

<b>MEETING:</b>	Full Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday 23 May 2024
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

	The Mayor (Councillor Clarke)
Central Ward	- Councillors Moyes, O'Donoghue and Sumner
Cudworth Ward	- Councillors Cherryholme and Hayward
Darfield Ward	- Councillors Osborne and Smith
Darton East Ward	- Councillors Hunt and Nayeri
Darton West Ward	- Councillors T. Cave and Howard
Dearne North Ward	- Councillors Bellamy, Cain and Morrell
Dearne South Ward	- Councillors Bowler, Moore and Pearson
Dodworth Ward	- Councillors Christmas and Fielding
Hoyland Milton Ward	- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe
Kingstone Ward	- Councillors Bullcock, Mitchell and P. Wright
Monk Bretton Ward	- Councillors Green, Richardson and Sheard
North East Ward	- Councillors Booker and Peace
Old Town Ward	- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering
Penistone East Ward	- Councillors Burnett
Penistone West Ward	- Councillors Kitching and Lowe-Flello
Rockingham Ward	- Councillors Holling and A. Wray
Royston Ward	- Councillors Makinson and McCarthy
St. Helen's Ward	- Councillors Leech, Tattersall and N. Wright
Stairfoot Ward	- Councillors K. Dyson and Murray
Wombwell Ward	- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Higginbottom
Worsbrough Ward	- Councillors Bowser and Lodge

## 28. Declarations of Interests

Councillors Howard and Peace each declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 52 as they were employed by the DWP.

Councillors Osborne and Tattersall each declared non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda insofar as they related to their board membership at Berneslai Homes.

Councillors Burnett and Newing each declared non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda insofar as they related to their employment with the NHS.

Councillor T. Cave declared a non-pecuniary interest in items on the agenda insofar as they related to his role as a Trustee of Barnsley Youth Zone.

Councillor Moyes declared a non-pecuniary interest in items on the agenda insofar as they related to her membership of the Town Board.

Councillor Sheard declared a non-pecuniary interest in items on the agenda insofar as they related to her role as a Governor at Barnsley Hospital.

## **29. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **30. Communications**

The Chief Executive announced no communications had been received.

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

The Mayor advised that all appointments had been agreed at the previous meeting of Full Council on 17 May 2024, therefore no further decisions were made.

## **32. Audit and Governance Committee - 20 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 20 March 2024 be received.

## **33. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 17 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel meeting held on the 17 April 2024 be received.

## **34. General Licensing Panel - Various**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

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

**35. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 17 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-Committee held on 17 April 2024 be received.

**36. 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.

**37. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 5 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Stowe – Seconded by Councillor Murray; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 March 2024 be received.

**38. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream) - 26 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Stowe – Seconded by Councillor Murray; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 March 2024 be received.

**39. North Area Council - 11 March 2024**

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 11 March 2024 be received.

**40. Dearne Area Council - 18 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Bellamy – Seconded by Councillor Moore; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on 18 March 2024 be received.

**41. North East Area Council - 21 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor McCarthy; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 21 March 2024 be received.

**42. Central Area Council - 10 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Dyson - Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on 10 April 2024 be received.

**43. Penistone Area Council - 11 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Lowe-Flello – Seconded by Councillor Burnett; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 11 April 2024 be received.

**44. South Area Council - 12 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Osborne – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on 12 April 2024 be received.

**45. Cabinet - 20 March 2024**

Moved by Councillor Makinson – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of Cabinet held on 20 March 2024 be received.

**46. Cabinet - 3 April 2024**

Moved by Councillor Makinson – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of Cabinet held on 3 April 2024 be received.

**47. 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.

**48. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board (draft) - 12 March 2024**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**49. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (draft) - 14 March 2024**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**50. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (draft) - 15 April 2024**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

## **51. Questions by Elected Members**

The Chief Executive reported that she had received five questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

### 1. Councillor Fielding

*When is the hospital park and ride feasibility study going to be published?*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded by advising that the report was now complete and would shortly be submitted through the internal governance process, including reporting back to Cabinet for consideration of its findings. Cabinet would then be in a position to release the report – and any actions arising from it – to members and the wider public.

By way of supplementary question Councillor Fielding asked whether a timetable for publication could be provided.

Councillor Higginbottom reiterated that the report would go through the internal governance process, but that a concrete timeframe could not be given at that stage.

### 2. Councillor Bullock

*What is the council doing to tackle the damage being caused to grassed verges, such as the area at the bottom of Highstone Avenue in Kingstone Ward, by cars and commercial vehicles? This damage makes the areas look unsightly and uncared for.*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded by referring Councillor Bullock to the response issued by the Highways and Engineering Service on 12th May which clearly set out the Council's position on this matter.

By way of supplementary question Councillor Bullock commented that sustainability in Barnsley was important, quoting a corporate priority that "green spaces were protected for all to enjoy". Councillor Bullock asked whether Barnsley Council would ignore a vehicle parked on the green spaces in front of the Town Hall and questioned why green spaces in other neighbourhoods should be treated any different.

Councillor Higginbottom, referring to the specific point of parking in front of the Town Hall, responded that enforcement action would be taken in this instance, given restrictions were in place. Councillor Higginbottom advised there were no enforcement measures in place in the particular area referred to in Councillor Bullock's original question, Highstone Avenue. With regard to sustainability and green spaces, Councillor Higginbottom commented that the Council was keen to work with communities in order to achieve that aim and tackle the nuisance of

obstructive parking. Working with communities on community planting and licenses for this was something the Council was willing to encourage.

### 3. Councillor Hunt

*Where have areas been set aside within our public parks to improve the wildlife habitat and biodiversity?*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded that a number of sites had been under varying grass management plans since 2014. Most recently several Parks & Public Open Spaces had been treated with different grass cutting regimes to improve biodiversity, some including over-seeding with appropriate grassland mix and wildflower mix. These included; Locke Park, Jump Valley Community Woodland and Old Tannery.

Other sites where steps had been taken to improve biodiversity, including Nature Improvement Areas, included; Dearne Valley Country Park, Netherwood Country Park, Yews Lane Kendray, Parkside Hoyland, Inkerman Rec, Littleworth Park, Thurnscoe East Res, Old Thurlstone Tip, Fitzwilliam POS at Elsecar, Old sports field Cudworth Park, Grange Lane Events area and Highstone Lane POS.

Councillor Higginbottom advised that over the last three winter seasons, the Council's hugely successful Tree Planting Project had also created more habitat improvement sites cross the borough including, community orchards, woodland copse and hedgerow planting. The total amount of trees planted in Barnsley across the past three seasons was 26,582.

By way of supplementary question Councillor Hunt commented in addition to declaring a climate emergency, a number of local authorities had also declared a biodiversity or ecological emergency. Councillor Hunt asked why Barnsley Council had not.

Councillor Higginbottom responded that a climate emergency had indeed been declared by the Council and that work was ongoing to meet the achievement of becoming a net zero borough by 2040. Councillor Higginbottom commented the Council was always happy to look at other matters, particularly when it came to improving biodiversity and geodiversity in the borough, signposting Councillor Hunt to the Council's supplementary planning document in this area and work to introduce habitat banks. Although the Council was open to initiatives, Councillor Higginbottom commented that the actions being undertaken in this area were the most important performance indicator and that there was always room for more to be done.

### 4. Councillor Fielding

*Why is the wildflower area in Penny Pie Park still overgrown with weeds and nettles?*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded that the site had been inspected on Friday, 17 May and that the areas designated for wildflowers and grasses within the site adjacent to the railway line were growing well.

For a quick overview of the areas, the wildflowers found at the time of inspection in all three designated zones were as followed; Yarrow, Knapweed, Red Campion, White Campion, Narrow leaved plantain, Foxgloves, Cow parsley, Birdsfoot trefoil, Meadow buttercup, Creeping buttercup, Oxeye daisy, Common Vetch, Butterbur, Herb Robert, Ragged Robin, Dandelion, Daisy, Sow thistle, Cow parsley, Red and white clover, Mayweed, Common nettle, Thistle, Briar and Dock. Nettles, thistles and briar were found in isolated clumps in the areas that were not touched or within or around the mature tree line. The varieties mentioned were found in both the areas set at the initial completion of the site in 2022 and within the space that was disturbed due to the new bridge construction last year and reseeded at the end of season 2023. All the varieties mentioned contributed to the diversity of the space, increasing both insect and birdlife in the area.

The mix of wildflower seed and grasses was a perennial mix and may not be the colourful show that people may associate with annual seeds – such as poppy, cornflowers and meadow marigolds. To maintain this type of wildflower area would require annual rotation and reseeded. Creating perennial wildflower areas, where the Council would cut and collect once a year in September, was more practical and cost-effective and still created a fabulous, diverse space for wildlife. Councillor Fielding was advised that the Council would monitor the area sown last year through the summer months with a view to an over-sow should this be necessary.

By way of supplementary question Councillor Fielding commented that the space was not pretty and could benefit from tidying up, questioning whether Councillor Higginbottom would commit to that.

Councillor Higginbottom responded that the focus of the site to improve biodiversity and wildflowers was around the impact these environments had on wildlife and natural habitats. Acknowledging the perception that this may not be viewed as attractive as some other areas, Councillor Higginbottom stated the Council were achieving their aims.

##### 5. Councillor Fielding

*When is the council going to take safety on the crossroads at the end of Dodworth High Street seriously and provide improvements to the junction?*

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways responded that sites were selected for the introduction of road safety improvement measures based on their collision history. Those sites with the highest level of risk receive the greatest priority.

To ascertain the risk level of sites, the Council used Personal Injury Collision (PIC) data obtained by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) using the 'Crash' collision reporting system. This recorded information about the collision, including time, date, location, weather and other factors that contributed to the collision. The data would then be analysed by staff to see if there were any concerns as to the frequency and nature of the collisions. All causation factors were thoroughly investigated, and if necessary, any improvement works would be programmed. This type of collision investigation work formed part of the routine annual workload of the Council's Traffic Group.

The Council had a statutory duty to monitor all Personal Injury Collisions. Each year the Council interrogated the database to find the sites in Barnsley with the highest level of risk and then sought to resolve issues with these sites using the available funding. The industry standard was to examine the most recent three years of collision data. The data for the junction of High Street, Station Road, Barnsley Road and Dodworth Green Road was reviewed for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022, which was the latest period which validated data was available for. There had been one recorded slight Personal Injury Collision at the crossroads during this period. The crossroads did not, therefore, currently meet the criteria for the provision of any road safety measures, especially given the fact that there were sites in the borough where serious personal injury and fatalities had occurred. Councillor Higginbottom stated it was absolutely ethical that these sites should be prioritised for the road safety funding that was available.

By way of supplementary question Councillor Fielding commented that there was increased pressure on the junction in question and that the quoted statistics were mostly during the period most-affected by Covid-19. Councillor Fielding stated a number of incidents on the crossroads were not reported, such as near misses and personal injuries. Councillor Fielding questioned whether Councillor Higginbottom would instruct traffic engineers to draw up plans for the junction and provide a report to ward councillors.

Councillor Higginbottom reiterated that the data was the most recent period of validated data available, it was released annually and validated by the Traffic Team before being utilised in any planning. Councillor Fielding's concerns over data not being the full picture of the situation were acknowledged and shared by Councillor Higginbottom, stating that there should be a duty on insurers to report back to the Council the data they hold exclusively in relation to damage-only collisions. This would enable a more robust picture to be developed. Councillor Higginbottom reiterated that the areas that had to be prioritised for investment however, were still those where fatalities and serious injuries were evidenced.

## **52. Motion - Scrapping the two-child benefit cap**

The following motion, submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6 was:  
Moved by Councillor Kitching – Seconded by Councillor Fielding:-

This Council notes:

- a. The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 – preventing families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than 2 children in the household.
- b. Recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:
  - 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
  - In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
  - There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.



- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
  - Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.
- c. That in Barnsley, 6240 children in 1780 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 12% of all children in the authority area. At the same time, 15342 [or 29.7%] local children are living in poverty.
  - d. That the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017 and 2019 manifestos and reaffirming their commitment to scrapping it at their 2023 federal Autumn Conference.
  - e. The stance of the Conservative Government to continue with the cap, and that the Labour Party Leader has also indicated that they would ‘keep the two child benefit cap’.

This Council strongly believes:

- f. That the two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped.
- g. As per recent Research from the University of York, that its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- h. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition indicating Barnsley Council’s strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 6240 children living in Barnsley.
- i. Ask the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering the Barnsley area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments.

An amendment, submitted in accordance with standing order No 8 was then:  
Moved by Councillor Makinson – Seconded by Councillor Higginbottom:-

This Council notes:

- a. The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 – preventing families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than 2 children in the household.
- b. Recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
  - In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
  - There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
  - Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
  - Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.
- c. That in Barnsley, 6240 children in 1780 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 12% of all children in the authority area. At the same time, 15342 [or 29.7%] local children are living in poverty.
- d. That the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017 and 2019 manifestos and reaffirming their commitment to scrapping it at their 2023 federal Autumn Conference.
- e. The stance of the Conservative Government to continue with the cap, and that the Labour Party Leader has also indicated that they would ‘keep the two child benefit cap’.

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Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- h. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition indicating Barnsley Council’s strong belief that as soon as government resources allow, the scrapping of the 2 child limit on benefit payments should be something considered alongside other children’s spending pressures such as:-
- Special Educational Needs
  - Schools Budgets
  - Local Authority Children’s Services
  - Children’s Residential Placement Costs
  - Better access to public transport of families and young people
- i. Ask the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering the Barnsley area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments on this basis.

Councillor Kitching stated that the Liberal Democrat Group was willing to accept the amended motion, commenting however that the amendment weakened the motion and was less direct in its stance.

Councillor Makinson moved that the amended motion should become the substantive motion.

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

The amended motion therefore became the substantive motion and was:-  
Moved by Councillor Makinson – Seconded by Councillor Higginbottom:-

**RESOLVED** that the Council notes:

- a. The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 – preventing families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than 2 children in the household.
- b. Recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:
  - 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
  - In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
  - There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
  - Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
  - Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.
- c. That in Barnsley, 6240 children in 1780 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 12% of all children in the authority area. At the same time, 15342 [or 29.7%] local children are living in poverty.
- d. That the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced – calling for it to be axed in their 2017 and 2019 manifestos and reaffirming their commitment to scrapping it at their 2023 federal Autumn Conference.
- e. The stance of the Conservative Government to continue with the cap, and that the Labour Party Leader has also indicated that they would ‘keep the two child benefit cap’.

This Council strongly believes:

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  - Children's Residential Placement Costs
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- i. Ask the Chief Executive to write to all MPs covering the Barnsley area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments on this basis.

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Chair