

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

AGENDA

REGISTER TO ATTEND

Please note that in order to ensure that the meeting complies with current Covid-19 restrictions and public health advice, members of the public must pre-register if they wish to attend the meeting.

Anyone who wishes to attend should email governance@barnsley.gov.uk, no later than 10.00am on Wednesday 26th May 2021.

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 5 - 18)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 1st April 2021.

3. Communications

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

Substantive Item

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

To consider appointments to Regulatory Boards, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Outside Bodies consequent to the Annual Council held on the 20th May, 2021.

Minutes of the Regulatory Boards

5. Audit and Governance Committee - 17th March, 2021 (Pages 19 - 34)

6. Audit and Governance Committee - 14th April, 2021 (Pages 35 - 42)

7. Planning Regulatory Board - 13th April, 2021 (Pages 43 - 44)

8. General Licensing Panel - Various (*Pages 45 - 48*)
9. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various (*Pages 49 - 52*)

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committees

10. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream) - 23rd March, 2021 (*Pages 53 - 58*)
11. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 27th April, 2021 (*Pages 59 - 64*)

Minutes of the Area Councils

12. Central Area Council - 1st March, 2021 (*Pages 65 - 70*)
13. Dearne Area Council - 15th March, 2021 (*Pages 71 - 78*)
14. North Area Council - 15th March, 2021 (*Pages 79 - 82*)
15. North East Area Council - 25th March, 2021 (*Pages 83 - 86*)
16. Penistone Area Council - 8th April, 2021 (*Pages 87 - 92*)
17. South Area Council - 23rd April, 2021 (*Pages 93 - 98*)
18. South Area Council - 4th May, 2021 (*Pages 99 - 100*)

Minutes of the Cabinet Meetings

19. Cabinet Meeting - 24th March, 2021 (*Pages 101 - 106*)
20. Cabinet Meeting - 7th April, 2021 (*Pages 107 - 108*)
21. Cabinet Meeting - 21st April, 2021 (*Pages 109 - 112*)

(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 Mayoral Combined Authority Board, 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 Pensions Authority (Draft) - 18th March, 2021 (*Pages 113 -*

120)

24. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 22nd March, 2021 (Pages 121 - 128)
25. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 19th April, 2021 (Pages 129 - 144)
26. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 26th April, 2021 (Pages 145 - 160)
27. 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 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?'

(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?'

(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?'

Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6

28. Members' Questions at Full Council Meetings

Proposer – Councillor Kitching

Seconder – 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.



Sarah Norman
Chief Executive

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 1 April 2021
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, Houghton CBE and Wraith MBE

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 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

- Councillor Williams

Monk Bretton Ward

- Councillors Felton, Green and Richardson

North East Ward

- Councillors Cherryholme and Ennis OBE

Old Town Ward

- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering

Penistone East Ward

- Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson

Penistone West Ward

- Councillors Greenhough, David Griffin and Kitching

Rockingham Ward

- Councillors Andrews BEM, Lamb and Sumner

Royston Ward

- Councillor Makinson

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

107. Commemoration

Members were invited to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the first lockdown that marked the start of the pandemic in the country. A minute silence was observed to remember those that had lost their lives, and all those who had been affected by the pandemic.

108. Retiring Members

It was noted that it would be the last meeting of the Council before the Municipal Election on Thursday 6th May, 2021. It would, therefore, be the final meeting to be attended by several Members prior to their retirement from the Council.

The Mayor thanked all retiring Councillors for their hard work and dedication and made Members aware that their service would be commemorated with an engraved glass bowl.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE paid tribute to each of the following Members for their hard work to the Council and the local community they represented:-

- Councillor Charlesworth
- Councillor Daniel Griffin
- Councillor David Griffin
- Councillor C Johnson
- Councillor Murray
- Councillor Phillips
- Councillor Saunders

Several other Members of the Council added their own thanks and best wishes to the retiring Members.

109. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 128 in so far as discussion related to his position within Age UK Barnsley and their opening of a shop in Penistone.

110. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th and 25th February, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

111. Communications

Making Space – Markel Third Sector Care Award

The Chief Executive made Members aware that on 12th February, 2021, Making Space, Barnsley's Dementia Gateway Service, won the Markel Third Sector Care Award in the community engagement category. The award was presented by Esther Rantzen to Cath Magee, the Service Manager of the Barnsley Dementia Gateway Service. Judges said 'this winner achieved what often seems like an impossible task, it has pulled together multiple providers and formed a great connection with the local

authority. This means they have been able to close many of the gaps that people with dementia fall through and ensure a consistent and responsive service across the local area'.

Members heard that the Markel award was designed to reward the hard work, dedication, innovation and excellence of everyone working with the voluntary care and support sector in a creative way. The award recognised the achievements of the Dementia Gateway Service pilot and Best of Barnsley Dementia Care Awards event. This brought together individuals and businesses from across the sector to recognise the very best in person centred dementia support. The award recognised the ambition of the pilot service, which had created the Barnsley Third Sector Dementia Group. This facilitates six local charities to work as one partnership to connect people with dementia and their carers to the services very early on. Judges recognised that the Barnsley Council approach was innovative and unique in responding to the challenges of raising dementia awareness and reaching people early on in their journey.

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson Adults and Communities, remarked that dementia was a challenge for all, because of how it impacts on people and communities. The way each person responds to the impact of dementia was unique and Barnsley Council was keen to continue to support people with dementia and their carers in a way that works best for them. The Dementia Gateway Service had worked with the Council to explore and expand on opportunities. Winning the award was an important achievement for all and was a great endorsement for Barnsley as a whole and the team behind it. Thanks, and congratulations were given to Cath Magee, Service Manager of the Dementia Gateway Service, Steph Johansson, Regional Service Lead for Making Space, and the Healthier Communities Team leading on early help for dementia.

Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE added his thanks and congratulations, acknowledging that ensuring services were as good as they could be in this complex area was a huge achievement.

Cath Magee responded by thanking Barnsley Council for supporting Making Space, providing resource to bring services together that support the estimated 3,000 with dementia in Barnsley.

The Mayor added her thanks and congratulations.

Development Management Team - National Royal Town Planning Institute Awards

The Chief Executive gave huge congratulations to the Development Management Team who had been shortlisted in two categories in the National Royal Town Planning Institute Awards for 2021. The awards have been running for over 40 years and celebrate exceptional examples of planning. Under the category for Excellence in Planning, the Glassworks project had been named as a finalist and was part of the ongoing regeneration of Barnsley Town Centre and will deliver new retail and game changing leisure facilities, anchored by key public spaces and community assets such as the revitalised Barnsley Market and state of the art Library at the Lightbox. In addition, under the category Planning Heroes in a Pandemic, the team had also been named as a finalist for the handling of the planning application for the development of land to the north and south of Dearne Valley Parkway, Hoyland. The awards brochure stated that 'Planning heroes during a pandemic is a worthy title for Barnsley's hard working, experienced, well-motivated and qualified planners.' The

Chief Executive praised the whole development management team on the magnificent achievement.

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Support Member for Regeneration and Culture, remarked that the Glassworks being highly commended was the latest in a long line of awards and nominations the Glassworks had received. The Planning Heroes in a Pandemic was nominated by Harworth Estates in relation to their Hoyland Application. Noted was the increase in planning applications dealt with over the past two years, with an increase in productivity seen as a result of adapting to remote working. Thanks were given to Joe Jenkinson, Head of Planning, Policy and Building Control, and his officers.

Councillor Richardson, Chair of Planning Regulatory Board, echoed the thanks and praise to the team being nominated for two awards. To achieve two nominations was outstanding, and Barnsley Council had a planning team to be proud of.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE added his praise to planning officers, noting the huge challenge, especially in light of the pandemic. Congratulations were given to Joe Jenkinson and his team for providing Members with quality advice and for having procedures in place for involvement and engagement as part of ensuring the planning system was safe, secure, objective and followed all appropriate standards.

Following the end of furlough, and the realisation of the impact of the pandemic, it was suggested there would be huge social and economic challenges, including the need to create more jobs. The work undertaken by the Planning Department, including on the Local Plan, on Masterplans, and providing day to day support on planning issues was acknowledged to be hugely important in forging Barnsley a successful future.

112. Appointment to Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made to the Outside Bodies detailed:

Shaw Lands Trust – Councillors Mitchell, Hayward, Richardson and Williams, and Mr T Sheard.

Welcome to Yorkshire – Cabinet Spokesperson Place (Regeneration and Culture).

113. Date of Annual Council Meeting

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

RESOLVED that the Annual Council Meeting be held at 3.00pm on Thursday 20th May, 2021.

114. Health and Well Being Board - Updated Terms of Reference

Moved by Councillor Andrews BEM - seconded by Councillor Platts; and

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved.

115. Council Plan 2021-2024 and Associated Performance Framework (Cab.24.3.2021/9)

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the publication of the new Council Plan be approved; and
- (ii) That the approach for the revised accompanying performance framework be agreed.

116. Implementation of the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement (Cab.24.3.2021/11)

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED: That approval is given to implement the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement contained at Appendix 1 of the report with effect from 1 April, 2021.

117. Audit and Governance Committee - 20th January, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richardson - 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 20th January, 2021 be received.

118. Planning Regulatory Board - 23rd February, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by Councillor T Cave; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 23rd February, 2021 be received.

119. General Licensing Panel - Various

Moved by Councillor C. Wraith, MBE – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the various General Licensing Panels be received.

120. 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.

121. Health and Wellbeing Board - 4th February, 2021

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 4th February, 2021 be received.

122. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream) - 9th February, 2021

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Newing; 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 9th February, 2021 be received.

123. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving Their Potential Workstream) - 9th March, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee (People Achieving Their Potential Workstream) held on 9th March, 2021 be received.

124. Central Area Council - 11th January, 2021

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Wright; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on 11th January, 2021 be received.

125. Dearne Area Council - 18th January, 2021

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Gollick; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on 18th January, 2021 be received.

126. North East Area Council - 28th January, 2021

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Wraith MBE; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 28th January, 2021 be received.

127. North Area Council - 1st February, 2021

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 1st February, 2021 be received.

128. Penistone Area Council - 11th February, 2021

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 11th February, 2021 be received.

129. South Area Council - 12th February, 2021

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by Councillor Stowe; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on 12th February, 2021 be received.

130. Cabinet Meeting - 27th January, 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 27th January, 2021 be received.

131. Cabinet Meeting - 10th February, 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 10th February, 2021 be received.

132. Cabinet Meeting - 24th February, 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 24th February, 2021 be received.

133. Cabinet Meeting - 10th 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 10th March, 2021 be received.

134. 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.

135. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 11th January, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

136. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 22nd February, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

137. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Draft) - 21st January, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

138. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Authority Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 25th January, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

139. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 3rd February, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

140. 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.

(a) Councillor Eastwood

'We know the weather is very unpredictable, and the gritters have been out more than usual and filling the yellow bins, they are doing a fantastic job keeping us safe on the main roads. Do we have enough salt to keep the roads safe, and enough finances to keep going throughout the winter months?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Eastwood for the question. Thanks were given to all those involved in winter maintenance, particularly in what was a difficult year. The teams had demonstrated flexibility and worked really hard throughout the recent inclement weather this winter, working Christmas Eve, and Christmas night. Both salt domes had enough supply throughout the winter. As of 25 March, 2021 9,245 of the 11,949 tons of salt available had been used. A further contingency of 2,599 tons had been ordered in recognition of the severity of this winter, and that cold snaps may still occur.

Both domes had sufficient stock and the financial contingency was in place to see the council throughout the remainder of the winter maintenance plan.

A survey of salt domes had been commissioned to reconcile the tonnage in preparation for reordering salt for next winter. This would be reordered outside of the winter period, where salt costs were less.

Councillor Eastwood thanked all the staff involved in gritting for the fantastic job undertaken, but did not wish to ask a supplementary question.

(b) Councillor Wilson

'There has been a huge rise in dog ownership across the country since the start of the pandemic. This has undoubtedly led to increased use of the council's dog waste bins by responsible dog owners. What is the council's policy when these waste bins need replacing?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) responded by thanking Councillor Wilson for the question and thanked all responsible dog owners that do use the bins provided or take their waste home. In 2019, all street bins across the borough were asset tagged and re-purposed as multi-use bins providing residents with the ability to dispose of both dog waste and litter in any street bin.

When one of the bins previously identified as a dog waste bin comes to the end of its useful life, an assessment is made by Neighbourhood Services as to whether the location is suitable for the bin to be replaced with the larger capacity multi-use street bin. Where the assessment allows, this replacement strategy is adopted. A street bin replacement policy was being drafted and would be presented to Cabinet early next financial year.

Councillor Wilson thanked Councillor Lamb for the answer and asked a supplementary question as to whether there were plans to increase dog fouling enforcement across the borough.

Councillor Lamb reminded Members of the recently adopted Public Space Protection Order, which took into account fouling by dogs and the responsibilities of owners. As a result of this the number of fixed penalty notices issued had doubled. The Council would look to provide more enforcement where possible, and many Area Councils also commissioned additional services to improve enforcement in local areas.

(c) Councillor Lodge

'Could the Cabinet Member responsible provide an update on the progress of a Borough-wide poverty needs assessment?'

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities thanked Councillor Lodge for the question by confirming that a borough-wide poverty needs assessment had been completed by our Business Intelligence Team. It updated the intelligence around poverty and inequalities for the borough in the context of both national poverty research and emerging findings on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on inequalities in health and income. It was being shared with key boards, and the council would work with them to develop actions to address some of the emerging findings.

The work will be aligned with our recovery planning and key strategies, including the new Council Plan and our wider Barnsley 2030 vision.

Over the coming months, there are plans to develop further intelligence, including developing household-level data on financial hardship and poverty to better target preventative work and support residents who are in most need.

The poverty needs assessment will be updated as the Covid-19 landscape changes, most notably when Government support packages, such as the job retention scheme, come to an end as proposed in the Autumn of this year.

Councillor Lodge thanked Councillor Platts for the response and asked for an update on work being done to develop a Food Poverty Action Plan or renewing that which had recently expired.

Councillor Platts remarked that this was part of the work currently ongoing and as soon as it had been completed it would be made available for Members.

(d) Councillor Fielding

'The Noise Assessment for the Penny Pie Park Gyrotory was published in September 2018 and identified that 56 homes around the former park would suffer such significant adverse effects of noise from the operation of the new gyrotory that they would be legally entitled under the Noise Insulation Regulations for noise mitigation measures to be provided by the Council. Can the Cabinet member please advise, two and a half years after this assessment was published, how many residents of the affected houses have been informed that their homes will suffer significant adverse effects of noise or consulted about what mitigation measures they will be entitled to and told when they can expect the mitigation measures such as additional glazing and mechanical forced ventilation to be installed in their homes?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) responded by thanking Councillor Fielding for his question. It was highlighted that the initial noise modelling for the gyrotory, identified that there were 56 properties that were already adversely affected by existing noise levels, so even a minor predicted increase in noise levels could be considered as significant.

The number was reduced to 54 properties due to the proposed noise mitigations contained within the redesign of the park and the specification and location of additional noise barriers.

The highway scheme was approved on the basis that a noise insulation scheme, taking account of the Noise Insulation Regulations, that was designed to mitigate the adverse noise levels experienced by nearby residents would be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The Noise Insulation scheme was currently being finalised, and subject to this being approved by the Local Planning Authority, the 54 individual households would be contacted and advised of the next steps, in addition, a specific briefing for the local ward councillors was due to take place. Officers were hopeful that this work will be concluded within the next six weeks.

Councillor Fielding responded by asking a supplementary question as to why the planning condition had been amended without reference back to the Planning Regulatory Board so that instead of designing any noise mitigation before work commenced on the park, it would not have to be completed until the work was nearing completion, two years later than requested in the original planning condition.

No residents knew if they would be provided with noise insulation and the Council did not follow best practice in providing this type of insulation to their homes in order to protect those homes against two years of construction noise, which many Councils adopt. Residents were asking why does the Council not care about the affect this has on their homes?

Councillor Lamb replied that the Council does care very much, and that a further detailed response to the supplementary question would be provided to Councillor Fielding in writing.

(e) Councillor Frost

'I regularly cycle on the TPT to Oxspring and on to Dunford Bridge but the trail is usually inaccessible in Winter due to the amount of standing water and mud. After the recent dry spell, I travelled up the TPT and found that from Wigfield Farm to the M1 bridge extensive works had been carried out to improve the drainage, prune trees and lay hardstanding. This meant not only cycles could travel more easily but people with disabilities as well. Are the improvements to be continued to the Silkstone Tunnels and what other areas are to be improved in this way in the borough?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Frost for the question, noting that Barnsley had one of the best leisure cycling facilities in Yorkshire and Humber if not the country, which was something the Council was very proud of and constantly seeking to improve. Members were made aware that a bid had been submitted to Sustrans for the A61 to Haverlands Lane section and Smithy Wood Lane at Dodworth through to Silkstone.

The outcome of this bid would be known by the end of May 2021. If successful, the work would be completed by the end of March 2022. It was noted that proposals had been submitted from the Public Rights of Way Team for all outstanding sections of the Trans Pennine Trail totaling £7.5 million. Other areas of the public rights of network, of which there were 680 km, were maintained through the core budget and any one-off grants/investments secured when available.

Councillor Frost noted that the new hard standing surface was made from recycled tyres and that 113,000 tyres had already been used. There had been an increase in numbers using the trail, but there had also been an increase in litter, with volunteers helping to collect this. A supplementary question was asked regarding what was being done to ensure levels of active travel were maintained after the pandemic.

Councillor Lamb responded reminding Members of the development of an Active Travel Strategy and that the Council was making significant bids around the whole agenda of active travel. It had recently been successful in attracting over £30m from the Transforming Cities Fund for Barnsley to spend on a range of active travel projects.

(f) Councillor Lodge

'A recent survey of social workers across the UK, found that 70% of respondents believed that the Covid-19 Pandemic has had an impact on their mental health. What support has been put in place locally to support social workers in Adults and Children's services?'

Councillor Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children's Services, responded by thanking Councillor Lodge for the question and highlighting that social care staff in Barnsley were encouraged and supported to access the wide-ranging council

initiatives promoting health and well-being at work, including support and advice on the range of issues relating to mental and physical health.

All social care staff and managers were supported to attend a series of masterclasses available to help employees and managers work and lead effectively in the virtual world.

Staff could access the Well@Work Services and Employee Assistance Programme and the free app from Health Assured. The My Healthy Advantage app offered various well-being features and materials, including well-being articles, videos, a weekly mood tracker, four-week plans and mini health checks.

Managers and staff could access online remote worker toolkits. These brought together the support available within the Council and signposted to external support to look after the physical and mental health and well-being of staff.

The Council's flexible working arrangements were supported to enable a healthy work life balance while being based at home- to support home schooling and carer responsibilities.

In addition to the support services available, staff had been using virtual means of support through team meetings, drop-ins, MS teams meetings, daily catch-ups and for some teams, virtual quizzes and exercise sessions.

There had been regular open communication with staff about how they were, workload pressures, successes and what could help in supporting them further in their work such as equipment. This included regular open meetings for staff with managers, supervision and Performance and Development Reviews (PDRs).

Staff could also read the twice weekly internal news bulletins which had a range of information and advice on staying safe and well.

Experienced staff had also supported less experienced colleagues offering additional support, advice and guidance. Staff who cannot work at home had been allocated workspaces, and newly qualified social workers and students were allocated space to receive additional 1:1 or peer group support.

Children's Services had greatly benefitted from Council investment in additional staff, which had helped manage service demands and reduce caseloads. Staff had access to regular COVID-19 testing. For those staff who have been impacted by COVID-19 sickness or associated sickness, appropriate HR processes had been followed, and Occupational Health referrals made.

Councillor Lodge thanked Social Care Staff in Barnsley, but did not wish to ask a supplementary question.

(g) Councillor Kitching

'There have been tragic news headlines recently about the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard while she was walking home. I recognise the fear felt by most women when walking dark streets alone at night. While I appreciate that the police and

central government have a huge role to play, what specifically is this Council doing to protect women in the borough and ensure they not only feel safe but are safe when walking our streets?’

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities, thanked Councillor Kitching for the question, highlighting that the response was from both herself and colleagues in Place. She responded by stating that the public safety of all residents and visitors was taken very seriously. The Safer Neighbourhoods Service (SNS) worked in close partnership with police colleagues to conduct out-of-hour observations and patrols in streets, parks and other public spaces. There was a high visibility uniformed presence in the town centre to deter criminal and anti-social behaviour and improve public perceptions of safety. Interviews were underway to recruit a further 11 Neighbourhood Wardens to provide a reassuring presence in all communities across the borough. The team would work up to 10pm on weekdays and weekends and be attached to the locality teams. They would be an additional ‘eyes and ears’ resource in communities, instilling confidence and encouraging residents to report their concerns.

CCTV capabilities had been significantly improved, including a complete upgrade and enhancements in the town centre and new systems and coverage for principal towns.

The SNS responded to any complaints around safety and perceptions of safety and ensured customers receive the most appropriate advice. This included working on specific safety packages with SYP’s Crime Reduction Officer.

The LED Street Lighting upgrade programme had been designed in compliance with the Institution of Lighting Professional Guidance Note 01 for the safety of the residents and road users. In addition, improved LED lighting offered a number of benefits to pedestrian safety:

- Improved street lighting encouraged more people to walk at night, which should increase levels of informal pedestrian surveillance, and deter would be perpetrators.
- Low glare components helped prevent shadowing and increase visibility, thereby allowing pedestrians to make better judgements of the risks that may or may not be around them and helps them to make better decisions as a result.
- New lanterns had an expected life of around 25 years which results in less lantern failures and therefore less dark spots on our footways.
- LEDs lanterns made colours look more natural with no more orange haze which provided better facial recognition for security and CCTV cameras.
- The LEDs on our main roads had the ability to have further monitoring and surveillance equipment added should the future need arise.

Councillor Kitching gave thanks for the response and mentioned a specific part of the Trans Pennine Trail which featured a dark spot between the train station and the residential area, which was not uncommon in areas which were not part of the adopted highway. A supplementary question was asked posing what the Council might be able to do to identify and tackle these dark spots to enable women to feel safer at night?

The response was deferred to Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) who shared Councillor Kitching’s concerns. Appropriate lighting would be considered as part of promoting active travel, and

action would be taken where problems had been identified. All Members were asked to make the highways department aware of any potential problems so they could be considered.

As it was nearing the end of the allotted 30 mins for questions, it was agreed that the remaining questions would be responded to after the meeting in writing.

141. Question by a Member of the Public

The Council received a written question received from a Member of the Public, together with the responses provided by the appropriate Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED that the question and responses be noted.

.....
Chair

MEETING:	Audit and Governance Committee
DATE:	Wednesday, 17 March 2021
TIME:	4.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

31. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Arising out of the above, questions were asked as to why a report on the Glassworks scheduled to be brought to this meeting had not been forthcoming. In addition, it was noted that an exempt report had been submitted to the Cabinet meeting in January.

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance stated that a programme of items for submission to future meetings was in preparation. It was important to ensure, however, that any update reports were submitted in a timely manner as and when progress on projects and issues meant that such updates could be meaningful. It was the intention to submit a report on the Glassworks to the April meeting. In relation to this meeting, however, the Service Director Finance confirmed that there had been insufficient progress on the Glassworks since the last update report to provide a meaningful update for this meeting.

33. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20 ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report, which was presented by Mrs A Salt, Corporate Governance and Assurance Manager, supporting the updated Action Plan relating to the issues identified following the Annual Governance Review (AGR) for 2019/20.

The Action Plan was appended to the report and had been approved alongside the Annual Governance Statement by this Committee at its meeting on the 28th October, 2020.

The Action Plan was used to track progress of the actions identified as necessary to deal with the issues raised through the process. In providing an update of the Action Plan, Mrs Salt reported that progress against most actions had been completed or

were on target to be completed and where there were delays or changes to the planned actions, the reasons were outlined within the Plan.

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

- In relation to the loss of equipment and how this could occur, it was reported that predominately this was as a result of items being lost or misplaced by staff members. Most devices were mobile phones used by staff working in an agile manner as part of their role. All devices were encrypted and could be remotely blocked and wiped
- The Phishing Dashboard was in development and would be ready by 31st May 2021. Line Managers would have access to the Dashboard and used during one to one meetings with their staff members who had fallen for simulated phishing campaigns. Information available would only be relevant to the manager or the team member that had been phished
- USB memory sticks were blocked. The Computer Usage Policy stipulated that USB memory sticks should not be used without approval from the Information Security Team. When formally requested; memory sticks were only approved where there were no alternative options. Any permissions granted were subsequently reviewed and revoked. The Council did not formally use any systems or processes that required USB memory stick access, therefore,, no impact analysis had been carried out as to what the outcome of blocking USB memory sticks entirely would have on the Council
- Improvements in the area of customer complaints continued as reported in Q3 Performance Reports:
 - 99% of complaints were acknowledged within timescales
 - 95% of complaints were responded to within timescale agreed

Whilst Members had not raised a question in relation to meeting FOI/EIR/SAR statutory timescales, the opportunity was taken to further highlight where significant improvements had been made in meeting statutory obligations:

- 99% of Freedom of Information requests were handled within the statutory timescale
- 100% of Subject Access Requests were handled within the statutory timescale
- 100% of Environmental Information Regulations were handled within statutory timescale
- Performance and Development Reviews continued to take place annually as planned. A review of the P&DR process was to be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Success Factors Performance and Goal Module which was due in 2022
- The post of Principal Social Worker has been successfully appointed to with an anticipated start date of May 2021
- An updated on the Communications Campaign relating to equality and improvements in the demographic data for Equality and Impact Assessments was provided. The Campaign related to the promotion of the role of the Equality and Inclusion Team and the Equality and Inclusion related training offer. The new “Translation and Interpretation” POD course would be finalised in the week commencing 15th March, 2021. Once finalised the Communications Campaign would be promoted by the Communications

Team. In relation to the demographic data, it was reported that this issue needed to be reworded to “Ongoing problem with lack of staff demographic data” – It was not possible to resolve this until the Success Factors HR System went live. The current HR system did not have the capability to record the required information or transfer the information to the new system. There would be a communications programme as part of the Success Factors launch which would include asking staff to update their own demographic details. The last known indicative release date for the system was December 2021

RESOLVED that the progress made against each of the items listed in the Action Plan be noted.

34. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report providing an update on the development of the Strategic Concerns/Risk Register and proposing that at future meetings there be an opportunity for a ‘deep dive’ review of specific strategic risks with an appropriate Executive Director in attendance to update and assure the Committee on the management of their individual strategic risks for their service.

It was noted that the current Register contained 13 risks and, using a new system of risk assessment, the Senior Management Team had classified 11 as being important (amber rating) and 2 as ‘requires attention’ (green rating) in relation to the level of response and intervention required.

The Head of Internal Audit then demonstrated the Power BI Dashboard highlighting the concerns/risks on screen and showing how Members could drill down into the background, the actions and key target dates identified for each strategic risk. He stated that for subsequent meetings a brief covering report would be provided together with the link to access the risk system (guidance for which would be made available). He reminded Members that having an oversight and obtaining assurances about the Council’s Risk Management arrangements and the management of specific risks and concerns was a key responsibility of this Committee.

The new system was continuing to be populated with risks for all service areas and business units and to date a total of 117 risks had been logged with more being added daily.

An appendix to the report showed the current strategic risks/concerns which would enable Members determine the priorities for their ‘deep dives’. It was proposed to earmark four Committee meetings throughout the year where such strategic risks/concerns could be presented and discussed.

This new approach to corporate risk management and on how the Committee obtained assurances would be continually reviewed to enable any changes and refinements to be made as appropriate.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- Members generally welcomed the new approach to risk management and to the strategic risks identified but assurance was sought that all potential risks had been identified and logged particularly taking account of actions that had been identified within other local authorities. The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance stated that the collection and identification of issues had been very much led by the Senior Management Team in order to identify those key strategic risks. The new approach to risk management was, however, about the forward look and horizon scan of issues and potential issues and this was a fundamental change from the old approach. The Executive Director Core Services echoed the comments made and commented on how SMT had ensured that they had identified the risks, how check and challenge had been undertaken to ensure this and to make sure that the issues for the organisation had been identified. He stated that it had been SMT's suggestion that each Executive Director attend this Committee to enable Members to drill down into each risk area in order to give an assurance that the risks were being managed appropriately. This approach was very much welcomed by Members of the Committee
- It was felt that any of the strategic risks identified would be worthy of being brought to Committee for a 'deep dive' and it was suggested that this be rotated between each of the Executive Directors
- It was acknowledged that the risks changed over time, however, at the moment the risk of the authority losing revenue because of business failure was likely to get worse given the impact of the Covid pandemic. Questions were asked as to the number of business failures there had been over the last 12 months. The Service Director Finance stated that this was a live risk and indeed the budget item scheduled for later in the meeting included a forecast of the potential impact. He was unable to give the information about the precise number of business failures but would provide this after the meeting. He would also include details of new business start-ups during that period
- Arising out of the above, the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance commented on the change to the risk register which now focused on corporate governance and on ensuring that the correct arrangements were in place through sound financial management for dealing with the threats faced by the authority and potential changes in resource allocation and income etc.
- Members were satisfied that the new approach to risk management would ensure that the authority was able to deal with risks and issues as they arrived/were identified rather than dealing with historical/legacy issues
- Members were happy for the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance and the Service Director Finance to use their professional judgement as to which Executive Director to invite to Committee for an examination of their specific strategic risks. This would be reflected within the Committee's work plan submitted to the next meeting

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

- In relation to risk 5 'Educational Outcomes Progress' and particularly in relation to vulnerable groups and boys falling behind, information was provided on action being taken to assess and provide remedial action as follows:

- High level action 1 - Assurance regarding the existence and effectiveness of data monitoring systems, engagement with schools and the use of interventions

Status - Barnsley Alliance – agreed the principles of working – with a focus on specific actions arising e.g. remote learning, exam cohorts. Reports were submitted into SMT of Covid performance indicators – including considering attendance, exclusions etc.

- High level action 2 - Utilising the partnership arrangements in place around Covid 19 to ensure there remained a focus on outcomes

Status - Barnsley Alliance - sector lead partnership meetings were held fortnightly. The Education Skills Sub Group and Barnsley Tactical Group reported into Gold meetings on a weekly/fortnightly basis

- The ‘requires attention’ status of the Risk Register reflected a monitoring / ‘keeping an eye on things’ rather than requiring more urgent action / intervention. Each area had its own actions and timescales determined by the action owners. Most actions had quarterly review dates to ensure that oversight was planned
- Information was provided about the external market provision in Adult Social Care and about the strategy to try to ascertain what concerns were and how these could be addressed. Reference was made to the following:

- High level action 1 - Assurances regarding the current and predicted status of Adult Social Care provision in the Borough.

Status - Work was being undertaken to update the market position statement and to engage with providers around future commissioning requirements. Commissioning intentions document would also be updated.

- High level action 2- Engagement with the market to explore options and build appropriate plans to address capacity and quality issues and concerns.

Status - Discussions were underway with Residential Care providers about the future state of the market. A 3-year development plan to help shape the market was being developed. There had been further analysis of the market both regionally (collaborative piece of work with LGA and ADASS Yorkshire & Humber) alongside local analysis. This would result in the production of a Market Position Statement (stating what was needed in Barnsley and why) followed by a delivery plan.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update of the Strategic Risk Register and the current strategic concerns/risks be noted, and that approval be given to the proposed approach for the Committee to obtain assurances regarding the management of strategic concerns and risks; and

- (ii) That the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance and the Service Director Finance arrange for each Executive Director to attend meetings of this Committee to enable members to have a 'deep dive' into their respective strategic risks.

35. DRAFT RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND FRAMEWORK

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report, which was presented by Mrs A Salt, Corporate Governance and Assurance Manager, on the Draft Risk Management Policy Statement and the Draft Risk Management Framework 2021-23. These documents, which were appended to the report, would form part of a suite of resources for managers and employees to support them in the management of risks across the Council using the new risk management approach and system.

An appendix to the Framework document outlined the roles and responsibilities of various groups and individuals across the Council in relation to the delivery, support and assurance required to establish and embed an effective risk management system across the Council

Members were asked to consider the Statement and Framework and refer it to Cabinet for formal approval.

RESOLVED that the Draft Risk Management Policy Statement and Draft Risk Management Framework 2021-23 be noted and referred to Cabinet for formal approval.

36. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING (WHISTLEBLOWING) ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Director Core Services submitted a report which was presented by the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance reviewing the activities and current issues regarding the Council's Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy and supporting procedures.

The report outlined the background to the development of the policy, its review and revision to ensure that it remained fit for purpose, and indicated that this was one of a suite of policies and procedures whereby concerns could be raised. As highlighted in previous reports, reference was made to the difficulties in speculating what would be an appropriate number of whistleblowing complaints to be received

During the last year there had been 8 instances of contact, 6 received via email/letter and 2 through direct contact with one of the Corporate Whistleblowing Officers. Of those, 6 had been submitted anonymously which made investigations more difficult.

Information was provided about the way in which investigations were undertaken and a table within the report summarised the 8 issues raised, highlighted the nature of the concern and the action taken. None of the closed cases raised any issues of great significance or concern to the Authority but one had resulted in disciplinary action being taken. Two cases remained open, one would be considered as part of an Internal Audit review in due course and investigations were continuing in respect of the other case.

It was noted that the principles of confidential reporting were to be highlighted as part of the Fraud Awareness Week planned for later in the year and this would raise the profile of the responsibility and importance of all staff raising any concerns they had.

The Executive Director Core Services echoed the comments made and stressed that each complaint was taken very seriously. He highlighted the importance of cross-referencing issues raised against the wider dashboard of information and intelligence held by the authority as this would enable any patterns of behaviour or items of concerns to be identified and addressed.

Questions were asked as to whether any of the anonymous issues raised were malicious or vexatious. The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance commented that this was always a key consideration in any investigation. If there was any suggestion that this was the case this was taken into account in any response, but this did not mean that the issue was not worthy of investigation as it could present a concern that needed to be examined. During an investigation other information or corroborative evidenced held by the authority would be sought. If, however, an issue was found to be purely vexatious and malicious and the individual raising the issue was identified, then appropriate disciplinary action would be taken.

In response to a written question submitted in relation to the timeline between the receipt of a complaint and the closure it was reported that every issue raised was different and so there was no specific timescale that could be applied. The authority tried to ensure that any matter raised was looked into as quickly as possible but there were many factors that could mean an investigation took a number of weeks or months.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report and the assurance it provides be noted; and
- (ii) that the Committee commit to support the Council's overall counter fraud culture and the work of Internal Audit and the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team.

37. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

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 January to 23rd February, 2021.

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

- The Internal Audit and Corporate Anti Fraud Teams had delivered 93% of the internal audit work as at the end of February. Overall as a service, including the external clients, governance and assurance and Data Protection Work, 87% of work had been delivered and the service was, therefore, on track to fully deliver the Internal Audit Plan within the year
- Two final reports had been issued within the period one of which was a formal review for which a reasonable assurance opinion had been given. There were no concerns with regard to assurance opinions given within the period

- Information was provided about the other work that had been delivered during the period together with the status of that work
- An update was provided with regard to agreed Management actions that had been followed up and there were no concerns to raise
- Overall in terms of the work that had been completed to date, including the work that did not include assurance opinions, for example, attendance at meetings /boards to discuss governance and assurance as well as the management actions that had been implemented, the service was on track to give a reasonable assurance opinion at the end of the year

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

- One Member of the Team was assigned to each of the Steering/Working Groups with a deputy to attend in their absence. It was usually the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance, the Audit Manager or a Principal Auditor depending on the type / purpose of the meeting forum
- It was noted that there were a significant number of outstanding audit reports including a number in relation to Covid funding and questions were asked as to the reasons for this. It was reported that the “work in progress” was scheduled to commence in quarter 4. Internal Audit activity did not stop at 31st March and there would, as in previous years, be a number of reviews that would be completed in Q1 of 2021/22. These would be included in the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance Annual Report.

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 23rd February, 2021 be noted;
- (iii) that the progress against the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 for the period to the 23rd February, 2021 be noted; and
- (iv) that the performance of the Internal Audit Division for the period be noted.

38. CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report providing an update of the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1st April 2020 to 28th February, 2021.

Mrs J Race (Principal Auditor), who presented the report, indicated that whilst there were three members of the Team, for the vast majority of the year there had only been two officers as one member of the Team had been redeployed to work on Covid related issues.

The majority of the work during the period had been in relation to Business Support Grants undertaking post event assurance work and to date it had been confirmed that 99.5% of grants had been satisfactory and eligible with only 9 applications being ineligible.

Work was to commence on the local restriction support grant but assistance was being given to the Business Rates Team as and when needed. The scheme closed at the end of the month with final payments being due by the end of April and it was intended to present a further report to this Committee with the results of the post assurance work once this was complete.

Other investigations had been undertaken and details of these were outlined in a table within the report together preventative work, work undertaken in relation to the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) as well as other preventative and counter fraud work. It was pleasing to note, however, that there was nothing of significance to report.

The report also outlined the current position with regard to the 2021/22 operational work programme further details of which would be provided for the June meeting. The Team also continued to offer a counter fraud service to Internal Audit external clients. Such work was only undertaken where it was in the best interests of both the external client and the Council in respect of competing priorities and resources.

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

- In relation to Small Business Grants and the checking of banking details it was reported that Government guidance did not specify that the bank account had to be a commercial bank account i.e. some small businesses used their personal bank account for business use too. The guidance specified that the businesses had to be trading at a specific date to qualify for the grant (11th March 2020). The Council's bank verified that the destination bank account matched the details provided i.e. the name matched the bank account number at the time of payment. The NFI/Experian checks confirmed that the company was trading at the eligible date, whether the bank account was commercial or personal and if the bank account details matched the name of the business. Recent communication from BEIS had indicated that HMRC would be undertaking checks of businesses which had received the grants, possibly, to verify that those businesses were registered/paying tax.
- A question was asked about who was responsible for contacting the 9 businesses that were ineligible for the small business rate grants, what the situation was with regard to the recovery of money and whether the checks had highlighted any other businesses that were ineligible for rent payments. It was reported that the figures detailed were those last reported to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as at 6th March, 2021. The Corporate Anti Fraud Team was still conducting post payment checks and there was a possibility that other ineligible payments may be identified. The 9 identified as being ineligible represented 0.03% of the 2,892 grants checked to date. The nature of these cases was such that the processing team could not have been expected to detect their ineligibility at the time. The 9 ineligible payments were still to be recovered but the

Governments guidance would be followed on the recovery of ineligible payments

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the progress report on the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1st April, 2020 to 28th February, 2021 be noted; and
- (ii) That regular progress reports continue to be submitted on the internal and external fraud investigated by the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team.

39. CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY 2021-2024

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report on the proposed Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy which provided a framework to direct anti-fraud activity over the next three years.

Mrs J Race (Principal Auditor), who presented the report, indicated that the third Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy, prepared by the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance Service had been published in 2020. This Strategy had been used to frame the Authority's Strategy, as appended to the report, which adopted structure across the recommended five pillars included in the national strategy document:

- Govern
- Acknowledge
- Prevent
- Pursue
- Protect

One of the recommendations of the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally National Strategy was that the authority participate in a Regional Operational Group to, amongst other things, share best practice including potential fraud risks and Mrs Race was a member of this Group. There were also a number of working groups as well and she was also a member of the Incentives and Data Analytics Groups and she was keen for the authority to continue to be involved with this work.

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance stated that a detailed Operational Plan was now being prepared alongside the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 and this would be presented to the June meeting taking into account any comments made by members of this Committee.

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

- In relation to communications with other council's/third parties, it was reported that the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) had recommended the formation of a regional operation group to share information and develop best practice in response to Local Authority fraud risks. As reported above, the

Principal Auditor was a member of this Group representing the Yorkshire and Humberside Region. The FFCL also recommended a number of working groups to assist LA's with counter fraud work:

- Fraud Measurement – to develop a consistent risk and performance methodology for LAs;
- Powers – to identify and evidence areas where there was a lack of investigative powers to pursue investigations e.g. social care fraud;
- Incentives – what types of incentives could support improved activity;
- Data Analytics – to review existing data related initiatives and recommend best practice on new ideas;
- Social Care – to look at how local fraud strategies should align to LA safeguarding responsibilities

All of the Working Groups would report to the regional Group with their findings (they were yet to meet). In addition to the above the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team was a member of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fraud Investigators Group. The 3 officers of the Team were members of the Tenancy Fraud Forum and the National Anti-Fraud Network

- In relation to continuous training, all three members of the Team undertook personal development and refresher training. The 2 Counter Fraud Officers had recently attended/or were to shortly to attend NAFN and CIFAS webinars:
 - NAFN offered a range of free webinars to help officers maximise the use of their services including refresher training;
 - CIFAS: Understanding the Insider Threat (was a free online conference dedicated to tackling internal fraud). Understanding the Insider Threat, Managing the Insider Threat and Practical responses to the Insider Threat.
- The Principal Auditor attended a 'Counter Fraud Summit' in February and would be attending the 'Tackling Covid-19 Fraud Across the Public Sector Conference' in May.
- All staff had PDRS where training and development requirements and requests were discussed.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy be approved and the Committee is assured that it provides the appropriate framework to direct anti-fraud activity over the next 3 years.

40. THE COUNCIL'S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2021/22 - 2023/24

The Committee received, for information, the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 detailing the Budget, Council Tax and Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement 2021/22 as approved by the Council at its meeting on the 25th February, 2021.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- One Independent Member thanked the Service Director Finance and his Team for the recent discussion held on various aspects of finance
- There was a discussion of Council debt and the implications of PFI debt on the finances of the authority. Within the Council's overall debt, which equated to

£1bn, approximately 30% related to PFI but this was a notional accounting debt and the cost of servicing that was met from PFI credits

- Arising out of the above, there was a discussion of the ownership of the PFI assets following the end of the 25 year PFI contract. It was noted that neither the authority nor schools could borrow finance using the schools as assets/security. There was also a discussion of local authority borrowing procedures/regulations and it was noted that Council's borrowing was not secured against any assets
- Reference was made to the assumptions outlined within the report and the potential implications for the Council of any deviations from those assumptions. The Service Director Finance stated that he felt that the Council had a sound budget in place for next year together with a robust three-year plan but he acknowledged that this was predicated on some significant assumptions. He did not see any significant issues in delivering the plan the main caveat, however, was the issue of future local government funding as no information had been forthcoming about the funding allocations beyond 2021/22. The next government spending review in the Autumn would obviously be undertaken in the light of significantly damaged public finances, but he felt that the assumptions made around a cash standstill position was prudent.

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

- Comments made with regard to local government finances, forecasted problems and the issues with regard to delivering services to match expectations were noted
- Questions were asked in relation to rising unemployment and the potential impact on Council Tax receipts. It was noted that provision had been included within the budget for a continued reduction in the tax base as a result of the economic impact of COVID which manifested itself in the form of higher than normal levels of universal credit and local council tax support claimants
- The -5% business rate assumption referred to the estimated reduction in the tax base / net collectable debt as a result of the impact of the pandemic on the local economy. The forecast collection rate was 95% of the revised net collectable debt
- There is no direct impact on the Council's forecast after the extension of the business rates holiday ended in June and the 75% discount after that. The net collectable debt reduced [amount to collect] but as in 2020/21 this was funded directly by the Government via a Section 31 grant
- The reserves strategy was planned over a 3-year period matching future expected movements in reserves to strategic priorities. Future reserve levels included estimates for future allocations of, for example, New Homes Bonus. The narrative meant that spending commitments could be identified but not released until those estimates were confirmed and banked
- The majority of the savings / efficiencies planned for 2021/22 had already been delivered e.g. a substantial proportion related to a reduction in pension fund deficit payments which had been confirmed for some time
- Reference was made to efficiencies proposals and to whether further efficiencies could be brought forward if needed. It was reported that efficiencies were the generic term given to any proposal that reduced the net

revenue budget e.g. general increases in revenue or fees and charges that impacted the net budget in the same way as a cost reduction measure

- Council tax collection was forecast at 95%. However, this was applied to a lower overall net collectable debt to reflect that there were fewer taxpayers liable to pay the full bill than pre pandemic [due to the higher than normal levels of universal credit and local council tax support claimants]
- In relation to reserves, a full update would be provided in the annual accounts but the minimum working balance [contingency for emergency events] was not impacted by the current year outturn and would remain at £20m, at the higher end of the range advised by the Section 151 Officer
- Reference was made to the financing of the Stronger Towns Initiative. This sum had been awarded to develop the wider [Goldthorpe] Stronger Towns Master Plan. The Council had been awarded £23m from its subsequent bid [out of a request of £30m+] with scheme details for the reduced resource envelope currently being developed
- The Council's debt levels were at the higher end of the range as compared to statistical neighbours [CIPFA's financial resilience index showed this]. This was largely due to the significant Building Schools for the Future PFI programme [which was treated as Council debt even though it was largely funded through PFI credits] together with the decision to invest £200m in the regeneration of the town centre
- In relation to the Glassworks Project, there had been a negligible impact on the construction timeline and cost. The key impact was with regard to the economic impact of COVID on the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. As discussed at previous Committee meetings, the leasing strategy had been continually updated to reflect these changing circumstances
- Market Shaping was an area raised at the Adults and Communities Departmental Management Team during the plan consultation process. It was a new area. The indicative scope discussed with management was to provide independent advice, support and assurance to management with regards to "Market Shaping". Reference to Market Shaping had been raised within the Care Act 2014 - The Market Shaping and Commissioning duty (section 5 of the Care Act 2014 and section 4 of the statutory guidance). A more detailed scope would be discussed and agreed with management should this particular piece of work be approved for inclusion in the prioritised IA plan 2021/22

RESOLVED that the report be received.

41. AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received a report providing the indicative work plan for the period 3rd June, 2020 to 14th April, 2021.

The work plan for the forthcoming municipal year was in the course of preparation. In addition, Members could see that in the current work plan proposals were in hand to arrange training/awareness sessions for future meetings.

It was hoped that Members could be involved in the agenda setting for future meetings and, in addition, arrangements were also being made to bring reports and presentations to support the wider remit of the Committee around assurance and

governance. This approach was welcomed by the Council's External Auditors and would very much support the new approach to Value for Money.

There was a discussion of the need for training and awareness sessions which it was felt should be organised prior to all future meetings. A future session on the lessons learned from issues arising from external audits of Nottingham City Council and the London Borough of Croydon was scheduled for the June meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the core work plan for meetings of the Audit Committee be approved and reviewed on a regular basis; and
- (ii) That training/awareness session be arranged for 3.00 pm immediately prior to all meetings of the Committee

42. 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 discussion of exempt information as defined by Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

43. DRAFT INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance submitted a report presenting the Indicative Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.

The report provided a summary of themed audit activity arising from the consultation undertaken to date across the Council and also described the rationale and process for setting the plan, how risk information was used, the value and contribution from consultation with Senior Management and the application of Internal Audit experience and professional judgement

Members attention was drawn to key aspects of the Indicative Plan as outlined within Paragraph 4 of the report now submitted. It was noted, however, that issues identified within the themes arising from the consultation were subject to change as further consultation progressed and the Plan areas were considered in terms of priorities for Internal Audit resources. The full Plan would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in June. If Members wished to raise any issues for consideration, they should contact the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance direct.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the consultation process undertaken to date to develop the Indicative Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 and the assurance it provides be noted and supported;
- (ii) That the final Plan for 2021/22 be submitted to the Committee for approval at the June meeting upon completion of the consultation process and further work to prioritise the potential plan areas to align it to available resources; and

- (iii) That upon approval, the committee receive and consider quarterly monitoring reports from the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance to demonstrate progress against the Plan including information where the Plan has materially varied from the original Plan.

.....
Chair

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MEETING:	Audit and Governance Committee
DATE:	Wednesday, 14 April 2021
TIME:	4.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

44. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

45. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Further to minute 38 'Corporate Anti-Fraud Progress Report', a written question had been submitted in relation to businesses identified who were ineligible for small business rate grants. A written response had been provided. All 9 businesses had been invoiced but not had yet repaid but processes were in place to seek the recovery of the outstanding amounts but the trigger/reminder point for further action had not yet been reached.

46. INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT FOR INTERNAL AUDIT

The Service Director Finance submitted a report seeking approval to undertake an independent External Quality Assessment (EQA) for the Internal Audit function in compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

The report outlined the background to the proposal which, in accordance with the PSIAS and further clarified by the Local Government Application Note prepared by CIPFA, required that external assessments of the internal audit function should be conducted at least once every five years. It outlined the various options considered and recommended that CIPFA be appointed as Independent Consultants to undertake the EQA and to subsequently participate in the assessment process as required.

The report also outlined the key aspects and EQA methodology for undertaking the review and indicated that the last review had been undertaken in March, 2016. The CIPFA brochure for undertaking assessments was appended to the report.

The EQA would commence in May 2021 with the issue of questionnaires followed by interviews and review of work in June. A final report would be issued by mid July.

It was noted that the Chair would be one of the persons interviewed as part of the Assessment process and any members of the Committee wishing to submit comments to him to take forward as part of that process were welcome to do so.

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

- The consensus appeared to be that Members were in full agreement that CIPFA was best placed to carry out this type of work
- Information was provided about the cost of the EQA to the Authority

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the report be noted;
- (ii) that the approach to use CIPFA as the Independent Consultants to undertake the EQA and to subsequently participate in the assessment process as required be endorsed.

47. COVID 19 - UPDATE

The Executive Director Core Services introduced Carrie Abbot (Service Director Public Health and Regulation) and Paul Castle (Service Director Environment and Transport) who made a presentation giving an update of the current position with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Carrie Abbott gave an update on the pandemic itself, the challenges faced as well as the current position and Paul Castle gave an update on the recovery and response arrangements and the impact on local businesses and how this was being managed.

Ms Abbott presented information about the national and local position, the changes in testing arrangements as well as the progress of the vaccination programme and the local authority's involvement in this.

In terms of the National Picture:

- the 7 day case rate in all age ranges had reduced to around 37 per 100,000 of the population and this was continuing to reduce
- deaths and hospitalisation were also reducing aided by the continued vaccination programme although the number of vaccinations was likely to slow down a little due to supply issues and the roll out of the second vaccination
- there were risks due to the re-opening of all schools for a longer term as well as the easing of restrictions which meant that transmission was likely to increase

In relation to the International Picture other countries were now entering their third wave of the pandemic which was a cause for concern though some of those had good vaccination programmes

In terms of the local picture:

- Barnsley was seeing a slow but persistent reduction in the number of cases across all ages along with a reassuring reduction in hospitalisations and deaths
- Excellent progress was being maintained in relation to the vaccination programme
- The local population was, however, still at a higher risk compared to many other places due to underlying chronic diseases and smoking as well as other risk factors so Barnsley was still within the 'top 10' in terms of numbers
- There was a need to remain cautious and stick to the national guidance
- There had been a steep climb in the number of infections across South and West Yorkshire but cases had come down to a 7 day rate of 95 per 100,000 and this was reassuring but still much higher than the national
- There was likely to be a mirroring of the national figures with a potential rise in infections as a result of schools reopening and the easing of restrictions and there was likely to be an increase in testing as a result
- The highest number of infections was in the 40-49 age group but it was anticipated that this distribution may shift again
- The increase in testing may impact on the understanding and interpretation of the data but the intelligence team was to keep an eye on this
- Hospitalisations and deaths remained low which was as anticipated but there was a need to avoid complacency
- In relation to testing:
 - The position had changed rapidly and every adult in the country was now being encouraged to get tested twice a week and this complemented the suite of other measures introduced to tackle Covid in the borough including contact tracing, self isolation for those with positive test results and the hands, face, space, fresh air initiative
 - There were a number of ways of accessing tests – the home ordering of tests from the website, work placed testing (onsite and off site), schools and colleges and local testing sites (County Way, the Dorothy Hyman Stadium Cudworth, the Summer Lane Car Park in Wombwell and the Metrodome). In addition, the 'collect from pharmacies' approach was becoming available shortly and approximately 50 pharmacies had agreed to participate to date
 - Those with recognised symptoms were being encouraged to get a test
- In relation to vaccinations:
 - Significant numbers in cohorts 1-9 had now been vaccinated and work was ongoing to encourage the small numbers who had not taken up the offer to become vaccinated
 - Cohorts 10-12 were now being opened up and consideration was being given to how vaccination could be made more accessible and people encouraged to take up the vaccination offer

In the ensuing discussion the following matters were highlighted:

- Referring to the case rate per 100,000 of the population, it was not thought that information about false positivity rates was available locally, but this would be checked. The false positive rate would be the same for every local authority area and it would not, therefore, change the comparisons of cases within other authority areas. It was important, however, to look at the other data provided by the Government, namely hospitalisation rates, deaths and

the progress of the vaccination programme. In addition, consideration would be given to the variance of concern and the extent to which that might impact the risk assessment of the situation. Whilst the case rate was important, there were, nevertheless, a number of other factors taken into account

- There was a discussion of the disparity in the number of cases between the east and the west of the borough and of the action being taken to address this. Particular reference was made to the borough wide initiatives including, the use of communications, the examination of the intelligence received in relation to communities and groups and the vaccination take up rate. Reference was also made to the work of the Area Teams, Neighbourhood Engagement Officers, Covid Marshalls and Public Health Teams.
- Arising out of the above, Mr Castle briefly reported on the contingency plan for new variant testing as required by the DHSE. This meant that a team would have to be deployed within 48 hours to test up to 10,000 people. The idea behind this was that there was then an ability to be able to secure an area, undertake required testing and thereby prevent the further spread of the disease

Mr Castle then gave a brief overview of the current position with regard to response and recovery:

- Governance arrangements were still in place to deal with the pandemic situation both within Barnsley and South Yorkshire
- Reference was made to the changes in lockdown arrangements that became effective from the 12th April, 2021 and plans were in place in relation to the next 'easing' of restrictions from the 17th May
- In relation to Barnsley:
 - Town Centre foot fall had been very good following the easing of restrictions and on one day, 24,000 people had been in the Town Centre which was the highest since December 2019. This was particularly key for the local economy
 - In terms of the visitor numbers and cultural locations, visitors had reached 105,000 and 'attractions' were very busy
 - The Transport Interchange and bus and train patronage was considerably reduced compared to pre covid levels but this was expected to change as restrictions eased further
 - Fly tipping had continued to be an issue and further work would be required to address this to bring the situation back to pre covid levels
- There were a range of 42 measures that were being monitored as a part of the recovery and response approach and it was hoped that this would give members assurance that appropriate measures and plans were in place
- The next key date would be the 17th May and the current key indicators would have to be kept under review so that plans could be prepared to address issues as and when they arose
- In relation to the Governance arrangements, the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum was still meeting every two weeks and the Gold arrangements in Barnsley were still in place with meetings held weekly. The Tactical Co-ordination Group meetings were continuing to discuss response and recovery activities
- A recovery roadmap had been published from now until May and a link to this on the website would be provided. This roadmap outlined the key activities for

re-opening society and detailed events going forward. A further 'internal' document had also been developed which detailed the activities in relation to recovery to the end of the year and this co-ordinated with the South Yorkshire version

A written response to a question asked by a Member of the Committee was provided. It was reported that additional Covid monitoring over the last year had estimated that 1,371 jobs were planned to be lost specifically due to Covid though final figures would not be available until later in the year, although on a positive note, a chart previously circulated detailed business start ups.

Notable key companies which had closed (but not necessarily covid related) and included the following:

- Sash – 200 jobs
- Kostal – 170 jobs
- Clyde Union Pumps – 98 jobs
- Tandano – 20 jobs
- Carlton Forrest – 10 jobs

RESOLVED that the update report be noted and Carrie Abbott and Paul Castle be thanked for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

48. EXTERNAL AUDIT - UPDATE REPORT

Mr T De Zoysa representing Grant Thornton gave an update of the work undertaken by the External Auditors recently.

He commented on the following:

- The External Audit Plan for 2021 would be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee in June
- Since the last Committee:
 - The 2019/20 audit had been formally closed off in March. This had been delayed because of a system failure at the National Audit Office
 - The External Auditors had commenced their risk assessment process for the 2020/21 audit and appropriate meetings had been held with the Finance Team and the Council's Valuers when discussions had centred on the valuation of land and buildings as this was a key risk for the Plan
 - Within the next few weeks further meetings would be held with the Service Director Finance and his Finance Team to agree the next years Plan, the significant risks and the timings for the delivery of External Audit work and any additional fees required

RESOLVED that the update report of the External Auditor be received.

49. AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received a report providing the indicative work plan for the period June 2021 to June 2022.

The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance commented on the work being undertaken particularly in respect of the Risk Register and the proposals to invite Executive Directors to attend future meetings to present key issues and action emanating from those risks within their respective departments.

A schedule of items was also being prepared for the submission of reports particularly on the wider aspects of governance in support of the governance and assurance framework and, in addition, a programme of future training and awareness sessions was being pulled together. Future items so far included presentations on the Lessons from Public Interest Reports (Croydon and Nottingham); the Glassworks; the arrangements of the Sheffield City Region and the interface and governance arrangements particularly insofar as it impacted on Barnsley; and Treasury Management. Members were also encouraged to inform the Chair or the Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance of any items they wished to see included as future items for discussion.

Members of the Committee were also informed that additional tentative meetings had been included within the timetable for June and September, this was largely due to the current uncertainty as to the timetable for the approval of the final accounts.

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

- Additional updates on the impact and the risks associated with Covid would be provided throughout the year
- An update on the Glassworks Strategic Risks would be presented at the meeting to be held in September

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

50. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

51. THE GLASSWORKS - UPDATE

The Executive Director Place, Matt Gladstone, submitted a report providing a detailed update on the progress of the Glassworks scheme.

Particular reference was made to the following:

- The Governance Arrangements
- The arrangements for the Management of Issues and Risks
- The Construction Programme Overview
- The overall Leasing position
- Future Asset Management Arrangements

- The current financial position with particular reference to capital costs and funding sources and the financial risks and associated mitigations
- The Internal Audit Assurance and the review that was currently being undertaken in relation to contract and performance management arrangements

The Committee then received a presentation from Kathy McArdle, Service Director Regeneration and Culture, which focussed primarily on the current and potential future leasing position and expressions of interest by sector/offer (food and drink, retail and leisure etc.), the Leasing Strategy and the discussions that were ongoing with various retailers/businesses and organisations.

It was reported that close liaison was held with the Service Director Finance and his Team on the implications of any options brought forward and a further report on the leasing position and options was to be submitted to Cabinet shortly. Reference was also made to the ongoing plans for the official opening of the centre.

In the ensuing discussion, particular reference was made, amongst other things, but not exclusively, to the following:

- The long term financial arrangements for the Glassworks, the break even position and the proposals to regenerate the rest of the Town Centre taking account of the current retail climate and the need to provide a mix of uses
- The arrangements for encouraging occupancy, current and confirmed future occupancy levels, occupancy targets and timescales for such
- The length of leases offered to tenants and the use of capital incentives
- The business support provided from various departments/organisations including Enterprising Barnsley
- The future community and voluntary sector involvement
- The 'entertainment' offer and possible further developments
- The challenge and scrutiny of the process at all stages by both Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and Senior Management Team

Written responses to questions asked by Members of the Committee were provided in relation to the following:

- The discussions and current position in relation to sewer construction and associated works
- The position with regard to
 - work undertaken adjacent to the railway line
 - the construction of the bridge
 - the relocation of Barnsley traders from other retail outlets
 - the food and drink offer
- The current position with regard to the increased cost of higher specification of units which were included within the financial forecast
- The proposals and options for alternative uses of various units, although it was stressed that there was still a very healthy level of interest in lease opportunities
- The financial position, revised costings and the receipt of external funding
- The use, where appropriate, of a standard assurance bond scheme in relation to bridge construction and the current position with regard to procurement

- The contractual position with regard to an anchor tenant
- The minor impact of delays additional costs due to Brexit largely due to the work from the Team and Henry Boot Construction

RESOLVED that the update report be received and Matt Gladstone and Kathy McArdle be thanked for attending the meeting and for answering Members questions.

52. MS D BROWN - INDEPENDENT MEMBER

The Chair informed Members of the Committee that this would be the last meeting attended by Ms D Brown, Co-opted Independent Member as her term of office had come to an end.

He, and Members of the Committee, asked to place on record their thanks to Ms Brown for her hard work and commitment to the Committee and to the authority whilst being an Independent Member. They gave her their best wishes for the future.

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Chair

MEETING:	Planning Regulatory Board
DATE:	Tuesday, 13 April 2021
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, Hayward, W. Johnson, Leech, McCarthy, Mitchell, Noble, Smith, Spence and Wright

In attendance

16. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fielding declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in **Planning Application No 2020/1038** [Provision of new foot and cycle bridge over the existing Barnsley to Huddersfield rail line linking Penny Pie Park to Pogmoor recreation ground and associated new footways] as he lives close to the site.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

18. Land to the South of Hay Green Lane, Birdwell, Barnsley - 2020/0577 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on **Planning Application 2020/0577** – Residential Development of up to 118 Dwellings and associated works (Outline with all matters reserved apart from means of access), Land south of Hay Green Lane, Birdwell, Barnsley -

RESOLVED that the application be approved in accordance with the Officer recommendation subject to the completion of a S106 Agreement in accordance with the terms set out in the report.

19. Penny Pie Park, Dodworth Road, Barnsley - 2020/1038 - For Approval

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted a report on **Planning Application 2020/1038** – Provision of new foot and cycle bridge over the existing Barnsley to Huddersfield rail line linking Penny Pie Park to Pogmoor recreation ground together with associated new footways at Penny Pie Park, Dodworth Road, Barnsley.

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

20. Planning Appeals - February 2021 to March 2021

The Head of Planning and Building Control submitted an update regarding cumulative appeal totals for 2020/21.

The report indicated that 10 appeals were received in February and March 2021.

No appeals were withdrawn, and 8 appeals were determined in February and March 2021.

It was reported that 39 appeals have been decided since 1st April 2021, 34 of which (87%) have been dismissed and 5 of which (13%) have been allowed.

The Chair expressed gratitude and complimented officers on the very high appeal dismissal rate which was indicative of the hard work they had done.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The contents of the report be noted
- (ii) The Development Management team share appeal decisions with Planning Regulatory Board members regarding cases where officer recommendations have been overturned by Councillors at the Planning Regulatory Board.

21. Member Consultations - January 2021

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 meetings scheduled for January 2021.

RESOLVED that the consultation report be noted.

22. Member Consultations - February 2021

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 meetings scheduled for February 2021.

RESOLVED that the consultation report be noted.

Chair

Item 8

NOTES OF GENERAL LICENSING REGULATORY BOARD PANEL

6th April, 2021

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

Members of the Public and Press were excluded from these meetings.

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 and Operator Licence – Determination – Mr R F

Due to technical difficulties the driver was unable to attend the meeting virtually and, therefore, consideration of this item was deferred to a future meeting.

28th April, 2021

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

3 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence and Operator Licence – Determination – Mr R F

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 R F.

Mr R F attended the meeting virtually and was supported by Mr D W (Licensing Consultant) who gave evidence in support of his case. Additional documentation and witness statements were also submitted, and it was asked if these could be taken into account in determining the licences.

After considering all the information and representations made the Panel determined that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence held by Mr R F be revoked on the following grounds:

- The Panel had serious concerns for the travelling public and for the protection of passengers if he were allowed to continue to drive a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle and if he were allowed to continue as a Private Hire Operator given the incidents and breaches of conditions as now reported
- The number, type and frequency of his failings to comply with licence conditions and regulations
- His accumulation of 6 Written Warnings over the last 7 years for a variety of offences including failing to report an accident in the required time as per licence conditions.

The Panel felt that this demonstrated behaviour that was unacceptable for a Licence holder with the Authority

- He displayed an unacceptable attitude and conduct during inspections undertaken by Licensing Staff and Staff from the Smithies Lane Depot. The Panel saw no evidence that he was bullied by officers and indeed to the contrary they showed leniency in that he could have been prosecuted for parking on a Hackney Carriage Rank (twice) but was instead issued with Written Warnings
- He used an unlicensed vehicle to transport passengers for which he received a conviction in Sheffield Magistrates Court and his PSV Licence was revoked by the Traffic Commissioner following that prosecution
- Whilst he was commended for seeking help for his attitude and behaviour, it had been suggested that he would need a number of counselling sessions and, therefore, his state of mind was still in issue. Insufficient time had elapsed since he sought his referral for it to have made any meaningful progress in his treatment in changing that behaviour and attitude
- The Panel did not feel that he presented sufficient extenuating circumstances, given the seriousness and gravity of the offences and breaches of licensing conditions, and there was, therefore, insufficient justification to warrant him being allowed to retain his licences

The decision of the Panel was unanimous.

4th May, 2021

Present: Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), Clarke and Lodge together Councillor Eastwood (Reserve Member).

4 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence – Determination – Mr K I

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 K I.

Mr K I attended the meeting virtually and gave evidence in support of his case. He also submitted witness statements which he asked to be taken into account in determining his licence.

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

- Him being required to undertake and pass a Council Approved Driver Awareness Course at the earliest opportunity possible (once they become available) and at his own expense

- Him being issued with a Written Warning which will be kept on file for 12 months as to his future conduct

The decision was made on the following

- The manner in which he presented himself and his acceptance that he had committed the offences
- The remorse shown at the offences committed and the assurances given that these offences would not occur again
- The explanation given about the circumstances surrounding the incidents, including issues with his mental health and the health of his family
- The fact that he had been a licence holder for over 15 years with the Authority.

The decision of the Panel was not unanimous.

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Item 9

APPEALS, AWARDS AND STANDARDS REGULATORY BOARD

(a) School Admission Appeals Panel – 11th February, 2021

Kirk Balk	1 Allowed 1 Withdrawn
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(b) School Admission Appeals Panel – 23rd February, 2021

Cawthorne	1 Refused
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The Hill	1 Allowed
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(c) School Admission Appeals Panel – 18th March, 2021

Outwood Academy Shafton	1 Allowed
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Holy Trinity	1 Refused
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Wombwell Park Street	1 Refused 1 Withdrawn
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Wilthorpe Primary	1 Refused
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(d) School Admission Appeals Panel – 15th April, 2021

Shafton Primary	1 Refused
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(e) School Admission Appeals Panel – 27th April, 2021

Penistone Grammar	2 Allowed
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Outwood Academy Carlton	2 Refused
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The Mill	1 Refused 1 Withdrawn
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(f) School Admission Appeals Panel – 28th April, 2021

Kirk Balk	1 Allowed
Astrea Dearne	1 Allowed 1 Refused
Milefield Primary	1 Refused
Kexborough Primary	1 Allowed

(g) School Admission Appeals Panel – 4th to 7th May, 2021

Outwood Academy Carlton	2 Allowed 15 Refused 1 Withdrawn
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(h) School Admission Appeals Panel – 10th to 13th May, 2021

Outwood Academy Shafton	8 Allowed 9 Refused 5 Withdrawn
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(i) School Admission Appeals Panel – 14th May, 2021

Brierley Church of England Primary School	2 Refused
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(j) School Admissions Appeals Panel- 18th May, 2021

Astrea Dearne Academy	1 Refused
Penistone Grammar School	1 Allowed

Appeals withdrawn prior to the allocation of a date

Athersley South Primary	1 Withdrawn
High View	1 Withdrawn
Horizon Community College	1 Withdrawn
Mapplwell Primary School	2 Withdrawn

Penistone Grammar	1 Withdrawn
Wellgate Primary	2 Withdrawn
West meadows Primary	1 Withdrawn

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MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 23 March 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Fielding, Leech, Noble, Smith, Stowe, Tattersall and Wilson together with co-opted member Ms. G Carter

6 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No 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

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 as she is a Berneslai Homes Board Member. Councillor Noble also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 as she is a tenant of Berneslai Homes.

8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2021 were received.

9 Homelessness in Barnsley

Members of the Committee were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Executive Director Adults & Communities regarding the issue of Homelessness in Barnsley.

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Wendy Lowder - Executive Director Adults & Communities, BMBC
 Phil Hollingsworth - Service Director Stronger, Safer, Healthier Communities, BMBC
 Paul Brannan - Head of Safer Barnsley, BMBC
 Michelle Kaye - Group Leader, Housing and Welfare, BMBC
 Rachael Todd - Team Leader, Housing & Triage, BMBC
 James Harding - Team Leader Housing & Support, BMBC
 Cllr Jenny Platts - Cabinet Spokesperson Adults & Communities, BMBC

Cllr Jenny Platts introduced this item, outlining the changes to homeless legislation and practice over the last few years and giving an update on the current position in Barnsley and the plans to address homelessness and rough sleeping post Coronavirus (Covid-19). The past 12 months have brought the issue of homelessness into sharp focus, with those facing homelessness at great risk of

coming to harm during the pandemic, necessitating an urgent look at how to support them. Ensuring a warm and safe place to live for these vulnerable people has been a challenge given the urgency and complexity of the problem and the Government directive to do this. However, there is a positive story to celebrate, remarkable efforts have been made to make sure that those Barnsley people facing homelessness and rough sleepers are helped and supported irrespective of the complexity of their situations.

Phil Hollingsworth gave an overview of the situation prior to the pandemic, when the priority was delivery of the Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy and meeting the requirements of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, encompassing homeless prevention through partnership working, developing personal housing plans for individuals, addressing the causes of homelessness, looking at alternative accommodation provision and working with private landlords and the development of a Homeless Alliance alongside partners.

However, Covid 19 has impacted significantly on the service, with a Government requirement to step up emergency provision as part of the well-publicised 'Everyone in' campaign. As part of this, an additional 12 flats were stepped up to use as temporary accommodation alongside an increase in the number of temporary accommodation units through Berneslai Homes. . More rough sleepers have been accommodated, leading to increased cost of accommodation including use of B&B and hotels, for which £400k of additional funding has been secured from government. More people are presenting in crisis rather than at a preventative stage. The team have worked incredibly hard to put recovery efforts in place, including a proactive early morning outreach to identify any rough sleepers. Entrenched rough sleepers have been remaining in accommodation and have started to develop a good relationship with services. The 12 temporary flats will close eventually but a new service will be developed with a 'Complex Lives Team' approach, learning lessons from the experience of the supporting complex individuals during the pandemic. . It is hoped to move back to a more preventative way of working now that things are settling down.

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

One of the positives to come out of the Covid-19 crisis and associated lockdowns has been the way in which BMBC has tackled the homelessness issue in Barnsley and the speed at which emergency provision was implemented, despite the many challenges.

A lot of work to address the root causes of homelessness was done prior to Covid and laid the foundations for the strategy. There is lots of national data available about why people become homeless. Reasons for homelessness include relationship breakdown, asylum programme, sofa surfing, single people, prison release and hospital discharge. Resources are now being redirected to prevent repeat homelessness, working closely with prisons, hospitals etc. Reasons for homelessness are very similar to those in neighbouring authorities. There has been a 'spike' during Covid 19 in homeless cases due to domestic abuse. Both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse have been supported.

Around 130 Rough sleepers have been taken off the streets since Covid began. Care leavers also feature in the homeless population and information can be provided regarding the actual numbers, but they are relatively small. Causes of homelessness can be due to lifestyles, life chances, drugs, alcohol and mental health which are all key factors that appear in homelessness. There is an exit plan to accommodate these individuals in a managed way, with funding opportunities, as part of the recovery plan. A diverse range of accommodation options are being explored and developed.

There are very limited numbers presenting from outside of the area, usually bordering authorities. These cases are sometimes accommodated on a very short term basis and then re-accommodated in their relevant local authority, which is possible under legislation.

It was highlighted that many of those supported have had a difficult path in life from childhood through to adolescence and adulthood and will have been in contact with a wide range of services. The key to success is ensuring that partners work around the person to get them back into accommodation with therapeutic services, which is often a gap. Individuals have a personal housing plan developed with them setting out what BMBC will do, what partners will do and expectations of the individual. This support plan is closely monitored and reviewed and all those involved will have a copy. If an individual is not happy with the plan it can be renegotiated and revised whilst managing expectations.

From 31st May the temporary ban on S21 evictions will be lifted and an increased number of people facing homelessness from private accommodation is expected. There has already been an increase in numbers of people with S21 notices and early work and support is being done with landlords and tenants. The exact numbers are unknown, but the team is encouraging landlords considering eviction to approach them. Financial support is available for those who are struggling, with proactive support available for both landlords and tenants.

Prior to the pandemic lots of work was being done around prevention but this has changed due to Covid, with more people presenting as in crisis, with less opportunities to work with people in a face to face setting. There is a need for all agencies who do early preventative work, both statutory and non-statutory, to refer people at an early stage for advice and support. This includes landlords and private lettings agencies. Elected Members are also strongly advised to refer in when they become aware of a potential homeless issue.

There is a small cohort of people repeatedly presenting as homeless. This can be due to complex needs such as being in and out of prison, sofa surfing, mental health and trauma. These underlying issues have to be addressed to break the cycle of homelessness, using a partnership approach. The landscape of legislation is complex and the relationship between safeguarding adults and homelessness is now being strengthened, aided by the establishment of the Vulnerable Adults Panel.

There was an increase in families using B&B accommodation prior to the pandemic, due to changes in both policy and changes in need. The service was working hard to secure alternative accommodation to B&B, including Berneslai Homes properties, with the number of family accommodation units increasing from 5 to 19. . The standard of B&B accommodation provided out of area is inspected by other local

authorities and is visited by staff in the Housing Options Team. . Many local hotels, including 'chain' hotels, have closed due to the pandemic. The vision for the future is not to use B&B at all if possible, as stated in our Strategy.

Members highlighted that some serious anti-social behaviour had been experienced in communities over the last few months, perhaps as a result of the ban on evictions, and some individuals had been congregating and causing a nuisance. Members were reassured that there is no excuse for antisocial behaviour and the Service Director and/or Head of Safer Communities is happy to discuss individual cases with Elected Members outside of the meeting.

A small dedicated 'Complex Lives Team' will work with individuals historically in housing crisis over a number of years, to minimise the challenges and maximise the positives. Officers will carry small caseloads of 5 or 6 cases. Success will be reliant on close partnership working, with a proactive package of wraparound support available to those individuals moved on into their own accommodation, including tenancy support and support with other wider issues.

A small number of ex-forces veterans present as homeless and are linked in to the diverse range of services and armed forces organisations who can help them to secure accommodation, provide bonds, purchase furniture, help with alcohol, drugs and mental health issues, and pay off any arrears if needed. Often the link with the Armed Forces is not made until individuals present with a problem. A huge amount of work has been done under the Armed Forces Covenant Plan to re-energise work with veterans both locally and across the South Yorkshire Region and to meet the needs of veterans.

Access into primary and secondary health care services for the homeless and rough sleepers is currently being explored with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Such wraparound support is part of the recovery plan and closer links to GPs are crucial to this going forward. The service has been working closely with the CCG on Covid vaccinations, and the majority of the residents in the 12 flats have received their first vaccine. . Follow up work will be done with regard to those not yet vaccinated and how to manage the second vaccination. How to manage those currently on the streets and in B&B accommodation is currently being addressed.

Plans are in place to close the 12 temporary flats post-Covid and close work is underway with Berneslai Homes around temporary dispersed accommodation. The service is hoping to replicate the temporary flats model and purchase a small self-contained unit with staff on site 24 hours , with work to move people on in a managed way. A range of options are being explored to enable an assessment of the individual's needs, including dispersed and clusters of accommodation. A 'Housing First' model is currently being successfully piloted in Rotherham and Sheffield. This will use a preventative approach, with dispersed properties and wraparound support from a range of services. Barnsley is seeking to learn from these pilot areas to develop a scheme that can work for Barnsley.

It was acknowledged that those with complex needs will require support from services which are currently under strain, such as mental health. Flexibility and ease of access to services is crucial and is currently being explored together with how individuals can be supported to engage with services, keep appointments etc. It is hoped that the Complex Lives Team will be able to address some of these issues as

part of the wraparound core offer. The Health and Wellbeing Board is also picking this issue up as an area of focus. A Mental Health Partnership has been established and will look at the whole issue of mental health post-Covid for the entire Borough. There is also a mental health helpline to enable individuals to get early help.

It was highlighted that people in local businesses and communities build up relationships with people who may be at risk of homelessness. Work has been done in the town centre around this, as rough sleepers use the shop fronts of larger stores to sleep in etc. and stores were aware of how to refer individuals in. Since the pandemic work has also been done with shopkeepers in outlying areas such as Wombwell. This is something which needs to be done do across the Borough, as many people within communities do not know where to refer concerns about individuals but are keen to help.

Many volunteer groups work closely with the homeless and the work of volunteers and what they offer is very highly valued. Many groups feed in intelligence and drop-in sessions which have continued to run throughout the pandemic are attended by staff, to maintain contact with vulnerable individuals where possible.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution;
- (ii) Information about care leavers experiencing homelessness be shared with the Committee,
- (iii) Further information be provided on the Housing First Model, and
- (iv) Shops and businesses in principal towns be approached about the Duty to Refer and raising awareness of the services available.

Chair

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MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Full Committee
DATE:	Tuesday, 27 April 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Bowler, Carr, Clarke, Fielding, Frost, Gillis, Gollick, Green, Hayward, Hunt, W. Johnson, Leech, Lofts, Newing, Noble, Richardson, Smith, Tattersall, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE together with co-opted members and Ms. G Carter

10 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

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

11 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr Ennis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 13 as he is a Non-Executive Director of Barnsley Healthcare Federation. Cllr Ennis vacated the Chair for discussion of this item.

Cllr Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 13 as she is employed by the NHS.

Cllr Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 13, 14 and 16 due to her membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the BPL Board and Berneslai Homes Board.

12 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the following meetings were received and approved by Members as a true and accurate record:

Full Committee held on 12th January, 2021;
Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream held on 9th February, 2021; People Achieving Their Potential Workstream held on 9th March, 2021; Strong and Resilient Communities Workstream held on 23rd March, 2021.

13 The Development of Integrated Care in Barnsley

Cllr Tattersall took the position of Chair for discussion of this item. Members were invited to consider a report of the Executive Director Core Services and the Integrated Care Partnership in respect of the development of Integrated Care in Barnsley. The report provided an overview and update in relation to the development

of Integrated Care in Barnsley and included the impact of the COVID pandemic on partnership arrangements, and the opportunities presented by the Government's recent white paper "Integration and Innovation: Working Together to Improve Health and Social Care for All".

Cllr Platts introduced the item and extended thanks and appreciation to health and care colleagues who had been providing compassionate care, collaboration, dedication and had demonstrated great courage during the challenges faced by Barnsley people during the ongoing pandemic.

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Adrian England, Chair, Healthwatch Barnsley

Jeremy Budd, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Partnership, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Julia Burrows, Director of Public Health, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Dr Mehrban Ghani, Chair, Barnsley Healthcare Federation, Accountable Clinical Director, Barnsley Primary Care Network, and GP Partner at the White Rose Medical Practice

Dr Richard Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
James Barker, Chief Executive, Barnsley Healthcare Federation.

Gill Stansfield, Deputy District Director and Clinical Transformation Lead, Barnsley General Community, South West Yorkshire Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Adults and Communities, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Cllr Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson - Adults & Communities, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Jeremy Budd introduced the report, outlining the development of Integrated Care in Barnsley; the experience of working in a pandemic and lessons learned; the implications of recovery in terms of services to local communities and the development of a place-based plan for 2021/22. It was highlighted that involving communities in the principles of integrated care is key and considerable community conversations have taken place. Formal partnership structures were outlined along with the proposed legislation route map with legislation planned to be in force by April 2022.

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

Dr Mehrban Ghani reassured Members that GPs had been providing an ongoing service throughout the pandemic. Demand had increased exponentially, particularly in terms of Mental Health and chronic physical health conditions, with a 25 to 30% increase in demand for Mental Health. Physical access to services has changed due to Covid and the need to keep both staff and patients safe. A telephone triage consultation service is being used for patients, with face to face consultations available where this is needed. Vaccinations and smears paused temporarily for a couple of months but now smears, chronic disease management, childhood immunisations are continuing as normal. The only work which ceased but is now restarting is preparation of insurance reports. GPs are working with hospital colleagues around reinstatement of outpatient services, planned care and operations

and how GPs can help with this while patients are still waiting. Dr Ghani himself has only taken 5 days annual leave in the last 14 months.

Good progress has been made in removing obstacles which prevent Health and social care integrating still further and this has been helped by the close collaborative working during the pandemic, using a team approach to deliver targets and improved outcomes despite subtle organisational differences.

Effective staff and public engagement has taken place to shape Integrated Care. Staff and the public were engaged using a neighbourhood teams approach focussed on 6 localities and very productive consultation took place. Lots of work was done in the Dearne with health and care professional staff to establish the needs of people in the Dearne which then fed into the work being done by the Integrated Wellbeing Team and supported by community researchers to ensure 'bottom-up' engagement continues to take place. This will be replicated across the Borough as Barnsley moves forward and into recovery.

Healthwatch has a statutory duty to consult with the public and to use those views to drive forward change where necessary. Wide consultation with local people has taken place around the Integrated Care process despite being unable to do normal face to face consultation. Social media and other digital communication has been used, albeit with some technical problems, and views fed into the Integrated Care Development Group.

There is a slight misalignment in terms of Local Authority Ward and health boundaries. It was explained that efforts had been made to match the areas of the 6 neighbourhood teams with the boundaries of the Area Councils, with some success. Problems have arisen due to the growth in health services over the last 50 years in Barnsley and the need to revert to area catchment lists, which don't align to Area Councils at all. However, teams in localities know each other and work closely and collaboratively with each other across the perceived boundaries.

Members expressed concerns that not all sectors within the community can access health services digitally. It was acknowledged that there is a lot of work to be done around digital inclusion and developing people's digital skills and the Council is developing its Digital Strategy, with a focus on digital inclusion. The NHS England digital platform will be expanded, with plans for development of a shared care record across health and social care. NHS England stipulates that patients must be able to access their records online, book appointments etc., and this is what GPs must provide. However, GPs must still provide a telephone service for those who cannot use digital services, and physical face to face access for some individuals. Lessons have been learned throughout the pandemic in terms of individual needs but the Department of Health needs to be made aware of the difficulties faced by some individuals.

In terms of hospital treatment backlogs, Dr Jenkins explained that because of the pandemic it had become necessary to focus on sick Covid patients, highlighting that in November, Barnsley was the most severely affected hospital in the country in terms of Covid. Prior to Covid, Barnsley had some of the lowest waiting times in the country. However, waiting times have increased and at the end of March there were 267 patients waiting over 52 weeks for operations. This is still a better performance than the other South Yorkshire Trusts due to being in a good position before Covid.

It is a national and local priority to get up to 70% of baseline activity this month and up to 85% over the next few months. At this stage, 100% performance is not possible due to working practices associated with Covid (social distancing, PPE etc). There is an elective 'hub' across South Yorkshire, with Trusts supporting each other to get waiting times down across the whole system.

Purpose of integrated care is to deliver better outcomes for the people of Barnsley. One of the many improvements which is in development with a wide range of partners is around patients being discharged back to their own homes with community and friends around them. This is being achieved more and more. There are many ways to measure performance and deliver improved outcomes as a single health partnership for the people of Barnsley. An integrated outcomes framework was developed in 2019 with associated measures and targets. One of the key pieces of work to be done collectively over the next couple of years will be to look at reducing health inequalities as a partnership.

There has been a large increase in demand for primary care services throughout the pandemic, particularly in terms of mental health. The 'daily life' consultation which took place in November demonstrated that although the community is resilient and has shown a real depth of community spirit, people are anxious about the pandemic, the isolation and other worries which have impacted negatively on their mental health at this time. Lessons learned from this will be taken forward within the Integrated Care Partnership.

The Long Covid Clinic has been set up in Barnsley and is run by the Federation. This service has had to be developed quickly and not much is known about the illness and long-term implications as yet. The clinic is staffed by a GP and further tests with input from specialists will be undertaken as the service evolves. The illness appears to affect individuals in many different ways and guidance as to how best to manage it will need to be developed. At the moment, social and mental health and pain relief is provided but there are large numbers of people who may not as yet be in contact with the Clinic or with Primary Care.

It has been a very challenging time for all organisations involved in the partnership and time is needed to rest and recover. Nonetheless, the Health and Care Plan is being developed and this will be brought to Cabinet in due course. Capacity to deliver some of the planned changes will be assessed, at the same time as ensuring that patients continue to be seen and treated as quickly as possible whilst still in a pandemic. Energies are currently being focussed on transformation and developing the partnership over the coming months. Barnsley is working hard to get a fair share of the Elective Recovery Fund and is working with partners across the ICS to get the right level of resources. One of the challenges is around thinking about what staff have been through over the last year and their capacity to continue working at this level while developing the partnership and the associated challenges.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution and for giving up their valuable time during this challenging time;
- (ii) Thanks be expressed to all NHS and Council staff for doing an incredible job during these unprecedented times;

- (iii) Data relating to the rise in demand for Mental Health services be provided to the Committee;
- (iv) Data relating to Long Covid be provided to the Committee
- (v) If Members have further questions these should be forwarded on to Wendy Lowder and a written response will be provided in due course.

14 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.

15 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.

16 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 this is a very positive report and good performance has been maintained in the majority of areas throughout the report.

Discussions took place around a number of areas including:

The number of children 'Missing from Care' has increased. Members were reassured that when this happens the children are always interviewed to try and find out why this has happened and what support can be put in place to prevent reoccurrence.

Dental appointments are prioritised for Children in Care and any child requiring treatment has received it.

Out of Authority Placements, rising caseloads for the Disabled Children's Team, recruitment of foster carers, Section 47 cases, the voice of children in care, accommodation for care leavers and translation services were also discussed.

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

Chair

MEETING:	Central Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 1 March 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present

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

14. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 16 and 17 in relation to his wife's position as chair of Barnsley YMCA.

Councillor Carr declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute numbers 16 and 17 in relation to her position on the board of DIAL.

15. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Central Area Council held on 11th January, 2021 (Cen.01.03.2021/2)

The meeting received the minutes from the previous meeting of Central Area Council held on 11th January, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Central Area Council held on 11th January, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

16. Performance Management Report (Cen.01.03.2021/3)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item and reminded Members of the previous agreement to extend the length of the contract with District Enforcement. It was noted that this had been actioned and that work had been ongoing with Ward Alliances and Members in order to identify any areas of concern, in order to target operations.

It was noted that the Warren Quarry Lane/Highstone Road and Birk Avenue areas had recently been the focus of patrols. As a result, 20 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued.

Members discussed the service provided by District Enforcement, which had been amended due to Covid-19, and questions were raised in relation to when normal service would resume. It was suggested that they be invited to a future meeting to discuss this.

Members heard how the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had also been extended and that external funding had also been identified in order to launch a Tool Bank in the area. Sanitised tools can be delivered to volunteers and training given in a Covid safe way in order for volunteers to undertake clean and green tasks in their area. The service had been very successfully received.

Questions were raised regarding the removal of litter collected by volunteers, and it was suggested that Twiggs would be able to assist, with contacts to be provided to Members.

With regards to the service provided by Family Lives, contract meetings had been held and discussions taken place around how to best support the service in order to improve performance. As a result, the eligibility criteria had been relaxed to include those with children up to age three, fathers, and kinship carers.

Members noted that Creative Recovery were unable to complete the delivery of their project and therefore it had been put on hold, however plans were being made to resume once restrictions had been lifted.

Attention was drawn to the performance of the Healthy Holidays initiative, which the Area Team and Ward Alliance had been delivering over the past three years. Members noted the recent changes due to restrictions, which included a focus on those suffering financial hardship due to Covid 19, and a focus on providing children and young people with two healthy meals a day.

It was noted that the initiative had grown from supporting 79 families during the summer holidays to supporting 176 over the Christmas holidays.

Praise was given for all the officers and volunteers involved in the initiative. Members discussed the similar provision being provided centrally, noting that this focused on those eligible for free school meals, and that local provision could complement this, supporting those in financial difficulty but not eligible for free school meals. It was suggested that officers be invited to a briefing with Members or a future meeting to discuss their strategy.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That District Enforcement be invited to a future meeting to discuss the service in light of changing Covid-19 restrictions;
- (iii) That officers in Public Health be invited to a Member briefing or a future meeting to discuss centrally provided healthy meals provision in school holidays.

17. Procurement and Financial Update (Cen.01.03.2021/4)

An update was provided in relation to the challenge fund to address loneliness and isolation. The panel had recently met and considered applications. Recommendations had been made and successful candidates would be notified in due course.

Those involved in the process commented on its thoroughness and the quality of applications received. It was hoped that successful applicants could commence delivery from 1st April, 2021.

Noted was the overview of contracts and associated timescales as provided within the report, and it was suggested that future reports would highlight which corporate priority each service contributed towards.

Members were reminded of the services provided by YMCA Barnsley and The Youth Association that had previously been funded through the Youth Work Fund. It was acknowledged that both had been extremely successful in their delivery within the Central Area, and had also provided assistance to colleagues in Public Health and Enforcement. Options for both projects were considered, and it was suggested that both be continued for a further 12 months.

Consideration was given to the service provided by DIAL, and Members were reminded of the positive performance reported. It was acknowledged that supporting vulnerable people remained a priority, and when considering options for the future of the project it was suggested that the delivery be extended for a further period of 12 months. It was suggested that the project could work closely with the Healthy Holidays project, each providing referrals to the other.

Previously funded through the Central Wellbeing Fund, Members considered the service provided by Hope House Connects. Although impacted by the pandemic, support continued to be provided in innovative ways. The Area Council Manager was assisting the group to apply for external funds, however, noting that supporting vulnerable and isolated people remained a priority, it was suggested that the service be extended for a further 12-month period. It was noted that if the group was successful in securing external funds, not all the funds allocated would need to be utilised.

Members were reminded of the previous discussion in relation to Creative Recovery. It was noted that the project had to be paused due to the impact of the pandemic and around £7,000 allocated to the group remained unspent. It was suggested that the group utilises this to deliver the remainder of the project when restrictions allow, but that £15,000 earmarked for the extension of the project be retained at this time.

In relation to the finance allocated from the Youth Work Fund to support organisations and provide training for groups wishing to work with young people, it was noted that the proposal remained under consideration, but that recent feedback suggested that there was still a demand. However, it was noted that further consideration and analysis was required, and it was suggested that this be undertaken before consideration by Members at a future meeting of the Area Council.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the overview of Central Area Council's priorities current contracts, contract extensions, Service Level Agreements and Wellbeing Fund Projects, and their associated timescales, be noted;
- (ii) That the actual financial position to date for 2020/21 and the projected expenditure, including future proposals, to 2023/24 as outline in the appendices submitted, be noted;
- (iii) That a one-year grant extension for £12,360 be awarded to the YMCA – Detached Youth from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2022;
- (iv) That a one-year grant extension for £49,440 be awarded to The Youth Association – Street Smart from 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2022;
- (v) That a one-year grant extension for £30,990 be awarded to DIAL – Advice Drop In from 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2022;
- (vi) That a one-year grant extension for £14,420 be awarded to Hope House Connects from 1st June, 2021 to 31st May, 2022;

- (vii) That Creative Recovery be supported to delay the delivery of the remainder of their project until restrictions allow;
- (viii) That the Youth Work Fund remains under consideration until further needs analysis is completed.

18. Notes of the Ward Alliances (Cen.01.03.2021/5)

The meeting received the notes of the following Ward Alliance meetings:-
Central, held on 16th November, 2020 and 27th January, 2021;
Dodworth, held on 15th December, 2020 and 26th January, 2021;
Kingstone, held on 2nd December, 2020; and
Stairfoot, held on 8th February, 2021.

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

19. Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Cen.01.03.2021/6)

The report on the use of Ward Alliance Fund was received for information.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20. Covid-19 Update - Lucy Butcher (Cen.01.03.2021/7)

Lucy Butcher, Public Health Practitioner, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update in relation to Covid-19. Members heard that case rates did fluctuating but were declining steadily overall. Figures had been reviewed at Ward level and there were no concerns about any variations between Wards.

The age distribution of cases had changed somewhat, with an increasing proportion of young people testing positive in some areas of the borough.

Members heard of the efforts of Neighbourhood Engagement Officers (NEOs), who had worked with trading standards to ensure face coverings were worn by staff in shops, and that sanitiser was available. It was noted that the NEOs also worked closely with Covid Marshals and that support will be provided to licensed premises and pubs in relation to their safe reopening.

Also noted was the support being provided to community venues to ensure their safe reopening, in conjunction with colleagues in Public Health and Communities. Work had also been undertaken with youth services to plan for the return of the 'rule of six' outdoors.

Members noted the community insights work which had identified some gaps in the knowledge of the community for example in relation to when residents should isolate and when they should get tested. This insight would inform future communications campaigns.

With 2,500 additional residents now on the list of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable all were being contacted by the Covid Support Service to ensure appropriate support was in place.

Members noted the current provision for symptomatic and asymptomatic testing, and that asymptomatic testing of secondary pupils was due to commence on 8th March, 2021.

In relation to vaccination, Members were made aware that up to date information was available on the Clinical Commissioning Group Website, and that all residents aged over 70 should have been offered their vaccination, with over 70,000 residents now vaccinated in Barnsley. Those aged 65-69 were now being offered the vaccine together with those aged 16+ who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Questions were asked in relation to the numbers of patients with Covid-19 admitted to hospital, and also in relation to the wait between first and second vaccines. It was agreed that responses would be provided to Members following the meeting.

The issue of GPs providing telephone only appointments was discussed, and it was noted that many GPs would consult initially over the telephone but would see patients in person should this be required.

In relation to schools reopening, Members discussed the issue around the lack of social distancing between parents outside school. It was noted that schools were responsible for their own perimeter, but that NEOs and Covid Marshals could provide support in areas identified as having issues.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That thanks be given for the report, responses to questions, and to all those involved in responding to the pandemic;
- (ii) That responses to questions in relation to numbers of patients in hospital and waiting times between first and second vaccinations be supplied directly to Members.

21. Day and time of future meetings of Central Area Council (Cen.01.03.2021/8)

It was noted that the Council diary had been drafted for the municipal year 2021/22, which included Central Area Council meeting on Monday at 2.00pm.

As a result of the Central Area Manager role being job shared, and the handover day being Wednesday, it was suggested that the meetings be moved to Wednesday at 2.00pm. A number of suggested dates had been identified in the Council diary in order to avoid clashes with other established meetings. However, it was recognised that Members have other commitments, and it was agreed to circulate the proposed dates to all Members of Central Area Council for them to highlight any issues with the proposed changes.

RESOLVED:- that all Members be consulted on the potential change of dates and that a decision be taken on future days and times at the next meeting of the Area Council.

Chair

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Item 13



MEETING:	Dearne Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 15 March 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

Present Councillors Noble (Chair), Danforth, Gollick and Phillips.

18 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

19 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Dearne Area Council held on 18th January, 2021 (Dac.15.03.2021/2)**

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 18th January, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

20 **Superfast South Yorkshire - Julie Tattershall (Dac.15.03.2021/3)**

Julie Tattershall was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on Superfast South Yorkshire (SFSY) and Accelerating Digital Barnsley.

Members heard how SFSY was a partnership between the four South Yorkshire local authorities, Building Digital UK, Openreach and the Local Enterprise Partnership. So far SFSY had increased availability of superfast broadband from 80% to over 98% bringing nearly 120,000 new connections. In addition, support had been provided to SMEs on how to gain the benefits of connectivity and advice relating to infrastructure had also been provided to developers and to planning departments.

Members noted the current activity being undertaken, including working with Openreach to provide fibre to the premises for 8,000 homes, inputting into digital strategies in Barnsley and the City Region and also being consulted on digital connectivity as part of the planning process.

Noted was the work undertaken in the Dearne Area with a total of 2,695 properties now having improved connectivity due to Phase 1, and a further 167 in phase 2. Also noted were plans for Openreach to improve the exchange in Goldthorpe, for City Fibre to invest in infrastructure in the area, and that Virgin Media were also looking to upgrade their infrastructure.

Those present heard of the work of Accelerate Digital Barnsley. This included efforts to increase gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure from commercial providers such as City Fibre, to stimulate demand through voucher schemes, and to ensure all new

residential and commercial sites were future proofed with gigabit capable infrastructure.

Members also were made aware of Internet of Things (IoT) work to utilise technology in smart ways, collecting data to be used for strategic decision making. Examples of temperature sensors being used to help decide when to deploy gritters was given and parking sensors to monitor occupancy and dwell time to inform the parking strategy.

It was noted that officers also worked with network providers to plan the installation of 5G provision over the next two years.

Members acknowledged the strategic linkages being made and social value opportunities created. The work to address digital exclusion was also acknowledged, with 1,400 laptops already distributed, and more donated devices to give to those requiring one.

Members discussed the availability of data relating to the use of 4G and 5G at an area level, and it was noted that most data was commercially sensitive and therefore not available. However, it was understood that Sheffield City Region was considering purchasing more detailed data and therefore this may be available in the future.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, and that its content be noted.

21 Dearne Electronic Community Village (Dac.15.03.2021/4)

Rory Garforth was welcomed to the meeting to discuss the work undertaken to assist residents improve their employability and IT skills. The programme ran three days a week and was in the second year of a three-year contract.

Members noted that there had been 63 learners in the current year, which was a reduction from previous years due to the impact of the pandemic and the cessation of learning in person. It was expected that face-to-face teaching would resume when restrictions allowed. Members heard that there had been an increase in referrals from the Department for Work and Pensions over the past few weeks.

58 learners had achieved a qualification, with support being provided remotely through such as Zoom and through telephone calls. Approximately half of the available time was used to support people return to work. During the past year 12 people had been supported in to full time employment, with two into part time employment.

Members heard of the types of support given. Initial assessment to gauge levels in English and maths was undertaken, and referrals made where relevant. Support provided then focused on basic computer skills, such as using Microsoft Office. Assistance was also given with job search, applications, writing CVs, and ensuring job journals were kept up to date.

Support was also provided on interview techniques, engaging with council services online, and using internet banking.

Those present heard of the additional work undertaken to reduce digital exclusion. A Silver Surfer course had previously been undertaken, and learners had been contacted to offer support.

It was noted that volunteers had been unable to offer support recently due to the pandemic, but it was hoped that this could be rectified when restrictions were lifted.

Members discussed the impact of the project and thanks were given for all the hard work undertaken. Noted was the Council's Employer Supported Volunteering scheme, and it was suggested that some employees may wish to volunteer at the centre when restrictions allow.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the update and for all the hard work undertaken.

22 Twiggs Grounds Maintenance (Dac.15.03.2021/5)

Wendy Twigg and Nigel Roberts were welcomed to the meeting. Members were reminded that restrictions had meant that the team were unable to work with groups of volunteers, but 15 volunteer bubbles had been supported in the area, with 27 adults and two children involved. These bubbles had collected over 200 sacks of litter in the area. Members were encouraged to forward any details of community members who collected litter independently, in order that support could be offered.

Members were made aware that the tool bank was now operational, with tools and equipment for volunteers to borrow.

The recent variation to contract had focused the work of the team in a number of areas, and all had been visited and improved.

Contact had been made with a number of existing environmental groups in the area, with a view to restarting group activities when restrictions allowed.

Members heard that Twiggs had recently recruited a number of apprentices, which would be given the opportunity to experience working in the area.

The issue of fly-tipping was discussed and the increase in prevalence during the pandemic was noted. It was noted that the Council would be reinvigorating the approach to tackling this.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the update, and the information received be noted.

23 Covid-19 Update - Cath Bedford and Craig Aubrey (Dac.15.03.2021/6)

Cath Bedford and Craig Aubrey were welcomed to the meeting. Members were aware that case rates were declining in the area, but slowly, and that the message of 'Hands, Face, Space' needed to be maintained.

The vaccination programme continued to be successfully delivered, with 77,000 adults in Barnsley now vaccinated. As the programme moves to target younger residents, an increase in vaccine hesitancy was expected.

The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer had been working locally, providing a contact for local businesses, including licensed premises, to receive advice on applying for funding and reopening in a Covid safe way when allowed. Members also noted the work to support reopening of community buildings.

Work had been undertaken with Regulatory Services to visit supermarkets and minimarkets in the area to provide guidance and support in relation to the current restrictions.

Members noted the work with volunteers to distribute reusable face masks, with 200 already handed out and a further 300 available.

Noted was the work with Covid Marshals to visit local beauty spots to ensure compliance, and it was acknowledged that this was intelligence led.

Members noted that Craig had secured permanent employment as a Community Development Officer with the Central Team. All wished him well and thanked him for his work in the area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

24 Update on Commissions (Dac.15.03.2021/7)

The Area Council Manager provided an update on the current position of services funded by the Area Council.

The Housing and Migration Officer was 14 months into a two-year contract and continued to work proactively. Members heard that waste on premises, fly-tipping and contaminated bins continued to provide a focus. Members raised questions around persistent issues, and it was suggested that these be escalated, with enforcement action taken where necessary.

B:Friend were eight months into the first year of a two year contract and continued to be busy, providing support online and via telephone. The service had seen an increase in referrals and numbers of volunteers applying to assist.

Those present were made aware that the second year of the Employability Service provided by DECV was due to end in March, 2021. Though the service continued to provide support; as this was undertaken remotely there had been a reduction in numbers accessing the service.

The contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had been granted on a two-year basis, with the option to extend the contract for two further periods of 12 months. Members were reminded that the first two-year period would come to an end in March, 2021, but that a decision had already been made to extend this at a previous meeting of the Area Council. A schedule for the service had been completed, and it was noted that this was subject to amendment as the need arose.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25 Dearne Area Council Financial Update (Dac.15.03.2021/8)

The Area Council Manager made Members aware that the Area Council had an opening balance for 2020/21 of £214,720.67. Following funding the Education, Environment and Volunteer Service; Housing and Migration Officer; Social Connectivity Service; Employability Service; and distributing funds to the Dearne Development Fund, £163.67 remained for allocation. However, it was noted that income from NESTA had been received and therefore taking this into account £9,663.67 remained.

The opening balance for 2021/22 was therefore £209,663.67. £145,000 had already been committed, resulting in £64,663.67 remaining for allocation.

With regards to the Dearne Development Fund, £28,000 had been allocated from the Area Council, £10,000 had been received from the hardship fund and there had been £3,650.68 to carry forward. Following the distribution of funds to CAB, Thurnscoe Community Plaza, DIAL and Highgate Outdoor Improvement £11,427.68 remained within the fund.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

26 Performance Report Q3 (Dac.15.03.2021/9)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item referring to the report circulated, which had been produced in a revised format.

Members were reminded of the currently funded services and which Area Council priority these contributed towards.

During quarter three, October to December 2020, Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had supported 50 community groups and businesses, worked with 26 volunteers, encouraged 19 new volunteers, and collected 149 bags of rubbish.

The B:Friend service had continued to support residents, including 73 older neighbours isolating. There had been 468 volunteer hours pledged to befriend others. 83 hours of staff time had been used for calls and visits, and the service had distributed 44 Bundles of Joy packs. It was noted that 11 new referrals had been received

Dearne Electronic Community Village had supported 61 learners in the quarter, with 18 of these being new learners. 28 learners had achieved a qualification, with 4 of these going into employment and 18 into further training.

Members heard how the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Officer had received 120 reports, and their work had contributed to 42 properties being improved. 33 residents had been helped make positive changes, with 42 houses supported to responsibly recycle or dispose of waste The officer had also reported 43 incidences of fly tipping.

In relation to the service provided by Citizen's Advice Bureau, 36 people with 74 issues had been supported within the quarter. This had resulted in an additional £37,580 of benefit being claimed and £18,000 of debt being managed.

DIAL had received 214 enquiries within the quarter, with 300 people reporting reduced anxiety as a result of the support provided by the service. £199,770.36 of additional benefit claims had also been supported.

Members received feedback from the service delivered by TADS. Though not able to provide the service in school, provision had been provided online and face to face where safe. There had been 29 drop-ins, with 25 service users reporting an improvement in their wellbeing. Within the quarter two new volunteers had joined the project.

Those present discussed the legacy impacts of the pandemic, including an anticipated increase in unemployment. It was noted that a workshop was being organised in order to consider the services provided by the Area Council in light of the pandemic.

RESOLVED:- that the report be received.

27 Notes from the Dearne Ward Alliances (Dac.15.03.2021/10)

The meeting received the notes from the Dearne North Ward Alliance held on 1st February, and 2nd March, 2021, and Dearne South Ward Alliance held on 1st February, and 2nd March, 2021.

At the meeting in February, the Dearne South Alliance had discussed the provision of veg boxes during half term, Covid testing in the area, the work of the allotment group and also provision against flooding in the area.

At the subsequent meeting in March, the Dearne South Ward Alliance had discussed healthy holidays and the 5 ways to wellbeing project which had been delivered over social media. Thanks were given to all involved in delivering a very well-received programme.

The Dearne North meeting had also discussed healthy holidays and the veg box provision at the meeting in February and at the meeting in March had considered the impact of the provision and the 5 ways to wellbeing social media campaign. The Alliance considered the support for business in the area and spoke about providing hanging baskets on the high street during the summer months.

RESOLVED that notes from the respective Ward Alliances be received.

28 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Dac.15.03.2021/11)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item. It was noted that the Dearne North Ward had an opening balance of £12,247.12 in 2020/21 which included £247.12 of underspend from the previous financial year and £2,000 from the Covid support fund. After supporting nine projects, a balance of £182.92 remained.

For the Dearne South Ward, the starting budget for 2020/21 was £16,605.12 which included £4,605.12 of underspend carried forward from the previous financial year and £2,000 from the Covid support fund. The Ward Alliance Fund had supported 12 projects and a balance of £1,317.72 remained.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

29 Appreciation

It was noted that Councillors C. Johnson and Phillips would not be standing in the forthcoming election. Thanks were given for all the hard work both had undertaken in the area, and for their contribution to the Area Council.

Chair

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MEETING:	North Area Council
DATE:	Monday, 15 March 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	

MINUTES

Present Councillors Leech (Chair), Howard, Hunt, Lofts, Pickering, Platts and Tattersall

18 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

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

19 **Minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 1st February 2021**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st February 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North Area Council meeting held on 1st February 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

20 **Welfare Advice Outreach Service Update - David Andy and Sharon Brown**

David Andy and Sharon Brown were welcomed to the meeting and gave a very detailed update on the Welfare Advice Outreach Service, jointly delivered by Citizens Advice and DIAL. Before the lockdown 1000 clients were assisted with benefit issues, with 285 clients gaining an additional £1,669,894 of benefits. During lockdown 1519 clients have been assisted with benefit issues with 173 clients assisted to gain £1,175,861 of benefits. Since the project began in 2015, there have been 8088 client contacts, with £10.4m of additional benefits gained and in excess of £1.65m of debt managed, representing a return on investment for the Area Council of £26 per £1 spent. Three case studies were provided for information.

RESOLVED that David and Andy be congratulated on this very strong performance and that thanks be passed on to staff who had continued to deliver the service with positivity even though going through a very challenging time themselves.

21 **Super Fast South Yorkshire - Julie Tattershall & Natalie Ward**

Julie Tattershall, Superfast South Yorkshire Project and Contracts Manager and Natalie Ward, City Fibre Manager, were welcomed to the meeting.

A presentation was delivered to explain the role of City Fibre. There are currently 67 projects underway to provide a full fibre gigabit capable network. £32m of investment has been made and the current build will last just over 2 years. It is a case of short term pain for longer term gain. City Fibre uses existing infrastructure so there is no need to dig and they also use duct and pole sharing. The network is gigabit capable, dependent on need, and residents will be able to get 1gb per second, which is

phenomenal. An interactive map for the whole of the UK is available and will be shared. More information will be shared with members as the project progresses.

Members heard how SFSY was a partnership between the four South Yorkshire local authorities, Building Digital UK, Openreach and the Local Enterprise Partnership. So far SFSY had increased availability of superfast broadband from 80% to over 98% bringing nearly 120,000 new connections. In addition, support had been provided to SMEs on how to gain the benefits of connectivity and advice relating to infrastructure had also been provided to developers and to planning departments.

Members noted the current activity being undertaken, including working with Openreach to provide fibre to the premises for 8,000 homes, inputting into digital strategies in Barnsley and the City Region and also being consulted on digital connectivity as part of the planning process.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation, and that its content be noted.

22 Public Health Covid-19 update (North Area) - Cath Bedford / Lucy Butcher / Leyla Brooke

Lucy Butcher and Leyla Brooke were welcomed to the meeting and updated Members with regard to the current Covid-19 situation. It was reported that case rates are slowly declining but it is important that guidelines continue to be followed. Case rates in 65+ are continuing to reduce. A pattern is emerging within areas of deprivation which have higher case rates. This includes lots of household mixing in parks and open spaces and lots of travel with associated busy roads. There has been violence in town centres and a lack of use of face coverings. Consultation data is currently being analysed. Most people follow guidelines but some are confused by the advice, with the largest gap in understanding relating to self-isolation requirements. The intended uptake of the vaccine is high and is above the national average. Vulnerable and vaccine hesitant groups are being targeted to encourage vaccination, despite the anti vaccine campaigners. Asymptomatic testing at the Metrodome continues. Members were asked to feed in any concerns through the usual channels. It was also reported that all 27 licensed premises in the North Area have been contacted for advice and support, which has also been given to community centres etc.

RESOLVED that officers be thanked for their attendance and contribution and the update be noted.

23 Stronger Communities Grant - Panel Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, updating Members about the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant application and allocation process and the outcome of the grant panel meeting and the projects approved for funding. The performance management and monitoring arrangements for successful projects were also outlined. It was reported that a total of 6 applications were received before the deadline totalling £55,772.06. 5 applications were agreed for funding: North West Church – Re-Connect: Building Resilience and new confidence with older people; Ad Astra – 5 Star Well Being: Gender Based; Reds in the Community – Transition with the Reds; Age UK Barnsley – Covid Recovery North Area, Butterflies Dementia Support and Activities Group - Barugh Green Social Club Weekly Tea Dance.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update and the projects that have been approved for funding,
- (ii) Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements, and
- (iii) Panel members be thanked for their work on the panel

24 Commissioning, Project Development and Finance

The Area Council Manager provided the Area Council with a financial position and forecast for expenditure based on the projects that have been proposed, outlining the projects which have been commissioned, including the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project, Clean and Green contract and the work of the Housing Cohesion Officer.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The North Area Council should note the existing budget position and funding commitments;
- (ii) Members agree to offer a further contract for welfare advice through the Anti-Poverty Community Outreach Project on a 12 month basis
- (iii) A workshop be arranged for late April with regard to the social inclusion and cold homes project to avoid duplication with other projects.

25 Report of the Ward Alliance Fund

The Area Council Manager updated the North Area Council on the financial position of the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period. It was highlighted that there has been a flurry of applications received since the start of the New Year as thoughts turn to recovery after Covid.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing project 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.

26 Notes from the Area's Ward Alliances

The meeting received the notes from the Darton East, Darton West, Old Town and St Helen's Ward Alliances. Further updates were received as follows:

Darton East - Hanging baskets have been approved, with sponsorship agreed. Healthy Holidays delivered 74 food parcels to struggling families during February half term with lots of positive feedback received.

Darton West - More applications than ever before are being received from groups who are struggling financially in the current climate and consideration is being given

to how to deal with this in the longer term. The Active Travel Hub is being closely looked at and should be a fantastic addition to the area once it is up and running.

Old Town - Wilthorpe Park funding has been approved along with funding for Pogmoor Football Club Ladies and Walking Football for older people.

St Helen's - Spring bulbs are starting to flower and it is hoped that a gala may be possible later in the year. February food packs have been distributed.

The Chair thanked all Ward Alliance Members for their hard work over this difficult time.

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

Chair

MEETING:	North East Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 25 March 2021
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	

MINUTES

Present Councillors Cheetham, Hayward (Chair), Ennis OBE, Makinson, McCarthy, Richardson and Wraith MBE

20 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 29 due to his involvement with Barnsley Community Build. Councillor Ennis took the Chair for this item and Councillor Hayward took no part in the discussions.

21 North East Area Team Staff Introductions

The Area Manager introduced the new Project Officer for the North East Area Team, Judith Myers and outlined the work she will be involved in.

RESOLVED that Judith be welcomed to her new role.

22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of North East Area Council held on 28th January 2021

The meeting considered the minutes from the previous meeting of the North East Area Council held on 28th January 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the North East Area Council held on 28th January 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

23 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 in January and March 2021. The following further updates were noted:-

Cudworth – Ward Alliance Membership has been reviewed, along with priorities and the action plans. Volunteers are slowly coming back. All volunteers who request it have been provided with a litter picking pack. A grant was approved for the History group, with a contribution from Cudworth businesses. All the Noticeboards across the Ward are being revamped. An application from Exodus was also approved. The park gates at the main entrance have to remain locked at the moment due to Covid.

Monk Bretton – Carlton Bowling Club have been supported with their running costs. Noticeboards are being updated and the Ward Alliance are sponsoring activity packs for Easter.

North East – Most of the funding has been expended and distributed across 4 villages. A S106 sub group is being set up with representation from all 4 villages. There are 2 vacancies at the moment, one for Brierley and one for Shafton. It is hoped that new members can be recruited shortly.

Royston – The Ward Alliance has spent up. Membership has been reviewed and the reconfirmation of membership has taken place. Priorities of young people in the Make Your Mark consultation will be taken forward. There is to be virtual community training on the use of defibrillators. Small numbers are able to get together from next week and will be volunteering in small groups in the park and greenspaces. Planting in welfare park will take place next week. There has been progress on enforcement around fly tipping. New staff have been introduced to the Ward Alliance. S106 meetings are meeting and planning spend.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

24 Youth Participation and Engagement

Chelsea Jackson, Youth Voice and Participation Coordinator delivered a detailed and informative presentation regarding the Targeted Youth Support Service 2020 Make Your Mark consultation. A total of 4794 votes were cast by young people in Barnsley, which saw Barnsley ranked 4th across the nation, based on percentage turnout at approximately 22%. Mental health, drugs and discrimination are the top 3 priorities for Barnsley young people. The three national campaigns for the year ahead have been confirmed as Free University, Support our Mental Health and Take Action on the Climate Emergency: Stop Plastic Pollution. Barnsley results by setting were also shared with Members. The MYM results will be shared with SMT, Council Cabinet and the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group and it is hoped that they will advise of further links where young people's MYM results can be heard and acted upon.

Dominic Jones gave a brief update about how the Barnsley Youth Council has supported him to become a delegate at the G7 2021 Youth Summit. Dominic was first elected to the Youth Council in 2015 and was re-elected in 2017 and 2019 when in College. He served as a Member of the Youth Parliament in 2018 and was on the national Youth Select Committee, investigating work experience and other issues. His current role is as the UK delegate at the G7 2021 Youth Summit. Dominic is the youngest of the four successful applicants, chosen from 236 applications. Dominic continues to be involved in local and regional issues and has also worked with the local area team and Ward Alliance. The Youth council have been instrumental in helping Dominic to progress and he will take the views of local young people to the world stage, hoping that the G7 leaders will listen. The local MP, Dan Jarvis, has also been in touch with Dominic.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Chelsea be thanked for her attendance and contribution, and
- (ii) Dominic be congratulated for the fantastic success he has achieved and good wishes for the Youth Summit and a possible future career in politics.

25 North East Area Council Project Performance Report

The Area Manager gave a detailed update on the delivery of the Youth Development Working Together Fund and provided a proposal to work with the Jolly Good Communities proposal for Youth Engagement, which links to the Make Your Mark proposals and local consultations with young people. Various activities which had taken place were highlighted and case studies provided.

RESOLVED that Councillors support the proposal to work with Jolly Good Communities linking in with the Area Council and the Ward Alliances with regard to youth engagement.

26 NEAC Financial Position and Procurement Update

The Area Council Manager introduced this item, reporting that the North East Area Council is on target for spend. Ward Alliance spending in all four areas is also on track, which has been difficult to achieve in the circumstances.

RESOLVED that Members note the report and £10k be devolved to Ward Alliances in the new financial year

27 Report on the Use of Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and updated Members with regard to Area Council Budgets, Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED that Members note the report

28 Covid-19 update

A Covid-19 report and update was circulated but unfortunately Public Health are unable to attend the meeting. Any questions should be directed to the Area Council Manager who will seek responses from Public Health .

Councillor Wraith enquired as to the possibility of a local ward breakdown for positive tests, hospitalisations, deaths etc.

The Mayor enquired about the possibility of local galas and any available guidance for such events.

RESOLVED that the update be noted, and the Area Council Manager be tasked with contacting Public Health to answer Member enquiries noted above.

29 Community Traineeship Commission report

The Area Council Manager introduced this item and updated Councillors with regard to the procurement of the Community Traineeship Commission. Following a robust procurement process the contract was awarded to Barnsley Community Build Enforcement at a cost of £223,000 per annum. The contract will run from April 1st,

2021 to March 31st, 2022, with an additional 1 plus 1-year approved subject to further funding being available and satisfactory outputs and outcomes being realised.

RESOLVED that the Executive Director Communities be authorised to complete all the necessary paperwork to award the Community Traineeship contract to Barnsley Community Build at a cost of £223,00 per annum. The contract will run from April 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022, with an additional 1 plus 1-year approved, subject to further funding being available and satisfactory outputs and outcomes being realised.

Chair

Item 16



MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 8 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

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

16 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

17 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 11th February, 2021 (Pac.08.04.2021/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th February, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 11th February, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

18 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021 (Pac.08.04.2021/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th March, 2021 be received.

19 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.08.04.2021/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the significant amount of carry over funds that had come into the 2020/21 budget of £16,970 together with a covid income of £1,277.40 and the base allocation of £20,000 which gave a total of £38,247.45. It was reported that whilst there had been a slow start to Groups coming forward for funding this had grown momentum which had resulted in £6925 being carried forward into the 2021/22 budget. This was hailed as a tremendous success given the difficult year everyone had endured.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

20 Interim Performance Update (Pac.08.04.2021/5)

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of performance, which included all contracted services and made members aware that they were between quarters and expecting the Quarter 4 update at the June meeting.

A reminder was provided to Members to inform them that the contracts in place for the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People grants were due to finish in June and that a new specification was being drawn up for that. The Clean Green and Tidy Service had moved into its' second year following member approval at the last PAC meeting. The new DIAL contract had commenced but no updates were due until the June meeting of PAC and the CAB debts advice service was in place until September with a 6 month extension to the contract funded by financial hardship monies to take it to end of March 2022.

Members were informed that Age UK had undertaken a number of initiatives including working in collaboration with Wortley Golf Club to provide 244 meals to older people across the area which had been picked up by the local news. Age UK had also linked in to Barnsley Walking Development Group and had met via Microsoft Teams to discuss extending their walks to older people in other areas after the 12th April, as the Walk for Health Group in Silkstone had been a success before it had been suspended due to lockdown rules. The work Age UK have been doing to link up with Wentworth Castle Garden had been suspended but plans were in place to open the site up with some long and short routes around the gardens plus logistical arrangements around available transport such as Community Car Scheme or Dial-a-Ride minibus to aid older visitors in getting there.

Volunteers had continued to support service users, some visiting in gardens where possible and providing delivery of meals, plus delivery of some Activities at Home packs to help keep people occupied. Members were informed that Karen Tyas from Café Crème had been given a Barnsley Age Friendly Award for her support to the local community during the pandemic. Working with the area team and volunteers Age UK delivered 90 Winter Wellbeing packs to older people in the Penistone area. Age UK had been trialling a new app called Volunteero which was a volunteer management tool to allow a more efficient way of managing volunteer activity and interactions. A significant increase in falls had been reported due to lack of mobility and a decrease in taking part in activities due to the lockdown, this had been targeted in a leaflet included in the Winter Warmth pack around exercising at home.

Twiggs were commended for finding alternative ways of working with volunteers during the lockdown such as training over the telephone or online. A significant increase in volunteers for litter picking had been seen not only across the Penistone Area but throughout the borough. Funding from the Ward Alliance had provided an equipment tool bank which was proving invaluable and extremely popular.

Other initiatives included tree planting in Thurgoland, incredible edible beds in various locations and planning for future events such as Cawthorne Spring Clean and various litter picks. Members were also informed that Twiggs had been donated Easter Eggs from Tesco, Co-op Asda and Spar which they had given out to the volunteers who had given their time for litter picking.

In respect of the DIAL contract, whilst there were no new figures to report since the Quarter 3 report in January, it was reported that there had been and continued to be a large uptake in their advice and information service since lockdown began. It was reported that their online and telephone advice sessions would continue until it was safe to hold one to one sessions once again.

An update was provided on the works carried out by the Area Team including some extensive work around re-mapping of all the Community Groups in the area and work to contact the groups to discuss recovery steps and forward planning for coming out of the pandemic.

The Area Team have worked to promote the Supporting Young People's grant fund within the Penistone networks to which they had received 9 enquiries at the time of the meeting, with a good variety of potential projects. Discussions had been held with a voluntary sector service to provide free accredited training in support of young people's mental health with future funded projects that would be engaging with Young people. The Area Team had been volunteering during the Easter Holidays in the Borough wide initiative to provide food and activities for families who receive free school meals. Lessons learnt from the initiative were that food parcels were heavy so a review would be needed in time for planning for the next school holidays.

Members were informed that the Area Team had also helped with distribution of winter warmth packs, provided support to Twiggs in securing additional volunteers equipment bank and also with Neighbourhood Services to ensure a smoother process for volunteers. The Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, Rana Kubesi continued to work closely with the Public Health Team to ensure support around Covid guidelines continued in the Penistone Community. Work is progressing on the Principal Towns Programme for Penistone with site visits looking for locations for way finding and public art spaces. Members noted that a new Project officer had been working with the Team to refresh and re-design the social media platforms hoping to attract a wider audience, and that this was an ongoing piece of work.

RESOLVED that the report be received and that thanks be placed on record for all the hard work the volunteers and Groups had carried out.

21 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.08.04.2021/6)

The Area Manager spoke to the item, reminding members that the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Fund's current contract was due to end in June, 2021 after an agreed extension and that the procurement process was being developed.

The Working Together Fund was still available with previous contracts awarded to DIAL and CAB, it was reported that Penistone FM would be encouraged to resubmit an application for a project around supporting young people in the Penistone Area. Members noted there was £42,776 left in the fund and the Area Team would continue to promote this to encourage further applications.

Members were informed that the Supporting Young People Grant was now available and had received a good level of interest. The closing date for applications was 8th April and a Panel would be convened to determine the grant applications with an update to be provided on the successful projects at the next meeting of the Area Council.

The Clean Green and Tidy Service providers Twiggs would be invited to attend the June meeting of the Area Council to provide members with a full report and update of the service in light of members agreement to fund the second year of their contract.

Members were provided with an overview of the current financial position. It was noted that no further spend had been allocated after the previous Area Council meeting resulting in £15,225 being carried forward from the 2020/21 budget, together with the Penistone Area Council budget allocation of £200,000 giving a total of £215,225 for the 2021/22 budget. Members noted that the spend to date from the 2021/22 budget was the Twiggs contract at £100,000 leaving £115,225.

Members attention was drawn to a previous allocation from the budget of £3,000 for 2 publications of the Penistone Living Magazine. Only one publication had been produced in the year which left around £1500 to be spent. Members were informed that the Barnsley Chronicle had been in contact about an insert in the paper for the Penistone Area to promote what was happening in and around the area, what activities may be going ahead, plus the chance to promote businesses re-opening which would cost around £800. Members expressed their interest as the money had already been allocated plus it would be positive promotion of the area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the update on procurement activity be received;
- (ii) that the update on contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund be noted;
- (iii) that the proposed grant procurement timeline to establish future provision to support vulnerable and isolated older people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (iv) that the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted;
- (v) that the update on ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Fund to establish specific activities that will support young people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic be noted;
- (vi) that the updates on the Clean and Tidy Contract, started in April 2020, be noted;
- (vii) that the Area Council Manager investigate the publicity opportunities utilising funds partially allocated in the previous year; and
- (vii) that the financial position for the 2021/22 budget be noted.

22 The Economy in Penistone (Pac.08.04.2021/7)

Chris Savage, Project Manager Markets and Town Centres, was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the Economy in Penistone.

Members heard how in terms of business support, teams were working collaboratively with Enterprising Barnsley, Public Health and Regulatory Services to ensure businesses get the support they need in order to keep trading through lockdown, to reopen on 12th April or 17th May and to help support business recovery.

Members were informed that Penistone Market had continued to trade throughout lockdown with a number of Traders supplying essential goods with a regular presence from Town Centre Ambassadors tasked with encouraging shopping safely and local and weekly visits from a Covid Development Officer, both activities provided from the Reopening High streets Safely Fund. A Business Boost Skills Programme had been run by online workshops and one to one sessions and had been well attended by businesses such as retailers, close contact services and pubs and hospitality. Grants had been distributed by Enterprising Barnsley.

Those present heard how Covid Development Officers had engaged with businesses face to face to advise on covid secure measures, marketing and running click and collect services safely plus referring any queries to Licensing, Regulatory Services and Public Health in order to act as a one stop shop.

In relation to reopening of services on 12th April and 17th May, members were informed that Penistone Market would be fully open from Thursday 15th April and the weekly Covid Development Officer visits would continue, support would be provided to Public Health in visiting pubs and bars and refreshed guidance would be provided for close contact services, hospitality, licensed premises and retail. Members were informed of a Consumer Confidence Campaign funded by the Reopening High Street Safely Fund with a key message around getting Penistone back in business. Adverts would be on buses, bus shelters and flags on street lighting as well as business having a reopening back to encourage people to come back to shopping in a safe manner.

Members were made aware of several initiatives business could get involved in such as the Barnsley Gift Card, MiRewards, Yoello, ShopAppy, all of which are free for business to sign up to. The Barnsley Business Boost Programme is to return, the Shop Front Scheme run by Principal Towns is still active and Skills workshops will be run by Enterprising Barnsley.

Members raised questions around receipt of government funding towards this initiative and were informed that the Covid Development Officer, Town Centre Ambassador and Consumer Confidence Campaign were funded through the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund which is ERDF and NHCLG funded and is Borough wide.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and that its contents be noted.

23 Covid-19 Update (Pac.08.04.2021/8)

Lucy Butcher, Public Health Practitioner and Rana Alkubesi, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer were welcomed to the Meeting.

Members were provided with a written progress update in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and were invited to ask questions either through the meeting or by direct contact. No questions were raised during the meeting.

Work continued in the Community by the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer in collaboration with Public Health in providing support and help to all Businesses in understanding the new guidelines. 37 licenced premises had been contacted around opening on the 12th April, with 11 visits made, more visits were planned in order to

support these business to open safely on 12th April and that contact would be made with those premises planning to open on 17th May in the coming weeks.

Work was being carried out with the Area Teams in contacting Community groups to aid them restarting safely in Covid guidelines. Support was provided to the Healthy Holiday and Food Programme with packaging and distribution of parcels and planning to identify the most in need groups. In respect of Group gatherings members were informed that they could report this to the NEO's who would contact Covid Marshalls to investigate.

Members commented that the ongoing work was vital to everything opening back up safely.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the report and its contents noted.

Chair

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Friday, 23 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually

MINUTES

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

21 **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillors Franklin, Lamb and Shepherd each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 28 and 29 due to their positions as directors of Forge Community Partnership.

22 **Minutes of the Meeting of South Area Council held on 12th February, 2021 (Sac.23.04.2021/2)**

The meeting considered the minutes of South Area Council held on 12th February, 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the South Area Council held on 12th February, 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

23 **Notes of the Ward Alliances (Sac.23.04.2021/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the following Ward Alliances:- Hoyland Milton and Rockingham held on 3rd March, 2021; Darfield held on 18th March, 2021; and Wombwell held on 1st March, 2021.

The Chair made Members aware of serious issues in her Ward, with illegal off-road biking extremely prevalent. It was suggested that the culprits were aware of Councillors aims to prevent this, which had resulted in Councillors being targeted. The Chair, Councillor Markham, had been assaulted by a biker, being knocked to the floor, and there were reports of Councillor Smith's house being vandalised.

Issues had also been seen in other Wards within the South Area, including in Jump Valley. Members were encouraged to supply intelligence to Fiona Tennyson, Tasking Officer, and were urged to call 999 in an emergency.

It was noted that a proposal to help combat the issue was due to be considered later in the meeting.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Ward Alliances be received.

24 **City Fibre - Natalie Ward (Sac.23.04.2021/4)**

Natalie Ward, City Manager, was welcomed to the meeting. Members heard that a programme of £32m of investment in Barnsley had commenced in January, 2021.

The programme would provide a model of full fibre infrastructure to allow improved internet connections that would be suitable for decades to come. The build involved both under and over ground work which would take around three years to complete for the first phase.

Members were made aware of the details of the build and how the infrastructure would look. It was acknowledged that City Fibre owned infrastructure, but that the service would be provided by Internet Service Providers.

Members heard that work had commenced in January, and that City Fibre was working closely with the Council, engaging all stakeholders where possible, and raising awareness of the work being undertaken.

Noted was the workflow and additional communications to ensure residents were aware of the work in the area. It was acknowledged that this had been impinged somewhat by the pandemic. However, it was hoped that face to face discussions could be had in the coming months as restrictions were reduced. A suggestion was made for Members to highlight any avenue of potential stakeholder engagement, through briefings, events or publications.

Members questioned the reinstatement of pavements and roadways following work, and it was noted that this would be undertaken on a like for like basis. Should issues arise, Members were made aware of the complaints process and that a team was dedicated to Barnsley was on hand to consider defects.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

25 Public Health Update - Diane Lee (Sac.23.04.2021/5)

Diane Lee, Head of Public Health, provided an update in relation to the recently undertaken 'A day in the life of...' exercise. Members of the public had been asked to complete a diary, giving details of their feelings on 3rd November, which enabled a greater understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on everyday life.

320 diaries had been completed with 191 A4 pages of narrative. Comments had been arranged under key themes.

There was a clear mix of feelings, with many reporting impacts on mental health, increased anxiety: feeling worried about themselves and their children. However, many recognised that this would be temporary, and it was ok to feel this way.

There were also positives in that the pandemic allowed many to undertake things they may not normally have time for. Many had explored the natural environment on their doorstep and had been able to support local businesses

With some working from home, the need to have a separation of home and work was acknowledged. The increased social isolation, both at work and home was noted, and the realisation that many people were isolated and lonely prior to the pandemic. However, for some there had been an increase in community spirit and the ability to build local relationships.

The pandemic had meant an impact on health, with more unhealthy food consumed, less exercise and an impact on the quality of sleep. The hidden harm from cancelled appointments and operations was also acknowledged. Members noted that report did contain signposting for support to relevant agencies.

A suggestion was made to address isolation, build community spirit, and improve health by introducing more walking groups in the area. It was agreed that colleagues in Communities and Public Health explore this further.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

26 Covid-19 Update - Kay Tinkler (Sac.23.04.2021/6)

Kay Tinkler, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, spoke to the report circulated. It was noted that case rates remained high when compared to the national average, with a 7-day average of 66 per 100,000. However, this continued to fall. Cases were largely linked to household transmission, which was often also linked to school or work places. There were no specific issues for the South Area.

Contact had been made with licensed premises regarding reopening safely, with the majority being visited to provide advice and guidance. If there were any concerns regarding non-compliance, Members were encouraged to report these to Regulatory Services. It was noted that publicans and provided positive comments to Members about the support they have received.

Neighbourhood Engagement Officers had worked with libraries and museums to support reopening and had developed a toolkit to support community groups to reopen venues. Advice and support were also available. Members were asked to encourage community groups to access support if they had plans to hold any events.

Issues of non-compliance were discussed in relation to young people gathering in large numbers, drinking alcohol. It was noted that this would be reported to Covid Marshals to follow up.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the report and support in the area, and that the report be noted.

27 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Sac.23.04.2021/7)

Members noted the finance remaining at the end of the financial year. Also noted was the amounts of returned finance, which was often as a result of securing finance from other sources.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28 Performance Report (Sac.23.04.2021/8)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, noting that this was an annual report of performance. The attention of Members was drawn to the priorities of the Area Council, including the recent addition of 'Health and Wellbeing for All'. It was noted that each commissioned service contributed to a number of priorities.

Over the past year all contracts were required to flex and adapt to meet the needs of the community in light of the pandemic.

The Tidy Team had been delivered by Anvil CiC, a trading arm of Forge Community Partnership until the end of March, 2021. The service had continued to be provided throughout the pandemic, and had been supporting Neighbourhood Services, including targeting areas which had seen an increase in litter. It was noted that the service had engaged with 175 new volunteers, supported 277 events/projects and had assisted 75 community groups.

Members discussed the large numbers of purple waste bags around the area where volunteers had collected waste for disposal, but which had yet to be collected. It was noted that the revised Tidy Team service would continue to support groups and residents with this whether that be arranging for Neighbourhood services to pick up bags if it's an independent group or litter picker or support from the Tidy Team where they are involved in supporting the group and delivering the work or project.

Discussions had taken place with the current service provider and Neighbourhood Services about this. It was noted that there had been issues with the volume of waste being collected and the capacity to collect this. It was hoped that this would be resolved imminently.

Members discussed the large numbers of purple waste bags around the area where volunteers had collected waste for disposal, but which had yet to be collected. It was noted that the revised Tidy Team service would continue to support this, and discussions had taken place with the current service provider and Neighbourhood Services about this. It was noted that there had been issues with the volume of waste being collected and the capacity to collect this. It was hoped that this would be resolved imminently.

Questions were raised in relation to the 'Tidy Team' name, and the merits of changing this to differentiate between the outgoing and incoming providers. On balance it was felt important to retain the 'Tidy Team' name which was well known throughout the South Area. Members also requested for contact details of the provider to be circulated.

Those present went on to discuss the Better Together Service delivered by Age UK Barnsley. The service had employed two social inclusion workers who had provided one to one support to 168 residents. 448 people had accessed groups or activities, 36 community car journeys had been undertaken for essential purposes and 43 Good Neighbour relationships developed, which were hoped would carry on after the pandemic.

The service provided by District Enforcement had been impacted by the pandemic but officers were able to support efforts by patrolling in parks, open spaces and high streets to ensure adherence to restrictions. More recently the service had returned to normal duties, concentrating on parking enforcement to help traffic flowing and patrolling areas identified as hotspots of littering and dog fouling. 458 Parking Charge Notices had been issued, together with 17 Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and 32 for littering.

Members' attention was drawn to the performance of the Private Sector Housing Officer, who had provided support for both landlords and tenants. The officer had been supported with enforcement from the Community Safety Service, and formal notices had been issued where required. The service had been proactive, developed relationships and ensured that those in need were aware of support.

The service providing local information and advice, delivered by CAB, had previously done so via face to face sessions at three venues in the area. However, this had moved to be provided via telephone and digital means as a result of the pandemic. 1,234 individuals had been supported with 715 being new to the service. The service had helped 10 individuals to avoid homelessness and helped residents to manage around £345,000 of debt. It was noted that the majority of assistance provided was related to benefits, but enquiries relating to employment and furlough had significantly increased.

£10,000 of finance had been utilised by the Ward Alliances to deliver the Healthy Holidays Programme. The programme had delivered 918 healthy lunches, 37 healthy holiday sessions and had engaged 53 volunteers. Thanks were given to all those involved in the effort.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That contact details for the new 'Tidy Team' be circulated to Members.

29 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.23.04.2021/9)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item by referring to the financial situation. Within the current financial year, the Area Council had £24,800 unallocated with an additional £60,000 ringfenced to address social isolation.

Members noted the service, Better Together, currently delivered by Age UK Barnsley, which aimed to address social isolation. It was noted that the service was due to end on 31st August, 2021. A workshop had been held to consider performance and ongoing demand. Over the previous 12 months the service had, amongst other things, supported 168 people with one to one support; supported 295 people to access other support; assisted 42 people dealing with fuel poverty; and encouraged 135 people to get involved in physical activity. The workshop had highlighted that challenges with social isolation existed prior to the pandemic and had been exacerbated by restrictions.

A number of options were considered, with the preferred option to recommission a service to reduce social isolation and loneliness. It was acknowledged that the service would need to be flexible as would need to respond to the lifting of restrictions, and the changing needs of service users.

Following consideration of recommendations relating to addressing social isolation and loneliness the meeting became inquorate. It was therefore suggested to call an additional meeting to consider proposals to address anti-social behaviour throughout the area due to off-road biking and to extend post office opening hours in Wombwell.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the social isolation and loneliness service is retendered, and the opportunity is advertised on YOR Tender as an open, transparent and competitive tender with a contract value of £60,000 per year for a three year (1+1+1) contract;
- (ii) That Councillor Lamb and Stowe take part in the tender process for the Social Isolation and Loneliness Service, scoring and sitting on the tender interview panel;
- (iii) That the South Area Council Manager develops a specification for the Social Isolation and Loneliness Service for consideration by Members taking into account feedback from the workshop held;
- (iv) That the Executive Director Communities be authorised to agree the final specification and tender information for all commissioning work detailed in the report, following consultation with Members of South Area Council.

30 Appreciation

Members expressed thanks to retiring Councillors for their hard work and dedication. Best wishes were provided for the future.

In addition, thanks were also given for the work of the Tidy Team delivered via Forge Community Partnership, and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent praising the work of all team members, past and present.

RESOLVED that the Area Council Manager sends a letter of thanks to the Tidy Team delivered by Forge Community Partnership on behalf of the Area Council.

Chair

MEETING:	South Area Council
DATE:	Tuesday, 4 May 2021
TIME:	9.00 am
VENUE:	Held Virtually Via Connect Remote

MINUTES

Present Councillors Markham (Chair), Eastwood, Frost, Lamb, Shepherd and Smith

31 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Member wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda.

32 Procurement and Financial Update (Sac.04.05.2021/2)

The Area Council Manager introduced the report, referring to existing campaigns which aimed to tackle the issue of off-road biking. Members were supportive of the enhancement to this work through the purchase of a bespoke camera.

Thanks were given to the Police, following the recent seizure of a number of bikes, and a request was made for the Area Council to receive reports regarding the impact of the camera, once operational.

Members went on to consider the proposal to provide resources at Wombwell Library in order to allow the Post Office service to run on Wednesdays whilst a more permanent solution was found.

It was noted that there had been delays in the relocation of Post Office services in other parts of the area. It was therefore suggested that the finance be approved for a six month period only, with the Post Office being approached to contribute financially to any further extension to the temporary arrangements.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That approval be given to run a pilot to better tackle off road bikes/ quad biking across the South Area, and that a wide lens, long range camera, SD card and carry bag be purchased to support this at a cost of £2,500;
- (ii) That approval be given to enable the extension of Post Office opening hours at Wombwell Library, as detailed in the report, for a six month period at a cost of £1,414.

Chair

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MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 24 March 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

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

91. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the (i) Berneslai Homes Board in respect of minute numbers 102, 103 and 104, and; (ii) Premier Leisure Board in respect of minute number 105.

Councillor Howard declared a non-pecuniary interest as a DWP employee in respect of minute number 104.

92. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 10 March 2021 had been called in.

93. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2021 (Cab.24.3.2021/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

94. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.24.3.2021/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the week ending 12 March 2021 were noted.

95. Action Taken under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations Contained in the Council Constitution (Cab.24.3.2021/5)

RESOLVED that the action taken by Executive Directors under Paragraph B6 of the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations, as contained within the Appendix attached to the report now submitted and detailed below, be noted:-

Date of Decision - 10 March 2021

Approval of a Deed of Variation as part of the Glassworks' scheme and associated delegations.

- 1.1 The update be noted;
- 1.2 The points outlined within the report for inclusion within the Deed of Variation be approved; and
- 1.2 The required approvals to agree the final Deed of Variation be delegated to the Service Director, Finance, Service Director, Legal in consultation with the Executive Director, Place

96. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.24.3.2021/6)

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

1. Containing the signatures of 205 signatories, in respect of Improved road safety at Carr Green Lane, Mapplewell, Barnsley.
 - a. BMBC Traffic Team does not support this proposal as there is no history of Personal Injury Collisions (PICs) at the point in question within the last 5 years and only one slight PIC on the whole of Carr Green Lane. We justify the significant investment of road safety improvements on the basis of a reduction in PIC's at the location. Each accident saved produces a cost benefit to society as a whole through reduced emergency service involvement, reduced hospital costs, reduced loss of earnings for injured parties and loss of productivity, reduced insurance claims and so on.

Every site that is recommended for treatment on an accident basis is prioritised for funding across the borough. As the budget for road safety improvements is finite, it is the sites with the greatest proven need which are treated first and these will have a cluster of incidents with a discernible trend or pattern in the cause of each.

Installing traffic calming measures without justification on an accident basis leaves the council open to criticism that there is no human or cost benefit to society; an investment of thousands of pounds with no substantial return to the tax payer. We could also not justify to local communities where road users have been killed and seriously injured in speed related collisions, expenditure on a location that has no justification in terms of an historic accident basis.

97. National Takeover Day (2020) (Cab.24.3.2021/7)

The Children's Services' Cabinet Support Member welcomed representatives from the Youth Council to the meeting to present the outcomes of the National Takeover Challenge.

A presentation on the very positive feedback received from participants in the Challenge was provided.

Members commented on the excellent work that had been undertaken, highlighted the importance of listening to the voices of young people and thanked the participants for their valuable contributions.

RESOLVED:-

1. The achievements of Young People in the most recent Takeover Challenge across all service areas were acknowledged; and
2. That Cabinet would continue to highlight and identify future opportunities to build on this success.

98. Safeguarding Children: Implementation of Operation 'Encompass' in the Borough (Cab.24.3.2021/8)

RESOLVED:-

The implementation of Operation 'Encompass' within the Borough, with effect from 1 April 2021, be approved.

99. Council Plan 2021-2024 and Associated Performance Framework (Cab.24.3.2021/9)

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL ON 1 APRIL 2021:-

1. That the publication of the new Council Plan be approved; and
2. The approach for the revised accompanying performance framework agreed.

100. Gender Pay Gap Report 2020 (Cab.24.3.2021/10)

RESOLVED:-

1. The results outlined in Appendix 1.2.2 of the report were noted;
2. The long-term commitment to reducing the Council's Gender Pay Gap was endorsed; and
3. The Action Plan at Appendix 2 of the report was noted.

101. Implementation of the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement (Cab.24.3.2021/11)

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL ON 1 APRIL 2021:-

That approval is given to implement the 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement contained at Appendix 1 with effect from 1 April 2021.

102. 2021/22 Barnsley Homes Standard Programme and Supplementary Investment Programme (Cab.24.3.2021/12)

RESOLVED:-

1. The HRA 2021/22 Barnsley Homes Standard Programme be approved;
2. The HRA 2021/22 Supplementary Investment Programme be approved;
3. The added Social Value delivered by the Property Repairs and Improvement Partnership 2020 as set out at Section 5 of the report, including use of directly employed local staff and over 30 directly employed apprentices be noted; and
4. The Carbon Saving efficiency measures, and anticipated reductions to tenant's energy bills, as set out in Paragraph 3.8 of the report, be noted.

103. Sprinkler Installation Programme 2021/22 (Cab.24.3.2021/13)

RESOLVED:-

1. The procurement and installation of sprinkler systems to the seven blocks of flats within the Council's portfolio of properties and release the necessary resources as detailed in this report be approved; and
2. The appointment of a suitable specialist contractor, following the outcome of a procurement exercise and containment of costs within the approved sum, be authorised.

104. Employment and Skills - Barnsley Youth Employment Programme (Cab.24.3.2021/14)

RESOLVED:-

1. Officers to develop the programme with the aim of launching in May 2021; and
2. The implementation of the programme be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, or their duly authorised representative.

105. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 2021/22 (Cab.24.3.2021/15)

RESOLVED:-

That the following be approved:-

1. The acceptance of the funding of £5,647,940 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme;
2. That the Council enter into a contract with Ameresco to develop and deliver the Council buildings element of the project on its behalf; and

3. That the Council provide funding to develop and deliver the BSF Schools element of the project through the existing Project Agreement mechanisms.

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Chair

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Item 20



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 7 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

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

106. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Cllr Platts declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute number 111 as she has family members that own their own business.

107. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 24th March 2021 had been called in.

108. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2021 (Cab.7.4.2021/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

109. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.7.4.2021/4)

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

110. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.7.4.2021/5)

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

111. Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan (Cab.7.4.2021/6)

RESOLVED that

- (i) Cabinet supports the adoption of the Barnsley COVID Economic Renewal Action Plan, and
- (ii) Approves the release of £1m in Council funding to support the Economic Recovery Programme and in addition utilise the £1m in Gainshare Funding awarded by SCR to support the proposals outlined in this report.

112. Community Asset Transfer - Grant of 25-year lease of Land at Houghton Road Recreation Ground to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO (Cab.7.4.20201/7)

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Council as freeholder of Houghton Road Recreation Ground approves the grant of a 25-year lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO on terms and conditions to be agreed;
- (ii) The Corporate Asset Manager be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for a 25-year lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO:
- (iii) The grant will be in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, but at less than best consideration based on the delivery of local social economic and environmental wellbeing powers as introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 and the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003:
- (iv) The Service Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the lease to Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO, subject to the necessary planning consents being achieved, and
- (v) The Service Director Legal Services be authorised to deal with the issuing of notices relating to the disposal of Public Open Space and consider any objections should they arise.

113. Exclusion of Public and Press

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>
114	Paragraph 3

114. Borough Response to Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs, during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Cab.7.4.2021/9)

RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the experiences outlined in this report as part of the Local Authority's continuous improvements to the quality of practice and provision concerning our local SEND 'Offer'.

.....
Chair

Item 21



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 21 April 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

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

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

115. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

116. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 7th April, 2021 had been called in.

117. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 April 2021 (Cab.21.4.2021/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

118. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.21.4.2020/4)

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

119. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.21.4.2021/5)

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

Deputy Leader

120. Director of Public Health 2020 Annual Report: A Day in the Life Of (Cab.21.4.2021/6)

RESOLVED that the contents of the Director of Public Health 2020 annual report be noted.

Joint Adults and Communities and Regeneration and Culture Spokespersons

121. Safer Barnsley Partnership Annual Plan 2021/22 (Cab.21.4.2021/7)

RESOLVED that the Safer Barnsley Partnership Annual Plan for 2021-22 be received and its contents noted.

Children's Spokesperson

122. Proposal for a Combined Independent Safeguarding Person and Chair Person for the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (Cab.21.4.2021/8)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That Cabinet approves Option 1, the appointment of a combined Independent Chair and Independent Scrutineer for the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership as part of further improving the assurance of local safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in the Borough; and
- (ii) That a further report on extending such arrangements to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in the Borough be considered by Cabinet at a future date.

123. School Placement and Sufficiency Strategy for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities: Expansion of In-Borough Provision to meet the needs of Children and Young People with Autism and/or Social, Emotional or Mental Health Needs (Cab.21.4.2021/9)

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorse the creation of a Programme Board whose purpose will be to develop a Council-wide approach to meeting the education requirements of the above cohort of children and young people as forecasted in Section 4.0 of the report

Environment and Transportation Spokesperson

124. Highways Capital Programme 2021/22 (Cab.21.4.2021/10)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the detailed Highways Capital Programme for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, and that the Service Director, Environment and Transport be authorised to implement these works;
- (ii) The Service Director, Environment and Transport be authorised to:
 - Deliver a programme of work based upon the Asset Management Policy and Implementation Strategy, supplemented with engineering judgement in order to deliver a programme of work to meet income targets;
 - obtain tenders for any works, goods and services as necessary, and appoint any successful tenderer on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender;
 - adopt the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) principle of collaboration and utilise collaborative procurement to engage external consultants to undertake work which cannot be undertaken in-house or secure the services of contractors or consultants via Regional Alliances, where available;
 - appoint other external consultants and contractors as appropriate, within the current procurement rules.

- (iii) That, in the event that the Maintenance, Integrated Transport and Capitalised Highways Maintenance budgets for 2021/22 are not fully expended, the

value of any other works be re-phased between financial years, which allows the flexibility to ensure that the available resources are deployed in the most efficient manner possible, whilst maintaining the continuity of the Highways and Engineering Service;

- (iv) That Cabinet notes the uncertainty around future Government funding for highways, and the Place directorate will continue to maximise other funding opportunities; in particular through the city region. Furthermore, funding opportunities will be raised through the Strategic Transport Infrastructure Board to consider the procurement and delivery strategy for each scheme and to consider the use of in-house services or appoint third parties dependent upon the necessary timing and or funding constraints.

125. Vehicle Replacements 2021/22 (Cab.21.4.2021/11)

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That Cabinet authorise the procurement of 66 vehicles, in the 2021/22 financial year, to be used by council departments and partner organisations, with a total value of up to £1.807M (including the additional cost of ULEVs as referred to at 2.2) by way of purchase followed by a sale and lease back arrangement as outlined in section 7.9 or whichever method of funding is deemed appropriate following full financial appraisal.
- (ii) That Cabinet agree the upgrading of 30% (100% for Council departments and 16% for partner organisations) of the petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles highlighted for replacement in this report to ULEVs at an additional estimated expense of £0.221M included in the total amount stated in 2.1. £0.135M of this relates to Council departments and £0.086M for partner organisations.
- (iii) That Cabinet approve the additional capital spend of £0.524M for the purchase of 20 vehicles for use by the Home to School Transport service. The vehicles will again be purchased followed by a sale and lease back arrangement funded by the Home to School Transport Service.

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Chair

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Item 23

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

18 MARCH 2021

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) and G Warwick (GMB)

Investment Advisors: A Devitt and L Robb

Officers: J Bailey (Head of Pensions Administration), N Copley (Treasurer), G Graham (Director), G Kirk (Monitoring Officer), M McCarthy (Deputy Clerk), G Richards (Senior Democratic Services Officer), S Smith (Head of Investments) and G Taberner (Head of Finance and Corporate Services)

Apologies for absence were received from D Patterson

1 APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

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

RESOLVED – That Item 14 ‘Procurement of Pensions Administration Software’ and Item 15 ‘Property Debt Write-Offs’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

6 SECTION 41 FEEDBACK FROM DISTRICT COUNCILS

None.

7 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2021 be agreed as a true record.

8 MEMBERS' SELF-ASSESSMENT

M McCarthy informed Members that the annual self-assessment exercise was about to be undertaken.

This was an important exercise for Members to determine the extent to which they felt that the support, guidance and information was in place to allow them to make informed decisions.

The questionnaire would be sent out for completion in the next few days and the results reported in due course.

9 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT Q3 2020/221

G Taberner presented the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 3 2020/21.

It was noted that sickness absence showed a slight increase from the previous quarter but still remained low compared to the same quarter last year. There had been one positive Covid-19 related absence of six days during the quarter.

With regard to investments, at the end of the quarter, 63.1% of the Fund's assets were being managed in pooled structures provided by Border to Coast which was an increase on the previous quarter. The estimated funding level at the end of Quarter 3 was 108%.

Pensions administration performance remained stable and was likely to do so whilst remote working continued.

Three new employers were admitted during the quarter.

A table within the report detailed significant variances against the budget.

Members noted that the forecast underspend for the year before transfer to reserves was £489k at the end of Quarter 3, compared to a forecast underspend of £409k at the end of the previous quarter. As reported previously, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had affected progress in relation to the Corporate Objectives.

The Fund's cash balances at the end of the third quarter stood at £187m. A chart within the report showed how the balances had been invested with different counterparties, in line with the approved treasury management strategy, during the year.

Members noted that during December 2020, the limit on the HSBC Capital Account had been breached overnight as a result of recovering a deposit on 21st December in order to ensure sufficient cash would be held for the completion of two property purchases taking place on 22-23 December. The balance was reduced on 22nd December bringing it back within the limit.

Three complaints had been received during the period. One was due to delays in receiving information from an employer and the other two were due to individual system errors which had since been resolved.

The report also detailed Stage 1 and Stage 2 appeals that had been determined during the period.

Customer satisfaction levels remained high. A survey of members retiring during August to October showed that 94% of respondents were satisfied with the service received.

The Corporate Risk Register had been reviewed in January and the resulting changes were detailed within the report.

Members again discussed the risk of failing to ensure that elected Members knowledge and understanding met statutory requirements and the problem that membership changes after each local election posed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10A ADVISORS COMMENTARY

A Devitt provided a market commentary on recent events.

Highlights included:

- The divergence in vaccine roll-out between the UK and the EU may result in a divergence in economic re-openings and growth.
- The dominant mood in equity markets was one of enduring ebullience.
- Market chatter turned to rising interest rates and gilt yields as well as hints of pending inflation.
- The existential threat of Covid-19 had pushed environmental and sustainability concerns to the forefront.
- As recovery commenced, it was expected to see ongoing political agitation, dissatisfaction with incumbent governments and a desire to shift to alternative solutions for post-crisis management.
- The US economy shrank by 2.5% in 2020 while in the UK GDP dropped by 9.9%.
- Corporate earnings looked set to stage a recovery globally and market performance had been robust to date.

In answer to a question from Cllr Wright, A Devitt confirmed that she would include a section on the impact of Brexit in future reports.

The Chair thanked A Devitt for the update.

10B QUARTERLY REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

Members considered the Quarterly Report to 31st December 2020.

Members were informed that over the quarter to the end of December 2020 equity markets had been strong although had fallen back during January and February. The UK had outperformed other developed markets partly due to the resolution of Brexit. Property returns had been positive mainly due to the fact that that agricultural holdings had an uplift when the valuation was completed at the end of December.

The Fund valuation at the end of December was £9.6bn and was currently just over £9.4bn partly due to the strengthening of sterling.

The report contained an asset allocation summary. It was noted that the most significant transaction during the quarter had been the transition of index-linked gilts to the newly launched Border to Coast fund.

Overall performance of the Fund rose by 6.4% during the period which was ahead of the expected benchmark return of 5.8%; the funding level remained above 100%.

With regard to the Border to Coast funds, not including the newly launched Index-Linked Bond fund, three of the other four funds had outperformed the benchmark and matched the target return.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11 RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT Q3 UPDATE

A report was submitted which provided an update on the responsible investment activities undertaken by and on behalf of the Authority.

Charts within the report illustrated how the Authority's holdings in listed equities were voted in the period to the end of December 2020 and graphs showed the scale and nature of engagement activity undertaken.

With regard to the new rules in the US regarding investment decisions and ESG factors as detailed in paragraph 5.6 of the report, the Director informed Members that these had now been paused by the Biden administration. It was hoped that there would now be positive movements in terms of the ability of managers in the US to take ESG factors into consideration.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 5.10 which gave details of Border to Coast's development of their approach to identifying engagement themes in order to focus on the most financially material issues which they would be discussing with Partner Funds in the coming months. The proposed process was set out on the report.

The Director informed Members of the intention of the Authority to support the Paris Aligned Investment Initiative and the intention to adopt the Impact Investing Principles details of which were contained within the report.

Approval was also being sought for the proposed submission to the inquiry into a Just Transition being undertaken by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Government Pensions as detailed at Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- i) Note the Responsible Investment activity undertaken by and on behalf of the Authority.
- ii) Approve the proposed submission to the inquiry into a Just Transition being undertaken by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Government Pensions at Appendix A to the report.
- iii) Approve the Authority's commitment to support the Paris Aligned Investment Initiative.
- iv) Approve the Authority adopting the Impact investing Principles.

12 INVESTMENT BELIEFS

A report was submitted which sought to secure approval for an updated Statement of Investment Beliefs providing greater clarity and focus in relation to responsible investment, following the evolution of the Authority's policy position in that area.

The Statement of Investment Beliefs, which was set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report, contained a number of highlighted phrases which were supported by an explanatory statement.

Following the Authority workshop in December 2020, an explanatory statement had been created which explained what the Authority meant by responsible investment and how it would be approached, as set out in paragraph 5.4.

The Director confirmed that Border to Coast were confident that they could deliver against the statement. Feedback from Pensions for Purpose, who had facilitated the December workshop, was that it was a good statement which "showed considerable leadership in this area".

Cllr Sangar welcomed the clear statement of Investment Beliefs and added that leadership was important in the way the Authority interacted with Border to Coast as net zero by 2030 could not be delivered without them.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the Statement of Investment Beliefs as set out in the body of the report.

13 ACTION PLAN FOR NET ZERO

A report was considered which sought to gain approval for the Authority's action plan for the achievement of its Net Zero Goal.

Members were informed that the Action Plan had been developed using the Institutional Investors' Group on Climate Change Net Zero Investment Framework. This recognised that there could be no "one size fits all" route to net zero, investors like SYPA would need to focus on maximising efforts that achieved decarbonisation in the real economy. This would require a comprehensive investment strategy led approach which must not just deliver emissions reductions but also increase investment in the climate solutions needed to achieve net zero.

This needed to be seen in the context of SYPA's participation as one of 11 Partner Funds in the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership and the Authority would need to work with and gain the co-operation of the other partners and the operating company in order to achieve its goal.

The Director commented that the first step had highlighted a number of significant gaps in knowledge. The plan was to fill in those gaps as far as possible and take specific actions in parallel to make full use of the relatively short time available for the Authority to achieve net zero.

The plan would need to be developed further as the current position was better understood and this would be done as soon as information became available.

Cllr Mounsey commented that the action plan provided a comprehensive, structured and balanced way forward. Aspirations were roads to change and improve an issue but decisive actions by all concerned would lead to real impact and sustainable improvements across the world.

Members discussed engagement at length and how and when to escalate the process including the possibility of divestment, bearing in mind the possibility of unintended consequences.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the Net Zero Action plan as set out in Appendix A to the report.

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.

14 PROCUREMENT OF PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE

A report was submitted which set out the result of a procurement exercise for a new pensions administration software system using the new National LGPS Framework.

RESOLVED: - That Members:

- i) Approve the award of a five-year PAS licence to the incumbent provider to take effect from February 2022.
- ii) Note the proposed actions in terms of engagement with the incumbent provider prior to the new licence coming into force as set out in section 5.14 of the report.

15 PROPERTY DEBT WRITE-OFFS

A report was considered which requested the Authority's approval to write off irrecoverable debts relating to the Pension Fund's commercial property portfolio.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the writing off of debts amounting to £239,438.40 including VAT.

The Director, on behalf of all officers, thanked Cllr Stowe for all his work over the last two years as Chair of the Authority. He had been engaged, helpful and supportive and it was very much appreciated.

The sentiments were echoed by all Members.

CHAIR

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SCR - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

MONDAY, 22 MARCH 2021 AT 10.00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING



Present:

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Bob Johnson	Sheffield City Council
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
James Muir	Chair of LEP Board
Councillor Charlotte Cupit (Reserve)	NE Derbyshire District Council

Officers in Attendance:

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 / SYPTE
Gareth Sutton	Chief Finance Officer/S73	MCA Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure	MCA Executive Team
Helen Kemp	Director of Business & Skills	MCA Executive Team
Martin Swales	Interim Director of Transport, Housing, Infrastructure and Planning	MCA Executive Team
Sue Sykes	Assistant Director - Programme and Performance Unit	MCA Executive Team

In Attendance

Melanie McCoole (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Garry Purdy	Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and he introduced the Members present. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Announcements

Mayor Jarvis MBE reported with great sadness the death of Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Nuala had led from the front. Her passion, talent and drive to improve the life chances of young people in Doncaster through her work on the region's Education, Skills and Employment Board and to serve her community were, and will remain, humbling. Nuala would be very greatly missed.

Mayor Jones CBE added that Councillor Nuala Fennelly was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. She had sadly passed away on 8 March 2021 after a short illness. She was a fantastic advocate for children and young people. She would be sadly missed, but not forgotten. She expressed the MCA's sincere condolences to Councillor Nuala Fennelly's husband, family and friends.

Mayor Jarvis MBE stated that tomorrow, 23 March 2021, would mark the one year anniversary since the Prime Minister had told everyone within the country to stay at home, save lives and to protect the NHS. It had been a year like no other. The latest Covid-19 position across South Yorkshire, like other parts of the country, showed that with the return of schools and more testing this had resulted in an increase to the case rates. In better news, to date, approximately 90% of people aged 60 and over in South Yorkshire have received their first vaccination dose, which was a great achievement. The impact of the vaccination programme was such that case rates by age group showed that the elderly now had the lowest case rates. In essence, we were being saved at the top end by the vaccines, and rates were rising at the bottom end with more testing of young people and workplaces.

Members noted that the pressure on the NHS had reduced significantly. Despite all of this, it was important to continue to be vigilant, to observe the social distancing rules and to do everything possible to stop the spread.

Mayor Jarvis MBE referred to the Budget that had been presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer earlier in the month. Members' attention was drawn to the extension of support to businesses and people to enable them to get through the immense challenges that had arisen from the Covid-19 pandemic. But sadly, as Mayor Jarvis MBE had already made clear publicly, there were some egregious decisions, particularly in relation to how the Government intended to prioritise its £4bn Levelling Up Fund. If South Yorkshire was going to be transformed, then it would need to be done so under its own steam; extraordinary times called for extraordinary measures. The decisions that would be taken by the Board today would put into place an £860m stimulus package for the region that would support the young people through a South Yorkshire Young People's Pledge by investing in our places through £360m of funding projects in the next 12 months alone and the creation of the South Yorkshire Renewal Fund, which was worth up to £500m to help to deliver the major new programmes from 2022 onwards.

Mayor Jarvis MBE was pleased to update Members that by the end of March 2021, all of the £30m of additional funding that had been fought so hard to secure, would have reached the bank accounts of businesses across the

region. This was a testament to the local council economic development teams in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

Mayor Jarvis MBE wished to take the opportunity to put on record his thanks to Mark Lynam as he prepared to leave for pastures new. As the Director of Transport, Housing and Infrastructure in the MCA Executive, Mark had made a huge impact on the region's economy and he would leave the MCA in a stronger position than ever before. Mayor Jarvis MBE and the Members would always appreciate Mark's intellect, work ethic, the impact that he had made and his capacity to roll with the punches. On behalf of the MCA, he wished Mark the very best in West Yorkshire.

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

Mayor Jarvis MBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 entitled 'Capital Programme' which may relate to the Barnsley central constituency.

Mayor Jones CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 entitled 'Capital Programme' which may relate to Doncaster, by virtue of being the Mayor of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

Councillor Johnson declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 entitled 'Capital Programme' which may relate to Sheffield, by virtue of being the Leader of Sheffield City Council.

Councillor Sir Houghton CBE declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda Item 13 entitled 'Capital Programme' or any other items on the agenda which may relate to Barnsley, by virtue of being the Leader of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

7 Reports from and questions by members

None.

8 **Receipt of Petitions**

None.

9 **Public Questions**

None.

10 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

11 **South Yorkshire Investment Strategy**

A report was presented which summarised a proposed package of up to £860m of Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) funding, collectively known as the South Yorkshire Renewal Fund, to create a stronger, greener and fairer region.

Mayor Jarvis MBE commented that this was a hugely significant moment for South Yorkshire. The proposals within the paper provided real firepower to unlock the growth within the economy and the support to the young people of South Yorkshire. He commended the work undertaken by Members and officers to reach this point.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Endorsed the use of up to £860m of MCA funding to support the recovery and renewal effort in South Yorkshire and to begin delivery immediately.
- ii) Agreed the £32.3m package of Mayoral Combined Authority investment in infrastructure, flooding, bus and active travel in 2021/22, as set out at paragraph 2.3 of the report.
- iii) Agreed a focused package of MCA support for South Yorkshire's young people requiring the:-
 - Introduction of a one year programme to extend the existing 11 – 18 travel concession to 21 year olds so that all South Yorkshire's young people between 11 and 21 can benefit, to run until June 2022 (as set out at 2.4 – 2.6 of the report).
 - Delegation to the MCA Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the S73 Officer, Monitoring Officer and the Executive Director of SYPTE, the authority to take the requisite steps to implement this concession enhancement proposal (paragraph 2.12 of the report).
 - Agreed the wider complementary support being made available by the MCA to create jobs, training and employment opportunities for those impacted by the pandemic, including measures to support young people (paragraph 2.7 of the report).
- iv) Agreed to the MCA S73 Officer entering into discussions with Government to secure borrowing arrangements for up to £500m of investment

(paragraph 2.8 of the report) and to report back once a proposal had been developed in order to seek the consent of the MCA to the functions covered by borrowing and the borrowing cap proposed.

- v) Approved the proposed investment principles at paragraph 2.11 of the report.
- vi) Approved the proposed next steps to implement the South Yorkshire Renewal Fund, as set out at paragraph 2.12 of the report, so that this could be operational from April 2022.

12 **Budget and Business Plan 2021/22 Approvals**

A report was submitted which proposed a budget and accompanying financial strategies for the financial year 2021/22. The proposed budget provided resource totalling c.£358m to enable the activity required to deliver upon the objectives set out in the MCA's Corporate Plan.

Major Jarvis MBE wished to place on record his thanks for the work of the MCA finance team for the development of the 2021/22 Budget that was set in front of Members for approval. At around £357m the resource available to the MCA in the new financial year was at a record level. The significance of the Budget should not be underestimated for us, as a region. It was one that captured a major programme of transport, housing and regeneration works, the first ever locally controlled Adult Education Budget investment, as well as projects funded out of the un-ringfenced devolution resources.

RESOLVED – That the Board:-

- i) Approved the adoption of the revenue and capital budget estimates for the year.
- ii) Approved the local contributions for the year.
- iii) Approved the Reserve Strategy.
- iv) Approved the Treasury Management Strategy.
- v) Delegated authority to the Section 73 Officer to facilitate the creation of a Project Feasibility Revenue Reserve through an intra-group transaction.

13 **Capital Programme**

Mayor Jarvis MBE commented that the items which had been discussed so far during the meeting had all related to the future. It was also critical to ensure that the current programme of investment was delivered.

A report was presented which sought:-

- i) Approval of one scheme with a total value of £9.45m Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 (TCF2) and Getting Building Fund (GBF).
- ii) Approval of four Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 (TCF2) Outline Business Cases (OBCs) to proceed to Full Business Cases (FBCs) and early release of development cost funding with a total value of £3.31m.
- iii) Approval of early release of business case development cost funding for one Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 (TCF2).

- iv) Approval of early release of business case development cost funding for one Active Travel Fund Phase 2 (ATF2) scheme.
- v) Approval of four change requests for existing Local Growth Fund (LGF) projects.
- vi) Approval of four change requests for existing Getting Building Fund (GBF) projects.
- vii) Approval of one change request for an existing Getting Building Fund and Transforming Cities Fund Tranche 2 (TCF2) project.
- viii) Approval to award Adult Education Budget (AEB) Grants to five Further Education Establishments, three Local Authorities and one six form college.
- ix) Approval to award Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding to successful applicants through the MCA procurement exercise being currently undertaken.
- x) 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.

RESOLVED – That Members considered and approved:-

- i) Progression of “Quality Streets – Active Travel and Digital Infrastructure” project to full approval and award of £9m grant to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Panel Summary at Appendix A to the report.
- ii) Progression of “A635 Active Travel Link OBC” to FBC and delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to agree an appropriate early release of development cost funding of up to £0.41m TCF2 to BMBC subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table at Appendix B to the report.
- iii) Progression of “A61 Active Travel” OBC to FBC and delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to agree an appropriate early release of development cost funding of up to £1.72m TCF2 business case development cost funding to BMBC subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table at Appendix C to the report.
- iv) Progression of “Parkgate” OBC to FBC and early release of development cost funding of up to £1m to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (‘SYPTe’) subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Panel Summary at Appendix D to the report.
- v) Progression of “Rail Station Improvements” OBC to FBC and release of development cost funding of up to £0.172m to SYPTe subject to the conditions set out in the Assurance Panel Summary at Appendix E to the report.
- vi) Approval to release scheme development cost funding for one scheme up to £48k, from TCF2 to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (‘BMBC’).
- vii) Release of scheme development cost funding for “Sheaf Valley” ATEF2 scheme, of up to £46k from ATF2 and Gainshare, to Sheffield City Council.
- viii) Project change request from “Doncaster Urban Centre” to agree a reprofile of job outcomes from 2020/21 to 2021/22.
- ix) Project change request from “DSA Car Park Expansion Loan Agreement” to agree an extension to works completion from January 2021 to May 2022

and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.

- x) Project change request from “Peak Resort” to agree a reprofile of outputs from March 2023 to March 2024.
- xi) Project change request from “Digital Media Centre 2” to agree a reprofile of outputs from March 2021 to March 2022.
- xii) Project change request from “Rotherham Town Centre” to agree a reprofile of £0.53m grant from 2020/21 to 2021/22.
- xiii) Project change request from “Barnsley Digital Learning Sci Tech Building” to agree an extension to works completion from June 2021 to September 2021 and reprofile of £0.74m from 2020/21 to 2021/22 and reprofile of outputs and outcomes in accordance with the revised timescales.
- xiv) Project change request from “DN College Digital Infrastructure” to agree a reprofile of £0.31m from 2020/21 to 2021/22.
- xv) Project change request from “Goldthorpe Strategic Land Assembly” to agree revision of conditions to enable entry into contract.
- xvi) Project change request from “Heart of the City Breathing Spaces 2” to agree a reprofile of £0.41m GBF funding from 2021/22 into 2020/21 and £0.4m TCF funding from 2020/21 and £1.38m from 2021/22 into 2022/23.
- xvii) Progression of “AEB – Grant Provider Agreements” to full approval and award.
- xviii) Progression of “AEB Procurement Funding Agreements” to full approval and award.
- xix) Delegated Authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to agree an appropriate level of development costs and enter into legal agreements, following receipt of clarity on development cost requests for the schemes listed at recommendation 3 and 4 above and detailed in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.
- xx) 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.

14

Assurance Framework and Evaluation Framework

A report was presented which summarised the amendments that had been incorporated into the two frameworks which were presented for consideration by Members so that they could be submitted to Government for approval before 31 March 2021.

The MCA and LEP were required each year to update and publish its Assurance Framework to outline the robust, transparent and effective governance arrangements that were in place. There was also a requirement following devolution, for the Assurance Framework to be approved by the four Government departments. The MCA was also required to produce and publish a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework alongside the Assurance Framework to outline how projects and programmes funded with devolved and awarded monies would be robustly monitored and evaluated, which also required Government approval.

Major Jarvis MBE commented that as the levels of investment and resources

flowing through the MCA were increased, it was absolutely critical to continue to be transparent, open and accountable in the decision-making processes. He believed that the MCA was in a very strong position in relation to this.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted at section 2.3 of the report, the key amendments that had been made to the Assurance Framework to ensure compliance with the Government’s requirements on Gainshare and the Gateway Review Process.
- ii) Considered and endorsed the updated Assurance Framework set out in Appendix 1 to the report, pending any amendments required by the MCA, and gave consent for it to be submitted to Government by 31 March 2021 for approval.
- iii) Considered and endorsed the updated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework set out at Appendix 2 to the report, pending any amendments required by the MCA, and gave consent for it to be submitted to the Government by 31 March 2021 for approval.
- iv) Gave delegation to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Mayor, to agree any final changes required by the Government for them to approve and sign-off both Frameworks.

15 **Delegated Authority Report**

A report was presented which provided Members with an update on the decisions and delegations made by the MCA, which were in addition to those made under the Scheme of Delegation, and the decisions and delegations made by the Thematic Boards.

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 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

19 APRIL 2021

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

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

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), 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, K Wright and F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Pickering (Barnsley MBC) and G Jones (Violence Reduction Unit (VRU))

1 WELCOME BY CHAIR

Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, Councillor Nevett informed the Panel that, sadly, today would be the last meeting for three Members, namely, Councillor Sue Wilkinson, Councillor Jim Steinke and Mr Alan Carter, who would all shortly be leaving the Panel.

Members noted that Councillor Sue Wilkinson had been a Member of the Panel since 2017. On behalf of the Panel and Sub-Committees, the Chair thanked Councillor Wilkinson for all of her work.

Members were informed that Councillor Jim Steinke had been a Member of the Panel since 2020. On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thanked Councillor Steinke for all his contributions at both Panel meetings and at the Budget Working Group.

Members were also informed that Mr Alan Carter would have been leaving the Panel at the end of September 2021, following two Terms of Office. For personal reasons, Mr Carter would be stepping down from his position as Independent (co-opted) Member of the Panel at the end of April 2021.

The Chair said that Mr Carter had been the longest standing Member of the Panel having joined in 2013. On behalf of all Members, the Chair thanked Mr Carter for giving his support to the Panel for the last 8 years as an Independent (co-opted) Member and for sitting on the Panel's Budget Working Group and other Panel Sub-Committees. The Chair hoped that Mr Carter would enjoy viewing future webcasts of Panel meetings.

Panel Members joined the Chair in wishing Councillor Wilkinson, Councillor Steinke and Mr Carter all the very best for the future.

The Commissioner echoed the Chair's comments and thanked Councillors Wilkinson and Steinke for all the work they had undertaken.

The Commissioner added that he would very much miss Mr Carter, who had been an Independent (co-opted) Member of the Panel when he had been first elected as the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. He thanked Mr Carter for probing him on Artificial Intelligence and for keeping him on his toes. The Commissioner also hoped that Mr Carter would view future meetings of the 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 MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2021

In response to a query from Councillor Garbutt, K Wright said that the arrest rates for burglaries and other crimes would hopefully be presented in future Quarterly Performance reports under 'Outcomes'.

Professor James referred to the Action Log - Action 8 (14-12-20) – Stop and Search data. He asked if the OPCC would be able to provide district level Stop and Search data broken down by ethnicity and by success rates which could then be presented in future reports to the Panel.

K Wright replied that work was currently taking place to include the performance data into the Performance Framework. At the recent Performance Sub-Group meeting, Stop and Search data had been presented with regards to visibility at a District level, which was based on ethnicity and positive outcomes.

Following feedback at the Performance Sub-Group meeting, K Wright would look to incorporate the data in future Quarterly Performance reports.

Councillor Otten said that it would be helpful if Stop and Search data could present details of the powers used by the Police (for example, Section 60 or if another power had been used), together with the ethnicity of the individuals and the success rate.

K Wright acknowledged the request and agreed to undertake further analysis of the data. The use of Section 60 in South Yorkshire was very low in comparison to other Forces.

Councillor Nevett requested that Action 11 (03-02-21) – Services for Victims of Crime: Progress Update be retained on the Action Log, rather than the Action being discharged.

L Noble referred to Action 11 (20-07-20) – South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board – Probation Reform. Members were made aware that updates were being presented to the Panel within the Commissioner's update report.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' from the Panel's Action Log.

Councillor Garbutt referred to Appendix B 'Rural Crime Survey 2020'. He asked how the survey had been undertaken and if details of the questions asked could be provided to Members. Additionally, he asked why there were no figures within the results on wildlife crime. He also asked if there were any figures on how much wildlife crime is reported to the Police and how many individuals are successfully prosecuted.

F Topliss replied that the Rural Crime Survey for 2020 had been undertaken online between July and August 2020. The Survey had been promoted via the OPCC's social media channels and by the Force in liaison with Superintendent Mark James (Wildlife Crime and Neighbourhoods Lead). It was agreed that a copy of the

questions contained within the Rural Crime Survey for 2020 would be circulated to Panel Members after today's meeting.

In relation to wildlife crime, F Topliss said that she would analyse the survey questions to ascertain if a specific question had been asked on wildlife crime.

With regards to the number of wildlife crimes reported and individuals prosecuted, F Topliss said she would obtain information from Superintendent Mark James and provide answers to Panel Members after today's meeting.

Councillor Grocutt asked if details could be provided on the work South Yorkshire Police would be undertaking as a result of the concerns raised within the Rural Crime Survey.

F Topliss replied that the results of the Survey had been reported back to the Force in 2020. It was agreed that an update would be obtained from the Force and circulated to Panel Members after today's meeting.

Professor James asked if the Survey had obtained any opinions from the farming community.

F Topliss said that the OPCC did have links with the farming community and with the National Farmers' Union (NFU). Furthermore, the Rural Crime Survey had been circulated via the farming community and the NFU to provide their input.

Professor James added that the views of the farming community were important as he felt their perspectives on rural crimes had not been addressed within the report.

F Topliss replied that she would examine the Survey results to ascertain if any responses had been received from the farming community.

The Commissioner added that the farming community had not been separated out in the Survey from other residents in rural areas.

Councillor Wilkinson said that Doncaster Eastern Drainage Board had links with farmers in the Doncaster area and as such, could be contacted to help circulate future Surveys to obtain views from farmers in the Doncaster area.

The Commissioner acknowledged the suggestion.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 3rd February 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) Agreed that Action 11 (03-02-21) – Services for Victims of Crime: Progress Update be retained on the Action Log.
- iii) Agreed that Action 11 (20-07-20) – South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board – Probation Reform be discharged from the Action Log.

- iv) Noted that K Wright had agreed to examine the Stop and Search data to ascertain if details of the powers used, the ethnicity of the individuals and the success rates could be presented in future Quarterly Performance reports.
- v) Noted that a copy of the questions contained in the Rural Crime Survey for 2020 would be circulated to Panel Members.
- vi) Noted that F Topliss would analyse the Rural Crime Survey questions to ascertain if a specific question had been asked on wildlife crime.
- vii) Noted that F Topliss would obtain information from Superintendent Mark James on the number of wildlife crimes reported to the Force and individuals prosecuted, with an update provided to Panel Members.
- viii) Noted that F Topliss would obtain an update from the Force in relation to its implementation of the results from the Rural Crime Survey and circulate to Panel Members.
- ix) Noted that F Topliss had agreed to examine the Rural Crime Survey results to ascertain if responses had been received from the farming community.

9 **SOUTH YORKSHIRE VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT UPDATE**

The Commissioner introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the progress of the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU).

Members noted that South Yorkshire had been allocated further Home Office funding for the SYVRU for 2021-2022. The funding had been allocated to support the delivery of the VRU function, which the Home Office defines as being: 'to offer leadership and, working with all relevant agencies operating locally, to strategically coordinate the local response to serious violence'.

The VRU activity must support a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence.

Members were informed that the SYVRU was overseen by the Violence Reduction Executive Board chaired by the Commissioner.

An update on the VRU's mandatory products was presented within the report and noted by the Panel.

The report provided details of VRU interventions. It was noted that it was a Home Office requirement for at least 20% of the £1.6m funding grant to be spent on early intervention and prevention. The SYVRU was proud to report that over 50% of the grant was spent on this.

The report also provided details on the funding rounds supported by the SYVRU.

Councillor Garbutt asked if any research had been undertaken to ascertain which socio-economic sectors of society violent people came from. Furthermore, he asked if the SYVRU was addressing this.

The Commissioner replied that projects funded by the SYVRU were evaluated; some of the programmes were undertaken over a long period of time and thus, it would be some time before he could understand the effectiveness of some of the programmes.

The Commissioner said that he was also dependent upon research which had been undertaken in other parts of the country, or across the World, to understand which interventions are likely to be successful. Data was available in relation to the success of the Hospital Navigators project, which could be provided to Panel Members, if required.

M Buttery added that interventions were aimed at those assessed within the Area Profile. It was explained that, the first mandatory product which the SYVRU had to deliver on behalf of VRU partners was an Area Profile to understand problems in South Yorkshire.

Rather than gangs, guns and knife crime, the Area Profile had revealed that South Yorkshire's issues were routed to Domestic Abuse being the reason for the serious violence seen most prominently in the figures. The Response Strategy had been prepared on the basis of the Area Profile and targeted towards Perpetrator Programmes, interventions and education activities in schools to tackle the causes of crime.

In relation to performance, M Buttery added that, the SYVRU was still in its infancy and therefore, it was difficult to disaggregate which element of the joint response South Yorkshire Police had been responsible for in terms of reductions.

This year would be concentrated upon undertaking evaluation in; which Sheffield Hallam University would be engaged, together with learning from elsewhere within the country who had tried different approaches to understand which interventions were working.

Councillor Steinke commented that the work being undertaken by the SYVRU was excellent. He was of the opinion that, from a community perspective the SYVRU needed to market itself better with regards to its longer-term approach, but also demonstrate the value of the VRU's public health approach by highlighting its recent successes and individual anecdotal stories.

The Commissioner agreed that the SYVRU did need to show that it was having short term effects. The use of anecdotal stories could be very powerful. For the SYVRU to be successful during the longer term, there needed to be Government funding secured and guaranteed for the longer term.

Professor James said that he was somewhat disappointed to note that there was no specific SYVRU measures to deal with violence against women on the street, which, in his opinion should feature more explicitly.

The Commissioner said that he felt this statement was incorrect; funding had been used or via the SYVRU / OPCC on domestic abuse, and many of the victims were

women. The Force's response to domestic abuse was something which he was proud of. Furthermore, all officers were trained in recognising domestic abuse.

The Commissioner added that he would like to develop a Countywide Strategy with regard to violence against women and girls.

Professor James thanked the Commissioner and said that he would welcome the development of a Countywide Strategy.

Councillor Nevett asked how the operation of the SYVRU service would change in the next year when the country returned to normality following Covid-19.

The Commissioner commended all of the voluntary charitable bodies concerned with the work of the SYVRU, who had quickly re-thought how they delivered services remotely. Hopefully, all the projects funded by the SYVRU would return to face to face delivery, which he looked forward to.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

10 QUARTER 3 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 31 December 2020. A verbal update as at 31 January 2021 was also provided.

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 underspend of £1.228m as at 31 December 2020.

As at 31 December 2020, the projected year end outturn position was a £0.340m underspend on the Chief Constable's budget, net of external funding. As at 31 January 2021, the year-end outturn position was £1.56m, which was an increase on the December position. Further details were presented in the Chief Constable's budget monitoring paper, attached at Appendix A to the report.

Based on information as at 31 December 2020, the PCC and OPCC budget forecast year end position was an underspend of £527k. 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 31 December 2020 amounted to £6.3m, the current projection being £15.9m, generating a projected overspend £1.8m. As at 31 January 2021, there had been expenditure of £7.5m.

Paragraph 5 of the report provided a detailed update on Covid 19 expenditure. In summary, expenditure of £2.14m had been incurred to 31 December 2020, with expenditure of £0.91m being forecast to the end of the year.

Paragraph 7 of the report set out a number of risks and uncertainties in the reported financial position in addition to Covid 19 expenditure.

In response to a question from Councillor Nevett, S Abbott provided assurances that there would not be an overspend position as at 31 March 2021. Outturn figures were currently being calculated and final figures would be presented at the June Panel meeting.

A Carter commented that the benefits to the Panel in establishing the Budget Working Group had been immense. He paid tribute to S Abbott and the OPCC / Force Finance Teams for the detailed information presented to Members at the Budget Working Group.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

11 MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020)

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to present the Quarterly Report for the period October – December 2020 (Quarter 3, 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.

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 Garbutt asked how many arrests and prosecutions there had been in relation to the different categories of crime.

K Wright said that the Force did have internal reporting to state the outcomes for each different categories of crime. In addition, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published public data around outcomes. K Wright said that he intended to update the Performance Framework with outcomes data for a range of crimes, including burglary and all crime at a top level, which he could provide to Panel Members.

Councillor Otten queried why the Force had not concentrated their efforts on educating elderly people about Cyber Crime, who were often the most vulnerable to Cyber Scams.

K Wright replied that, during the quarter, the Force had concentrated its efforts towards educating younger people on Cyber Scams. During previous quarters, the Force would have targeted those individuals deemed vulnerable.

K Wright said that he would examine previous Quarterly reports and extract information on the Force's programme of activity to educate elderly and vulnerable people about Cyber Scams.

In addition, HMICFRS had recently undertaken a Fraud Inspection of the Force. When the final HMICFRS report was available, this would feed into the Quarterly report to the Panel.

Professor James referred to the 'Inspire to Change' – Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme. He said he was slightly disturbed to read that, when the services were put out to tender, no potential bidders had come forward, despite eleven parties showing interest. He asked why no potential bidders had come forward and was there any action the Commissioner could take to address this.

The Commissioner replied that he too shared Professor James' disappointment. However, this would be addressed and he was hopeful that there would be a much better response following the decision to go back out to tender. He hoped that the service would be back in place relatively quickly. It was noted that there was currently a gap in the service provided with individuals placed on a waiting list. Those individuals on the waiting list would be dealt with when the service was back in operation.

Councillor Garbutt asked if there had been any further meetings of the Independent Advisory Panel for Policing Protests, since December 2020.

M Buttery replied that, Panel meetings were arranged 'as and when required', rather than a frequent meeting cycle. The Force would often invite the Panel to examine current issues in relation to a forthcoming planned protest.

In addition, HMICFRS had recently produced a national report on Policing Protests. It was confirmed that South Yorkshire Police had not been inspected as part of the report.

HMICFRS had noted the use of the Commissioner's Independent Advisory Panel for Policing Protests as good practice and had urged other Force areas to consider establishing an Advisory Panel.

Assurances were provided that the Force had welcomed and embraced the Advisory Panel. Work was currently taking place to refresh the Panel's Terms of Reference. Further assurances were provided that, even though the Panel had not met this year, they were actively engaged and consulted in protest planning very recently.

Councillor Nevett referred to the 'Summary Dashboard'. He asked if an explanation could be provided in relation to the statistical significance of the percentage of vulnerable victims satisfied with initial contact with the Force and the measure in relation to the percentage of people saying that police do a good/excellent job.

K Wright replied that the statistical significance was very much dependent on the size of the cohort of the sample and the responses received to decide if this was significant or otherwise.

In relation to victim satisfaction, the results were obtained from the Force's internal Victim Satisfaction Survey, whereas the second measure in relation to treating people fairly was obtained from the Office for National Statistics Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Councillor Steinke said that the Summary Dashboard was excellent, but, due to it being a public document there needed to be a point of clarification added to the document in relation to statistical significance.

K Wright agreed to add a footnote to the Summary Dashboard to explain how the formulas are calculated.

Professor James asked if all the measures contained within the Summary Dashboard were routinely checked for statistical significance, or only some. He also asked if there was a particular rationale for which datasets were tested for statistical significance and which were not.

K Wright replied that the statistical significant datasets often related to survey type questions, where there was only a percentage of people out of the total cohort replying. Other trends were a basic trend to state whether the figures had increased or decreased.

Councillor Cherryholme referred to the 'Summary Dashboard'. She noted that there had been 13,360 Stop and Searches conducted in the 12 months to December 2019, whereas, in the 12 months to December 2020, there had been 19,859 Stop and Searches conducted. Councillor Cherryholme said this was a 30% rise during a lockdown period and queried why there had been such a big rise.

K Wright said there had been a focus across all forces to increase Stop and Searches around different operations, in particular VRU's had received funding to increase the use of Stop and Search.

Councillor Garbutt referred to Section 3 of the report entitled 'Treating People Fairly'. He suggested that an additional column be added to the table of 'Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity' to include the number of positive outcomes.

K Wright acknowledged the request and agreed to add the number of positive outcomes in future reports.

Councillor Nevett thanked K Wright for his comprehensive report.

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 K Wright had agreed to examine previous Quarterly reports and extract information on the Force's programme of activity to educate elderly and vulnerable people about Cyber Scams.
- iii) Noted that K Wright had agreed to include details in a future Quarterly report on the HMICFRS Fraud Inspection of South Yorkshire Police.
- iv) Noted that K Wright had agreed to add a footnote to the Summary Dashboard to explain how formulas are calculated.
- v) Noted that K Wright had agreed to add an additional column to the table of 'Stop and Searches broken down by ethnicity' to include the number of positive outcomes.

12 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING)

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities since the Panel's last meeting held on 3rd February 2021.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting, together with key headlines of activities undertaken during the period.

In addition to the updates provided within the report, M Buttery reported verbally that, the OPCC had commenced the recruitment process for a new Chief Constable, following the announcement that Chief Constable Stephen Watson had secured the appointment as Greater Manchester Police Force's Chief Constable with effect from 17 May 2021.

It was reported that Deputy Chief Constable Mark Roberts would also be leaving the Force on 23 April 2021 to take up the position as Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary.

Following interviews, current Assistant Chief Constable Lauren Poultney had been appointed as the Force's new Deputy Chief Constable and interim Chief Constable with effect from 24 April 2021.

The Chief Constable was currently considering whether the vacant Assistant Chief Constable post left by Lauren Poultney should be filled, or whether the remaining two Assistant Chief Constables could divide the portfolio between them temporarily until a new Chief Constable was appointed around July 2021, when the new Chief Constable would make a decision about the make-up of the Senior Command Team.

In relation to the Chief Constable recruitment process, the Panel was informed that the application pack had gone live on 16 April 2021.

A familiarisation event for perspective candidates would be held on 23 April 2021, hosted by the OPCC, participated in by South Yorkshire Police. A two day assessment process would be held on 20-21 May 2021.

A Panel Confirmation Hearing with the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Constable was scheduled for 11 June 2021.

Professor James asked if details of the timescales for the delivery of the IEP's work around disproportionality and inclusion could be provided. He also asked where the results of the review would be reported.

M Buttery said that she would ascertain the timescale for delivery of the work with E Redfearn and provide Members with an update after today's meeting.

It was confirmed that the results of the review would be discussed at the Independent Ethics Panel initially. The results would also be reported by exception at the Public Accountability Board.

The Commissioner agreed to provide a standalone report to a future Panel meeting.

Councillor Steinke asked for clarification around the Covid Victim Assurance work commissioned by the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), and whether this had been undertaken nationally or locally.

M Buttery confirmed that the Covid Victim Assurance work had been commissioned locally by Commissioner who chairs the LCJB on behalf of partners to understand the victims journey in the criminal justice system during the Covid pandemic and what they had experienced.

During the work, compliance with the Victims Code of Practice had also been examined. There was recognition within the report that, shortly, the LCJB would be asked to undertake a self-assessment against the Victims Code of Practice, which would inform the new Victims Law being championed by the Victims Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird. Further updates would be provided within future reports.

Councillor Grocutt said she was of the opinion that, there remained a number of unanswered questions in relation to the update on Her Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service's new Community Accommodation Service.

Councillor Grocutt asked how the service would work to reduce reoffending and how long individuals would be accommodated for. Furthermore, she asked what links were in place with local authorities for moving individuals into other accommodation and providing the necessary support. She also asked how the public would be reassured around accommodation provided to reoffenders.

M Buttery replied that it was very early in the process to answer Councillor Grocutt's specific questions. However, this was a regional approach via the Yorkshire and Humberside partnership which the Commissioner attends along with the LCJB Business Manager. As and when the Commissioner understands what

'day one' services will look like, a specification would be developed for the commissioning of the services in each area of the force's area involved in the Yorkshire and Humber region to meet their needs.

Three local delivery units as part of the Probation Reform were in the process of appointing leads who would need to work closely with OPCC and the partnership to develop the needs of the Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service. Assurances were provided that this work was not being undertaken in isolation, partners were being involved.

The Commissioner added that these questions were being raised at the LCJB.

Councillor Nevett said that the one-year funding settlement expected for 2021/22 was something which was being experienced on a regular basis. He asked if the Commissioner could write to the Minister to express concerns about a one-year settlement.

The Commissioner replied that year-on-year funding was not the most helpful. In relation to the Police Grant Settlement, it was reported that this had been interrupted by the announcement of a Comprehensive Spending Review which did not occur. It was anticipated that a three-year Comprehensive Spending Review settlement would take place.

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 would ascertain the timescale for delivery of the IEP's work with E Redfearn in relation to priorities surrounding disproportionality and inclusion and provide Members with an update after today's meeting.
- iii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to provide a standalone report to a future Panel meeting on the IEP's work in relation to priorities surrounding disproportionality and inclusion.

13 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 together with details of proposed future events were set out within the report for Members' information.

The Panel was requested to approve payment of £400 from the Home Office Grant for an annual subscription to Frontline Consulting Associates Limited to continue to access their services.

L Noble said that if there were any virtual, national or regional events that Members had received details of and felt would be helpful in their role, then the Panel's Grant could be considered to cover any costs.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to provide suggestions for future learning and development.
- iii) Approved payment of £400 from the Home Office Grant for an annual subscription to Frontline Consulting Associates Limited.

14 RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT (CO-OPTED) MEMBER

A report of the Panel's Support Officer was submitted to inform Members that, one of the Panel's two current Independent (co-opted) Members, Mr Alan Carter, had been a valued Independent Member of the Police and Crime Panel since 2013. His term of office would come to an end on 30th September 2021.

However, for health-related reasons, Mr Carter had given notice of his intention to step down from the role at the end of April 2021.

Members were informed that, for continuity, a recruitment process would need to commence as soon as possible, and the Panel was asked to delegate responsibility to the Chair and Vice-Chair for the entire recruitment and evaluation process – including appointment of a suitable candidate – to allow the successful applicant to attend Panel as soon as possible, even in an observer capacity before the end of July 2021.

Members would be kept informed by email and a verbal update to the Panel on 7th June 2021. It was hoped that, subject to a successful recruitment and interview process, the appointment could be formally ratified at the 19th July Panel meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel delegate responsibility to the Evaluation and Recruitment Panel (as set out in the report at paragraph 4) for the recruitment of an Independent (co-opted) Member to replace Mr Carter.

15 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2021/22 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 from L Noble or A Shirt.

Professor James noted that the Work Programme stated the Panel would receive 6-monthly update reports on Digital Policing / Use of Technology in Policing. He queried when the next report would be presented to the Panel.

In response, K Wright said that there was a slight delay in providing a report to the Panel, due to a new National Strategy which had recently been developed. Work was currently on-going and an update report would be provided to the Panel shortly.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2021/22 Work Programme.

16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Annual Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Monday 7th June 2021 2021 at 1:00 pm and Members will be notified of the arrangements for this meeting nearer the time.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Grocutt thanked Councillor Nevett for chairing Panel meetings over the last 2 years, which he had done with good grace and extremely well during the last 12 months where meetings had been held remotely, which had not been an easy task to undertake.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Grocutt thanked Councillor Nevett for his knowledge and for the support he had given to all Panel Members. Councillor Grocutt hoped that the Panel would continue to benefit from Councillor Nevett's skills and experience at future meetings.

Councillor Nevett thanked Councillor Grocutt for her kind words.

CHAIR

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Item 26

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

26 APRIL 2021

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

T/CFO C Kirby, T/DCFO T Carlin, S Booth, AMB S Dunker,
T/ACO S Nicholson and GM S Rowland
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, G Kirk, S Loach, M McCoole, L Noble and
I Rooth
(Barnsley MBC)

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

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor C Ransome, N Copley, M Potter, S Norman and
S Kelsey

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Damms commented that today would be the last Fire Authority meeting to be chaired by Councillor Taylor. Councillor Taylor had joined the Authority in 2018 and was appointed as Chair in 2019. He had brought with him a wealth of over 30 years' experience from working as a firefighter within SYFR, which had enabled him to be both operationally knowledgeable and a capable Chair, whilst being very fair to all Members. Members conveyed their thanks to Councillor Taylor for his chairmanship of the Authority.

Councillor Ayris echoed Councillor Damms' sentiments, and he wished Councillor Taylor well in his future endeavours.

In response, Councillor Taylor commented that he had enjoyed his role as Chair of the Authority, together with the interaction with the Members, Senior Management and officers within the Service. He referred to a number of challenges that the Authority had dealt with over the past 2 years, and he expressed his thanks to the Members for their assistance during his time as Chair, in particular during the past year whilst utilising the virtual meeting platforms. He also thanked the Members for the exemplary manner in which they had conducted themselves, and the intelligent scrutiny that had been developed through those meetings which had been invaluable.

On behalf of the Service, T/CFO Kirby expressed his thanks to Councillor Taylor for his stewardship and leadership as Chair of the Authority. He added that Councillor Taylor had steered the Service through a remarkable 12 month period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst offering the Service the required level of support and scrutiny.

Dr Billings, on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), expressed his thanks to Councillor Taylor for his chairmanship of the Authority and for the very positive manner in which he had conducted the relationship with the OPCC.

It was noted that the membership of the Authority would change following the upcoming local elections scheduled on 6 May 2021. Councillor Haith would be standing down from her role as Elected Member at the local elections. Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks to Councillor Haith, who had been a dedicated and committed Member of the Authority over the past 5 years, and for her exemplary work as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. On behalf of the Authority and the Service, Councillor Taylor expressed his sincere gratitude to Councillor Haith, and he wished her the very best for the future.

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 Haith expressed her thanks to GM Tottie for taking Members through the Doncaster priorities for the District Plan.

Councillors Frost and Cave had met with GM Fletcher on 23 March 2021 to discuss the Barnsley Station and District Plan, together with the work undertaken within the rural areas, anti-social behaviour fires, and the partnership working with BMBC and SYP in an attempt to alleviate the problems.

On 15 April 2021, Councillor Frost had attended the LGA Pension Board Awareness Session, where the main topic for discussion had been the McCloud and Sergeant Case, and the implications for South Yorkshire

Councillor Taylor expressed his thanks to GM Adams for the update provided on the Rotherham District Plan and for the opportunity to visit the refurbished Aston Park Fire Station, which he felt was another positive example of the Service's staff being involved in the decision making process. He considered that the workforce

development that had taken place over the last few years was extremely encouraging and he hoped this would continue.

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 22 FEBRUARY 2021

In relation to the discussion held at the last Authority meeting regarding the Service Improvement Update and the terms of reference of the retained duty system review for on-call firefighters, T/ACO Nicholson clarified that the tangible outcomes would be delivered at the end of the financial year 2022.

Councillor Ayris queried whether Members would be provided with periodic reports on the review of the retained duty system.

T/ACO Nicholson commented that the programme of works for the retained duty system would be undertaken over the next 12 month period. He suggested that updates, together with a deep dive analysis, could be undertaken at the Performance and Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Taylor agreed to the suggestion.

Councillor Haith queried whether the COVID-19 recovery workshop, which had been scheduled to be held in March 2021 had been delayed.

T/CFO Kirby commented that following a number of staff surveys, it had been deemed appropriate for this to be held as an internal staff workshop. Members had been provided with an update at the last Authority meeting held on 22 February 2021 and at the most recent Corporate Advisory Group (CAG) held on 19 April 2021. The Service would endeavour to involve Members in future sessions.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 22 February 2021 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.

At the recent CAG meeting held on 19 April 2021, Members had received a presentation on the roadmap to recovery and the internal staff workshop, which had

highlighted a number of areas within the workforce including the staff's keenness to get back to face-to-face delivery of services, in particular for those most vulnerable within society. In recognising the benefits of the daily engagement from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which had commenced from the start of the pandemic, staff had highlighted the need for continual engagement from the SLT going forward. Consideration had been given to the technological innovations and the benefits that could be achieved, together with a commitment from the SLT to consider how this could be utilised to deliver the Service in the future.

The Service had aligned their recover and response to the Government roadmap with the milestone dates of 12 April 2021, 17 May 2021 and 21 June 2021. Safety critical training had been delivered from the Service's Training and Development Centre throughout the pandemic.

The current rate of infection for Operational staff remained very low. The Head of Human Resources continued to report to SLT three times per week on the Service's rates of infection. The most recent report had indicated that there were no positive COVID-19 cases/individuals in self-isolation within the Service. This had been attributable to the willingness and discipline of staff, the control measures and the compliance framework that had been implemented. Emergency Response Managers worked closely with the Health and Safety Department, which included a number of inspections and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure COVID-19 compliance.

From 12 April 2021, Community Safety within Emergency Response had resumed, and the Community Safety Department had started to undertake more face-to-face home visits with the necessary risk assessments and safeguards in place. SYFR managers and representative bodies had been fully engaged and meetings had been held on a weekly basis regarding the roadmap to recovery. The feedback from the representative bodies had been very productive and pragmatic.

Members noted the current firefighter recruits course, which was COVID-19 compliant. The Service had maintained a positive staffing picture within Emergency Response, all appliances had been made available throughout the pandemic and the Control Room had not been impacted upon.

Over the last 12 month period, the Service had undertaken a range of activities which had included the wholetime recruitment and selection process, three firefighter recruits courses, gateway development sessions, processes for Station Managers, Crew Managers and Watch Manager, safety critical training and St John Ambulance training sessions to provide the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Councillor Taylor commented that it was very encouraging to observe the take up and the continued interest of the volunteers for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. He expressed his thanks to the Service for everything that had been undertaken during the pandemic.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 INTERIM PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND TARGETS FOR 2021/22

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive/Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which set out the interim Performance Management Framework for 2021/22 and provided details of the tolerances or targets that had been set. The first phase of an in-depth review had been undertaken during 2020/21, with the second phase to take place during 2021/22 which would concentrate on the Supporting/Diagnostic Level Performance Measures that sat below the Corporate Level Measures.

T/ACO Nicholson gave thanks to the Members for their input provided at the previous CAG and Performance and Scrutiny Board meetings, which had enabled the refinement of the Corporate Level indicators. In particular, he gave thanks on behalf of the Business Intelligence Team and himself to Councillors Cave and Buckley who continued to form part of the Task and Finish Group and provided a helpful interrogation and scrutiny.

Councillor Ayris said he had encountered problems in viewing reports within the Power-Bi reporting tool.

T/ACO Nicholson would ensure that J Patrick liaised with Councillor Ayris on the matter.

Councillor Taylor requested that all Members received communication regarding how the Power-Bi issues had been resolved.

In relation to staff satisfaction that was measured through the Pulse Survey, Councillor Haith queried the measures that were being taken to encourage staff participation. In relation to LPI 4.6 'Firefighter cost per person per year', she queried whether there was formula which was adhered to throughout the country.

T/ACO Nicholson reported that staff participation in the Pulse Survey was improving. Further engagement and encouragement for staff to complete the survey had been issued by the Corporate Communications Team. The level of staff engagement would be considered by the HMICFRS. In relation to LPI 4.6, it was noted that there was no standard approach for the cost formula. Whilst the Home Office was interested in that metric, conversations were ongoing to provide a standard formula.

The Director of Support Services referred to the discussions held some 18 months ago, regarding the involvement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to ascertain how they could work more closely with the HMICFRS to define metrics and ensure the consistency of definition. He suggested that GM Rowland clarified the position with the HMICFRS lead, with a view to providing Members with an update at a future Authority meeting.

T/CFO Kirby referred to the evidence received from the staff which had indicated that participation in long surveys had reduced. Therefore the Pulse Surveys had been introduced, which required the completion of 2/3 questions and was issued on a more frequent basis. The position would continue to be reviewed. In relation to

LPI 4.6, HMICFRS had reviewed the benchmarking around the average cost of Council Tax Band D payer for their respective fire and rescue service. Across the fire and rescue services, SYFR was generally recognised as being one of the lower cost fire and rescue services.

Dr Billings queried whether a date had been scheduled for the second phase of the review. In relation to LPI 1.5 'Home Safety Checks (HSCs) Completed', he queried whether any information was available regarding the impact of the HSC, in particular to prevention. He also queried in relation to LPI 1.14 'Percentage of High Risk Premises audited out of the number scheduled for inspection' and the formula that had been applied to reach the target of 90 High Risk Premises to be inspected.

Members noted that a date had not yet been scheduled for the second phase of the review. The sub-diagnostic levels were being led by the Business Intelligence Team around the formulation of the new measures and how this could be measured through Power-Bi. It was anticipated that an actual date for completion would be known during the first quarter of 2021/22.

AM Dunker commented that the indirect measure of HSCs was the number of accidental dwelling fires. Firefighters would record whether any smoke detection mechanisms had been activated and whether this had alerted the occupant to the incident. Performance work would also be undertaken to contact the occupant after the HSC, to ascertain their satisfaction of the visit and their retention of the education information that had been provided during the HSC. This was linked in with the work of the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) which was closely linked with the new fire standards regarding the quality assurance of HSCs. In relation to LPI 1.14 'Percentage of High Risk Premises audited out of the number scheduled for inspection', it was noted that this was an ever changing position due to the development within SYFR and nationally. It was a sector wide problem to establish accurate data for high risk buildings. SYFR frequently reviewed the position and worked with local authority partners. Members noted that the LPI 1.4 demonstrated the percentage of time that the team gave to high risk buildings.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Endorsed the contents of the report.
- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented within the report.
- iii) Noted that the future format and delivery of the reports would be considered in consultation with Members.

12 SERVICE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an update on progress against the actions on the Service Improvement Plan and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection activity. Actions relating to SYFR's HMICFRS Inspection Report, Grenfell Tower Inquiry, State of Fire and Rescue Report, areas for improvement in relation to COVID-19 response and recovery, and the four recently

published Fire Standards were all included within the Service Improvement Plan. The Service Improvement Board continued to meeting on a monthly basis, to drive continuous and sustainable improvement across the Service.

In relation to the State of Fire and Rescue Report, Councillor Haith queried whether the Service was behind schedule on the recruitment/attracting women and BAME. She queried, through the HMICFRS reports, whether there were other fire and rescue services that had performed better in this area than SYFR.

GM Rowland referred to the high volume of work undertaken to increase the recruitment within the BAME community and females, together with the retention of female firefighters. Contact had been made with other fire and rescue services to establish best practice. SYFR was slightly behind schedule due to recruitment issues that had been encountered during the pandemic. It had not yet been possible to monitor the measures that had been implemented, and the success of those measures would not be known until the next round of recruitment.

Councillor Frost sought further information regarding the reference from the State of the Fire and Rescue Report that 'crews should be doing checks to make sure the Service has current information on the buildings in the area that present heightened risks' for the Point Block inspections and Operational Risk Inspections (ORI's).

Members noted that crews currently undertook Point Block inspections, which reviewed the installations and were generally found within high rise buildings, and ORI's which focused on the layout, hazards and risks within the buildings. A process was in place, and training had been provided to the crews. As a result of the pandemic, it had not been possible to undertake such inspections, although it was anticipated the Service would re-commence these inspections imminently.

Councillor Ayris queried whether it was still the intention to undertake one inspection per premise.

GM Rowland confirmed that one inspection per premise would be undertaken, rather than visiting the same premise twice.

In relation to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFI): The Service should ensure it has effective arrangements for providing specialist protection advice out of hours, Councillor Richards queried the duration of the pilot, and how it would be evaluated. She queried whether the LGA or NFCC had undertaken work to ascertain best practice for the recruitment of the BAME community and females, and if not, whether the Service could request them to do so.

T/CFO Kirby commented that there was one female firefighter on the current trainee course, with a total of 11 firefighters expected to complete; one male trainee had dropped out of the course due to the physical aspects of the role. SYFR was heavily involved in the national campaigning of work regarding recruitment and retention of females within the fire and rescue service, in conjunction with the HMICFRS and NFCC, to establish better ways to engage with under-represented communities. The Service also engaged with the Asian Fire Services Association regarding other under-represented groups. The Service would continue to strive to

improve the diversity of its staff network to become more representative of the communities that it served.

Members noted that the out of hours policy was currently out for consultation, and the Prevention and Protection Team had been consulted in relation to volunteering for the out of hours project. There were over 10 volunteers for the out of hours project, and the trial was due to commence on 10 May 2021. The full term of the pilot would be run over a 12 month period. The team would collate feedback on a monthly basis, with a view to capturing any learning to be fed into ongoing training for the Emergency Response staff. Feedback would initially be provided to the Stakeholder Planning Board after a 3 month period, with a final report to be presented to the Authority in 12 months' time.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and provided further scrutiny and support to enable continual service improvement.

13 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was presented regarding the implementation of the Workforce Investment Plan.

In 2020, a new Workforce Planning policy and process had been introduced into the Service, which included an annual planning cycle and a three to five year projection of resourcing requirements. All function heads were invited to present a business case for additional resources to the workforce planning event which was held in June/July each year. At the Authority meeting held in November 2020, the Authority had approved all of the business cases.

Members were provided with an update on the progress in implementing the plans and on the further investment through the Service Improvement budget. The Service Improvement Board had approved the funding for a Training Co-ordinator role on a part-time, fixed term (2 year) contract, and an appointment had been made. Within the Operational Support Team, which had been rebranded as the Firefighter Safety Team, recruitment had now been completed for all of the vacant posts and staff induction was underway.

Dr Billings had to leave the meeting, but he had provided a series of questions that would be submitted to the Service for a written response.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress in the implementation of the Service's Workforce Investment Plan to support the Service's strategic objectives and Service Improvement Plan.

14 BUILDING RISK REVIEW UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted which provided an update on the building risk review. Following the Grenfell tragedy, all fire and rescue services had been tasked with undertaking fire safety inspections of all high-rise residential buildings, with support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the NFCC. The Service had established

a specific project group to undertake the inspections in all high rise residential buildings, within the scope of the project.

Councillor Price referred to a report that had been presented to the recent Stakeholder Planning Board meeting regarding the Wicker Riverside development. He expressed concern that the developers were able to select an inspector from a national list, rather than from their respective local authorities.

AM Dunker confirmed that a building contractor could select an inspector from an approved list of registered building inspectors; this would be addressed through legislative changes in due course. The Service continued to work with the local authority regarding the Wicker Riverside development and looked forward to working with the Building Safety Regulator later in the year.

Councillor Richards expressed her thanks for the continuing work. Within her Ward of Manor Castle, there was a high rise block of student accommodation, together with other high rise buildings. She considered that all Elected Members were very mindful of the risk of high rise buildings.

RESOLVED – That Members received the report as an update of the ongoing work associated with the Building Risk Review Project.

15 FIRE STANDARDS REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which provided an update on Fire Standards Board activity, the recently published standards and further standards that were due to be published later this year. The report also detailed the impact that the published standards would have on the Service. The first meeting of the Fire Standards Board had been held in February 2019, and their first standards had been published on 17 February 2021. The Service had been involved in the Fire Standards for Fire Protection and Prevention consultations, which had closed on 9 April 2021. It was hoped that the results of the consultation would be published in Autumn 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and provided further scrutiny and support to enable service improvement.

16 STATE OF FIRE AND RESCUE REPORT 2020

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an overview of the annual, national report following the publication of the State of Fire and Rescue Report 2020 by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services, Sir Thomas Winsor on 17 March 2021. The State of Fire and Rescue report had included a summary of the inspection findings for the 45 fire and rescue services in England that had been inspected during 2020.

T/CFO Kirby commented that in terms of moving forward, the Service anticipated that there would be specific focus around risk and diversity, together with an element of critical feedback in terms of the workforce profile around diversity, and they would need to demonstrate the hard work undertaken internally to make improvements. He would ensure that improvements were made in that area, whilst

continuing to develop awareness both internally to become more inclusive and accepting of the different cultures and backgrounds to improve the services provided to the communities served, and also promote the Service as an employer of choice.

Councillor Richards requested further information on the new HMI Chief Inspector, Andrew Cooke.

T/CFO Kirby would provide Members with information on the new HMI Chief Inspector, following the general introduction meeting that was scheduled to be held later today.

Councillor Hogarth queried the Service's position in relation to the driver and incident commander training. He also queried whether there was a refresher course that would be undertaken every 3 years, and whether training would be undertaken prior to becoming an incident commander.

T/CFO Kirby made reference to the Fire Standards report which had highlighted that one of the first issues of national fire standards related to emergency response driver training. The Service was currently undertaking a gap analysis, but was of the view that the current driver training programme was suitable and sufficient for its needs. The Service would give consideration to resources, following the national changes in terms of demands for fire and rescue services. It took very seriously its responsibility to ensure the training of drivers for both fire appliances and other vehicles, and complied with the national arrangements for incident command training. An assessment would be undertaken prior to promotion to become an incident commander. In relation to the driver training, there would be re-validation period.

T/ACO Nicholson commented that at the start of the pandemic, there had been concern that it would not be possible to maintain the safety critical training. However this had not been the case. The Training and Development Centre had continued to operate, all safety critical training had been undertaken and everyone had been kept 'in ticket' for both incident command and driving.

Councillor Taylor commented that the State of Fire and Rescue Report 2020 was overwhelmingly positive and constructive, with the exception of the governance issue. He hoped that future reports would be positive moving forwards.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and approved further actions to enable Service improvement.

17 SERVICE DISTRICT AND STATION PLANS - PRESENTATION

T/ACO Nicholson provided Members with a presentation on the Service District and Station Plans. T/CFO Kirby was keen to ensure links between the strategic documents throughout the organisation to the districts and stations, and also with the IRMP and Annual Plan. The District Plans would be monitored and linked to the new governance and meeting structure. Some of the metrics within the performance framework would be monitored by Power-Bi. T/ACO Nicholson was pleased to observe that the District Commanders had met with Members to discuss

the District Plans, and the offer remained in place if Members required clarity on their specific District Plan.

Councillor Richards considered that it would be very useful, post the local elections scheduled on 6 May 2021, for every Elected Member within the four district councils to be provided with the District Plans in order to provide an explanation of the duties undertaken by the Service, together with the details of the local District Commanders to make individuals aware of who to contact in the event of any fire related issues.

T/ACO Nicholson confirmed that the information would be provided to every Elected Member within the four district councils. It was critical that the links were enhanced between the District Commanders and the Elected Members; he gave the commitment to build on those relationships.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

18 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION BOARD MINUTES OF
23 FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the minutes of the Police and Fire Collaboration Board held on 23 February 2021.

19 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD
HELD ON 25 MARCH 2021

Members were presented with the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 25 March 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 25 March 2021.

20 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON
15 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 15 March 2021.

21 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE APPEALS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON
12 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Appeals and Standards Committee held on 12 March 2021.

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	<p><u>Update 01-03-21</u></p> <p>Cllrs Buckley and Cave continue to be consulted as part of the Task and Finish Group.</p> <p><u>Update 28-04-21</u></p> <p>Over the last twelve months information and progress had been provided to Members through CAG, the Performance and Scrutiny Board and to the full Fire Authority meetings for example in February and April 2021.</p> <p>Over the next twelve months regular task and finish meetings were planned which would include Members. The last twelve months had seen Cllrs Buckley and Cave attend and subject to the local elections, they had both indicated a willingness to assist in the future. The Service guided by the Authority, suggested further deep dives of the performance management framework could take place at future Performance and Scrutiny Board meetings.</p>
2	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.	FRA 21-06-21 (Ordinary Meeting)	M McCarthy	

3	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.	To be reported annually	S Booth and D Nichols	<p><u>Update 27-04-21</u></p> <p>The Service will review the reporting arrangements at the next opportunity when Procurement reports into the FRA to clarify how savings are being reported.</p> <p>ITEM DISCHARGED</p>
4	To provide the A&G Committee Members with the job description and person specification for the postholder to be recruited to deal with the additional workload in relation to the Sargeant Immediate Detriment.	ASAP	S Slater	<p><u>Update 02-03-21</u></p> <p>The job description/ person specification has been drafted, and was currently being reviewed by the SYFR HR/Finance Group. Once agreed, it would be job evaluated for the grade and presented to SLT for agreement to recruit.</p>
5	To invite Members to the COVID recovery workshop scheduled to be held in March 2021.	ASAP	DCFO Kirby	<p><u>Update 26-04-21</u></p> <p>Noted the update that the Workshop was held in March 2021, but it was deemed appropriate for it to be an officer workshop.</p> <p>Members were provided with an update at the last FRA (22-02-21) and at the most recent CAG (19-04-21).</p> <p>ACTION DISCHARGED</p>

6	To determine the exceptions and benefits of the corporate level strategy measures to be reported to the Authority on a quarterly basis, whilst being mindful of any duplications.	ASAP	AM Nicholson	<p><u>Update 01-03-21</u> Members to be reminded that 'real-time' performance can be accessed via the Power-Bi system.</p> <p>Written reports will continue to be received (quarterly) by P&S Board with a more detailed annual report to the FRA.</p> <p>A road map will be developed by the Business Intelligence Team which will include the embedding process of Power-BI, the corporate reporting framework and reporting frequency. This will be delivered to the task and finish group which includes Councillor Cave and Councillor Buckley for approval.</p> <p><u>Update 26-04-21</u></p> <p>Report presented to the FRA on 26-04-21. Quarterly Corporate Reports would be presented to the Performance and Scrutiny Board, with an annual report to the full Fire Authority.</p> <p>ACTION DISCHARGED</p>
7	To provide Members with the new anticipated completion date of the Barnsley Fire Station.	Progress Report on Estates and Facilities Service Improvements to the FRA 13-09-21	N Luhrs	<p><u>Update 27-04-21</u></p> <p>27-07-21 was the latest date for completion of the operational fire station (phase1). Phase 2 the Multi use building and phase 3 Adaptations to the</p>

				Drill Tower would be undertaken once the fire station works were complete. These proposed works were included in the latest capital programme approved by Members in Feb 2021.
8	The programme of works for the retained duty system would be undertaken over the next 12 month period. Updates and deep dive analysis would be undertaken at the Performance and Scrutiny Board.	Future P&S Board meeting	T/ACO S Nicholson L Noble	<u>Update 30-04-21</u> The timescales for consideration of this issue will be discussed at the P&S Board pre-agenda meeting to be held on 22 nd June 2021.
9	To liaise with Cllr Ayris regarding the problems encountered with Power-Bi. All Members to receive communication regarding how the issues had been resolved.	ASAP	J Patrick	<u>Update 07-05-21</u> All FRA Members were provided with the communication. ACTION DISCHARGED
10	In relation to LPI 4.6 'Firefighter cost per person per year', to ascertain with the HMI lead regarding the metrics to ensure the consistency of definition. To provide Members with an update at a future FRA.	Future FRA	GM Rowland	
11	Feedback on the out of hours trial to be provided to the Stakeholder Planning Board after a 3 month period, with a final report to be presented to the	Stakeholder Planning Board on 21-07-21 FRA on 11-04-22	AM Dunker	

	Authority in 12 months' time.			
12	A response to be provided to Dr Billings on his series of written questions in relation to the Workforce Investment Plan.	ASAP	T/CFO Kirby	<u>Update 06-05-21</u> Dr Billings was provided with a response to his questions. All FRA Members were provided with the response. ACTION DISCHARGED
13	To provide Members with information on the new HMI Chief Inspector Andrew Cooke	ASAP	T/CFO Kirby	<u>Update 26-04-21</u> Members were provided with the information. ACTION DISCHARGED
14	To provide every Elected Member within the four district councils, (post the local elections) with the SYFR District Plans and details of their respective District Commander.	Post 06-05-21	T/ACO Nicholson	

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>