

<b>MEETING:</b>	Full Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, 27 May 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	The Civic, Barnsley - The Civic

## MINUTES

### Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

- Central Ward - Councillors Bruff and Risebury
- Cudworth Ward - Councillors Hayward, Houghton CBE and Wraith MBE
- Darfield Ward - Councillors Markham, Osborne and Smith
- Darton East Ward - Councillors Crisp and Hunt
- Darton West Ward - Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard
- Dearne North Ward - Councillors Cain and Gollick
- Dearne South Ward - Councillors Coates, Danforth and Noble
- Dodworth Ward - Councillors Fielding, Wray and Wright
- Hoyland Milton Ward - Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe
- Kingstone Ward - Councillors Mitchell, Ramchandani and Williams
- Monk Bretton Ward - Councillors Felton, Green and Richardson
- North East Ward - Councillors Cherryholme, Ennis OBE and D. Higginbottom
- Old Town Ward - Councillors Lofts and Newing
- Penistone East Ward - Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson
- Penistone West Ward - Councillors Greenhough, Kitching and Lowe-Flello
- Rockingham Ward - Councillors Andrews BEM and Lamb
- Royston Ward - Councillors Cheetham and McCarthy
- St. Helen's Ward - Councillors Leech, Platts and Tattersall
- Stairfoot Ward - Councillors Gillis
- Wombwell Ward - Councillors Eastwood, Frost and J. Higginbottom
- Worsbrough Ward - Councillors Bowser and Lodge

## 26. Declarations of Interests

Councillor J Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 49 'Minutes of the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021' in view of his employment for Mr D Jarvis MP who was also the Sheffield City Region Mayor.

## 27. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 28. Communications

### (a) Customer Service Excellence – Planning and Building Control Service

The Executive Director Core Services reported that the Planning and Building Control Service had recently been externally assessed for Customer Service Excellence and had again achieved this impressive accreditation.

In addition, they had also achieved 'Compliance Plus' in the following three areas:

- Masterplan Consultations
- Range, content and quality of verbal, published and web based information
- Interaction within wider communities and demonstrating the ways in which they supported those communities

This continued achievement was particularly impressive due to the unprecedented high volumes of applications received, and also the change in ways of working in which officers had had to adapt during the Covid pandemic.

This success wasn't possible without the work and input of all Planning Building Control and Support Team Officers, particularly Mark Caddick (Senior Planning and Building Control Assistant) who was in the meeting this morning), for co-ordinating the assessment submission and Tim Cliffe (Building Control Group Leader), Matthew Smith and Andrew Burton (Planning Group Leaders).

Councillor Richardson in his capacity as the Chair of the Planning Regulatory Board asked to place on record his own congratulations to all the Team for all their hard work, effort and dedication in achieving this accreditation in such difficult times.

Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture) echoed the comments made and expressed his congratulations in achieving this accreditation in what was not only difficult but times but in a period of extraordinary business. This was a remarkable achievement and all staff were congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

The Mayor echoed the comments made and added her own personal congratulation to all members of staff concerned.

The Mayor and Members of the Council expressed their congratulations to all concerned in the usual manner.

(b) National Museums Heritage Awards – Nomination in the Best Digital Category

The Executive Director Core Services reported that the Barnsley Museums Service had been shortlisted in the best digital category in the National Museums and Heritage Awards. This was a brilliant reflection of the work and creativity of the whole Barnsley Museums Service, and the way in which everyone mobilised together for the communities of Barnsley in response to the Covid pandemic. All the others on the shortlist were 'big institutions' so the Service had done incredibly well to get this far and hopefully would be in with a chance of winning.

Other shortlisted institutions included:

- London Transport Museum
- The National Trust
- The British Museum
- National Portrait Gallery

Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture) commented on the tremendous success of the Museums Service particularly over the last 18 months when some of the things undertaken had been innovative and remarkable. The Service had been recognised previously and had also been a case study for the Cabinet Office. The digital work undertaken had been tremendous and to be shortlisted along with such national institutions was truly remarkable and this was a true testament to the way in which the Service was currently performing. Congratulations were extended to all concerned.

The Mayor echoed the comments made and congratulated all staff on this achievement. She and Members of the Council expressed their thanks to all involved in the usual manner.

**29. Appointment to Regulatory Boards, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Outside Bodies**

This item was withdrawn.

**30. Audit and Governance Committee - 17th March, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**31. Audit and Governance Committee - 14th April, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**32. Planning Regulatory Board - 13th April, 2021**

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 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**33. General Licensing Panel - Various**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; 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.

**34. 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.

**35. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream) - 23rd March, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream) held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**36. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 27th April, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**37. Central Area Council - 1st March, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**38. Dearne Area Council - 15th March, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**39. North Area Council - 15th March, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**40. North East Area Council - 25th March, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**41. Penistone Area Council - 8th April, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**42. South Area Council - 23rd April, 2021**

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 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**43. South Area Council - 4th May, 2021**

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 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 be received.

**44. Cabinet Meeting - 24th March, 2021**

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 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**45. Cabinet Meeting - 7th April, 2021**

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 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 be received.

**46. Cabinet Meeting - 21st April, 2021**

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 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 be received.

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

The Executive Director Core Services reported that he had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

**48. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Draft) - 18th March, 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**49. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 22nd March, 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**50. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 19th April, 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**51. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 26th April, 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**52. Questions by Elected Members**

The Executive Director Core Services reported that he had received a number of questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

(a) Councillor Fielding

*'The temporary new Trinity MAT secondary school to be located on Broadway is due to open in just 14 weeks' time and welcome the 180 students who chose this as their secondary school.*

*At the time of writing, no work has yet commenced on site and parents are understandably concerned that the school will not be ready in September.*

*Is the school expected to be ready to receive its new students in September, and in the event that it isn't ready, what plans are in place to provide a school place for these 180 students?'*

Councillor T Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services thanked Councillor Fielding for his question and commented that Trinity Academy St Edwards would be receiving pupils from September 2021 following the agreement of the Regional Schools Commissioner to establish a new secondary school in Barnsley to meet the need for additional school places in the central area.

The Department for Education, which was leading on the development, had confirmed that the opening of the temporary site at Keresforth Close was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the Council's control. However, Trinity MAT and the Department for Education had been working closely with partners to secure a town centre location to open to pupils on the first day of term. Pupils would temporarily attend the Eastgate House campus until the Keresforth site was ready.

Trinity MAT had written to parents and had invited them to face to face meetings on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May, where they would be getting a full update on the site.

It was important that pupils' education was not disrupted and that they could attend a stable environment with the same teachers. Eastgate House campus had been deemed a safe, educational and functional setting.

Trinity MAT had held a series of events with parents and pupils over recent weeks. They would be holding further sessions with parents at the end of May to provide them with more details of the arrangements to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the new school.

Councillor Fielding thanked Councillor Cave for his response, however, he felt that it raised a number of questions for parents, but he was pleased to note that arrangements were in place to notify those parents of the changes. Parents would, nevertheless be disappointed at these changes. He then asked, as a supplementary question if the Cabinet Spokesperson could confirm that suitable arrangements had been put in place to accommodate the transport needs of getting the children to and from school including the parents getting the children to school in cars, on busses or on cycles.

Councillor Cave thanked Councillor Fielding for his supplementary question and for his understanding of the situation that was out of the Council's control. In relation to transport, the normal arrangements would be in place and further details would be provided outside this meeting.

(b) Councillor Greenhough

*'Over the last year there have been a large number of incidents at the borough's recycling centres. These incidents saw staff being verbally and physically abused. With the staff on these sites wearing body cameras, can the Council confirm whether any offenders have been reported to the police?'*

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Greenhough for his question and he responded by stating that unfortunately, there had been instances where staff working at household waste recycling centres had been subjected to verbal and physical abuse including spitting. He stated, and felt that everyone would agree, that nobody should have to face this while doing their job.

There had been six recorded incidents where verbal or physical abuse had been reported to the police. One of these incidents was still progressing through the court.

These incidents predominantly occurred at the site on West Street, Worsborough.

The main actions from the police had included banning the offenders from the sites and there had been one occurrence where a Community Resolution Order had been issued. Councillor Lamb stated that people were this Council's most valuable resource and he wanted to make it abundantly clear that abuse, violence and aggression would not be tolerated against any staff of the Authority or working on the Authority's behalf. If such actions occurred appropriate action would be taken.

Councillor Greenhough thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and he joined wholeheartedly at the condemnation of such actions against staff. He then asked, as a supplementary question, if Councillor Lamb would reaffirm that if such actions were ongoing, the Council would take more measures to ensure the safety of the staff working at these sites given that in Doncaster, one of the neighbouring authorities, someone had been driven at with a car and such actions were putting people's lives at risk.

Councillor Lamb commented that the Authority had recently removed the restriction on the number of people using the sites and hopefully that would reduce some of the tension people were experiencing when queuing outside those sites. In addition, where there was any repetition or risk of members of staff or members of staff working for third parties being injured or abused all measures possible would be put in place to reduce that risk. Members of staff working at these sites were employed by an external contractor who also had their own procedures and processes, but an assurance was given that the Authority would work with those contractors in order to ensure the safety of their members of staff working on the Council's premises and sites.

(c) Councillor Hunt

*'It was recently reported that 1,700 littering fines were issued by the council in 2020 - 1,000 less than in 2019. In 2016 the number of fines issued totalled 8,594. Why have the number of fines issued reduced so much since 2016?'*

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities thanked Councillor Hunt for the question and stated that in 2016, most of the borough had environmental enforcement contracts funded by the Area Councils, which meant more officers were out on the ground issuing environmental Fixed Penalty Notices or FPNs.

As the years have gone by, fewer Area Councils had chosen to fund this service, which meant fewer officers were available to issue environmental FPNs.

Since the start of contracted environmental enforcement in 2016, members of the public had become more aware of enforcement action being taken. This resulted in positive behavioural change and reduced offences, and the demand for enforcement capacity.

In response to public feedback, there had also been changes in the way enforcement was undertaken since 2016 including officers wearing visible uniform at all times. This had meant fewer offences were witnessed by officers due to their presence being known by the public.



Finally, 2020 had been the lowest figure due to the COVID19 pandemic. Few people were around during lockdowns, and services had been suspended due to the restrictions around face-to-face communication with people to reduce the risk of virus transmission. This service had re-commenced earlier this year.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Platts for her response. He stated that there had been a clear increase in the amount of litter seen across the borough and this had resulted in many more volunteers picking it up. These volunteers were doing an excellent job and should be congratulated for their efforts. He then asked as a supplementary question whether or not the Cabinet Spokesperson considered there was a correlation between the reduction in fines being issued and the increase being seen in the amount of litter and he also asked what the Council's plans were to tackle this increase.

Councillor Platts responded by stating that she agreed that the amount of work volunteers were doing in litter picking and reporting fly tipping was amazing. Everyone had seen a lot of litter within their areas, however, from 2020 unfortunately because of the lockdown face to face services had been suspended. Appointments had been made to the new Community Warden Posts and appropriate clearance checks were now awaited. Those officers would be out on the streets as would local area SNT's and they would be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for anti-social behaviour, littering and dog fouling. Hopefully within the next couple of months additional officers would be seen within the area and this should go some way to addressing the problems encountered.

### **53. Members' Questions at Full Council Meetings**

#### **Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6.**

Moved by Councillor Kitching – Seconded by Councillor Hunt

This Council believes that:

- i) The ability of members to ask questions at Full Council meetings is essential for openness, engagement and transparency. It allows Cabinet members to respond to submitted written questions in a public forum.
- ii) The members' questions facility has become popular and well used in recent years, with both ruling and opposition group members using it to ask questions of Cabinet members at Full Council meetings
- iii) This has led to the session frequently over-running the allotted 30-minute time limit and being cut short.
- iv) When the session is cut short it is frustrating for members whose questions are missed, for Cabinet members who do not have the opportunity to respond and for officers who have spent time and effort in preparing responses.

Therefore, this council calls for:

- v) The current 30-minute time limit on members' questions at Full Council to be extended to 1 hour.
- vi) The Chief Executive to make the relevant constitutional changes to facilitate this.

**An amendment was submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8.**

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

This Council believes that:

- i) The ability of members to ask questions at Full Council meetings is essential for openness, engagement and transparency. It allows Cabinet members to respond to submitted written questions in a public forum.
- ii) The members' questions facility has become popular and well used in recent years, with both ruling and opposition group members using it to ask questions of Cabinet members at Full Council meetings
- iii) This has led to the session frequently over-running the allotted 30-minute time limit and being cut short.
- iv) When the session is cut short it is frustrating for members whose questions are missed, for Cabinet members who do not have the opportunity to respond and for officers who have spent time and effort in preparing responses.

Therefore, this council calls for:

- v) In order to further enhance an already excellent governance model and to strengthen accessibility, questions for full Council and their responses will be placed on the Council website immediately after the meeting.
- vi) The Chief Executive to make the relevant constitutional changes to facilitate this.

**Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was won.**

**The amendment was then put as the Substantive Motion and was:**

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

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That in order to further enhance an already excellent governance model and to strengthen accessibility, questions for full Council and their responses be placed on the Council website immediately after the meeting; and
- (ii) That the Chief Executive make the relevant constitutional changes to facilitate this.

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Chair