

<b>MEETING:</b>	Full Council
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, 1 April 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10.00 am
<b>VENUE:</b>	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

## MINUTES

### Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

Central Ward

- Councillors Bruff and Dyson

Cudworth Ward

- Councillors Hayward, Houghton CBE and Wraith MBE

Darfield Ward

- Councillors Markham, Saunders and Smith

Darton East Ward

- Councillors Hunt and Spence

Darton West Ward

- Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard

Dearne North Ward

- Councillors Gollick and Phillips

Dearne South Ward

- Councillors Danforth, C. Johnson and Noble

Dodworth Ward

- Councillors P. Birkinshaw, Fielding and Wright

Hoyland Milton Ward

- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe

Kingstone Ward

- Councillor Williams

Monk Bretton Ward

- Councillors Felton, Green and Richardson

North East Ward

- Councillors Cherryholme and Ennis OBE

Old Town Ward

- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering

Penistone East Ward

- Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson

Penistone West Ward

- Councillors Greenhough, David Griffin and Kitching

Rockingham Ward

- Councillors Andrews BEM, Lamb and Sumner

Royston Ward

- Councillor Makinson

St. Helen's Ward

- Councillors Leech, Platts and Tattersall

Stairfoot Ward

- Councillors Bowler, Gillis and W. Johnson

Wombwell Ward

- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Daniel Griffin

Worsbrough Ward

- Councillors Carr, Clarke and Lodge

## **107. Commemoration**

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

## **108. Retiring Members**

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

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

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

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

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

## **109. Declarations of Interests**

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

## **110. Minutes**

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

## **111. Communications**

### Making Space – Markel Third Sector Care Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Mayor added her thanks and congratulations.

#### Development Management Team - National Royal Town Planning Institute Awards

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **112. Appointment to Outside Bodies**

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

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

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

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

## **113. Date of Annual Council Meeting**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Council Meeting be held at 3.00pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

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

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

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

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

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

**RESOLVED:-**

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

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

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

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

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

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 be received.

**118. Planning Regulatory Board - 23rd February, 2021**

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

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

**119. General Licensing Panel - Various**

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

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

**120. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various**

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

**RESOLVED** that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

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

Moved by Councillor Andrews BEM – Seconded by Councillor Platts; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 be received.

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

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Thriving and Vibrant Economy Workstream) held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 be received.

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

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

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

**124. Central Area Council - 11th January, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Wright; and

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

**125. Dearne Area Council - 18th January, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by Councillor Gollick; and

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

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

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

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

**127. North Area Council - 1st February, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by Councillor Tattersall; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021 be received.

**128. Penistone Area Council - 11th February, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Wilson; and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 be received.

**129. South Area Council - 12th February, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by Councillor Stowe; and

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

**130. Cabinet Meeting - 27th January, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 be received.

**131. Cabinet Meeting - 10th February, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 be received.

**132. Cabinet Meeting - 24th February, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 be received.

**133. Cabinet Meeting - 10th March, 2021**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be received.

**134. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business**

The Chief Executive reported that she had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be noted.

**140. Questions by Elected Members**

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

(a) Councillor Eastwood

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Councillor Wilson

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Councillor Lodge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Councillor Fielding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Councillor Frost

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Councillor Lodge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) Councillor Kitching

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**141. Question by a Member of the Public**

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

**RESOLVED** that the question and responses be noted.

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Chair