

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 29 July 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	The Assembly Room - The Civic

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

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

54. Mayor's Comments

The Mayor, Councillor Makinson, welcomed everyone to this the third Face to Face meeting of the Council following the Covid 19 pandemic.

Before commencing the agenda, she was sure that everyone would want to join her in taking the opportunity to congratulate the England Football Team on their fantastic achievement in getting to the Euros Final a few weeks ago; especially to Barnsley's own John Stones for his huge contribution during the tournament. The Team hadn't brought home the trophy, but they had certainly done everyone proud.

After all the excitement of the tournament she was, therefore, sickened to learn of the unacceptable racist posts aimed at a few members of the Team. She would like to give praise to the whole of the England squad for showing fantastic support to their team mates over the past few weeks to denounce these acts of abuse by the racists who thought it was acceptable to post these comments.

Only last week, she had been contacted by Councillor Greenhough asking if today's Council meeting would demonstrate solidarity by taking the knee. She thanked Councillor Greenhough for his questions and wanting to raise awareness and demonstrate the Council's stance on stopping racist abuse in Barnsley. Given that the meeting was being held in the Civic, and many Members were on banked seating with little floor space, she felt it would be near on impossible to take the knee without it being a serious health and safety issue.

The Mayor did, however, think that now was an opportune time to raise awareness and highlight some of the work that the Council was doing here in Barnsley.

Last week saw the launch of a campaign to highlight 'No Place for Hate in Barnsley'. This had been circulated on social media platforms and the Council's website, so she asked Members to keep an eye out for it.

This was just the start of what would be a longer-term piece of work with the Barnsley Safer Partnership Community Tolerance and Respect Sub-Group to focus on all types of hate and abuse.

The Council had also implemented internal measures to make sure that its own social media channels had a strong stance on stopping abuse online. Members could read more about this in a report that had been submitted to Cabinet on the 14th July, 2021.

'No Place for Hate in Barnsley' wasn't just a Council campaign. To really make a difference, everyone needed to show a united stance against hate and abuse in the borough. The Council was encouraging people to champion the campaign and to maximise every opportunity to get this message across and asking them to be part of this positive change in Barnsley by pledging their support. The Mayor would ensure that further details were sent to all Members after the meeting on how they could pledge their support.

Councillor Greenhough stated that he had corresponded with the Mayor this week and he thanked her for her time. He felt that this was a very important issue that everyone should be concerned about.

He commented on the great achievement of the England Football Team in reaching the Euro Finals. This young team had done everyone proud with Yorkshire being well represented. They had achieved more than most people had expected and did it with dignity. It was hard to understand any criticism of the Team, but they had been criticised and, worse still, some were racially abused. He hoped that everyone in the room this morning would have thought that this type of vile behaviour was in the past. Racism appeared to have been given a new lease of life through social media and anyone in the public eye could be abused.

Some of the young men received a mountain of abuse during and after the Euros yet they still 'took the knee' in silence to show that they would not bow down to this disgraceful behaviour. This was a time when everyone needed to take this same stance against racism. From Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics to the young men and women on the football pitch, they were calling everyone to consign racism to the history books. Today, he would answer that call by taking the knee.

Councillor Kitching thanked the Mayor for giving Members the opportunity of raising this issue at the beginning of the meeting. As all Members could tell, this was something about which Councillor Greenhough was truly passionate.

This racist abuse and other forms of hate speech and social media abuse happened every day but the recent Euro contest, with football being so high profile, had brought this to the fore and it was, therefore, right that Members raised the issue here today. She wanted to confirm that the Mayor, the Leader and the Council as a whole had the Liberal Democrat Group full and unequivocal support for the 'No Place for Hate' campaign and they were particularly supportive of expanding this campaign to include all forms of abuse, hatred and marginalisation that the residents of Barnsley continued to suffer.

It was sometimes easy to think that these kinds of issues did not happen locally but they did. An example of this here in Barnsley was the mosque whose members did not feel able to advertise their presence and who deliberately went out of their way to not draw attention to the building. This was because in the past they had suffered vandalism and worshipers had been verbally abused on their way in and out of the building. This was particularly sad as she felt that anyone of any faith attending their place of worship should be able to do so proudly and publicly without the risk of abuse.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) stated that he fully supported the 'No Place for Hate Campaign'. This was not only about racism but was about all forms of prejudice and hate that people had to suffer. He also supported those who took the knee but equally he supported those who didn't and who wanted to fight prejudice and hate in other ways.

It was sad that these issues were still having to be discussed 20-30 years from when they were first raised and were tired to be tackled. There were many ways to tackle racism and there were people in this room who had been doing this for many years and sadly some had paid the price for that because they had fronted it up face to face. One of his colleagues who was ill and not able to be here today had been put into hospital because he fought the racists in the street. It was sad that this was continuing, and people should not be living in a world that did this.

A lot had already been said on this subject, but he wanted to just make two key points. Firstly, there were some who would say they were not plying hate but who set the ground for those who did. They did this by questioning the organisations honesty, integrity and motivation. They questioned in public other people and Members of this Council (in some instances), honesty, integrity and motivation and that allowed those who wanted to ply hate to flourish. There was, therefore, a responsibility for people to stop doing that as well as tackling acute racism at the same time.

The second point, which was probably more difficult, was that racism would not be defeated unless the divisions in society were tackled. While ever there were communities set against each other, wherever there were massive differences in economic and social wellbeing, it would create a breeding ground for racism to occur. What needed to occur was to settle, challenge and resolve those divisions. Communities needed to find a common cause. Working class people, working people or all colours, denominations, gender, sexuality, whatever it might be needed to come together to make a better life for everyone. If someone thought another person was getting better than the other, that was when the racists and those with other prejudices moved in and tried to exploit the situation.

Racism must be tackled in its acutest form and it must be challenged every single day it was heard and seen. However, the underlying causes had to be addressed too because if it wasn't, the same debate and an attempt to resolve the same issues would be occurring in 20 years' time. It was important to work together to build a future for everyone. This was the real way to tackle racism as well as fronting it up fac to fac or individually or on social media or elsewhere.

55. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Hunt declared a non-pecuniary interest in view of the fact that he had an accountancy practice and worked with clients with small businesses which might be relevant to discussed taking place later in the meeting.

Councillor J Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 82 and 83 'Minutes of the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board' in view of his employment for Mr D Jarvis MP who was also the Sheffield City Region Mayor.

56. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May, 2021 and the Ordinary meeting held on the 27th May, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

57. Communications

(a) Glassworks

The Chief Executive reported that the Glassworks had won the prestigious 'Regeneration' award at the Planning Awards 2021 last month. The Planning Awards were one of the most coveted awards within the property industry and rewarded excellence in professional planning, placemaking, urban design and economic development.

A diverse panel of 20 judges said that the Glassworks was 'a great example of how strategic development and targeted investment could play a huge part in revitalising a local economy'.

The Glassworks, which had already seen Barnsley Markets, Market Kitchen and Library @ The Lightbox open, would be complete later this year. Led by Barnsley council alongside their Development Partner, Queensberry, the scheme was significantly enhancing the town centre's retail and leisure offer, as well as creating high quality new community spaces.

The Chief Executive extended her best wishes and congratulations to the whole team in this remarkable achievement. Some members of the Team were present in the meeting this morning.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) was extremely pleased to be here today and learn of the success in achieving this award as he had been present when the Glassworks was first mooted. Everyone knew that this project had taken longer than anticipated but it was great that this scheme was now coming to fruition. This scheme had been through huge iteration in the public mind and questions had been asked as to what the Council was doing and why and, of course, there had inevitably been scepticism that it would never happen.

This was one of the biggest, if not the biggest, logistical exercises the town had ever been through as the town had had to be kept functioning at the same time as the works were being undertaken. That in itself had been a huge achievement. There had been a lot of discontent about the building works but slowly and surely, public attitudes were changing and now that they could see the end product was not too far away, it was amazing what comments people had made even from the workmen on site, many of whom were Barnsley residents. Indeed, some of them had built the previous scheme over 40 years ago. The works had been successful in allowing apprenticeships to be established for local people as well as providing work for other businesses via the supply chain.

It was great that the scheme was coming to a conclusion, however, the work did not stop there as there were other areas within the town centre that needed support.

He concluded by thanking the Team and all involved for all the work they had done in achieving this award as this had not been easy as the Council had coped with the financial crisis and the Covid pandemic. The scheme not only looked and felt great but would also have a massive impact on the town centre economy and beyond. He also extended thanks to all Members who had been on this incredible journey.

Councillor Markham thanked everyone involved in this fantastic achievement. She commented that she had the great privilege, whilst Mayor of the Borough, in officially opening The Library @ The Lightbox and the Market Kitchen. She was incredibly proud of the fact that the Glassworks development had enabled Barnsley to retain its market town heritage. She thanked everyone on the Council who supported it, the market stall holders who had put up with the disruption during the building works, the workmen and staff who had enabled the scheme to be delivered.

The comments made were also echoed by several other members including Councillors Wraith, Greenhough, Platts (Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities) and D Higginbottom.

Councillor Stowe in expressing his thanks and congratulations also made reference to the successful redevelopment of the Library into a first-class facility particularly in view of the concerns previously expressed by some at the loss of the previous library which he felt was not fit for purpose. He was delighted to see the vision coming to fruition

Councillor Kitching in echoing the comments made expressed her concern at the reliance of retail in the new scheme particularly in a changing retail environment. However, she stated that whilst she obviously preferred Penistone there were now, nevertheless, good reasons to come into Barnsley for leisure and for food and drink. It was wonderful to see the improvements made and she looked forward to further developments.

The Mayor in expressing her own congratulations to all involved commented on the recent Fun Day a couple of weeks ago when she had the pleasure of being in the town centre along with her husband in seeing the actual buzz on a Saturday morning with everyone enjoying being out and about, the activities on offer and people spending money locally. She understood that the market traders were on a high and couldn't wait for the remainder of the scheme to be completed as they knew it would bring in people from outside of Barnsley. She was really looking forward to the future developments in the year ahead.

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

(b) Barnsley Museums

The Chief Executive was delighted to inform Members that Barnsley Museums had recently received two national awards

- They had been voted highly commended in the Museums and Heritage Awards 2021 in the 'Best use of Digital' category alongside the National Gallery of Scotland with the National Portrait Gallery being the overall winner

Their outstanding work in delivering a creative and engaging digital programme helped people connect with Barnsley's history, collections and stories during the pandemic and enabled them to be recognised alongside National Museums

- They had also won the Association for Industry Archaeology (AIA) Community Engagement Award. The judges had been particularly impressed by the Team's commitment to finding out what local people wanted from the project at Elsecar and for involving those aged 14 to 25 from the area
- As well as this they had been shortlisted for an Association for Heritage Interpretation Community Engagement Award for the 'Allegories of the Senses' exhibition which was co-curated with people with Autism
- The Service had also been awarded a grant of £95,000 from the Arts Council for an exhibition at the Cooper Gallery and the borough wide arts programme based on the children's character 'Elmer the Elephant'

Praise should go to the whole service for the concerted efforts to deliver excellent award-winning services and adapting services despite challenging circumstances and to the following people for their role in securing these awards:

Sue Thiedeman, Lyn Dunning, John Tanner, Tegwen Roberts, Devinia Skirrow, Michael Hardy, Sam Goose, Ailsa Robinson, Alison Cooper and Gaby Lees, and from the Barnsley Museums Heritage Trust, Cath Longley.

(c) Art Fund Museum of the year Finalist

The Chief Executive was pleased to inform Members that Experience Barnsley was one of five finalists in the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year Awards. This was a UK wide award but was the biggest museum prize in the world.

The winner of the prize would be announced on the 21st or 23rd September, 2021 at a live awards ceremony to be featured by the BBC. The winner would receive a prize of £100,000 and the four remaining finalists would receive £15,000 each.

This recognition would rise the profile of Barnsley and the thousands of people who had donated, shared memories, visited and made the museum such a wonderful place to visit and all could be very proud.

The whole Team had worked with dedication and passion to deliver excellent results for Barnsley and its communities and they all deserved thanks and congratulations on this fantastic achievement.

The Mayor commented that these were remarkable achievements particularly in the light of the difficulties of the last 18 months. What the service had done to engage with communities was outstanding and she expressed her congratulations to all involved.

Councillor Osborne commented that in 2014 he had run a community event in Middlecliffe to commemorate the miners who came out of Great Houghton Colliery to fight in the first World War. From the beginning of this project he had worked with the Barnsley Museums Service and members of staff came along on the day to collect all records and aural history from the community. The Museums Service wasn't about stuff that was behind a glass case, it was about people's history. The Service had gone out of their way to make themselves a people's museum. He had been into the Museum on his way to this meeting and the exhibitions were amazing but, at the same time worrying as he was now seeing things on display that he used to handle. He expressed his congratulations to all involved and encouraged them to keep up the good work. This was a people's museum for Barnsley.

Councillor Richardson commented that this was a Museum to be proud of and it had 'followers online' across the world. Staff had worked hard to maintain the standards, activity and interest throughout the lockdown. He was also a Trustee of Cooper Gallery and it was pleasing to note that displays were changed regularly. The Service was something to be proud of and he wanted to thank all staff who were involved. He had also been involved with the Archives Service for a number of years. The Service was not the biggest in the country, but it was certainly the best.

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) expressed his thanks and congratulations to all who had been involved in what had been a very long and hard road during the Covid pandemic. Working alongside Councillor Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Regeneration and Culture), he heard a lot of the detail behind developments, the struggles, the elation at

successes and the tears and frustration when things did not go as planned. He was aware of the tremendous work that took place in order to gain the success and achievement in being given these awards. To be a finalist alongside two national galleries was absolutely stunning and also to be an Art Fund Museum of the Year Finalist as well was outstanding and beyond the wildest dreams. However, the Council was beginning to expect such successes as it was so good in all that it did.

He remembered the Council's plans for the Town Hall and the scepticism that had been forthcoming from some, but it was now pleasing to be able to say that the investments were worthwhile and appropriate. The vision for Barnsley had been right and the success of the Service in these awards and nominations proved it.

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities, added her thanks and congratulations at the achievements. To be in the top five in the Art Fund Museum of the year awards as an outstanding achievement.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, commented that a few years ago he had been privileged to go to 10 Downing Street for an awards ceremony for something that the Council had won. Whilst he was there, he had been introduced to the Leader of a major County Council who had expressed a less than favourable view of the town which sadly still persisted in some areas even today. He had then expressed his displeasure at such comments.

Councillor Houghton stated that he was proud to be Leader of this Council and to be the Leader of Barnsley. He was proud to have been born here and to come into the town every day of the week. One of the things that the people of Barnsley were proud about was their history. The establishment of Experience Barnsley had not been his idea but had been that of Councillor Hayward who unfortunately was unable to be present today. Councillor Hayward had led the initiative together with a group of likeminded people from the community and this had led to the establishment of Experience Barnsley which was something to be proud of. It was a fantastic facility and was a good reason to come into the town even if people went nowhere else.

What Experience Barnsley had done was to enable the Council and the people of Barnsley to celebrate and recognise the past but it also allowed people to move on to the future. People often said, 'don't forget where you come from' and the Council hadn't but the town was now moving on to create a new history which would also be celebrated in Experience Barnsley.

The museum wouldn't work without the staff who had done an amazing job before the Covid pandemic to get the service up and running and the footfall to where it should be and to make it the success it had been. To do then what they had during the pandemic and to use it to keep people going through the last 18 months and support them and give them a reason to get up in the morning and particularly those who were on their own and isolated was an amazing achievement. The Service had been maintained during the pandemic, unlike some other councils, as it had a huge impact on the culture of the town and its future. It also had an impact economically, on broadening people's minds on what Barnsley could be for the future and on young people in giving them self-belief and self-confidence. This impact should not be underestimated.

It was great that the Service was winning awards and particularly when compared to other organisation that had huge amounts of funding and this was astonishing. He

hoped that Experience Barnsley won the Art Fund Museum of the Year award but if not, the Museum was still a winner in his eyes simply by doing what it had done and achieved. Staff should be so proud of what they had done as the Service, Museum, Cannon Hall and Elsecar Heritage Centre and all other facilities made Barnsley a great place to live and work.

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

58. Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries 2021-23

The report of the Executive Director Core Services providing a response on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituency boundaries was:

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the proposed response to the Boundary Commission on their proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council area be approved.

59. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Cherryholme – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

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

Barnsley Business Innovation Centre

Councillors Andrews BEM, Cheetham and Howard

Shaw Lands Trust

Councillor J Higginbottom

Health and Well Being of Children in Care and Care Services Steering Group

Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services

Migration Yorkshire

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Chair – two year appointment)

60. Local Government Act 1972: Section 85: Absence from Meetings of the authority: Councillor Gardiner

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

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approval be given for the absence from meetings of the Authority on behalf of Councillor Gardiner on the grounds of ill health and pending the receipt of medical certification that he is fit to resume his duties.

61. Royston Masterplan Framework - MU5 (Round 2 Adoption) (Cab.14.7.2021/12)

Moved by Councillor Lamb – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the progress made in the development of the Royston Masterplan Framework (MU5) be noted;
- (ii) That the measures proposed relating to energy, sustainability and health and wellbeing be supported; and
- (iii) That the final version of the Masterplan Framework be adopted.

62. Audit and Governance Committee - 2nd June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 2nd June, 2021 be received.

63. Planning Regulatory Board - 8th June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 8th June, 2021 be received.

64. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 23rd June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel meeting held on the 23rd June, 2021 be received.

65. General Licensing Panel - Various

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

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

66. 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.

67. Health and Wellbeing Board - 10th June, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on the 10th June, 2021 be received.

68. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) - 1st June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson);
and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) held on the 1st June, 2021 be received.

69. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 29th June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson);
and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) held on the 29th June, 2021 be received.

70. Central Area Council - 26th April, 2021

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 26th April, 2021 be received.

71. Dearne Area Council - 24th May, 2021

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 24th May, 2021 be received.

72. North Area Council - 24th May, 2021

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 24th May, 2021 be received.

73. North East Area Council - 27th May, 2021

Moved by Councillor Wraith MBE – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson);
and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on the 27th May, 2021 be received.

74. Penistone Area Council - 3rd June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Wilson – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on the 3rd June, 2021 be received.

75. South Area Council - 25th June, 2021

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on the 25th June, 2021 be received.

76. Cabinet Meeting - 19th May, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 19th May, 2021 be received.

77. Cabinet Meeting - 2nd June, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 2nd June, 2021 be received.

78. Cabinet Meeting - 16th June, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 16th June, 2021 be received.

79. Cabinet Meeting - 30th June, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 30th June, 2021 be received.

80. Cabinet Meeting - 14th July, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 14th July, 2021 be received.

81. 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.

82. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Annual Meeting) (Draft) - 7th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

83. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Ordinary Meeting) (Draft) - 7th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

84. Police and Crime Panel (Annual Meeting) (Draft) - 7th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

85. Police and Crime Panel (Ordinary Meeting) (Draft) - 11th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

86. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Annual Meeting) (Draft) - 10th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

87. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Ordinary Meeting) (Draft) - 10th June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

88. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Annual Meeting) (Draft) - 21st June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

89. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Ordinary Meeting) (Draft) - 21st June, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

90. 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 Gillis

‘There are plans in place for a burger King and another coffee outlet on Stairfoot roundabout. Most if not all vehicles that pass through these outlets will have to transverse the said roundabout. Plans are also in place for 230 dwellings south of Bleachcroft Way near the old B@Q site. At present the only access and exit to this housing estate is via Stairfoot roundabout. I would like you to ask, what provision the highway department are going to put in place, to alleviate the traffic situation, bearing in mind the critical state of traffic backed up from the roundabout to, at times, the White Rose roundabout? A distance of 1.6 miles’.

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Gillis for his question and for the important points he raised therein.

The Highways Department were currently looking at the design of a scheme for Stairfoot to alleviate congestion and improve journey times. An outline business case had been submitted to the Sheffield City Region and it was hoped to be able to share more information on this later in the year including engagement with the public.

Councillor Gillis thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and asked as a supplementary question whether there was any possibility of turning the traffic lights off at Stairfoot roundabout on a temporary trial basis to see whether or not congestion reduced.

Councillor Lamb felt that this was perhaps a radical suggestion, but this did not necessarily mean it was wrong. He would, however, need to rely on the experience, qualifications and professionalism of Traffic Officers within the Highways Department and for them to be able to undertake an assessment of the possibilities. He also suggested that Councillor Gillis, with his local knowledge, engage with those officers as part of that process.

(b) Councillor Hunt

“Part of the Council’s Digital First project included the tracking of requests raised by residents through the council’s website - for example reporting potholes, fly tipping and broken streetlights. Could a firm date be provided when residents will begin to get status updates of their requests?”

Councillor Franklin, Cabinet Support Member for Core Services, thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that IT had now delivered the project which had created the capability to provide status updates to customers in relation to online requests. Work now needed to be undertaken with Services to ensure that information from the systems they used could be fed directly into the online updates. Work would start immediately with Environment and Transport to do this and this work would be ongoing with other services throughout the remainder of 2021.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Franklin for the response. He felt that if residents began to get feedback to their requests this would be a massive benefit both to them, to Councillors and other residents and it would demonstrate that the Council was becoming even more customer focused. He asked, as a supplementary question if the Cabinet Support Member could confirm if this process would be in place by the end of the year.

Councillor Franklin confirmed that this was his understanding and he would report back to Members on an ongoing basis.

(c) Councillor Kitching

"There are ongoing concerns about high incidents of fly tipping across the borough, and we all understand that the team does its best to respond to and clear incidents as soon as possible. However, residents have raised concerns about the way this is reported - the quarterly report publicised in March reported 100% of incidents were cleared within 5 days; residents know that to not be the case from their own observations and so clearly this figure has caveats. Can the Cabinet member please let us know how this 100% figure is reached?"

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Kitching for the question. In answering this question, he, and he was sure everyone here, would want to thank all of the staff in Environment and Transportation for their ongoing heroic work they had been undertaking over the last 18 – 20 months. He had also communicated recently with Elected Members advising that the Green Bin Waste Collection would have to be suspended because of the staffing issues that the latest spike of Covid 19 had caused. People were working under enormous pressure.

In terms of the specific questions asked, however, during 2021/21, 99.9% of fly-tipping cases had been cleared within the 5 working day Service Level Agreement (within the scope of the Indicator).

This Indicator was based purely on fly-tipping reports on public land and excluded those which were deemed excess loads or hazardous waste requiring additional resources or specialist contractors, for example, asbestos removal.

The Service received 5,490 fly-tipping reports (on public land) of which 5,484 had been cleared within the agreed SLA (99.9%). A further 193 reports had been received which fell outside the scope of the 5-day SLA due to being excess of hazardous waste loads.

This indicator had historically been accompanied with annotated notes to ensure that the context of its scope was clearly understood. When viewed without such additional information it could be misconstrued. The Service would ensure that an annotation explaining the scope of the Indicator was included hereafter in both the published website information and accompanying Power Bi reports.

Councillor Kitching thanked Councillor Lamb for his response which was the information she wanted to hear. She was sure, however, that the public did not see this caveat around the SLA and she was concerned, therefore, that to some extent these figures could be misleading when viewed in isolation and, for example, on social media. She then asked, as a supplementary question if the Cabinet Member

could confirm that they would extend clear reporting of those caveats to social media posts or perhaps manage public expectation a little bit more by including those caveats in reporting figures as this would ensure that there was transparency.

Councillor Lamb was happy that wherever the Council reported for the annotation to be made available in the interests of clarity and consistency. What did concern him however was suggestion to post on social media and in relation to managing public expectation. There may be some elements of fly tipping that for good reason could not be removed for quite some time either because an approved contractor was not available, a team of officers needed to be mobilised or where there could be access issues that needed to be resolved. It would be doing a dis-service to the excellent staff within the Department to agree to something that would then see the statistics being disproportionately skewed by tiny amounts of fly-tipping that could not be removed within the 5-day timetable.

91. Question by a Member of the Public

The Council received a written question received from a Member of the Public, together with the response provided by the Chair of the Planning Regulatory Board.

RESOLVED that the question and response be noted.

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Chair