £1.7bn Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF), to improve journeys for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers across England through repairs to local roads. Following a delay, the settlement letter for the award had been provided on 11 September 2020.

RESOLVED - That the MCA agreed to the proposal for distribution of the funding.

16 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement

A report was presented to seek approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.

The MCA was required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts and to perform an annual review of the effectiveness of systems of internal controls through the publication of an Annual Governance Statement by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved:-

- i. The Annual Statement of Accounts.
- ii. The Annual Governance Statement.

17 Budget Revision 2

A report was submitted which provided revised budget forecasts to the end of the year, including the adoption of a number of new funding streams.

The economic disruption caused by coronavirus and the resultant fiscal response from the Government had resulted in a significant change to the MCA's capital and revenue budgets over the course of the year. The MCA's financial position had been reviewed by a second budget revision exercise that had been undertaken at the mid-year mark.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Adopted the revised budget estimates.
- ii. Approved the adoption into the capital programme of a gainshare capital fund totalling £18m.
- iii. Approved an increase in the revenue budget ceiling by £42m to accommodate gainshare funded activity and Covid Tier 3 Restriction funding.
- iv. Noted the slower than forecast pace of the capital programme.
- v. Approved the contracting arrangements to secure external support for the delivery of the Adult Education Budget Implementation Plan.

18 **2021/22 Budget and Business Plan Development**

A report was presented which outlined the process for developing the budget and the supporting business plan for the new financial year. The report noted the challenging environment in which the process was taking place, and the need for engagement with partners.

RESOLVED – That the MCA:-

- i. Noted the budget and business planning process being undertaken within the MCA.
- ii. Noted the significant uncertainties shaping the process.
- iii. Noted the proposed approval timeline.

19 **Scheme of Delegation: Contracts and Accounts**

A report was submitted which proposed an amendment to the threshold at which the MCA's statutory officers were authorised to take decisions under delegation from the MCA for certain types of contracting for goods and services. The proposal would align the MCA decision making processes to that of SYPTE and reduce the number of operational matters coming before the MCA Board.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved the increase in the delegation threshold under which statutory officers may accept a tender or quotation for the supply of goods, services, or materials to £200k for matters that could not be otherwise approved by a Thematic Board.

20 **Contract Procedure Rules**

A report was presented which proposed the adoption of a new suite of Contract Procedure Rules as part of the MCA's Constitutional documents. The adoption of the new Contract Procedure Rules would ensure that the MCA's core processes remained fit for purpose as its business evolved.

Mayor Jones CBE requested that wherever possible, the monies should be spent within the procurement processes to ensure value for money with the local authorities within South Yorkshire, in order to help to stimulate its economy, instead of looking further afield.

RESOLVED – That the MCA approved the adoption of the proposed Contract Procedure Rules.

21 **Risk Management Policy**

A report was submitted which presented a new risk management policy and process, following a full internal Management Board review and an Internal Audit Report, which had enabled the risk management framework of the MCA to be revised and refreshed.

RESOLVED – That the MCA considered and approved the revised Risk

Management Policy.

22 **Delegated Authority Report**

A report was presented which provided the details of the delegations agreed by the MCA which were in addition to those made under the Scheme of Delegation, together with the details of the decisions taken under the delegation made to the Thematic Boards and the subsequent delegations made to officers where appropriate.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the decisions and delegations made.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

10 DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M Stowe (Chair)
Councillor J Mounsey (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: A Atkin, S Cox, J Gilliver, A Murphy, C Rosling-Josephs, A Sangar, A Teal, N Wright and T Yasseen

Trade Unions: N Doolan-Hamer (Unison), D Patterson (UNITE) and G Warwick (GMB)

Investment Advisors: A Devitt and L Robb

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), G Graham (Director), M McCarthy (Deputy Clerk), G Richards (Senior Democratic Services Officer), S Smith (Head of Investments) and G Taberner (Head of Finance and Corporate Services)

J Firth and A Stone (Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Ltd)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Law, N Copley and G Kirk

1 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

G Graham announced that colleagues at Border to Coast had won two awards at the recent LAPF Investment awards. One was for Pool of the Year and the other for collaboration.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS.**

RESOLVED – That items 18, the appendix to item 11 and item 19, the appendix to item 12 be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

6 **MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2020 be agreed as a true record.

7 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

Cllr Mounsey reported that Doncaster MBC had welcomed the Authority's decision to aim for its investment portfolios to be net zero in terms of carbon emissions by 2030.

8 PROGRAMME OF AUTHORITY MEETINGS 2021/22

A report was submitted which proposed a schedule of Authority meetings for 2021/22.

RESOLVED – That the proposed schedule of Authority meetings be approved.

9 QUARTER 2 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

G Taberner presented the Corporate Performance report for Quarter 2 which provided an update on a range of the Authority's corporate indicators.

Section 3 detailed progress being made on various plans within the Corporate Strategy. It was noted that sickness absence overall remained lower than previous years but was being monitored regularly.

With regard to the budget, a large underspend was still being forecast which had resulted from the effects of the lockdown which had slowed progress on recruitment.

It was proposed that the full underspend would be transferred to the Capital Projects Reserve in order to meet the large one-off costs associated with the long-term accommodation project, the business systems project and the procurement exercise in relation to the pensions administration system.

The Risk Register was included within the report and section 5 detailed the changes made after the last review in October.

Pensions Administration performance was being maintained and whilst it remained below the target times set, customers remained satisfied and recent survey results were good.

Members discussed the need for a stable membership in the coming years. It was acknowledged that this was out of the Authority's control. The Director had written to the Leaders regarding this and s41 members were encouraged to further discuss the matter with their Leader.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10 APPROVAL OF THE LEVY FOR 2021/2022

A report was considered which requested approval for the 2021/22 Levy under the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992.

The 2021/22 Levy had been calculated as £361,000, a reduction of £54,000 compared to the 2020/21 Levy.

The estimated apportionment of the 2021/22 Levy to each district council, based on the 2020/21 Council Tax Base shares, was detailed within the report. It was noted that the

actual apportionment would be re-calculated to reflect the approved 2021/22 Council Tax Base figures for each district as soon as this information was available.

RESOLVED – That Members approve a total Levy of £361,000 for 2021/22 in accordance with the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be allocated to the District Councils in proportion to their approved council tax base amounts for 2021/22.

11 LONGER TERM ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

A report was submitted which sought to secure approval for the implementation of the results of the exercise conducted to identify a solution to meet the Authority's longer term accommodation needs.

Members were reminded that the Authority's move to Gateway Plaza in December 2018 had been imposed upon them by the landlord's decision to use the Regent Street site in a different way. Although Gateway offered better quality accommodation on reasonable commercial terms, in making the decision to move, the Authority had determined to commission work to examine its longer term accommodation requirements.

It was noted that the current lease had a break exercisable with six months' notice at December 2021 and the Corporate Strategy included a project to identify options for meeting the Authority's longer term needs in order to inform the strategy for dealing with the break.

As the Authority did not have the technical expertise internally to identify and appraise options for this sort of project, a procurement process was undertaken with the assistance of BMBC using a national consultancy framework which resulted in the appointment of FMG Consulting and GT3 Architects.

The options had been developed using factors which were detailed within the report and engagement with staff and managers through workshops and questionnaires.

A short list of three options had been identified:

- Option 1 – Additional space at Gateway Plaza to take the whole of the 8th floor – lease.
- Option 2 – Oakwell House, Barnsley – whole building – lease.
- Option 3 – 18 Regent Street – acquisition of a cleared site and purpose built new build – freehold.

As set out in the confidential appendix to the report, other options were ruled out on various grounds including the amount of space available and location.

Financial modelling had been undertaken on each of the options along with a set of criteria that had been developed from the brief and engagement with Authority staff; these had been used to provide a weighted score for each option. The results were shown within the report. In addition to the evaluation, a graphic within the report summarised the pluses and minuses of each option.

The results of the evaluation showed that Option 2, Oakwell Hose scored significantly better than the other options and it was recommended that officers be authorised to negotiate a long-term lease on the premises with an option to purchase should the landlord wish to sell.

G Graham informed Members that, as the site was out of the town centre, a travel plan would be developed to minimise car use and reduce the Authority's environmental footprint.

In answer to a question from Cllr Yasseen, G Graham reported that there was no suitable buildings to buy, rather than lease, in the area at the current time.

In answer to a question from Cllr Murphy, he also confirmed that the building had full disabled access.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Endorse the preferred option identified in the appraisal exercise.
- ii) Authorise officers to undertake negotiations to secure the preferred option within the revenue cost estimates as set out in the body of the report.
- iii) Authorise officers to agree an appropriate contribution from the Capital Projects Reserve of up to £782,000 for the fitting out of the preferred option to the Authority's specification including improvements to the environmental footprint and energy efficiency of the building.
- iv) Approve the serving of appropriate notices in relation to the Authority's current accommodation as and when appropriate.

12 PROCUREMENT OF NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

A report was submitted which set out details of the procurement of replacement financial management and investment accounting systems, and to seek approval for next steps.

Members were reminded that the need to replace the Authority's business systems was set out within the Corporate Strategy. The report considered was concerned with the procurement of replacement financial management systems, a further report relating to the people systems (HR and payroll) would be brought to Members when options had been identified and evaluated.

The replacement of the investment accounting system was a requirement due to changes in the Authority's environment, the move to pooling and the impact this had in regards to reducing requirements in regards to processing and accounting for investment transactions.

With regard to the financial management system, an exercise was undertaken to research potential new systems and demonstrations of two suitable options were arranged. The preferred option that was determined as a result of the evaluation was a system used by a number of local authorities and other public bodies.

The full details of the options and the evaluation were set out in the appendix which was attached as part of the private pack due to containing commercially sensitive information.

With regard to the investment accounting system, the in-house running of investments had reduced significantly and would reduce further as more assets were transferred to Border to Coast. This meant that the current system was too sophisticated, large scale and costly given the reduced requirements.

An exercise was undertaken the previous year to research the available options. The work identified that there was only one suitable alternative available, therefore approval was sought to waive the relevant contract standing orders to allow a direct award to the preferred supplier on the grounds that this was a specialist form of supply and that the available options had been evaluated.

The full details were set out in the appendix to the report.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the procurement undertaken for a replacement Financial Management System using a direct award on the Crown Commercial Services G Cloud framework as set out in paragraphs 5.6 to 5.10 in the report.
- ii) Approve the replacement of the ICON investment accounting system as set out in paragraphs 5.11 to 5.14 of the report and approve a waiver of contract standing orders, on the grounds that this was a specialist supply, in order to facilitate the procurement.
- iii) Approve the release of an estimated £50,000 from the Capital Projects Reserve in 2021/22 in order to meet the one-off costs associated with implementation of both these systems.

13 ADVISORS COMMENTARY

A Devitt provided market commentary on recent events.

Highlights included:

- Markets had calmed with less volatility and growth stocks continued to dominate. The US led stock market strength, China's post-Covid growth shored up Asia while Europe and the UK continued to lag.
- Before the announcement of the extension to the furlough scheme in the UK to March 2021, the high street had seen numerous lay-offs and bankruptcies were rising both in Europe and the US.
- Stock markets reacted strongly to the announcement that two vaccines in development looked to be 90-95% effective. This sparked a 'rotation' in the stock market out of "stay at home" tech winners such as Netflix and Zoom into some of the more overlooked value stocks and even cruise lines and airlines.
- The UK GDP figures released in mid-November showed that UK GDP expanded by 15.5% in the third quarter but slowed significantly in September suggesting that there was likely to be a further dip in the fourth quarter.

- The Covid-19 crisis had accelerated certain trends in real estate such as a shift from high street to online retail and soaring demand for industrial and logistics properties.

The Chair thanked A Devitt for the update.

14 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members considered the Quarter2 Performance Report to 30th September 2020.

S Smith informed Members that the September valuation came in at just over £9.1bn and since then markets had been strong and the Fund was now at approximately £9.4bn.

The main transactions over the quarter had been a reduction in UK equities of £230m and was now in line with the benchmark weighting. £100m had been invested across alternative funds, £40m of that was into listed funds, the remainder being draw-downs into committed funds.

Looking at the Fund overall, performance was slightly behind the benchmark at 0.8% against an expected 0.9%.

The funding level remained above 100% and based on current valuations was approximately 105%.

The report also gave details of four Border to Coast funds, three of which had outperformed since inception.

Since the quarter end Border to Coast had launched their inflation-linked portfolio and SYPA had transitioned 10% of the fund into this in October.

With regard to property, hopefully two acquisitions would be finalised before Christmas, one was a supermarket and the other a business park.

Cash levels had reduced to around £245m and would be below £200m by the end of December if the property acquisitions went through.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

15 BORDER TO COAST PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Andrew Stone from Border to Coast to the meeting.

A Stone gave a presentation which included:

- An update on the Border to Coast team.
- A market update for Q3 2020
- An investment update including:
 - Sterling Investment Grade Credit Fund
 - UK Listed Equity Fund
 - Overseas Developed Markets Equity Fund
 - Emerging Markets Equity Fund

- Alternative Assets

The Chair thanked A Stone for his informative presentation.

16 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BORDER TO COAST RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT POLICIES

A report was submitted which sought to gain approval for the collaborative policies in relation to Responsible Investment and Voting Guidelines to be used by Border to Coast over the next 12 months.

Members noted that the documents remained broadly unchanged with additional clarifications in a number of areas. There were, however, substantial steps in some areas which supported the Authority's overall policy position including:

- Stronger actions to oppose political donations by companies;
- Stronger actions where Boards were not seen to be promoting diversity;
- Stronger actions (including voting against reappointment of the Chair) at companies not making progress in adapting their business to a low carbon economy; and
- A commitment that Border to Coast would develop a specific policy in relation to climate change.

G Graham informed Members that this year the review cycle for Border to Coast policies and the Authority's policy in this area had become misaligned. This meant that the significant changes to the Authority's position on climate change agreed at its last meeting had not been able to be fed into the development of Border to Coast's policies.

J Firth, Head of Responsible Investment at Border to Coast updated Members on the work being done in the responsible investment area and the planned work on the Climate Change Policy which would be developed with the Partner Funds.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the Border to Coast Responsible Investment Policy and Voting Guidelines at Appendices A and B to the report.

17 QUARTER 2 RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT UPDATE

A report was considered which provided an update on Responsible Investment activity during July-September 2020.

The report detailed the number of meetings voted and votes cast during the period and votes for and against management.

The main areas where votes were cast against management or where resolutions were opposed were:

- In the UK a number of votes against the authorisation of political donations in line with the Border to Coast voting guidelines.
- In the UK a significant number of votes against the re-appointment of auditors on the grounds that the auditor had been in place too long.

- In all markets votes against executive pay proposals deemed excessive and against the re-appointment as directors of Chairs of nomination committees on the grounds of lack of Board diversity.

The report also detailed engagement and collaboration during the period.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

18 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

A report was submitted which sought approval for the annual update to the Authority's Governance Compliance Statement.

Attached as Appendix A to the report was an updated version of the Governance Compliance Statement for approval. The changes from the previous version were principally to provide more consistent terminology and to clarify wording which was previously not as clear as would be desirable. There had been no changes to the assessment of the degree of compliance.

RESOLVED – That the revised Governance Compliance Statement is approved.

19 REPORTING OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

A report was submitted to inform the Authority of decisions taken since the last meeting using the urgent business procedure set out in the Constitution.

Members were reminded that the Urgent Business procedure relied upon the Chair to make a specific decision on behalf of the Authority in consultation with the s41 members. Since the last meeting two circumstances had arisen where it had been necessary to use the procedure. These were detailed within the report and links provided to the specific decision reports.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

20 APPENDIX TO ITEM 11 - LONGER TERM ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Members considered a report by FMG Consulting in Partnership with GT3 Architects which detailed options for future accommodation options.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

21 APPENDIX TO ITEM 12 - PROCUREMENT OF NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

The Authority considered a report which explored options for the procurement of replacement investment accounting and financial management systems.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CHAIR

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