

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020**

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor Jenny Andrews) (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Albiston, Allen, Atkin, Beaumont, Beck, Bird, Brookes, Buckley, Carter, Clark, Cooksey, Cowles, Cusworth, B. Cutts, Elliot, M. Elliott, R. Elliott, Ellis, Evans, Fenwick-Green, Hague, Hoddinott, Ireland, Jarvis, Jepson, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mallinder, Marles, Marriott, Napper, Pitchley, Read, Reeder, Roche, Rushforth, Russell, Sansome, Senior, Sheppard, Short, Simpson, Steele, Taylor, John Turner, Julie Turner, Tweed, Vjestica, Walsh, Williams, Watson, Wyatt and Yasseen.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-  
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**326. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor opened the meeting by referring with sadness to the tragic loss of life of residents of the Borough during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mayor offered on behalf of the Council, and of the residents of the Borough, her deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who had sadly died. She indicated that she would hold discussions with political group leaders to consider arrangements for a memorial service in the future.

The Mayor led a period of silence and reflection in honour of those residents who had died during the pandemic.

**327. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Cutts and Whysall.

**328. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**329. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 February 2020, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Watson

**330. PETITIONS**

The Mayor introduced the report and confirmed the receipt of one petition that had been received since the last Council meeting which had not met the threshold for consideration by Council.

- Containing 262 signatures calling on the Council to address the issue of speeding on the B6059 in South Anston.

Dr D Gaubert, the lead petitioner addressed Council as part of the presentation of the petition.

**Resolved: -**

(1) That the report be received.

(2) That the relevant Strategic Directors be required to provide a response to the lead petitioner by 18 June 2020.

**331. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**332. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

(1) **Mr. Harron** was unable to be present to ask his question so would receive a response in writing.

(2) **Mr. Dempsey** was unable to be present to ask his question so would receive a response in writing.

**333. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Mayor advised that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

**334. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT**

The Leader reflected on how much the world had changed since the last meeting of Council in February 2020, and the way in which the global Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on all aspects of everyone's daily life.

The Leader referred with sadness to all of the Rotherham residents who had passed away due to Covid-19, and on behalf of all members sent his sincerest condolence to their families, friends and loved ones. The Leader noted that losing someone at any time was always difficult, but to do so at a time when funerals had been restricted and when the usual processes of grief had been interrupted, would have been especially painful.

The Leader noted that effects of the pandemic continued to impact on everyone's lives and had hugely changed how the Council and its partners delivered services to Rotherham's residents.

The Leader paid tribute to the dedicated public servants who had risen to the occasion and advised that many Council staff had been re-deployed from a number of different services in order to establish the Council's Community Hub and Rotherham Heroes Volunteers Programme. These initiatives had seen hundreds of individual volunteers and community organisations providing support to local residents.

The Leader also referred to the work of all staff across the Council who had kept services going in often very challenging conditions during the pandemic. The Leader asked for all Members to put on record their thanks and appreciation for everything that NHS staff, police, council staff, and all key workers had done during the pandemic.

The Leader led Members in a round of applause to show their appreciation of the work of NHS staff, police, council staff, and all key workers during the pandemic.

Councillor Carter sought clarification in respect of council tax arrangements for individuals who had inadvertently become owners of second homes after not being able to sell their existing property during the lockdown in March, April and May, and referred to at least one such case that he was aware of within his ward. In response, the Leader indicated that he would be happy to look into the individual circumstances referred to and he did not wish for individuals to find themselves in difficult circumstances.

**335. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 23 March and 11 May 2020, be received.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Watson

**336. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the adoption of a revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2023.

The report noted that Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every three years, however the last review that had been scheduled for 2014 had not taken place due the Council's focus at that time on taxi and private hire licensing. It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 10 June 2019 (Cabinet Minute No.16) had approved a two-stage consultation process that would inform a revised Statement of Licensing Policy

The revised policy included a number of proposed changes to the existing policy, and it was noted that the consultation process had shown that these changes were broadly supported. A summary of the consultation process was included in the officer's report with a summary of responses attached as an appendix

The proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy included:

- The addition of the section identifying the links between different priorities and strategies of the Council, such as the role of Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Planning, and Culture and Tourism had in the role of protecting the public from the harms of gambling.
- The inclusion of a section to provide more detailed information to emphasise the individual licensing objectives and to detail how these could be promoted by applicants.

The full revised Statement of Licensing Policy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

**Resolved: -**

That the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 - 2023 be approved and adopted.

Mover: Councillor Hoddinott

Seconder: Councillor Ellis

**337. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Councillor Evans declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion and subsequent vote.

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval and adoption of a revised Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy.

The report noted that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every three years, however the last review that had been scheduled for 2016 had not taken place due the Council's focus at that time on taxi and private hire licensing.

It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 23 December 2019 (Cabinet Minute No.97) had approved that a consultation process on the drafted policy take place to inform the final version of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. A summary of the consultation process was included in the officer's report and a summary of responses was attached as an appendix.

The report also provided information on a proposed Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) for Wickersley that would be included in the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. It was noted that where appropriate the Council could identify areas within the Borough where the granting of further licences, or variations to licences would likely impact on the Council's obligations to the licensing objectives, and as a consequence the Council should produce a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for such areas in order to establish whether a CIZ should be implemented.

It was noted that following the Cabinet decision that a CIA for Wickersley should be completed, that a CIA that had been drafted had been consulted on widely with Ward councillors, licensees, residents and other responsible authorities. In response to the information received from the responsible authorities and supported by the response to the consultation the CIA showed that there was sufficient evidence to proceed with the implementation a CIZ for Wickersley due to the saturation of licensed premises, and the density of these premises having a negative impact on crime and anti-social behaviour and also of them negatively impacting health through an increase in ambulance call-outs directly related to alcohol consumption. The proposed CIZ for Wickersley was attached as an appendix to the officer's report

The full revised Statement of Licensing Policy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Councillor Roche stated his support for the revised statement of Licensing Policy and noted the numerous support services that were available in the Borough for people looking to reduce their alcohol intake.

Councillor Carter advised of his concerns regarding the proposed Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley in light of the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and that zone would create further difficulties for the hospitality industry as the country emerged from the pandemic. Councillor Steele, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that when the revised statement of Licensing Policy had been considered by Board that they had recommended to Cabinet that the Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley be reconsidered and noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board did not always agree report recommendations. Councillor Steele advised however that he would be voting to support the revised statement of Licensing Policy and the Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley.

Councillor Cowles advised that he would not be supporting the recommendations noting that the situation in Wickersley had been created by the Council in allowing the focus of the night-time economy in Rotherham to move to Wickersley and away from the town centre.

In responding to the debate, the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, Councillor Hoddinott thanked Councillor Roche for the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board for their input into the revised policy. The Cabinet Member noted the evidence that had been used to determine the proposed Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley and advised that the zone would not prohibit new licensed premises opening but would mean that decisions taken on granting new licences could take into account the impact of that licence on the wider area, and not considered in isolation. The Cabinet Member in response to Councillor Steele noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's concerns had been regarding the size of the Cumulative Impact Zone being too large but advised that it was important that the zone was of adequate size so as not to simply displace the problems associated with a proliferation of licensed premises elsewhere.

**Resolved: -**

That the Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2025 be approved and adopted.

Mover: Councillor Hoddinott

Seconder: Councillor Ellis

**338. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Consideration was given to a report that provided a progress report of the Council's actions in respect to Responding to the Climate Change Emergency.

The Cabinet Member for Cleaner, Greener Communities, Councillor Allen in moving the report noted that following the Council declaration of a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 30 October 2019 (Council Minute No.271), work had been undertaken to produce a draft policy document "Rotherham Council Responding to the Climate Emergency", that set out the Council's commitment to tackle climate emergency. The draft policy document was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Councillor Allen advised that a Member Working Group had been established to consider the Council's response to the climate emergency and to propose a target for the Council's carbon reduction. As a result of this work it was proposed that the Council's carbon emissions should be at net zero by 2030 and Borough-wide carbon emissions should be at net zero by 2040. The Cabinet Member noted that the draft policy document, due to the constant improvement and development of technology in this area was a living document, and as such would be subject to amendment over time.

Councillor Allen advised that work to deliver on the proposed targets would be approached by themes of activity supported by a set of actions for 2020/21 and that it was proposed that the Member Working Group would continue to develop the policy and actions for future years to meet the target outcomes. A full action plan of activity was attached as an appendix to the officer's report. Actions for 2020/21 included:

- Producing carbon impact assessments for all significant Cabinet decisions
- Addressing gaps in data collection regarding CO2 emissions
- Exploring the feasibility of renewable energy self-generation
- Committing to requiring efficiency standards for private housing developers that were in line with net zero targets
- Carrying out assessments of the Council's operational buildings to determine feasible energy efficiency upgrades
- Developing a timeline for Electric vehicle fleet conversion
- Developing awareness training for the Council's work force around energy use behaviours
- Promoting sustainable transport across the workforce
- Strengthening South Yorkshire partnership commitments to reduce emissions associated with waste
- Completing energy efficiency improvements to street lighting.

Councillor Allen advised that to deliver on the proposed targets engagement with staff, residents and partners would be essential and that the working group would be looking for both staff and members to become Climate Change Champions.

Councillor Roche in seconding the report thanked Councillor Allen, the working group and officers for their work in getting to the current point so quickly. Councillor Roche stressed the urgency of the situation and the importance of driving the activities forward that would enable the Council to meet its targets for net zero carbon emissions.

Councillor Steele, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board welcomed the report, noting that the Board had endorsed the report and its recommendations at its meeting in March 2020. Councillor Steele welcomed the tree planting policy and noted that the Covid-19 pandemic would mean changes to everyone's lives, but that some of these changes, such as cycling more would have a positive impact on the environment.

Councillor Walsh noted his support for the report and stated that it was fitting that Rotherham as a Borough and its legacy of heavy and polluting industry should take a leading role in moving to a greener future. Councillor Walsh welcomed the pragmatic and specific short-term actions and objectives as well as the broad direction of future activities that would be able to respond to green technological advances. Councillor Sheppard noted the positive experience of being part of the working group and advised that while the pandemic had caused economic harm that it had also shown that different, lower carbon ways of working were possible and should be carried on into the future.

Councillor Carter welcomed the report as a positive first step for the Council but noted that for real change to happen specific and targeted policies needed to be developed and implemented in order to enable significant reductions in carbon emissions in the Borough. Councillor Carter also queried whether the Council had sufficient expertise to deliver on its green objectives or whether external resources would need to be brought in. Councillor Napper in supporting the report noted that tree planting activity on Council land should be as high as possible and that the Council should fully investigate the potential for using the rivers in the Borough to generate hydroelectric power.

In responding to the debate Councillor Allen thanked members for their support of the report and encouraged all of those who had spoken in support to get involved with the working group and the development of the policies that would help the Council reach its environmental targets. Councillor Allen also assured Councillor Carter that the Council did have the expertise in-house to deliver on the required actions.

**Resolved: -**

That the report in respect of responding to the Climate Emergency be noted.

Mover: Councillor Allen

Seconder: Councillor Roche

**339. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS**

Consideration was given to a report that provided information on changes to the political groups on the Council and on the political balance since the last meeting on the Council.

It was noted that since the last Council meeting on 26 February notification had been received in accordance of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 of the operation of a new political group, with the former Brexit Party Group becoming the Rotherham Democratic Party Group with effect from 1 March 2020. The report also noted that since 1 May 2020, the Labour Group's membership had reduced to 44 Members with the resignation of former Councillor Richard Price, the application of the six-month attendance rule removing former Councillors Allcock and Wilson and the decision of Councillor Evans to sit as a non-aligned Member.

The officer's report provided information on the impact of these changes on the political balance of the Council, noting that in accordance with the regulations regarding the allocation of seats to members not in a political group that 12 should be allocated to the five non-aligned councillors

It was noted that under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the Council had the discretion not to hold an Annual Meeting during the 2020/21 municipal year. On this basis, it was proposed that, subject to the foregoing updates in respect of entitlement to seats, that appointments to committees, boards and panels, as well as joint committees, be extended from the previous 2019/20 municipal year until such a time as the Council holds an Annual Meeting either during the current municipal year at the start of the 2021/22 municipal year.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That the operation of two political groups on the Council and the detail of their designated Leaders be noted as:
  - Labour Group – Councillor Chris Read (Leader of the Council)
  - Rotherham Democratic Party Group – Councillor Allen Cowles (Leader of the Majority Opposition Group)
- 2) That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups and non-aligned Members be agreed, and that such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.
- 3) That, subject to the changes required from the previous municipal year's entitlement, the appointments made by the Council in the 2019/20 municipal year to committees, boards and panels and joint committees be continued for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Watson

**340. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for amendments to be made to the Council's Constitution that were required in response to the changes made by Government to how local authority meetings were held in response to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report noted that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Government had passed Regulations that had been designed to enable Councils to hold meetings remotely, and as a consequence of these changes amendments were required to be made to the Council's Constitution.

In addition to the amendments to the Constitution that were required as a result of changes to legislation, changes were also proposed that would provide clarification in respect of the quorum for committees and sub-committees of the Council. The proposed amendments to the Constitution were detailed in the officer's report.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 be noted.
- 2) That the proposed amendments to Appendix 4 of the Constitution (Council Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
- 3) That the proposed amendments to Appendix 3 of the Constitution (Access to Information Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
- 4) That the Constitution Working Group review the implementation and effectiveness of the changes after six months of operation and report back to Council by no later than January 2021 on any further changes required.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Watson

**341. PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN HONORARY FREEWOMAN OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM**

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to create an Honorary Freewoman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

The report noted that under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the power to grant the title of Honorary Freewoman and Honorary Freeman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough. It was proposed that in accordance with the authority's protocol in respect awarding this honour that Dame Julie Ann Kenny CBE DL HonD FRSA be considered to be made an Honorary Freewoman of the Borough. It was noted that the proposal had been endorsed by the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

**Resolved: -**

- 1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, and in recognition of her outstanding service as a major employer in the borough, services to industry and charitable works within Rotherham and South Yorkshire, Dame Julie Ann Kenny CBE DL HonD FRSA be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the Borough at an extraordinary Council meeting.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to determine the date of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to admit Dame Julie Kenny as an Honorary Freewoman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

Mover: Councillor Read      Second: Councillor Watson

**342. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee of 12 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor McNeely      Second:- Councillor Clark

**343. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board of 11 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Roche      Second: - Councillor Mallinder

**344. PLANNING BOARD**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board of 27 February 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Sheppard      Second: - Councillor Williams

**345. STAFFING COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee of 2 March and 14 May 2020 be adopted and approved.

Mover: - Councillor Alam

Seconder: - Councillor Read

**346. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board and Licensing Board Sub-Committee of 24 February and 3 and 16 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Ellis

Seconder: - Councillor Beaumont

**347. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS**

**(1) Councillor Reeder** referred to the Advertiser of the 27th May, 2020 - Fire in East Herringthorpe - in the article that covered the fire in East Herringthorpe it stated that the pump in attendance came from Stocksbridge, so asked could the spokesperson please confirm where Rotherham's own pump was at this time and, therefore, why it was necessary to bring a pump from Stocksbridge?

Councillor Taylor confirmed the incident in question (2044006033), involved a grassland fire at Hatfield Moor. With any large fire incident this often involved lots of appliances and they were strategically moved to ensure overall coverage.

At the time of the vehicle fire at Wickersley Road, Herringthorpe, on the 26th May, 2020, one of the Rotherham appliances was assisting at Hatfield Moor and this resulted in the Stocksbridge appliance being placed on standby at, and mobilised from, Rotherham Fire Station to attend the incident at Herringthorpe.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reeder sought an assurance that there would be no more cuts to fire services due to the support to the Police and NHS during this difficult time. It takes time to train people and have people ready to deal with a fire, especially if one occurs in Rotherham on an evening. What would have happened if there had been a local house fire with people trapped and how long would it have taken for the pump to arrive from Stocksbridge? This was why people were calling for the second pump at night to be reinstated in Rotherham. Funding was available and would Councillor Taylor continue to lobby as his party pledged to restore the second pump in Rotherham.

Councillor Taylor explained it was not unusual for a fire pump to be sent from the other end of South Yorkshire and to stand at another station. There was no delay in this instance. The second pump at night had now not been in place for two years and it was unfortunate this had been the case for Rotherham.

Interestingly the new Fire Minister had spoken in Parliament about pressures on the service both historically and currently with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Mayor advised the meeting that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(11)(c), the Designated Spokespersons for the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority would respond in writing to Councillor Carter in respect of the following questions, which would be appended to the minutes of the meeting presented for approval on 22 July 2020:

- How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the South Yorkshire Pension Fund, particularly given its investments in the fossil fuel industry?
- How many fixed penalty notices have South Yorkshire Police issued since the Coronavirus Act was enacted, broken down by council ward?
- Where does South Yorkshire Police rank in terms of the issuing of fixed penalty notices and warnings issued under the Coronavirus Act, compared to other police constabularies in England?
- How many reports of Coronavirus lockdown breaches have been made using the online reporting form in Rotherham, what actions have been taken as a result of these, and how many convictions and fixed penalty notices has this resulted in?
- What has been the impact on South Yorkshire's Fire and Rescue Service during the coronavirus lockdown period, in terms of fires and callouts in comparison to previous years?
- What is the combined authority's forecast on the economic impact from the coronavirus public health measures and can you please outline the combined authority's economic recovery plan?

#### **348. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**(1) Councillor Napper** referred to the Advertiser reporting that Labour Councillors have dropped Councillor Jones to be Mayor. If this was true, why? When he nominated Councillor John Turner for Deputy Mayor, the Labour Councillors then voted on-block for Councillor Jones, giving their reasons as a champion for his residents and for veterans. He asked why had this changed and could it be his stance on Droppingwell Tip?

The Leader could not comment on the circumstance of the vote, but at the Annual Meeting, the Labour Group would endorse a candidate for Mayor. This would be subject to democratic endorsement by way of a vote of all Members of the Council.

In a supplementary question Councillor Napper asked if the Councillors who proposed and seconded Councillor Jones were they misleading Members at the time by their recommendations.

The Leader did not believe they had misled Members in any way by moving a candidate for Deputy Mayor, which was voted on and agreed at the time.

**(2) Councillor John Turner** explained Democracy was Government of the people by the people for the people. It seemed that every party purported to be against the reopening of the tip at Droppingwell, so asked would the ruling party take steps to effect this deliberation?

Councillor Hoddinott explained that the Council's opposition to the re-opening of Droppingwell Tip was a matter of public record and reminded the meeting that councillors unanimously voted to ask the Environment Agency to revoke the permit to tip on the site in January 2017. She reiterated that the Council was, therefore, clear in its opposition to the reopening of the site.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Turner asked if this was correct why was the Secretary of State not intervening to support what the people of Rotherham wanted in the same way China conducted their democracy with Hong Kong.

Councillor Hoddinott was unable to draw the same conclusions as the situation in Hong Kong, but indicated that she was concentrating on what was happening in Rotherham. Responses were awaited to correspondence sent to the Secretary of State in respect of this matter by the Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive.

**(3) Councillor Carter** asked what had the impact been on the reported instances of fly-tipping since restrictions at the household waste recycling centres have been introduced and could the Cabinet Member please outline the plan and associated timescale for the re-opening of household waste recycling centres back to their normal operation.

Councillor Hoddinott thanked everyone who had been so patient in relation to the restrictions in respect of household waste and recycling centres. Their closure and restrictions on their opening had been and continued to be frustrating at times, but she reiterated that it was absolutely essential that the restrictions were not relaxed and that social distancing continued to be observed for the people that were working to avoid putting people's health at risk.

Furthermore, she preferred to err on the side of caution in relation to the closure of household recycling sites and fly-tipping statistics. However, since the end of January the service had recorded a 12% reduction in fly-tipping across the Borough (1,942 incidents in 2020 compared to 2,213 in 2019). From 23 March 2020 to 24 May 2020 the Council dealt with 1,048 fly-tipping incidents, which represented an 8% reduction on the previous year. It had only been a few weeks since the sites reopened, but during that time there had been a 25% increase in recorded fly-tipping when compared to last year. The Council would continue to examine the latest Government guidance and consult with FCC, who delivered the household waste contract, to see when operations could be increased.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter pointed out it was too early to make decisions as residents would like the certainty that garden waste was being included. With the introduction of the garden waste collection charge there was some disparity between areas so he asked whether rough guidelines could be issued so residents could have some certainty about garden waste and DIY material was being taken into consideration.

Councillor Hoddinott was unable to confirm any specific timeframes. Materials accepted would only be updated once it was safe and could be operated safely. That kerbside collections had continued was a real credit to the Waste Service who had kept going throughout the lockdown period. Rotherham was one of the few Councils that had managed to keep this going and residents were very appreciative and this would continue to be subject to review. Some sites were restricted and not in full operation due to their size and to ensure cars could maintain social distances. However, it was now pointed out that the tetra packs had been added to recyclable materials, which was very welcome.

**(4) Councillor John Turner** referred to a new waste tip application that would be receiving onerous and poisonous materials, which, if received today, would surely have to properly prepare the site against for example leakage of poisonous liquids or materials into water courses so asked when the application was made years ago, was this consideration attended to?

Councillor Sheppard confirmed that in relation to controls attached to the original 1958 permission, this was granted at the time within the existing planning regulations for 1958 and had very few conditions or controls. For this reason, the Council had written to the Secretary of State to ask for action in relation to the current legal position that effectively meant that the operator had been able to leave the site dormant for over twenty-five years and then re-open it without any further recourse to the Council in terms of planning law. Any new applications were scrupulously checked for all compliance and if received today it was likely to be different scenario. Unfortunately, back in 1958 some regulations were not in place.

In a supplementary question Councillor Turner was of the view that today such an application would not be granted. He lived in Wickersley and it was one area with little flooding, which meant there was no real contamination in the watercourses, but this would not be in the case in other places.

Councillor Sheppard responded and confirmed the planning process was much different and more rigorous that it had been previously.

**(5) Councillor Carter** asked with the selling of the old library building in Brinsworth, how would these funds be reinvested back into the local area?

Councillor Allen explained, as with all capital receipts received by the Council, any surplus generated from the sale of the building would support the Council's capital budget commitments. In the budget the Council set out plans for more investment in roads, street cleaning and litter bins, in libraries and in other services used by the residents of Brinsworth, pointing out that Councillor Carter voted against all of those investments.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter explained there were many priorities including tackling the climate emergency and vulnerable people and children. He asked to make the borough more active whether the Cabinet Member supported the use of capital receipts being reinvested locally for say a bolder tree planting scheme or more sports facilities for local residents in the areas where the assets were being sold off. He, therefore, asked if the Cabinet Member supported a proposal to support this or whether this could be devolved to ward funding.

Councillor Allen explained the Council had an Asset Management Board which oversaw the disposal of all assets. This site, once the building had been cleared, would be put onto the open market with a view to residential development interest.

**(6) Councillor M. Elliott** referred to the Throw Line Board adjacent to the bridge at Ulley Country Park, which was taped up to obviously prevent it being used, and asked why this was the case.

Councillor Allen confirmed, unfortunately, the Throw Line at this site was stolen and as such was temporarily taped off. A replacement was installed on the afternoon of Friday, 29th May, 2020. The Cabinet Member urged Councillor Elliott to report any other health and safety issues to her immediately rather than waiting for a formal Council meeting.

In a supplementary question Councillor Elliott explained this project had come from three local Ward Councillors, but asked where responsibility lay for servicing these boards as one had seized up altogether.

Councillor Allen confirmed the lock on the board to the boat house had been noted and the Green Spaces Team had been notified. The replacement throw line would be funded by the Council as part of its servicing responsibilities.

**(7) Councillor Carter** asked how had the planning process adapted to the realities of the Coronavirus public health measures in place, particularly in relation to informing residents of new planning applications?

Councillor Sheppard explained the Planning Service moved seamlessly in the Covid-19 situation and were able to operate remotely and was able to continue to accept, process and validate planning applications effectively in the current situation.

All relevant publicity including press notices, site notices and neighbour letters have continued to be sent out in order that the public were notified of applications received by the Council. In response to the current situation there had been an increase in the use of letters to nearby residents (rather than site notices) during this period to ensure residents were kept informed of any proposed development in their area. To allow for potential postal delays, and to give people a longer period to respond to notification letters, officers were taking a flexible approach to the period allowed for people to respond. Where residents have raised issues or have had difficulty viewing the plans, officers have agreed extended time for the application to be considered. Neighbour letters have been updated to include officer contact details, to ensure that residents receiving a letter could contact the case officer direct to discuss or raise any concerns they may have in relation to applications.

The first virtual Planning Board was to be held on 4 June 2020 and members of the public who wanted to address the Board have been invited to join the meeting using Microsoft Teams, could join by telephone or submit a written statement to ensure that full involvement in decision making could take place.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter believed residents were frustrated by measures restricting their movements and when planning applications were received notices were placed on lampposts adjacent to relevant land. It had been heard that the Council was compliant with statutory obligations and had implemented a change where a wider number of neighbours were notified by letter to ensure that planning applications were seen in the democratic and planning process without residents feeling applications were rushed through without their knowledge and input.

Councillor Sheppard explained the service was looking to increase the number of letters, but only so many could be sent out within a realistic radius of a development having an impact on local residents. He asked Councillor Carter to refer details of any particular sites or concerns to himself or Planning Officers.

**(8) Councillor Cowles** asked the Leader if it was his understanding, as it was his own, that if a question was to be answered in writing then the full question should be answered and confirmed. A simple Yes or No would suffice.

The Leader explained this would depend on the question and its nature, the subject and whether all information was available to answer a question fully. Context was everything and he would like to understand the issue which would present itself in your supplementary question.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles referred to it being a Member's individual choice not to give a response, and in some circumstances a full response was provided to the question asked. If a full response was not provided could it be made clear why there was no response to avoid this question being asked again and not receive an acknowledgement. He added that surely if there was a reason this could be taken up with the Leader of the Council.

The Leader enquired whether Councillor Cowles if he had a particular situation in mind, but if a question had not been answered he could bring it to the Leader for further discussion. Without further information he was unable to comment.

**(9) Councillor Carter** referred recently to the three councillors who were disqualified or resigned from their posts after a prolonged period of non-attendance and asked could the Cabinet Member please explain how the money saved over the next twelve months would be spent?

Councillor Alam explained as the Council was due to reduce in size from 63 Members to 59 Members at the election that had been planned to take place on 7th May, 2020, and which had now been postponed until 2021, there was one more Member than the budget set for the year so there would not be any savings to spend.

**(10) Councillor Cowles** pointed out that during the motion, in February, relating to Watson's Tip the Cabinet Member said "If the Council had the power to stop it, we would have" and asked was this still the Cabinet Member's position on this matter?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed it was still her position on this matter.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles indicated that he wanted to be certain about this situation. Previously when questioned by Councillor Hague, the Cabinet Member had not wanted to discuss the situation as it could jeopardise any investigation or legal action. If the Council could not stop this then it would be the same situation for Whiston Book, so he wanted to be clear what the position was. He asked whether the Cabinet Member was saying the Council itself could take action against another organisation, and if it could take action, it should do so as this was the least that residents should expect from its local authority.

Councillor Hoddinott reiterated her previous sentence and stressed the importance of opposing the opening of the tip. Unfortunately, the Council did not have the power to close and the power with the permit lay with the Environment Agency and the Government – reiterating that only they had the power to remove it. The Cabinet Member welcomed support in putting pressure on the Government to look at this case and use its powers to intervene.

**(11) Councillor Carter** asked how many beds have the Council provided for people who have been registered homeless prior to the Coronavirus public health measures being introduced?

Councillor Beck placed on record the Council's thoughts with people that become homeless and had been sleeping rough. In recent weeks there had been more people approaching the service and Members should be reassured that the service was working hard to support these people. There was a clear distinction between those registered homeless and rough sleepers, but to answer the question before lockdown this was 70.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked that since lockdown what capacity had been increased to provide for homeless and rough sleepers and what was the plan for managing accommodation for people moving forward.

Councillor Beck confirmed the service had been very busy and, as general lettings were suspended during lockdown, the focus had been on the homeless. More temporary housing accommodation had been provided with 80 places available in the Council's own stock and through using accommodation like private hotels and housing association properties. Members were issued briefings to provide confidence and reassurance that everything was being done to ensure no-one was left behind and accommodation was available to whoever asked for it and came into contact with the Council.

**(12) Councillor Cowles** asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that she was aware that CCTV cameras were now being removed/stolen from the tops of lamp posts in Eastwood to inhibit the Council's surveillance activity?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed this occasionally did happen in all areas across the borough and had happened twice in Eastwood.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Cowles pointed out Members were told things were improving with the street cleansing and selective licensing, but even with the first roll out this had not been completed. He asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm when this would be resolved to relieve the taxpayers of the financial burden.

Councillor Hoddinott pointed out that despite Councillor Cowles saying he would never ask a question again about Eastwood, he had submitted a number now. She reiterated that everything was being done to improve areas, regardless of where this was in the borough and if this involved street cleansing, this would continue, with good things and improvements being reported. She reported that in the previous week an offender had been caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping by CCTV and a £400 fine had been issued.

**(13) Councillor Carter** asked what monitoring of air pollution had taken place since the Coronavirus public health measures were introduced in March, and what measures would the Council be putting in place to maintain these levels as much as possible with the lifting of travel restrictions?

Councillor Hoddinott explained the monitoring of air pollution had continued to take place across Rotherham throughout this period. Information was available online and the Cabinet Member would be happy to provide the links to those sites to Members outside of this meeting. Last week, the South Yorkshire Combined Authority agreed its new active travel strategy, led by the most successful female British Paralympian of all time, Dame Sarah Storey, which set out a long term commitment to invest in more pedestrian and cycle friendly routes and infrastructure, and it was this kind of long term investment that would maintain air quality in the future. Councillor Lelliott, as Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, was also working on this opportunity during the Covid-19 situation to get more people walking and cycling.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked if the Cabinet Member would agree this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish new behaviours in the uses of travel and put forward proposals for incentives to residents to promote working from home and use other forms of transport other than the car.

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed there had been many opportunities which had been aired earlier in the meeting in the discussion on responding to the climate change emergency, including investment in electric vehicle charging and air monitoring.

**(14) Councillor Jepson** asked whether the Leader agreed with him that the two councillors removed from office at the end of April 2020 for non-attendance at Council meetings for six months and another councillor who resigned immediately prior to be removed not only failed to properly represent the residents that elected them, but they should also be asked to repay to the Council the allowances they received over this period.

The Leader agreed it was deeply regrettable and quite right of those former Members to have resigned or ceased to be councillors. Their individual circumstances were different and the Leader did not believe it was appropriate to get involved in the situations in people's lives. The Members referred to had continued to receive allowances for this six-month period and would not be challenged at this stage.

**(15) Councillor Carter** asked what percentage of vulnerable and at-risk children had been attending school since the Coronavirus lockdown closed schools to most pupils, and how had that figure changed during each week?

Councillor Watson explained that over the previous nine weeks the percentage of vulnerable and at-risk children attending school had risen from 5.1% in the first week of partial closure. The Deputy Leader agreed to send by email the details for each week. It was known that in England an average of 14% of vulnerable children and young people were attending schools across the country.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter referred to figures being slightly above average in terms of vulnerable children. He asked what were the measures for vulnerable and safeguarded children who were eligible to go to school to make sure they were followed up without regular checking at schools, which would ordinarily take place, for children subjected to difficult or abusive situations.

Councillor Watson pointed out that every child had different vulnerabilities and for those with health conditions it was right for them to stay at home. Schools were doing home visits to check on children and when comparing the percentage attending on any given day it varied. The Council was confident that those children that needed to be seen were checked up on either by their schools, early help and social care or the virtual school.

**(16) Councillor Carter** asked with the easing of the Coronavirus public health measures, what was the Council's policy towards Council owned sports and recreation facilities, particularly local park car parking and children's play areas?

Councillor Allen explained the Council had followed the guidance issued by Government and had closed facilities where guidance had been specific. Some guidance had been open to interpretation, e.g. parks should remain open, but car parking facilities and toilets were not mentioned. In these instances, the Council had risk assessed options based on its interpretation of the regulations, in conjunction with the Council's Legal and Health and Safety departments and the team's knowledge of its own parks, the residents and visitors who used them, doing everything reasonably possible to ensure public safety across parks and green spaces.

Given anticipated demand for access to parks, the ability of the Council's spaces and teams to safely manage high volume and Government guidance to remain as local as possible, it was decided to maintain car parking charges as a deterrent to large volumes of visitors. Throughout lockdown the Council saw dramatically reduced numbers at its main destination parks before a sharp increase following the easing of measures two weeks ago. Car parking numbers remained restricted at parks to limit numbers.

Guidance on sports and recreation facilities and play areas had been much clearer. Initially play areas, tennis courts, sport pitches and athletics tracks were specified and closed. Some activities such as angling, tennis and golf have recently been permitted to re-open. In each case, a risk assessment had considered whether facilities would meet requirements in other areas of the regulation. For example, could the Council ensure that social distancing could be maintained, what PPE might be required, were there sufficient staff available due to redeployment and could the Council introduce additional cleaning rotas. Restrictions on play areas remained in place in line with the current Government regulation prohibiting access to play areas and outdoor gym equipment.

As lockdown measures were eased further, the Council would continue to risk assess facilities across parks and would only re-open when it was safe to do so. The Council would continue to communicate any changes to access via the Council's website, social media and on-site signage.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked as the Council followed Government guidelines in terms of outdoor sports, what sanitisation was being provided in Council owned parks and playground sand angling and golf centres to ensure residents could wash and keep hands clean and as safe as possible.

Councillor Allen referred to the high levels of usage at Rother Valley Country Park and how hand sanitation facilities for users were being provided. In addition, the toilets were being closed for ten minutes in every hour so a thorough clean could be performed. This gave access to hand washing. Not all of the Council parks had this facility, so hand sanitation was being provided for people using the parking fee machines and where there were toilets increased cleaning rotas had been introduced. Risk assessments were picking up additional issues such as cleaning rotas, social distancing and PPE to ensure users were as safe as possible. As guidance changed relatively quickly people were advised to check the Council's website, social media and onsite notices when facilities were re-opening.

**(17) Councillor Carter** asked what percentage of Council staff have been supported to work from home since the Government's policy to work from home where possible, and how much vacant office space had that created throughout the Council?

Councillor Alam confirmed that as at 22 May 2020, 46% of the Council's workforce were recorded as working from home on the HR Portal System. With regards to vacant office space created, which was, of course, temporary only Riverside House, Bailey House and Hellaby Depot Offices have remained operational though with a much reduced occupation. Riverside House was currently occupied at around 5% of capacity (including occupation by partners from the NHS and South Yorkshire Police), whilst Bailey House was circa 20% occupied and Hellaby Depot Offices was at circa 20% occupied. The remaining offices were either closed to Council staff or were occupied in part by partners.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter referred to the measures as temporary, but asked what work had taken place over the last twelve weeks to ensure Council staff could work from home and had done so, and what was the percentage forecast of Council officers returning back to the office as opposed to working from home when the Government indication was for this to be possible.

Councillor Alam explained the first priority was for the welfare of officers and the need to carry out risk assessments for when officers returned to the workplace to ensure it was safe. The Council was still waiting Government guidance and any risks would not be tolerated.

**(18) Councillor Carter** asked since the beginning of March, how many Public Health Funerals, colloquially known as 'Pauper's funerals' have been undertaken by the Council, how did this compare to the past five years and what had been the financial impact?

Councillor Roche explained the number of Public Health Funerals that have taken place between the periods of 1 March to 29 May 2020 was seven. This compared with three from 1 March to 29 May in 2019, five from 1 March to 29 May in 2018, ten from 1 March to 29 May in 2017 and eight from 1 March to 29 May 2016. As such, the figure was broadly similar to recent years. Financial details were available, however, these were collated based on financial year April-March, as this gave the opportunity to account for monies recovered from the estates of individuals which the Council always sought to do. The approximate cost per funeral service for a standard cremation funeral was £1,800.00 with the current total cost being £12,600.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked what measures the Council would undertake to identify a next of kin or make relations aware that family members have died. Councillor Roche gave his assurance that steps were taken by officers to trace relatives and clarify estates where necessary. In many cases the tracing facilities cost more than the funeral.

**349. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items of business.

**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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17 June 2020

Mr L Harron  
By email

Dear Mr Harron

**Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“My request on 26.10.15 for “Information sent out with the Voices of Despair Voices of Hope publication to those taking part in any appraisal or evaluation” received the response:

*Two copies of the document were sent with an explanation about why an independent view was being sought.*

Will the Leader explain why the explanation (highlighted) has yet to be provided?”

I have spoken to Council Officers who have confirmed that the Council does not hold any information relating to the explanation provided to the independent expert.

I am sorry that I can't provide the information that you have request.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**

**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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15 June 2020

Mr G Dempsey  
By email

Dear Mr Dempsey

**Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“I note that the Deputy Leader admitted to Channel 4 that he had not read all of the Jay and Casey reports; and that some who attended the seminar about CSE in April 2005 are still councillors. Since August 2014, what has been the total amount paid by RMBC for the costs of CSE in legal fees, compensation, and insurance?”

In relation to the costs:

- Legal costs paid so far are £1,666,230.
- We are not able to disclose the value of compensation payments made at the current time because it has been determined that disclosure of this information would breach the privacy rights of individuals and the health and safety of those individuals. This position has been previously been accepted by the Information Commissioner following consideration of the relevant legislation and circumstances.
- There are no specific or additional insurance costs in relation to this.

However, I should also respond to your allegations about the Deputy Leader. Cllr Watson was asked by Channel 4 News on the day of publication of the Casey Report in 2015 whether he had read it. He was on his way into the town hall to be briefed about the report at the exact moment he was asked, and answered truthfully – that he hadn't, yet, read it. Of course, within a matter of hours of the question being asked, he had done so. There has never been a suggestion since its publication that he hasn't read the Jay Report. Attempting to take that out of context is slanderous.

As Cabinet Lead for Children's Services over the last five years, Cllr Watson has been at the forefront of ensuring improvements to Rotherham's Children's Social Care. He has constantly championed that agenda and contributed to our Children's Services moving from "Inadequate" to "Good" at a pace that has been envied by many other places in the country. As you know, Ofsted formally reported that those services had been "transformed" during the time that he has been the Cabinet member. Our vulnerable children and families are safer as a direct consequence. I trust that you will recognise his achievements and wish to place on the record an apology for your misleading comments.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**

**Councillor Alan Atkin**

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11 June 2020

Councillor Carter  
c/o Rotherham Town Hall  
The Crofts  
Moorgate Street  
ROTHERHAM  
S60 2TH

By email [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Carter

**Council Meeting – 3 June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a question under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with a response to your question:

*“How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the South Yorkshire Pension Fund, particularly given its investments in the fossil fuel industry?”*

Whilst it is subject to audit, the value of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund at 31 March 2020 was £8.2bn, compared to £8.4bn twelve months earlier. This represents a performance 1.4% better than the Fund’s benchmark, and performance remained ahead of the actuarial target over the three-year period.

Since the end of the year, financial markets have seen something of a recovery and the fund value at the end of April 2020 was around £8.5bn thus recovering the loss over the previous 12 months.

Investment in oil and gas companies is a relatively small proportion of the overall fund and has not on its own had a material impact on performance which has been driven by a wide range of macro factors associated with the uncertainty created by the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Alan Atkin**  
**RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority**

**Councillor Stuart Sansome**

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11 June 2020

Councillor Carter  
c/o Rotherham Town Hall  
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Moorgate Street  
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S60 2TH

By email [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Carter

**Council Meeting – 3 June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a number of questions under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with answers to the three questions that you submitted.

Your first question to me was *“How many fixed penalty notices have South Yorkshire Police issued since the Coronavirus Act was enacted, broken down by council ward?”*

In my role on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, it is my job to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for South Yorkshire in how he holds Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) to account. Whilst I am always happy to pass on relevant information to Members where I can, I don't hold this kind of detailed information, and I cannot speak for the force. I would therefore suggest that the question would be better directed as a Freedom of Information request to SYP or that you attend the PCC's Public Accountability Board and put the question directly to him at that meeting.

Your second question to me was *“Where does South Yorkshire Police rank in terms of the issuing of fixed penalty notices and warnings issued under the Coronavirus Act, compared to other police constabularies in England?”*

A total of 446 fixed penalty notices issued in total up to 1 June 2020. I understand that this was the fourteenth most fines issued by force in the country. Again, you would be well advised to put a Freedom of Information request to SYP or to attend the PCC's Public Accountability Board to establish the most up to date position in respect of the data.

Your final question to me was "*How many reports of Coronavirus lockdown breaches have been made using the online reporting form in Rotherham, what actions have been taken as a result of these, and how many convictions and fixed penalty notices has this resulted in?*"

I have been advised that 43 fixed penalty notices had been issued in Rotherham as at 1 June 2020. No other data is available to me and I would again remind you to submit a Freedom of Information request to SYP for the most up to date position.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Stuart Sansome**  
**RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Councillor Robert Taylor**

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11 June 2020

Councillor Carter  
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By email [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Carter

**Council Meeting – 3 June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a question under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with a response to your question:

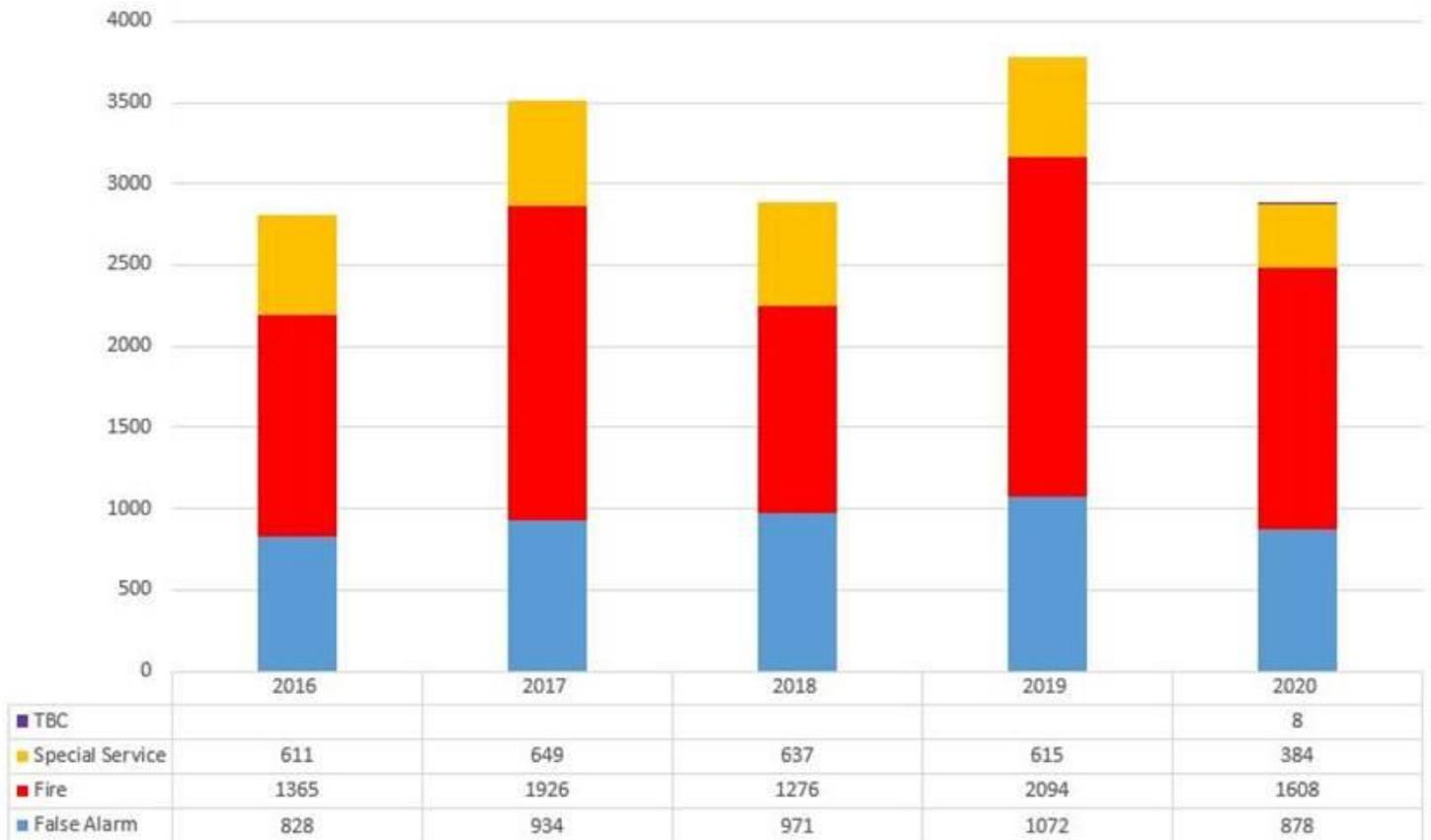
*“What has been the impact on South Yorkshire’s Fire and Rescue Service during the coronavirus lockdown period, in terms of fires and callouts in comparison to previous years?”*

Using data from the Incident Recording System (IRS), South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have summarised the number of incidents attended during weeks 13 to 23 (i.e. coinciding with the COVID-19 ‘lockdown’ period), and compared to the same period each year since 2016. This data is set in the graph provided overleaf. I am advised that the data is subject to change as the IRS is checked for completeness and updated.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Robert Taylor**  
**RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**INCIDENTS ATTENDED BY SYFR**  
**DURING WEEKS 13 TO 23 (2016 to 2020)**  
**[COINCIDING WITH COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD]**



**Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council**

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4 June 2020

Councillor Carter  
c/o Rotherham Town Hall  
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By email [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Carter

**Council Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

Thank you for submitting a question for yesterday's Council meeting relating to the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“What is the combined authority's forecast on the economic impact from the coronavirus public health measures and can you please outline the combined authority's economic recovery plan?”

The paper considered by the SCR LEP last month looked at the possible economic consequences of coronavirus, although it is important to note that it was not an economic projection:

<https://moderngov.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/documents/s2531/Economic%20Implications%20of%20COVID%2019.pdf>

The SCR Mayor has convened a Covid-19 Response Group to oversee the development of economic recovery in the region. This has brought together anchor institutions from across the region to develop the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP).

I have been involved in conversations with the SCR Mayor and other South Yorkshire Leaders, and more such conversations are taking place over the next few weeks.

The work to develop the ERP is anticipated to last eight weeks until mid-June, but it is expected to focus on:

- The current landscape and impact upon Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield
- Gaps in interventions for different populations and business groups.
- Outlining an implementation plan and how to deal with uncertainty.

Once this work has progressed additional information will be shared with elected members.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Chris Read**  
**Leader of Rotherham Council**