



Council

Wednesday 25 May 2022
2.00 p.m.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Council is composed of 59 Councillors, who are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward.

The Council Meeting is chaired by the Mayor, who will ensure that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to respecting the rights and responsibilities of Councillors and the interests of the community. The Mayor is the Borough's first citizen and is treated with respect by the whole Council, as should visitors and member of the public.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Here Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council appoints its Leader, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and at its Annual Meeting will appoint Councillors to serve on its committees.

Copies of the agenda and reports are available on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain private information and these will be marked accordingly on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Council meetings. A member of the public may ask one general question in person which must be received in writing to the Chief Executive by 10.00 a.m. on the Friday preceding a Council meeting on the following Wednesday and must not exceed sixty words in length. Questions can be emailed to governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live or subsequently uploaded to the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if the meeting is being filmed. You would need to confirm your wish not to be filmed to Democratic Services. Recording of the meeting by members of the public is also allowed.

Council meetings are open to the public, but occasionally the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this occurs you will be asked to leave.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets, one of which is designated disabled with full wheelchair access, with full lift access to all floors. Induction loop facilities are also available in the Council Chamber, John Smith Room and Committee Rooms 1 and 2.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained via the ramp at the main entrance to the Town Hall.

If you have any queries on this agenda, please contact:-

Contact:- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Date of Publication:- **17 May 2022**

COUNCIL

Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

THE MAYOR (Councillor Tajamal Khan)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Robert Taylor)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

BAUM-DIXON, Timothy J.
WILSON, Tracey H
TARMEY, Drew Simon

ASTON AND TODWICK

BACON, Joshua
BARKER, Aaron

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert Paul

BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir
MCNEELY, Rose M.
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

MILLS, Lewis H.M.
REYNOLDS, Gregory

BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.
CARTER, Charlotte R.

DALTON AND THRYBERGH

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna
BENNETT-SYLVESTER, Michael D.P.

DINNINGTON

CASTLEDINE-DACK, Sophie
WHOMERSLEY, Benjamin J.
WOODING, Charlie Andrew

GREASBROUGH

ALLEN, Sarah A.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

ANDREWS, Jenny
BALL, Simon A.

HOOBER

BARLEY, Emily J.
LELLIOTT, Denise
ROCHE, David J.

KEPPEL

BROWNE, Tony
CLARK, Maggi
HAGUE, Paul

KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria
SANSOME, Stuart J.

MALTBY EAST

HUNTER, Lee J.
TINSLEY, Adam J.

RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.
SHEPPARD, David

RAWMARSH WEST

BIRD, Bob
THOMPSON, Jill

ROTHER VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.
MIRO, Firas

ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.
KHAN, Tajamal

ROTHERHAM WEST

AVEYARD, Ben
JONES, Ian P.
KEENAN, Eve

SITWELL

BURNETT, Simon L.
FISHER, David F.
GRIFFIN, Tony

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina
WYATT, Ken

THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

WALES

BECK, Dominic E.
HAVARD, Marnie A.

WATH

ATKIN, Alan
COWEN, Sheila A.

WICKERSLEY NORTH

ELLIS, Sue
HODDINOTT, Emma E.
READ, Chris

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To consider any announcements by the Mayor in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3(2)(ii).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Any communication received by the Mayor or Chief Executive which relates to a recommendation of the Cabinet or a committee which was received after the relevant meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 11 - 42)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13th April, 2022, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

5. PETITIONS (Pages 43 - 47)

To report on any petitions received by the Council and receive statements in support of petitions in accordance with Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

10. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING (Pages 48 - 60)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 25th April, 2022.

11. OUTCOME OF THE WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REFERENDUM (Pages 61 - 80)

To note the outcome of the Referendum and adopt the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS (Pages 81 - 91)

To report on the establishment of political groups, the political balance of the Council and the entitlement of each group to seats on the authority's committees.

13. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS ON COUNCILLORS (Pages 92 - 94)

To report on the Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on Councillors that have been undertaken since May 2021.

14. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 95 - 139)

To note the Climate Emergency Annual Report.

15. THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATES FROM WARD COUNCILLORS (Pages 140 - 150)

To receive updates from ward councillors from Greasbrough, Wickersley North and Boston Castle on the activities supporting Thriving Neighbourhoods across the Borough.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION - NATURE CRISIS

That this Council:-

Notes we are in the middle of a nature crisis. Almost half of all UK wildlife is in

long term decline and 15% of species are at risk of extinction. The climate crisis is only hastening this destruction of the natural environment, damaging habitats and disrupting ecosystems. Yet it is these very habitats that have the potential to lock up carbon and fight back against rising global temperatures. It is essential that we not only protect these spaces, but let them thrive – for the benefit of people, planet and nature. We recognise that the terms Nature, Ecological and Biodiversity can be and are often used interchangeably by people and, for the purpose of this motion, all mean the same thing.

Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta's review into The Economics of Biodiversity, commissioned by Her Majesty's Treasury, highlighted that humanity does not exist in isolation from nature but sits within it. Nature is an asset on which all aspects of our society depends and with biodiversity declining faster than at any time in human history, we are undermining the productivity, resilience and adaptability that nature lends our society.

As we recover from the Covid-19 crisis, the need for nature-rich green spaces where we live and work is clearer than ever and will help health, education and the economy build back stronger. We recognise that the Climate and Nature emergencies are intrinsically linked with each other and also to social justice; and by building a better world to deal with the Climate and Nature Crises we will also be building a better society. We recognise that action must be taken now to remedy this and to put nature into recovery at a local level, not only to benefit Rotherham, but in support of regional, national and international work to do the same.

This Council therefore notes and recognises that:

- a) Nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this
- b) A thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society
- c) The nature and the climate crises are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
- d) Local people and groups have recognised the issues and have declared a Nature Crisis for Rotherham themselves and call on the Council to do so too.

This Council resolves to:

1. Declare a Nature Crisis for Rotherham.
2. Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider commissioning a review into how the Council can support improvements to ensure a more natural environment is enhanced.
3. Ensure our responsiveness on tackling climate change is extended to be complimentary to this separate but well aligned cause.
4. Continue to further our work on enhancing biodiversity by adopting innovative approaches to support wild flowered areas and ecological approaches to grounds maintenance.
5. Note the ongoing significant progress the Council is making through its Climate Change Action Plans for a carbon neutral Council by 2030 and Borough by 2040.

Mover – Councillor Havard

Seconded – Councillor Beck

17. NOTICE OF MOTION - OFFSHORING UK ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA

That this Council notes:-

The Conservative Government is proposing to fly UK Asylum Seekers, who cross the English Channel in small boats, to Rwanda, 4,000 miles away at an estimated initial cost of £120 million. This practice of offshore processing UK Asylum Seekers, should their application be successful, would provide them with long-term accommodation in Rwanda.

Rwanda has been accused of human rights abuses on numerous occasions. In January 2021, the UN Human Rights Council was told by Julian Braithwaite, Director General for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, “We remain concerned... by continued restrictions to civil and political rights and media freedom. We urge Rwanda to model Commonwealth values of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights.” The UK’s International Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French, has since expressed regret that Rwanda has so far largely ignored this advice. In addition, the US Government, in its most recent assessment of Rwanda, stated they had extensive concerns about their human rights practices.

Rwanda had a similar agreement, to offshore Asylum Seekers, with Israel, between 2014 and 2017 that failed. Almost all the 4,000 Asylum Seekers quickly left, to once again, try to travel to Europe. This journey, fraught with danger, left many at the mercy of human traffickers; the very people that the Conservative Government is claiming they are trying to protect UK Asylum Seekers from.

There is further evidence of the failure of detaining Asylum Seekers at offshore locations. In 2013, Australia introduced a policy of transporting Asylum Seekers fleeing war zones to camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. This process was widely condemned by refugee advocates, human rights groups, and the United Nations. The failure of these camps was marked by numerous major incidents of violence, riots, and even murder, and thirteen Asylum Seekers died. Australia ceased to transfer Asylum Seekers to Papua New Guinea as of the 31st December 2021.

The African Union has also objected to the transportation of Asylum Seekers from European Countries as “burden shifting.” As recently as August 2021, the African Union condemned “in the strongest terms possible” Denmark’s plans to send Asylum Seekers to Africa for processing.

Introducing offshore processing for UK Asylum Seekers, who only arrive by boat across the English Channel, is discriminatory practice. For those who arrive by other routes or other countries, such as people fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Conservative Government is not only allowing them to stay but encouraging the British public to house them. The UK has a proud tradition of providing protection for UK Asylum Seekers wherever they have fled from. Only offshoring those who arrive by boat crossing the English Channel,

introduces fragility to this proud customary practice.

In summary, the practice of offshoring Asylum Seekers, has been shown on numerous occasions to fail. It is not wanted by the African Union, is discriminatory, incredibly expensive, and puts the very people that the Conservative Government is claiming to protect, at significant personal risk.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Call on the Government not to fly any UK Asylum Seekers to Rwanda.
- 2) Call on the Government to process all UK Asylum Seeker applications in the UK, through a system that enables right to stay decisions to be made quickly, whilst safeguarding their human rights.
- 3) Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government expressing this Council's support for a national asylum dispersal system, ensuring that every part of the country plays its role, alongside Rotherham, in meeting the needs of those people fleeing persecution.

Mover – Councillor Baker-Rogers

Seconder – Councillor Cusworth

18. NOTICE OF MOTION - TREE AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Over 70% of Rotherham Borough is classified as Green and its many trees and woodland areas have positive environmental, physical and mental health benefits. The Council is committed to planting many more trees to tackle the declared Climate Emergency and is responsible for the care and maintenance of tree stock and woodland areas.

Some residents have raised concerns that certain trees and woodland areas need to be more proactively maintained by the Council.

There are trees in areas of our Borough that are of a disproportionate size and too closely located to residents' houses and gardens. Examples include those on Anston Plantation and The Steadlands, Rawmarsh. Such trees have caused significant issues for residents, including blocking light and heat, interference with telephone signal, overhanging branches, undue leaf fall in gardens, and damage to properties, fencing and equipment from falling branches and trees. Many are of a type and location that would not be permitted under current planting practices.

Many of these issues present a significant health and safety risk, highlighted during recent storms when several such trees fell, causing damage to properties and crashing into internal rooms. They also cause residents undue stress and anxiety, creating noise in high winds, fear of injury, damage to property and undermining their quality of life. The impact is more acute for many elderly residents, for whom this anxiety is coupled with a fear of slipping on an undue leaf fall and suffering serious injury, compromising their amenity.

The Council's Tree Management Protocol and Guidance currently places a disproportionate emphasis on the arboricultural needs of trees. It does not sufficiently consider the welfare, interests and views of residents living in close proximity and the exceptions to the policy of non-removal of trees are too

narrow and inflexible. Residents feel that their needs and views are not given appropriate weight in the decision-making process and the current Protocol allows for these to be ignored, providing an excuse for inaction.

A more proactive Protocol, that gives greater consideration and weight to residents' concerns, would improve their health and safety and quality of life, cut the costs of reactive maintenance, and minimise property repairs and insurance claims. It would also give the public a greater stake in tree management, improving engagement and public confidence and engendering greater support for sensible tree planting in line with the Council's targets.

Therefore, this Council will:

- Undertake a review of the current tree management Protocol and Guidance to ensure that it:
 - Follows best practice;
 - Maximises opportunities to seek the views of residents living in close proximity to trees and woodland;
 - Ensures RMBC always acts as a "good neighbour" when dealing with residents in connection with trees and woodlands, undertaking proper consultation, keeping them informed of actions, dealing with issues promptly and circulating the results of any tree and woodlands surveys to proximate residents;
 - Provides the flexibility to give appropriate weight to the nature and scale and resident concern and, where sufficient, attribute this equal or greater weight than the arboricultural needs of trees;
 - Recognises the potential serious impact poorly managed trees can have on residents' quality of life, including through secondary burdens like heavy leaf fall, and provides flexibility to act on this basis;
 - Provide scope for existing trees and woodland that breach current planting and location practice to be actively managed back in line with this, including pruning, felling, re-siting and/or replacement with more appropriate tree types in full consultation with proximate residents.

Mover – Councillor Baum-Dixon

Seconder – Councillor Thompson

19. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 151 - 155)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

20. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 156 - 157)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Planning Board.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

21. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 158 - 159)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

22. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

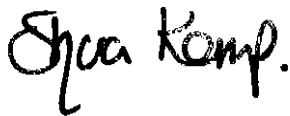
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5).

23. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairpersons (or their representatives) under Council Procedure Rules 11(1) and 11(3).

24. URGENT ITEMS

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
20 July 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**