

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday 24 November 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Tattersall)

- Central Ward - No Councillors from Central Ward were present
- Cudworth Ward - Councillors Hayward and Houghton CBE
- 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 Bellamy and Cain
- Dearne South Ward - Councillors Bowler, Coates and Danforth
- Dodworth Ward - Councillors P. Fielding, W. Fielding and Wray
- Hoyland Milton Ward - Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe
- Kingstone Ward - Councillors Ramchandani and Williams
- Monk Bretton Ward - Councillors Green
- North East Ward - Councillors Cherryholme, Ennis OBE and Peace
- Old Town Ward - Councillors Lofts and Newing
- Penistone East Ward - Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson
- Penistone West Ward - Councillors Kitching and Lowe-Flello
- Rockingham Ward - Councillors Lamb, Sumner and White
- Royston Ward - Councillors Makinson, McCarthy and Webster
- St. Helen's Ward - Councillors Leech and Platts
- Stairfoot Ward - Councillors K. Dyson, Gillis and Shirt
- Wombwell Ward - Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Higginbottom
- Worsbrough Ward - Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Lodge

94. Declarations of Interests

The Mayor, Councillor Tattersall, declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to her position on Berneslai Homes Board.

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as items referred to her employment in the NHS.

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as it related to his position on Berneslai Homes Board.

Councillor Ramchandani declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda insofar as items referred to her employment in the NHS.

95. Suspension of Standing Orders

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

RESOLVED that Standing Order 13(5) of the Council be suspended in respect of minute numbers 96 to 100 insofar as it relates to restrictions on Members speaking only once.

96. Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2021/22

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 Annual Governance Statement, and Value for Money arrangements to date as well as explaining how this role was undertaken.

Members were advised that an unqualified 'clean' opinion was expected to be issued. Regular liaison had taken place with senior officers in finance, and a positive working relationship was in place. There were no major weaknesses identified in financial systems, and no audit adjustments were required that would impact on usable reserves.

The key findings were considered, noting the national issue on infrastructure accounting, which impacted across the sector. It was noted that the issuing of a Statutory Instrument was awaited and was expected in late December. This impacted on the ability for the auditor to issue their audit opinion.

With regards to value for money, the review of the Council's arrangements including Financial Sustainability; Governance; and Improving Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness, were expected to conclude in January 2023, and there were no issues currently highlighted which prevented the signing of the 2021/22 accounts.

Members noted the weaknesses highlighted in the previous year, and the review of work undertaken by the Council in response. Also noted was the Dedicated School Grant deficit, which was an issue experienced by many upper-tier councils, and the Council's plans to deal with this was acknowledged.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE gave thanks for the work of the auditor, and the positive relationship which existed with the Council. Thanks, were also given to senior officers and those in finance for their work to ensure the successful management of the Council's finances.

Following the discussion, the report was then Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the External Auditor's (ISA 260) Report 2021/22 be approved;
- ii) That the findings on the current position with regard to the Value for Money conclusion be noted (as not completed); and
- iii) That the findings from the audit work in relation to the 2021/22 Financial Statements be noted.

97. Audit and Governance Committee Minutes - 16 November 2022

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 16 November 2022 be received.

98. Final Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the final Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

99. Audited Statement of Accounts 2021/22

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the audited Statement of Accounts 2021/22 and Letter of Representation be approved.

100. Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2021/22

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the Audit and Governance Committee's Annual report for 2021/22 be approved.

101. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

102. Communications

- (a) National Award for Record Keeping Service of the Year 2022 Barnsley Archives

The Chief Executive made Members aware that in September it was announced that Barnsley Archives and Local Studies were winners of the Archives and Records Association's 'Record Keeping Service' of the year award 2022.

This National award recognised the achievements by an archive, conservation, or records management service over the last eighteen months. Nominated for their hard work and dynamism during the pandemic, projects were highlighted for their digital diversification, keeping the service operating remotely during closures, as well as the creation of a new storage space bringing collections together under one roof.

The award was decided by public vote with people from across the country getting involved.

Other finalists in the category were the University of Nottingham, Manuscripts and Special Collections, The Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Team, the Library of Trinity College Dublin, Transport for London Corporate Archives and Doncaster Archives and Heritage Doncaster.

Winning such a prestigious award was a massive achievement for the Archives Service and was well-deserved after all their hard work in recent years. Special thanks and congratulations were given to David Blunden, Katy Best, James Stevenson and Paul Stebbing.

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, passed on his thanks to the service and their hard work. He made Members aware that the President of the Archives and Records Association came to Barnsley in October to present the award, and all delegates attending were impressed by the facilities in Barnsley.

(b) Best Accessible Museum in the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Awards Experience Barnsley Museum

The Chief Executive announced that Experience Barnsley Museum had won the award for Best Accessible Museum in the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Awards.

The charity Kids in Museums had run a prestigious annual award for 16 years, recognising the most family friendly heritage sites in the UK. It was the only museum award to be judged by families. The Best Accessible Museum category celebrated museums making excellent efforts to include families with children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities.

Family judges who visited Experience Barnsley over the summer said they felt comfortable and enjoyed lots of hands-on interaction. They praised the Museum's Makaton signage, SEND activity backpacks, sensory toys in the shop and inclusive range of books. Members heard how one judge had commented: "The museum was jam-packed with interactive activities which was fantastic...The sensory bag and disabled toilets are exceptional. Staff are lovely, and they go beyond to help".

Thanks were given to Ally Beckett, Sarah Taylor, Matthew Potter, Michael Hardy, Luke Stanley, and Jude Holland who were present in the chamber, but also to the rest of the Barnsley Museums Team.

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, also passed on his thanks to the team, noting how great it was that the learning sessions were being recognised and rewarded with such a prestigious award. This highlighted the quality and creativity of the learning opportunities offered, the experience and dedication of the staff, and showed the museum to be a safe and supportive environment for all learners.

The Mayor added her praise to the hard work of those involved and offered her congratulations.

(c) Thanks to The Reverend Canon Stephen Race

The Chief Executive announced that the Mayor, on behalf of the Council and Civic office, would like to thank The Reverend Canon Stephen Race, Area Dean of Barnsley for his long serving commitment to the residents of Barnsley over the last 17 years, particularly supporting the Civic Office since 2014 as priest of St Mary's.

It was with great sadness that The Reverend Canon was leaving Barnsley but at the same time officers and Members were delighted and offered congratulations on his recent appointment as the new Bishop of Beverley.

Members heard that the consecration service would take place at York Minster on Wednesday 30 November 2022 at 11.00 am and the event was open to the public should anyone wish to attend.

Best wishes were given to the Reverend and his family for the future.

Councillor Ennis OBE gave thanks to the Reverend for the support he had provided to him and past Mayors of Barnsley, which was echoed by the Mayor.

103. Social Media Guidance for Employees and Elected Members (Cab.16.11.2022/6)

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the Council approves the updated social media guidance and best practice for employees and elected members; and
- ii) That the Council encourages all employees and elected members to pledge their support to the No Place for Hate campaign and to acknowledge their role and responsibility in making online hate and abuse socially unacceptable.

The No Place For Hate pledge was then signed by the Mayor, The Leader of the Council, and other Group Leaders.

104. Local Plan Review (Cab.2.11.2022/8)

The following recommendation from Cabinet was moved by Councillor Frost –
Seconded by Councillor Osborne:-

That that the Council endorses the Local Plan Review.

An amendment, submitted in line with standing order 8(1)(b), was then moved by
Councillor P Fielding – Seconded by Councillor Kitching:-

- i) That Council notes the self assessment of the Local Plan using the PAS toolkit;
- ii) That the Council does not endorse the conclusion of the assessment process and therefore reviews the Local Plan by carrying out public and stakeholder consultation as outlined in Local Planning Regulations to seek evidence and views on the impact of demographic, social and economic changes since the Local Plan was adopted, and to further assess the progress and impact of the Local Plan to date;
- iii) That the Local Plan is updated as necessary following this review and consultation process;
- iv) That a further review of the Local Plan takes place no later than 5 years following completion of this review process.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

A vote was then undertaken on the original recommendation, and it was:

RESOLVED that the Council endorses the Local Plan Review.

105. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Cherryholme – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the following changes to representation on Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies detailed below be approved:

Council Committees

Cabinet

To note the appointment of Councillor Peace as Cabinet Support Member - Environment and Highways for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2022/23, following the resignation of Councillor Risebury

Audit and Governance Committee

Mr S Wragg to replace Mr M Marks

Outside Bodies

Barnsley Ex Service Personnel Fund

Appoint Councillor Makinson
Remove Councillor Platts

Early Help Delivery Groups

To appoint as follows for a 2 year period –

Central Early Help Delivery Group (Central, Dodworth, Kingstone, Stairfoot and Worsbrough) - Councillors Bowser, Clarke and K Dyson.

Dearne Early Help Delivery Group (Dearne North and South) – Councillors Bellamy and Cain.

North Early Help Delivery Group (Darton East and West, Old Town and St Helen's) – Councillors T Cave, Denton and Leech.

North East Early Help Delivery Group (Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North east and Royston) – Councillors Cherryholme, Hayward, and McCarthy.

South and Penistone Early Help Delivery Group (Darfield, Hoyland Milton, Penistone East and West, Rockingham and Wombwell) – Councillors Eastwood, Kitching, Osborne and Stowe.

Fostering Panel

Appoint Councillor Eastwood - for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year
Remove Councillor Ramchandani

106. Local Government Act 1972: Section 85: Absence from Meetings of the Authority; Councillor Pickering

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 the absence from meetings of the Authority on behalf of Councillor Pickering be approved on the grounds of ill health pending the receipt of medical certification that he is fit to resume his duties.

107. Audit and Governance Committee - 27 July 2022

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 27 July 2022 be received.

108. Audit and Governance Committee - 14 September 2022

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 14 September 2022 be received.

109. Planning Regulatory Board - 27 September 2022

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 27 September 2022 be received.

110. Planning Regulatory Board - 25 October 2022

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 25 October 2022 be received.

111. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 26 October 2022

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 26 October 2022 be received.

112. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 26 October 2022

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on 26 October 2022 be received.

113. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by Councillor Bowler; 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.

114. Health and Wellbeing Board - 6 October 2022

Moved by Councillor Makinson – 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 6 October 2022 be received.

115. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 13 September 2022

Moved by Councillor Ennis – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 September 2022 be received.

116. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) - 11 October 2022

Moved by Councillor Ennis – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) held on 11 October 2022 be received.

117. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 1 November 2022

Moved by Councillor Ennis – Seconded by Councillor Clarke; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) held on 1 November 2022 be received.

118. North Area Council 12 September 2022

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 12 September be received.

119. Penistone Area Council - 15 September 2022

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Kitching; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 15 September 2022 be received.

120. North East Area Council - 22 September 2022

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Ennis; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 22 September 2022 be received.

121. Central Area Council - 19 October 2022

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 19 October 2022 be received.

122. Cabinet - 21 September 2022

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 21 September 2022 be received.

123. Cabinet - 5 October 2022

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 5 October 2022 be received.

124. Cabinet - 19 October 2022

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 19 October 2022 be received.

125. Cabinet - 2 November 2022

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 2 November 2022 be received.

126. 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.

127. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 12 September 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

128. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 10 October 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

129. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 10 October 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

130. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Draft) - 18 October 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

131. 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 Lodge

Pavement Parking is of significant concern to residents across the Borough, making it extremely dangerous for those with mobility difficulty, sight or hearing impairments and for pedestrians. Will the Council work with other responsible bodies, to create a

targeted awareness campaign around pavement parking and put in place measures where possible to limit the risk to the groups outlined?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways, responded by saying that the Highways Traffic Team were aware of these concerns, and it would be a key part of the safety campaign that is in development. Once this was launched, it would provide messages across the borough through a variety of channels.

From a parking enforcement point of view, if the driver was parked in contravention of an existing Traffic Regulation Order, they may be subject to enforcement by our Civil Enforcement Officers.

When the Council was notified of 'hot spot' areas, it would endeavour to provide patrols to change habits and improve safety for pedestrians and motorists.

b) Councillor Kitching

What plans does the Council have to install street based EV chargers in Barnsley to assist residents without off street parking to transition to electric vehicles and what do you consider to be the barriers to their installation?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways, responded by stating that the council's role was to facilitate and that it was working to both support and stimulate the market.

The Council had recently been awarded £275,000 of grant funding which would be used to install more EV charging capacity in council car parks. This would provide convenient charging options for both shoppers and people who do not have off-road options for charging.

Plans were at the costings stage, and it was hoped to install a number of charging points in the locations described below (subject to remaining within the budget envelope).

2 x 7kW chargers at Church Street Car Park, Darton

3 x 7kW chargers and 1 x 50kW charger at John Street Car Park, Barnsley Town Centre

3 x 7kW chargers at Mark Street Car Park, Barnsley Town Centre

3 x 7kW chargers and 1 x 50kW charger at Market Gate Car Park, Barnsley Town Centre (with the possibility of 1 extra rapid charger subject to costs)

2 x 7kW chargers at West Road Car Park

Installations were due to take place week commencing 21 November 2022 and should be live before the beginning of February 2023.

Barnsley Council did not permit trailing cables on pavements and highways for use in EV charging, at present, even where safety measures had been taken.

The Council was aware that other councils did permit on-street charging, but it had deemed this to be a safety concern locally.

It was proposed that further discussions were required within the Highways Service to evaluate options that may permit the charging of electric vehicles parked on the street from home charging stations.

The Council recognised that this would affect residents with no access to off-street parking and to try and remedy this and were currently installing EV chargers in a number of public car parks.

The Council deemed the following to be barriers to the installation of on-street EV chargers:

- EV Charging was not a statutory responsibility, therefore given the funding constraints and other pressures on the council, other areas of need had been prioritised. However, it was recognised that by supporting the delivery this may help to meet Council objectives in relation to climate change, reducing emissions and pollution.
- Lack of detailed analysis of where on-street charging was needed at a national, regional and local level to meet both existing and future demand. This would also need co-ordination with Northern Power Grid to understand where additional network capacity may be required, including developing below-the-ground cabling and power connections.
- Safety concerns owing to trailing cables and pavement obstructions
- The Payback Period for the installation of charging points could be long; there were various funding models available, however, the revenues from on-street charge points generally did not cover running costs or the upfront costs to install infrastructure.

Breakeven is estimated to be anywhere between 7-9 years but this was uncertain as it depends on the rate of EV updates during this period.

- The single largest issue for private investment was the low use at present of existing on-street charge points, reported nationally, and the high costs that are associated, when demand, use and investment in charging infrastructure are dependent on each other.
- Most current contracts were around 5-10 years but typically involved public funding to cover a substantial proportion of the upfront capital expenditure; the Council would need to find a suitable and appropriate delivery model.

Councillor Kitching asked the following by way of a supplementary question: would the Council consider accepting the offer made by Ubitricity to provide a number of fully funded street based EV chargers at locations chosen by the Council who would retain ownership and control of the street lighting infrastructure and using installations that do not require parking restrictions or trailing cables? This was an offer that had been taken up by other South Yorkshire councils and remained on the table, but would expire at the end of 2022.

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded by stating that he would not like to comment on the specifics as he was unfamiliar, but that it would be looked into in more detail. He added that he, and a

number of officers in highways, had held meetings with a number of organisations involved in providing EV charging points and it was clear that there was no one-size-fits-all solution, but would depend on local circumstances in local communities and a broad range of options would be taken to achieve the Council's aspirations. Ultimately this would form the basis of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, which was expected by the middle of 2023.

c) Councillor Lodge

In recent weeks, £58,684.31 has been received in Section 106 monies from developments in the Worsbrough Ward, £10,000 of which has already been made available to a local group. With the remaining balance from these first payments, will the Council look to refurbish play areas in the Worsbrough Ward?

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture responded by saying that decisions regarding the use of S106 monies considered a range of areas, including value for money and alignment of a project with the council's strategic priorities.

It had long been established that Section 106 monies were not ring-fenced to the ward where the monies originated from.

In the Worsbrough ward, there was a small pipeline of potential projects which would be eligible for Section 106 funding. The refurbishment of play equipment would be considered alongside these, as well as any borough-wide projects which would benefit people across the borough including people who live in the Worsbrough ward.

d) Councillor P Fielding

The Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019. In September 2020 the Council published its first Strategic Energy Action Plan setting out its ambition to reduce the Boroughs scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 65% of its 2017 levels by 2025. The Council also aims to reduce its own carbon emissions by 60% of 2019 levels by 2025. Can the Cabinet Member quantify the current reduction in carbon emissions relevant to meeting these targets?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways replied by saying that the Council's carbon emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) for 2018-19 were 10,041 tonnes – these carbon emissions to date had reduced by 24% compared with 2018-19 levels, which amounted to a reduction of 2,418 tonnes of carbon.

Borough emissions were based on local authority Greenhouse Gas Emissions data (GHG) which was supplied by the government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The latest data was for 2020 which showed a 13% reduction from 2017 levels and amounted to 166,500 tonnes of carbon.

Councillor P Fielding asked a supplementary question referring to the commitment previously made to publish these figures annually, was there a reason why they had not been? And he asked whether the Council was on target to meet the promised reductions by 2025.

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways replied by stating that he would reply directly regarding the reasons. With regards to the targets set, the Council was working to improve the carbon and GHG reporting processes to ensure transparency, consistency and accuracy, in line with current practice. He said it was difficult to say whether the 2025 targets would be achieved, but the 2030 target was achievable with hard work. He added that the Carbon Trust report highlighted steep required reductions in emissions between 2019 and 2025, which would always have been difficult, but if the Council wanted to achieve the 2025 target, then significant and bold steps were required towards decarbonisation.

The attention of Members was drawn to excellent workshops recently organised to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the borough's transition to net zero. The views from which would form the basis of the forthcoming Climate Change Strategy and mark the next stage in the borough's transition to a cleaner, greener and fairer future.

e) Councillor Lodge

Parks and Play areas across the Borough have been subjected to mindless vandalism over several years, which has seen thousands of pounds of damage to parks and play areas in Worsbrough alone. Will the Council work to introduce a Public Space Protection Order, as it has done to cover moorland and the town centre, to protect our parks and play areas from further mindless vandalism?

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities replied by stating that damage and vandalism in our Parks and Play areas was incredibly frustrating. She added that sadly, a small minority of people thought that this kind of behaviour was acceptable.

The Council was considering all options available to protect parks and play areas across the borough from acts of vandalism and damage.

Money was being invested from the Safer Streets Programme, to improve safety in Locke Park and Wombwell Park, and specific schemes were being developed for Littleworth Lane and Mapplewell Park to improve surveillance capacity.

Other physical measures had also been taken to address inappropriate access and use in several other locations. Public Space Protection Orders were an option which could be considered, however making such an order must be evidence-based, proportionate and subject to consultation. The Council would ensure that the protection of our parks and play areas was fully considered and responded to as part of the Safe Places Delivery Partnership business.

f) Councillor W Fielding

Can the cabinet member inform Council on the number of asylum seekers held in hostels, hotels or refuge centres in the borough?

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities, responded that there were no Home Office-designated hostels, hotels or refugee sites in the Barnsley borough.

As of 17 November 2022, there were 316 asylum seekers supported under Section 95 (have leave to remain) and Section 4 (awaiting deportation): in dispersed accommodation, managed by Mears.

There were 292 people under Section 95 and 24 under Section 4.

g) Councillor W Fielding

With reference to my previous question referring to asylum seekers, can the Cabinet Member also outline what the council's role is in working with the Home Office, Mears Group and other agencies, specifically in relation to security and public health?

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities, said that the health screening for asylum seekers was undertaken before dispersal: this included testing for TB. Vaccinations were also given at this point, with an assessment of medical need. This health screening was done in the initial holding centre of arrival.

Members were made aware that the council had weekly meetings with the Home Office regarding asylum and Migration Yorkshire had a designated officer for asylum seekers.

The Home Office would also provide on-site security at hostels and hotels. The Council had weekly meetings with Mears to discuss any management issues. They provided a monthly update on accommodation and requested background information on accommodation before purchase to make sure accommodation was suitable.

The spokesperson stated that Mears had support workers assigned to each asylum seeker, with additional support from the council's Refugee Integration Service and the Safer Communities Team.

The Refugee Council, Health Integration Team, City of Sanctuary and Red Cross all offered free support and advice on a range of topics including access to healthcare. Councillor Makinson said she had recently received an email from Migration Yorkshire to promote that there was a film and other resources rolled out following the work of the National Safeguarding Workstream and Home Office colleagues were in discussions with Mears about their use.

By way of supplementary question, Councillor W Fielding asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that those who are elected platforms to demonise migrants and asylum seekers only make life for those people harder and only embolden the far right?

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities, referred to the previous discussion on the No Place For Hate Campaign and the pledge which all Members had been asked to sign.

h) Councillor Hunt

An additional £2m of highways investment was included within the 2022/23 budget. This was for highways safety measures including expanding advisory 20mph limits outside schools and schemes suggested by elected members. Please could the cabinet member provide an update on progress on this important road safety initiative?

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways stated that following Cabinet approval of the additional investment into 22/23 Highway Capital Maintenance programme, he could report back to members the following update with regard to the School Safety Zones Initiative (the successor to the 20MPH pilot project) and the two phases of the Neighbourhood Road Safety Scheme.

School Safety Zones

Following the recruitment of a dedicated project lead in July 2022, and working with the School Crossing Patrol Co-ordinator, all 74 Primary Schools within the Borough had been assessed, baselining the existing provision of road safety initiatives and identifying areas for improvement.

Using the existing School Crossing Patrol risk assessment process and tailored site visits, 12 more schools had been earmarked for the second phase of the 20mph signage scheme, which also included changes to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders (yellow zig-zags).

Recommendations for further road safety improvements had also been made but these were unique to each location considering specific local factors. Detailed consultation with the 12 schools was set to start before the Christmas break and the service was currently tendering for the additional 20 mph signage.

Following the learning that had taken place as a result of the pilot 20MPH scheme, the long-term agreements for maintenance of the current and existing signage were also under review. It was reported that issues around the programming of current advisory signs installed in phase one had been rectified.

Members were advised to consider the initiative as something greater than a prescriptive rollout of advisory speed signs. Improving road safety outside of Primary Schools was a priority but the interventions must address the local issues if they are to have the desired effect. The introduction of 20 MPH advisory speed signs was only one of the tools being deployed by our officers to improve road safety outside our schools.

Neighbourhood Road Safety Schemes

Following the initial Phase one shortlist of schemes, both the crossing improvements to Park Street and Hough Lane in Wombwell had been ordered. The schemes for Shaw Lane, Cudworth; Pontefract Road, Hoyle Mill; and Sheffield Rd, Penistone would be delivered in the new year.

A number of additional member requests had also been brought forward as a result of the additional investment in the Neighbourhood Road Safety Scheme. These included:

Broadcarr Road, Hoyland, where initial investigations had been completed and safety designs were in production. The target completion date was the end of the calendar year 2022.

New Street, Mapplewell where investigations were now complete and the associated Traffic Regulation Order process was underway.

Gilbert Hill, Langsett where investigations were underway including meeting with National Highways and Yorkshire Water. A scheme to provide additional parking protections was in design.

Paddock Road, Mapplewell where three options were being considered and would be consulted with Ward members in the coming week, the intention being to finalise one option for detailed design before the end of the calendar year.

A616 Hazlehead to Victoria, where investigations were underway and an initial design would be completed by end of the calendar year.

The remaining 10 schemes within the phase two programme were currently under initial review and an outline design would be produced for discussion with Ward councillors by end of the calendar year. Final design and construction would follow with delivery taking place before the end of March 2023.

Councillor Hunt posed a supplementary question, which was how often Members could expect to receive updates, as that provided was welcome but overdue, and would Members receive more detailed feedback on the suggestions they provided in response to Councillor Lamb's request in February 2022.

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways referred to his previous response, which was that where schemes in development they would be reported back to relevant Members by the end of the calendar year. If Members had issues with specific schemes, they were encouraged to get in touch with Councillor Higginbottom and the traffic team.

i) Councillor W Fielding

Can the Cabinet member outline what the council is doing to provide a safe and secure place for transgender and non binary employees, contractors and partners to be themselves in an open, friendly and encouraging environment free from bullying, harassment and abuse?

Councillor Lamb, Deputy Leader, responded stating that the council valued diversity and inclusivity and was committed to creating a positive environment where everyone was treated with dignity and respect. This included recognising and supporting all protected characteristics, including gender identity for employees, contractors and partners.

The Council had produced Gender Identity Guidance which provided employees with a set of organisational principles to help manage and support workplace transitions.

The Equality and Inclusion Action plan was linked to the Council's People Strategy and was currently in the final stages of agreement. The plan was centred around working towards an inclusive workplace where people feel able bring their whole selves to work. Some specific areas from the plan included; strengthening the equality and diversity training offer, the creation of staff networks for protected characteristics as well as a review of equality implications in the recruitment process.

The Council's PROUD staff network (LGBTQ+) had been successfully established, providing a safe space for those who identify as LGBTQ+ and received really positive feedback. The network was planning a series of activities linked to promoting understanding of a variety of related issues. The Council tackled any reported bullying, harassment and abuse promptly in line with our organisational policies.

In the recent employee survey a number of questions were asked in relation to inclusion and areas for improvement. The results would be available in January and would inform action going forward. The Council had also an established Equality Impact Assessment process, which was required when any new service or change in service was being proposed and was designed to identify and negate negative impacts on protected characteristic groups.

132. Questions from a Member of the Public

The Council received two written questions from a Member of the Public, together with responses provided by the relevant Cabinet Spokespersons.

RESOLVED that the questions and responses be noted.

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Chair