

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 25 November 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

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

120. Declarations of Interests

Councillor J Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in in Minute 156 '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.

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to the NHS in view of her being an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 159 'Notice of Motion – Better Busses for Barnsley' in view of him being employed by a bus company.

121. Suspension of Standing Orders

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

RESOLVED that Standing Order 13(5) of the Council be suspended in respect of Minute 122 only 'Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) – Presentation' insofar as it related to restrictions on Members speaking more than once.

122. Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2020/21

Mr G Mills (Engagement Lead) representing Grant Thornton, the Authority's External Auditor, made a presentation on the ISA 260 report 2020/21, the report to those charged with Governance.

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

The following points were noted:

- In relation to the findings in the 2020/21 accounts
 - An unqualified 'clean' audit opinion was expected to be issued
 - Regular liaison had been undertaken with the Finance Team and wider Management Team
 - Good working papers had been provided and feedback sessions had been held
 - No major weaknesses in the financial systems had been identified
 - There were no audit adjustments impacting on useable reserves
 - A small number of other audit adjustments and presentational amendments had been suggested.
 - The key accounting matters related to the valuation of the Council's land and buildings and accounting for the Council's share of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund
- In relation to the Key findings in 2020/21 in respect of Value for Money (VFM)

- A new audit approach to the use of resources audit work had been undertaken which involved a review of the Council's arrangements in three areas namely:
 - Financial sustainability
 - Governance
 - Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness – the 'three E's' (service delivery, performance and outcomes)
 - In accordance with the 2020/21 timetable the VFM Review was to be completed within three months of the accounts sign off
 - There were no significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements to date
 - There were no issues preventing the External Auditor from signing off the accounts
- In relation to the key findings in 2020/21 in relation to the £1.4m bank fraud it was noted
 - The fraud was sophisticated, determined and a carefully planned attack on the Council
 - The issue had been brought to External Audit attention by the Section 151 Officer within 24 hours of it occurring
 - The Council had engaged with the relevant authorities and £1m had been recovered with the remaining being covered by the self-insurance fund
 - Internal Audit had undertaken a review and an assurance had been given that this was a 'one off'
 - The Annual Governance Statement had been updated in respect of this issue
 - The Council had sufficient reserves to fully mitigate any impact on services
 - The Council had taken appropriate actions since the fraud had been identified
 - In summary:
 - A clean audit opinion was expected to be issued
 - No material issues had been identified
 - There was a good level of engagement from the Council during the audit
 - The Council was in a good financial position despite sector challenges
 - The governance arrangements remained appropriate despite the fraud
 - No significant weaknesses had been noted in the Value for Money work to date

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

In response to questioning, Mr Mills indicated that Barnsley took great pride in the annual accounts process and in the level of engagement with officers. There was always a desire to try to make the process as smooth as possible and to become more efficient year on year. As indicated within the ISA 260 report, there were no fundamental or significant recommendations to note.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) also placed on record thanks and appreciation for the work of the External Auditors for the way in which the audit had been conducted, to the Director of Finance and his Team and to the Senior Management Team and to all officers and Councillors involved in the process. He commented that there would always be lessons to learn from the process and as ever, Barnsley would strive to do that.

Councillor Franklin, Cabinet Support Member of Core Services, also commented on the work of the External Auditors and to the Director of Finance and his Team for all their hard work in what was an exceptionally difficult year.

The Council then considered the External Auditors Audit Findings (ISA 260) report for the Council for 2020/21 and this was:

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED:-

1. That the External Auditor's (ISA 260) Report 2020/21 be approved;
2. That the findings on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls and the current position with regard to the Value for Money conclusion be noted; and
3. That the findings from the audit work in relation to the 2020/21 financial statements be noted.

123. Audit and Governance Committee Minutes - 17th November, 2021

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 17th November, 2021 be received.

124. Audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the revised audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21 be approved.

125. Final Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the final Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved and adopted.

126. Councillor P Markham

The Mayor, Councillor Makinson, was sure that all Members would want to join her in wishing Councillor P Markham all the best for a speedy recovery from a most horrific assault in Broomhill Park recently. She reported that Councillor Markham had received a lot of support from her colleagues and from local residents within the

community in which she served who were greatly disappointed, angered and upset at this most unwarranted attack.

Councillor Osborne then read a statement from Councillor Markham in which she thanked everyone for their kind words and support. She also thanked the Mayor and all her staff within the Town Hall for the lovely flowers she had received, she also thanked the South Yorkshire Ambulance Service and staff at Barnsley Hospital for all the support and care they had given her. She stated that she would be taking a short break and would resume her duties as soon as she was well enough.

Councillors Osborne, Greenhough, J Higginbottom and Sir Steve Houghton CBE on behalf of all members expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery. The also expressed their abhorrence that such an incident should take place.

Sir Steve Houghton stated that sadly this was not an isolated incident because as recently as two days ago Councillors were receiving serious threats. He also commented on and stressed the importance of Members being careful in their use of social media. Social media was used by some residents as a tool to generate a feeling of unrest and unease. Indeed, the Council had had to use legal processes against some people who had posted inappropriate statements. In such circumstances the Council would continue to do so in order to protect all Members of the Council so that they could carry out their duties in the way that they should. He felt that all people had the right to go about their business in safety. The Council would be working with the Police to try to bring the perpetrators of the attack on Councillor Markham to justice and appropriate punishment.

127. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th September, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

128. Carlton Masterplan Framework (Round 2 Adoption) (Cab.3.11.2021/9)

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

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the progress made in the development of the Masterplan Framework for Carlton (Sites MU2/MU£) be noted; and
- (ii) That the final version of the Masterplan Framework be approved and adopted.

129. Proposed Revisions to the Scheme of Delegations Relating to Planning Decisions (Cab.3.11.2021/10)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Tattersall; and

RESOLVED that the proposed delegations from the Planning Regulatory Board to specified officers/posts be amended as per the Terms of Reference of the Full Council, Regulatory Boards and Committees and Functions Delegated to Officers attached to the report.

130. Communications

(a) Mr M Gladstone – Executive Director Place

The Chief Executive stated that she was sure that all Members of the Council would want to join with her in congratulating Matt Gladstone (Executive Director Place) in being appointed as the new Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council.

Matt had a wealth of public sector experience as before joining Barnsley initially as the Executive Director Corporate Services, and then latterly as the Executive Director Place, he previously worked as Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Commissioning, Policy and Performance at Rotherham and also worked for four years with the Audit Commission.

As Members would know, in his role as Executive Director Place he had responsibility for the environment, transport and economic regeneration services and, of course, had played a key role in Barnsley's transformation journey over the last seven years. He had also played an integral part in the regeneration of the Town Centre which had culminated in the opening of The Glass Works in September.

Matt was thanked for everything he had done for Barnsley. He would be missed greatly and was given best wishes for his future in Peterborough.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council), Councillor Andrews BEM, Councillor Lamb (Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation)), Councillor Frost (Cabinet Support Member for Place (Regeneration and Culture)), Councillor Hayward and the Mayor (Councillor Makinson) all expressed their thanks for Matt's hard work and dedication to Barnsley and particularly for the work that had led to the continuing transformation of the Town Centre. They gave him their best wishes for the future.

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

(b) Covid Memorial Sculpture

The Chief Executive stated that all Members would be aware that the Covid Memorial Sculpture had been unveiled in Glassworks Square on the 22nd November, 2021. To the best of our knowledge this was the first permanent memorial of its kind in the Country and only the second in the world. The sculpture was also one of a very few pieces of public art worldwide that recognised ordinary working people.

The Covid Memorial Sculpture marked an important moment in our history, it remembered the people that had lost their lives to this disease and paid tribute to key workers, volunteers and communities that continued to support us through the pandemic.

It had been designed and produced by artist Graham Ibbeson in, collaboration with Lockbund Sculpture Foundry and developed, by a Multi Agency Partnership, involving Ian McMillan, Barnsley, Council, Berneslai Homes, Barnsley College, Barnsley Community and Voluntary Services, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, South Yorkshire Police, Fire and Ambulance Services, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group, Barnsley Youth Council, the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Dan Jarvis MP.

The project had received unprecedented levels of positive media coverage, right from international to regional and local level.

Thanks were extended to all who worked with such dedication on this very complex project, on the engagement programme and the exhibition and for delivering such a wonderful and fitting event.

The Mayor, Councillor Makinson, commented that this had been a very emotional event and she had sent a personal message to all officers and staff and to all who had been involved in its planning.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) extended his own thanks to all the partner bodies who had supported the project. Particular thanks were given to Lord Sentamu and Dr R Jenkins the Chief Executive of Barnsley District General Hospital who had attended the unveiling. Dr Jenkins had stated that the memorial was not only a reminder of people who had been lost but was also a reminder of what was still going. Thanks were also given to the young people and children who had attended and one family in particular had attended to pay tribute to a husband and father who had been lost due to the pandemic.

Councillor Frost, (Cabinet Support Member for Place (Regeneration and Culture)) thanked the members of the Culture and Events Team for what had been achieved and in ensuring that something spectacular and long lasting was in place for the people of Barnsley. The media coverage itself had shown how much this meant for the people of the area and also raised the profile of Barnsley. Particular thanks were given to Sue Thiedeman, Alex Hanner, Matt Mitchell, Dominic Somers, Gareth Webb, Karen Buttery and Sara Mair for their work and to staff from the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the fantastic artists Graham Ibbeson and his Team.

The Mayor, Councillor Makinson, then commented on the wonderful service that had been held to mark the unveiling of the sculpture.

Councillor J Higginbottom stated that his own grandfather was one of the people remembered on the plaque on the sculpture and it would, therefore, be remis of him not to express his own thanks to everyone involved in making this sculpture a reality. The unveiling ceremony had been a truly honouring and humbling experience and the sculpture was a lasting tribute both to those who had lost their lives but also the key workers who had worked so tirelessly. As the Chief Executive had stated this was one of the rare pieces of public art in the world that celebrated working class people and working class communities. The perfect summation of the whole sculpture and unveiling event were the words engraved on the plinth 'Barnsley's fierce love will hold you forever in its heart'.

131. Appointment of an Additional Independent (Co-Opted Member) to the Police and Crime Panel

The report of the Executive Director Core Services seeking endorsement of the Police and Crime Panel's decision in relation to the appointment of an additional Independent Co-opted Member to that Panel was:

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Franklin; and

RESOLVED that the Police and Crime Panel's decision taken on the 20th September, 2021 to commence the process to appoint a third Independent (Co-opted) Member be endorsed.

132. Local Government Act 1972: Section 85: Absence from Meetings of the Authority: Councillor Felton

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

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the absence from meetings of the Authority by Councillor Felton be approved on the grounds of ill health and pending the receipt of medical certification that she is fit to resume her duties.

133. Audit and Governance Committee - 15th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on the 15th September, 2021 be received.

134. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 29th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board meeting held on the 29th September, 2021 be received.

135. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 27th October, 2021

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board held on the 27th October, 2021 be received.

136. Planning Regulatory Board - 26th October, 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 26th October, 2021 be received.

137. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

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

138. Health and Wellbeing Board - 7th October, 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 the 7th October, 2021 be received.

139. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley) Workstream - 12th October, 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 (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) held on the 12th October, 2021 be received.

140. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley) Workstream - 2nd November, 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 (Growing Barnsley Workstream) held on the 2nd November, 2021 be received.

141. Central Area Council - 1st September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 1st September, 2021 be received.

142. Dearne Area Council - 6th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Coates; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 6th September, 2021 be received.

143. North Area Council - 20th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by Councillor T Cave; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 20th September, 2021 be received.

144. North East Area Council - 23rd September, 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 the 23rd September, 2021 be received.

145. Penistone Area Council - 7th October, 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 the 7th October, 2021 be received.

146. South Area Council - 22nd October, 2021

Moved by Councillor Franklin - Seconded by Councillor Stowe; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on the 22nd October, 2021 be received.

147. Cabinet Meeting - 22nd September, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 22nd September, 2021 be received.

148. Cabinet Meeting - 6th October, 2021

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

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 6th October, 2021 be received.

149. Cabinet Meeting - 21st October, 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 21st October, 2021 be received.

150. Cabinet Meeting - 3rd November, 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 3rd November, 2021 be received.

151. 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.

152. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (Draft) - 9th September, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

153. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 13th September, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

154. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 11th October, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

155. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 20th September, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

156. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 20th September, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

157. 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 Fielding

‘Given that this Council has declared a climate emergency and has both zero 40 and zero 45 ambitions, what is the Councils current policy and attitude to permitting the extraction or recovery of coal under any circumstances in our borough?’

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Fielding for his question and stated that in the current political climate, it was highly unlikely that any mining license would be granted for the extraction of thermal coal by the Coal Authority, the statutory body set up to manage the UK’s remaining mining industry.

It was also highly unlikely that Barnsley Council would grant planning permission for any new surface or underground mine. However, there may be a situation where coal must be removed for safety reasons under an Incidental Coal Agreement granted by the Coal Authority. This was where coal outcrops found near the surface by earthworks had to be removed for safety purposes.

Councillor Fielding thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and, as a supplemental question asked whether he was aware of the role of the Planning Authority in the granting of Incidental Coal agreements.

Councillor Lamb responded by stating that he was aware of the Authority’s role in this matter.

(b) Councillor Hunt

'At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 1 December 2020 it was revealed that the Council does not have a Road Safety strategy. When will this be in place?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 1 December 2020, a local strategic Safer Roads Working Group had been formed by officers from across the Council and partner organisations, including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership.

One function of the Group was to set the strategic vision, ambition and priorities to improve road safety and reduce the number of road traffic collisions occurring on the network.

The Group had met monthly since August 2021 and had begun developing Barnsley's new Road Safety Strategic Plan. It was currently undertaking a scoping exercise to determine Key Performance Indicators and what resources were available across the partnership.

Once the Group had established this baseline position, the Group would further develop the local Strategic Plan. The aim was to have agreed and published a local Road Safety Strategic Plan for April 2022.

In addition, a local Road Safety Action Plan had been produced, which collated all the actions and recommendations from the Health Needs Assessment and the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in December 2020. The coordinated partnership working, creation of the Working Group and development of the Strategic Plan were all included in the Action Plan.

At a regional level, South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership was also developing a new strategy that would be published imminently. The Safer Roads Working Group would ensure that Barnsley's Road Safety Strategic Plan set out how Barnsley would contribute to the regional strategy and, importantly, local priorities and ambitions about Road Safety.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for his response. He stated that last week was Safeguarding Awareness Week. It was also Alcohol Awareness Week as well as Anti-Fraud Week. All these were well covered by the Council on its social media channels. It was also Road Safety Week last week which received zero coverage and he, therefore, asked as a supplementary question why the Council did nothing to mark Road Safety Week.

Councillor Lamb commented that he thought he had seen coverage of this, however, he had no responsibility directly for the Communications Service and he was not, therefore, aware of what the situation was in this respect.

(c) Councillor Kitching

'When compared to the established structure, is there currently a shortage of Social Workers in Barnsley?'

In answering please can the Cabinet member provide staff numbers at the start of 2021, details of how many Social Workers have both left and joined the authority since then and the current number of staff analysed between permanent and agency employees’.

Councillor T Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson for Children’s Services thanked Councillor Kitching for her question and stated that there was currently a national, and local, shortage of Social Workers to meet the nationally reported increase in demand to children’s services.

Compared to the established structure:

On 1 January 2021, Barnsley Council employed 118.73 FTE Social Workers equating to 127 actual staff members (some staff worked part time). The range included in these figures included newly qualified, Social Workers and experienced Social Workers. It did not include any Social Work Managers.

On 18 November 2021, Barnsley Council employed 111.22 FTE staff equating to 117 Social Workers. This was an overall reduction of 7.51 FTE social work capacity.

There was a proactive, rolling recruitment programme in place to recruit new Social Workers to the borough.

Barnsley Council had invested in 12 additional Social Workers until 2023.

Children’s Services have employed 9 additional Family Support Workers to work alongside and support Social Workers in light of the national and local increase in demand and workload pressures.

There had been no agency Social Workers employed during this period.

Councillor Kitching thanked Councillor Cave for his response and asked as a supplementary question whether the Cabinet Member felt that this current deficit in Social Workers of 7.51 FTE was having an impact on the delivery of social care to children and families in the Barnsley borough.

Councillor Cave thanked Councillor Kitching for her supplementary question. He responded by sharing with Council the national picture around children’s social care and he referred Members to the Association of Directors of Children’s Services recent report. As of the 31st March, 2020 there were an estimated 2.5m initial contacts with Local Authorities an increase of 5% in the last two years. There were 642,980 referrals to Children’s Social Care in 2019/20 and increase of 19% since 2008. Adults encountering domestic abuse, mental health difficulties or substance misuse were the most common reasons why children came to the attention of early help and/or children’s social care services. The number of Section 47 enquiries continued to rise, 162% since 2008.

Many authorities had reported a reduction in funding ranging between 15-30% and indeed the funding for the Troubled Families Programme continued to prop up delivery of early help services in Children’s Services. In relation to the impact of the Covid pandemic on Children’s Services in the 6 months to 30th September 2020 it was estimated that 81,900 children were in care an increase of 34% in 12 years and it was up 6% since 2018/19. There were an estimated 284,000 referrals to Children’s

Social Care in the 6 months up to September 2020. There was a 4% increase in the number of children who were subject to Child Protection Plans as at the 30th September, 2021 compared to the same period last year. These figures clearly demonstrated increasing pressure and demand.

It was not surprising that all Council's and Children's Services were under significant pressure including Barnsley's and this was particularly felt by front line staff.

Councillor Cave wanted to express how proud he was of the way Barnsley's front line staff had continued to deliver right through the pandemic despite the pressures and the performance figures were testament to that and would continue to be. There were, of course, worries and he continued to be concerned about the pressure on the front line social work staff. He was particularly concerned as it was children that were being affected not just social workers, carers and families.

In Barnsley today, at least one in four children lived in poverty and this was not right. In addition, in relation to the take up of free school meals, 30% of those identified as being entitled to those meals did not take them up. This was also not right and needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Unlike most local authorities Barnsley had a stable and experienced work force with no agency social workers being used for over four years. The Council had responded to the pressures and had invested in an additional 12 Social Workers and 2 additional Team Managers until 2023. There were ongoing proactive recruitment campaigns to recruit to the large number of additional posts, but this was challenging as people were not changing their employer and moving during the pandemic. The Authority had also recruited 9 additional Family Support Workers who would work alongside Social Workers to support them pending the recruitment to all posts. It had also now been agreed to seek agency Social Workers for a limited time and further recruitment and retention initiatives were being considered to strengthen future resilience in the work force. The Authority was, therefore, massively focused on having an effective Social Work Team in place.

(d) Councillor Hunt

'In August 2020 Cabinet considered and approved the response to the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group's findings and recommendations in relation to poverty. One of these recommendations was for additional investment to enable a locally delivered boroughwide outreach provision. The Cabinet report states "As part of our recovery arrangements we are reviewing the advice services available within each locality area as part of the alignment of Area Councils recovery work. As part of this we will review whether there is scope to recommission as a borough-wide provision." Please can an update be provided as to how this review is progressing and whether a borough wide provision is to be recommissioned'.

Councillor Platts, Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities Services thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that the pandemic response had impacted upon the capacity and ability to follow up on the recommendation and work was ongoing with a view to presenting a report to Cabinet in early 2022. Work had, however, continued with Barnsley communities through extensive support offers including the Covid-19 support programmes, Holiday Activity Fund programme, and the new £2.3m Household Support Grant which the Council was matching with a further £1 million of investment to support communities through the Winter period and

the 'cost of living' crisis. She also reported that Area Councils were still commissioning advice and support services and during the pandemic these services had continued via the telephone and indeed as many contacts had been made during the pandemic as before. She was sure that these services would continue until the review was completed.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Platts for her response which was very much welcomed. Both he and Councillor Platts were members of the North Area Council and they saw what fantastic work the CAB and DIAL did with regard to outreach in the area and this type of work was continuing in other areas of the borough. He then asked as a supplementary question whether Councillor Platts envisaged that the service levels that were likely to be in place following the review would be at least in line with what was currently seen in the North Area but throughout the borough.

Councillor Platts stated that she was not able to predict what would come out of the review, but it was hoped that there would be at least the same cover as was currently in place. In addition, it may be possible that going forwards Area Councils were able to purchase additional provision should they wish to do so. This would, however, be dependent upon the findings of the review.

158. Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6 was:

Moved by Councillor Kitching – Seconded by Councillor Hunt

That this Council:

- a) Notes section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 which clearly states that "members of the executive* cannot be members of a scrutiny committee".
- b) Also notes point 25 of the Government's 2019 document "Overview and scrutiny: Statutory guidance for councils and combined authorities" which recommends that "Authorities should ensure that, 'as a minimum, members holding less formal executive* positions ... do not sit on scrutinising committees looking at portfolios to which their roles relate.'"
- c) Considers that the Authority should hold itself to a higher standard than the minimum, particularly in matters of scrutiny.
- d) Feels that the presence of cabinet support members on the Overview and Scrutiny committee creates a potential conflict of interest, and therefore undermines the necessarily robust, open and transparent process of scrutiny within the authority.

Therefore, this Council resolves that:

- i. Cabinet Support Members should not take up seats on the Overview & Scrutiny committee.
- ii. Amend standing order point 25 (4) to: "Neither Cabinet Members nor Cabinet Support Members will be members of the Scrutiny Committee."
- iii. These changes will be implemented immediately.

Note: As this Motion referred to an amendment to Standing Orders, in accordance with Standing Order No 41, it would now stand adjourned without further discussion until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

159. Better Busses for Barnsley

The following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6 was:

Moved by Councillor Kitching – Seconded by Councillor Fielding;

That this Council:

- (a) agrees with the former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Prof. Philip Alston, that access to affordable and reliable transport is fundamental to guaranteeing Barnsley residents the quality of life they deserve and that “abandoning people to the private market” by deregulating bus services “is incompatible with human rights requirements.”;
- (b) notes that since 2014 the South Yorkshire bus network has been reduced by over 12 million kilometres, forcing many Barnsley residents to travel by car or – if car travel is not an option - cutting them off from education, employment, family and friends;
- (c) understands that we are living through a cost-of-living crisis and that since buses were deregulated in 1986 bus fares have more than doubled in real terms, while motoring costs have decreased, and that transport costs are the largest expenditure of the average household budget;
- (d) notes that we are living through a climate emergency and that in South Yorkshire one-third of our local emissions come from transport with 71% of journeys to work made by car while bus passenger journeys declined by over 20% between 2009/10 and 2018/19;
- (e) acknowledges that the current bus driver shortage has revealed the long-term exploitation of our drivers - who are expected to work long shifts, with few facilities and little support, for wages that are decreasing in real-terms - and believes that public control would allow us to guarantee the conditions needed to deliver a world-class service;
- (f) understands that the Government's impact assessment of the Bus Service Act (2017) highlighted that public control would better address six out of seven Local Transport Authority objectives compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a “significant increase in patronage.”;
- (g) understands that the South Yorkshire Combined Authority intends to establish an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, leaving final say over the network in their hands, despite the evidence that, according to the Centre

for Cities, partnerships are a “fudge which stops mayors from delivering the quality bus networks their electorate rightly expect” while a former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty called for them to be “phased out.”;

(h) welcomes the recommendations of the “South Yorkshire Bus Review,” published in June 2020, that the “legal and financial investigation of franchising in South Yorkshire begin immediately” and that “a decision be made no later than 3 years after publication of this report.”;

(i) notes that a legal and financial investigation, as outlined in the Bus Services Act 2017 and National Bus Strategy has not yet been launched and requires the release of a statutory “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment.”;

Therefore this Council requests that the Administration:-

- (i) informs the South Yorkshire Combined Authority of its support for conducting a statutory assessment of franchising.
- (ii) requests a Combined Authority vote to release a “notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment” within 6 months.

An Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8 was then:

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

Items (a) – (i) as per the original Motion

Therefore this Council requests that the Administration:-

(i) & (ii) – as per the original Motion

Add the following:

- (ii) recommendations (i) & (ii) (above) only to be implemented once the financial implications become clearer and their impact on the Council’s finances and on taxpayers is considered to be reasonable

As the meeting had been ongoing for three hours, the maximum permitted in accordance with Standing Orders, the Mayor, Councillor Makinson, proposed and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order No 42, Standing Order No 2(2) (insofar as it relates to the time permitted for meetings) be suspended to enable the remaining business on the agenda to be transacted.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was WON.

The Amendment was then put as the Substantive Motion and:

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Council inform the South Yorkshire Combined Authority of its support for conducting a statutory assessment of franchising;
- (ii) that the Council requests a Combined Authority vote to release a 'Notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment' within six months; and
- (iii) that resolutions (i) and (ii) above only be implemented once the financial implications become clearer and their impact on the Council's finances and on taxpayers is considered to be reasonable.

160. Questions by Members of the Public

The Council received written questions from Members of the Public together with the responses provided by the relevant Cabinet Spokespersons:

- Mr M S – Barnsley
- Mr M S – Barnsley
- Mr M W – Worsbrough

RESOLVED that the questions and responses be noted.

161. Mayor's Announcements

(a) Barnsley Bright Nights Festival

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson) reminded Members that tonight was the start of the Barnsley Bright Nights Festival which would commence with the switch on of the Christmas Lights at the Town Hall at 6.00 pm. This was a lovely spectacle and she encouraged all Members to spread the news of the event. More information was available for download from the Council's website.

Other highlights of the Festival included:

- Luminous Birds by acclaimed artist Kathy Hinde in the Cooper Gallery
- World famous Luke Jerram's MARS in Barnsley College
- Barnsley's fantastical beasts by night in the Churchfields Peace Gardens
- Songs with Barnsley Live in St Mary's Church
- Activities in the Library at the Lightbox

The finale was STORM a 10m high mechanical puppet in a parade from the Digital Media Centre to the Glassworks on Saturday evening, 27th November, 2021 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

She then reported that the opening of three new Barnsley Museums Units in the Glassworks would coincide with the event, and the Barnsley Museums Gallery@Glassworks would be showing the Covid Memorial Sculpture Exhibition, a digital experience and Barnsley Museums Discover, dedicated to showcasing Barnsley.

The Authority was also very fortunate to have one of the best bright night festivals anywhere and thanks must go to all the Culture, Arts and Events staff involved. She hoped all Members would support the event.

(b) Civic Carol Service

The Mayor then referred to the Civic Carol Service which was to be held at 4.00 pm on the 16th December, 2021 in St Mary's Church to which all were invited.

(c) Mayor's Christmas Raffle

Finally, the Mayor reported that a Christmas Raffle was to be held in support of her two charities and any donations would be gratefully received.

(d) National Living Wage for Carers

The Mayor then invited Councillor Sir Steve Houghton, Leader of the Council, to speak on this item.

Councillor Houghton was pleased to inform Members that the Council, working with South Yorkshire Integrated Care System, was able to bring forward the implementation of the new National Living Wage for all carers from the 1st April, 2022 to the 1st December, 2021. That gave all carers an additional four months additional money in their wages and bearing in mind also, that the Council would continue to pay an additional pound above that as previously agreed. It was hoped that this would also help to stabilise the care market that Members were so worried about.

Thanks were extended to the Executive Director Adults and Communities and her Team for negotiating this on the Council's behalf. This was exciting and positive news for some really important people within the Borough.

The Mayor and Members of the Council expressed their appreciation and thanks in the usual manner.

(e) Covid Memorial Event – Memorabilia

The Mayor announced that there were a limited number of pin badges and memorial programmes remaining from the Covid Memorial Event and these could be obtained from the Mayor's Office and provided fitting mementos of a fantastic day.

.....
Chair