

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**23rd May, 2018**

Present:- The Mayor of Rotherham (Councillor Alan Buckley) (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allcock, Andrews, Atkin, Bird, Carter, Cooksey, Cowles, Cusworth, B. Cutts, D. Cutts, Elliot, M. Elliott, R. Elliott, Ellis, Evans, Fenwick-Green, Hoddinott, Ireland, Jarvis, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mallinder, Marles, Marriott, Napper, Pitchley, Price, Read, Reeder, Roche, Russell, Sheppard, Short, Simpson, Steele, Taylor, John Turner, Tweed, Vjestica, Walsh, Williams, Whysall, Wyatt and Yasseen.

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

**179. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor was pleased to announce he and the Mayoress had already attended three engagements since his inauguration a few days ago. He confirmed he would continue with issuing a written report on his activity between Council Meetings.

The Mayor also confirmed he would be working for the betterment of Rotherham and asked all Members to observe the rules of debate and ensure the code is adhered to. All Members had a duty to match up to public perception and he made it clear from the outset that he would do his best to ensure every Member had the opportunity to express views where appropriate and looked forward to working in an atmosphere with mutual respect.

**180. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Beaumont, Beck, Brookes, Clark, Hague, Jepson, Rushforth, Sansome, Senior, Julie Turner, Watson and Wilson.

**181. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications received.

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

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Alam

**183. PETITIONS**

The Mayor reported receipt of 2 petitions but they had not met the threshold for consideration by Council, and would be referred to the relevant directorate for a response to be prepared:-

- Containing 40 signatures calling on the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to issue a statement regarding the return of 1,400 copies of a publication.

An adult survivor, on behalf of the lead petitioner, addressed the Council as part of the presentation of the petition requesting the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to issue a statement regarding the return of 1,400 copies of a publication.

- Containing 38 signatures from users accessing Swinton Youth Club and their support.

Councillor Wyatt addressed the Council as part of the presentation of the petition outlining the continued support for Swinton Youth Club and confirmed he would be the contact for the appropriate response.

**184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**185. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr. D. Smith stated that he understood that the portfolio for Neighbourhoods had been given to the Deputy Leader and asked could he be told what his remit was and what did the Deputy Leader hope to achieve?

The Leader confirmed the Deputy Leader had taken responsibility for neighbourhood working and would be responsible for the new Neighbourhood Working Model about how Councillors engaged in their local communities taking over the good work that had commenced by Councillor Yasseen.

This work would focus on enabling Councillors to be effective champions in their communities and Wards and deliver and release benefits to facilitate community activity.

In a supplementary question Mr. Smith asked when Councillor Yasseen had neighbourhood working in her portfolio she chaired the Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee. Councillor Watson had delegated this to someone else. Councillor Yasseen also set out to meet the Town and Parish Councils in the Rotherham area by attending their council meetings. Would Councillor Watson carry this on or had this been delegated too.

The Leader confirmed he himself determined the Cabinet Member portfolios so Councillor Watson had not delegated responsibility to anyone else. The responsibility for Town and Parish Councils liaisons would sit in the new portfolio taken on by Councillor Allen. The Leader had discussed with her about engagement and Councillor Allen would chair the Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee. The Leader was sure that if Parish Councillors had any specific requests in her capacity Councillor Allen would be more than happy to consider those in the course of her work.

(2) Mr. Harron referred to a previous question he had submitted to Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 and the correspondence by email he had had with the Leader which had still not resolved the matter. He referred back to what he had previously said about Ian Thomas' Deputy, Jean Imray, who had sat in this Chamber in September and presented a report. Councillors were aware that Jean Imray claimed that a so called independent expert gave her reasons for Rotherham returning 1,400 copies of the publication "Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope" 3 years ago and he asked again would the Leader please provide all Councillors and himself with the name and position of the so called independent expert who allegedly gave the reasons to Jean Imray and Ian Thomas.

The Leader confirmed again, as he had in the email reply, that he did not know the identity of that person so was unable to share this information with Councillors or Mr. Harron.

In a supplementary question Mr. Harron referred back to the response on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 where the Leader had indicated the information did not exist. Mr. Harron had sent the Leader an email with the name redacted and he believed the Chief Executive knew the name of the person as he had tried to write to them. He, therefore, asked now Ian Thomas had left, this provided an important opportunity for Rotherham to change direction because the direction taken in September, 2015 was futile and had any thought been given to a restructure given that there was a vacancy to separate out the care with dedicated officers of adult survivors of CSE in Rotherham given their mental health and counselling from Children's Services and Adult Services.

The Leader confirmed it had not. He did not fully understand the premise of Mr. Harron's question; the Council did commission long term support survivors of child sexual exploitation in the usual way in consultation with officers in both adult and children's services.

The Council would be looking at the contract as to whether the right services were commissioned over the coming year. The Leader did not accept the premise that by creating another internal highly paid role a better service would be offered to those people that needed it. As part of the contract review process it was important that survivors would wish to have their views, comments and experiences heard and this would be taken on board and considered.

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

**Resolved:-** That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that should the Mayor deem if necessary the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that any items involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.

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

The Leader wished to give formal notification of the Cabinet Member details and confirmed this had been publicised accordingly. He confirmed:-

Councillor Gordon Watson	Deputy Leader – responsibility for Children and Young People's Services, Neighbourhood Working Model and Member Development
Councillor Saghir Alam	Corporate Services and Finance
Councillor Denise Lelliott	Jobs and the Local Economy
Councillor David Roche	Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Beck	Housing
Councillor Hoddinott	Waste, Roads and Community Safety
Councillor Allen	Cleaner Greener Communities – responsibility for Streetpride Services.

The finer detail regarding which services fell into the remit of each Cabinet Member was still being finalised and would be circulated to all Members in due course.

The Leader wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Yasseen over the last 18 months for the work that she had undertaken.

The Leader also wished to report on the motion passed in January, 2018 regarding the overnight cover of the Rotherham 2 fire appliance in Rotherham and how this had been considered in detail at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The view had been to request the Leader to raise the concerns with the Fire Minister, Nick Hird, which had been done.

One of the recommendations made by Scrutiny had also been for minutes of joint authorities being included on the agenda at full Council meetings and these had today been included in the agenda packs.

In January the Leader had given an update on the Fusion Bid and the joint request with the partnership to support child sexual exploitation survivors coming through the Operation Stovewood process. A partnership meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 at the Town Hall. Unfortunately, progress had not been made as it was hoped at this time, but the work would continue with Central Government for funding now there was greater understanding about the situation in Rotherham, the services required and the knock on consequences. Agreement had not yet been reached with Central Government over what they would fund to move Rotherham forward, but the Council would continue to bang the drum for the Rotherham survivor community.

The Leader was also pleased to report on the great community sporting events over the last few weeks, which included the Tour de Yorkshire, Rotherham's first 10k race and the UEFA Under 17 football tournament. Rotherham United were also at the play off finals at Wembley this weekend and it was requested that, in accordance with the flag protocol, the Rotherham United flag be flown over the weekend in support.

Councillor Atkin reminded all Members that Wath Rugby Club was also successful at Twickenham and won the Senior Shield.

The Leader confirmed arrangements were in hand for them to visit the Town Hall to mark their achievement accordingly.

**188. MINUTES OF THE CABINET AND COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet/Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, be received.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Lelliott

**189. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 133 of the meeting of the Cabinet/Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, consideration was given to the report which proposed changes to introduce kerbside plastic collection as soon as practicable, and introduce an all year round green waste chargeable service from October 2018. The lid colour of the new residual bin had also been open to public vote and this was now confirmed to be pink.

On this basis it was proposed that the capital costs of the purchase of vehicles and bins be added to the Capital Programme.

A number of Members expressed their views regarding the cost of the replacement green bins, the lack of any trial for the new collection service in multi-occupancy properties, seeking best practice advice and visits to other Local Authorities and the U-turn on the recycling of plastic which were answered by the Cabinet Member. The decisions were based on learning from others and how the consultation process and the Service had listened to the views of local residents.

**Resolved:-** Councillor Hoddinott                      Seconded:- Councillor Alam

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

Consideration was given to a report which detailed how Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 placed on local authorities the duty to allocate seats to political groups and set out the principles to be followed when determining such allocation following formal notification of the establishment of political groups in operation on the Council.

There was a requirement to annually review the entitlement of the political groups to seats on the committees of the Council.

The allocation of seats must follow 2 principles:-

- (a) Balance must be achieved across the total number of available seats on committees; and
- (b) Balance must be achieved on each individual committee or body where seats are available.

There were presently 2 political groups in operation on the Council – the Labour Group and the UK Independence Party Group – with two non-aligned Councillors (Members who were not in a political group).

There were 169 seats available on committees, boards and panels and under the calculation the Labour Group was entitled to 129 seats and the UK Independence Group entitled to 35. This left 5 seats which could not be given to members of the political groups and should be allocated to the 2 non-aligned Councillors.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the operation of two political groups on the Council and the detail of their designated Leaders be noted.

(2) That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups be agreed and such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.

(3) That approval be given to the appointment of Members to committees, boards and panels, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as set out on the schedule tabled at the meeting as follows:-

**EXECUTIVE**

Leader of the Council	Councillor Read
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services and Neighbourhood Working	Councillor Watson
Cabinet Member, Social Care and Health	Councillor Roche
Cabinet Member, Job and the Local Economy	Councillor Lelliott
Cabinet Member, Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Councillor Hoddinott
Cabinet Member, Cleaner, Greener Communities	Councillor Allen
Cabinet Member, Housing	Councillor Beck
Cabinet Member, Corporate Services & Finance	Councillor Alam

**REGULATORY BOARDS**

**Standards and Ethics Committee:-  
(8 Council Members)**

Councillor Brookes	Councillor McNeely (Chair)
Councillor Clark (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Simpson
Councillor Fenwick-Green	Councillor Vjestica
Councillor Ireland	(One UKIP Vacancy)

***Independent Members:-***

Mr. P. Edler	3 Vacancies
Ms. J. Porter	

***Parish Council Representatives:-***

Councillor D. Bates	Councillor R. Swann
Councillor D. Rowley	

## COUNCIL MEETING - 23/05/18

### **Licensing Board:- (21 Members)**

Councillor Beaumont (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Reeder
Councillor Buckley	Councillor Rushforth
Councillor Clark	Councillor Senior
Councillor Elliot	Councillor Sheppard
Councillor Ellis (Chair)	Councillor Steele
Councillor Fenwick-Green	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Hague	Councillor Wyatt
Councillor Jones	Councillor Vjestica
Councillor Mallinder	(One UKIP Vacancy)
Councillor McNeely	(one non-aligned Vacancy)
Councillor Napper	

### **Licensing Committee:- (15 Members drawn from Licensing Board)**

Councillor Beaumont (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Napper
Councillor Buckley	Councillor Reeder
Councillor Clark	Councillor Senior
Councillor Elliot	Councillor Steele
Councillor Ellis (Chair)	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Fenwick-Green	Councillor Vjestica
Councillor Hague	(One non-aligned Vacancy)
Councillor Jones	

### **Planning Board:-**

#### **(15 Members)**

Councillor Andrews	Councillor Sheppard (Chair)
Councillor Atkin	Councillor John Turner
Councillor Bird	Councillor Tweed
Councillor D. Cutts	Councillor Walsh
Councillor M. Elliott	Councillor Whysall
Councillor Fenwick-Green	Councillor Williams (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ireland	Councillor Vjestica
Councillor Sansome	

#### ***Substitutes***

Councillor Brookes	Councillor Mallinder
Councillor Khan	

### **Audit Committee:- (5 Members)**

Councillor Cowles	Councillor Walsh (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evans	Councillor Wyatt (Chair)
Councillor Vjestica	

## **SELECT COMMISSIONS**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-**

Councillor Brookes  
Councillor Cowles (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Cusworth  
Councillor Evans  
Councillor Keenan  
Councillor Mallinder  
Councillor Napper  
Councillor Sheppard  
Councillor Short  
Councillor Steele (Chair)  
Councillor Walsh  
Councillor Wyatt  
**(12 Members)**

### **Health:-**

Councillor Albiston  
Councillor Andrews  
Councillor Bird  
Councillor Cooksey  
Councillor R. Elliott  
Councillor Ellis  
Councillor Evans (Chair)  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Keenan  
Councillor Marriott  
Councillor Rushforth  
Councillor Short (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Taylor  
Councillor Williams  
Councillor Wilson  
**(18 Members)**

## **COUNCIL MEETING - 23/05/18**

### **Improving Lives:-**

Councillor Allcock  
Councillor Beaumont  
Councillor Brookes (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Clark  
Councillor Cusworth (Chair)  
Councillor Elliot  
Councillor Hague  
Councillor Ireland  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Khan  
Councillor Marles  
Councillor Marriott  
Councillor Pitchley  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Senior  
Councillor Short  
Councillor Julie Turner  
**(18 Members)**

### **Improving Places:-**

Councillor Atkin  
Councillor Buckley  
Councillor B. Cutts  
Councillor Elliot  
Councillor Fenwick-Green  
Councillor Jepson  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Khan  
Councillor Mallinder (Chair)  
Councillor McNeely  
Councillor Reeder  
Councillor Sansome (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Sheppard  
Councillor Julie Turner  
Councillor Vjestica  
Councillor Walsh  
Councillor Whysall  
Councillor Wyatt  
**(18 Members)**

## **REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT AUTHORITIES**

### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillors Atkin and Taylor

### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

Councillors Ellis and Wyatt

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Councillors B. Cutts and Sansome

**191. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Consideration was given to a report proposing approval of amendments to various parts of the Council's Constitution following the external review of Executive Procedure Rules, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules undertaken by the Association of Democratic Services Officers.

The report also proposed a minor amendment to the Council Procedure Rules to clarify and ensure consistency in respect of provisions for invoking a right to reply for proposers of amendments to motions.

The proposals had been reviewed and supported by the Constitution Working Group.

Councillor John Turner expressed his frustrations on the rules of debate and was advised by the Leader that the rules had been made clearer to avoid any confusion in the future.

The Mayor also confirmed that once the proposals were agreed he would ensure that a copy of the Council Procedure Rules be provided for all Members.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the proposed amendments to the Executive Procedure Rules, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules be approved.

(2) That Council Procedure Rule 18(30) be amended to read "Once an amendment has been determined, the proposer of the amendment does not have the right of reply at the conclusion of the debate on the original or substantive motion".

(3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Legal Services to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the changes agreed by Council.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Steele

**192. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - ORGREAVE PARISH COUNCIL - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Further to Minute No. 110 of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, consideration was given to the results of the consultation exercise undertaken on the modified terms of reference for the Community Governance Review for Orgreave.

## COUNCIL MEETING - 23/05/18

The issue which has prompted a community governance review was whether the continued expansion of the Waverley settlement and the increasing numbers of residents living there warranted changes to the arrangements for parish councils in that area. At present the Waverley settlement was split between the parishes of Orgreave and Catcliffe by a boundary which did not relate to any features on the ground.

A consultation process was initiated and local residents asked their views on 4 options:-

- No change to the existing parish arrangements.
- Reducing the existing parish of Orgreave to cover only the settlement of Orgreave, and to create a new parish to cover the southern part of the Waverley settlement. This option was proposed in the original petition.
- Creating a new parish for the whole of the Waverley settlement. The parish of Orgreave would then cover only the settlement of Orgreave and the parish of Catcliffe would cover only the settlement of Catcliffe.
- Creating a new area covering the whole of the Waverley settlement without a parish council. The parish of Orgreave would then cover only the settlement of Orgreave and the parish of Catcliffe would cover only the settlement of Catcliffe.

The consultation period finished on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 and the outcome of these responses were set out in detail as part of the report where it was recommended that a new parish for Waverley be constituted. However, the process required the Council apply to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for consent to the Final Recommendations insofar as they related to “protected electoral arrangements” for the purposes of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. If consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was then forthcoming, the Assistant Director for Legal Services would then be authorised to publicise the Final Recommendations in accordance with Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

It was further requested that a further report be brought to Council to advise Council on the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and to seek approval of the Reorganisation of a Community Governance Order required to bring the Final Recommendations into effect.

Members were confident that this was the best possible solution for the Waverley new community and would lead to the best arrangements moving forward, but requested this be expedited in order to coincide with the election process in 2019/2020.

**Resolved:-** (1) That Council makes the following Final Recommendations for the purposes of Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007:

1.1 A new parish, comprising the Waverley North and Waverley South polling districts shall be constituted and:

- The name of the new parish should be Waverley
- The new parish shall have the alternative style of Community
- The Waverley North polling district shall cease to be part of the existing parish of Catcliffe and shall become part of the parish of Waverley
- The Waverley South polling district shall cease to be part of the existing parish of Orgreave and shall become part of the parish of Waverley
- There shall be a parish council for the parish of Waverley with 7 members
- The altered parish of Orgreave shall continue to have the name "Orgreave", shall continue to have a parish council with 7 members and shall not be divided into wards
- The altered parish of Catcliffe shall continue to have the name "Catcliffe", shall continue to have a parish council with 9 members and shall continue to not be divided into Wards
- The election of all parish councillors for the parishes of Catcliffe, Orgreave and Waverley shall be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019
- The term of office of every parish councillor elected on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019 for the parishes of Catcliffe, Orgreave and Waverley shall be 5 years

(2) That the Assistant Director for Legal Services shall apply to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for consent to the Final Recommendations insofar as they related to "protected electoral arrangements" for the purposes of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

(3) That if consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is forthcoming, to authorise the Assistant Director for Legal Services to publicise the Final Recommendations in accordance with Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

(4) That a further report be brought to Council to advise Council on the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and to seek Council's approval of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order required to bring the Final Recommendations into effect.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Lelliott

**193. SCRUTINY REVIEW - DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

Consideration was given to the scrutiny review report which set out the main findings and recommendations from the cross-party spotlight scrutiny review of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services for Adults undertaken by the Health Select Commission.

Evidence was gathered by presentations, interviews seminars and a visit to the treatment centre at Carson House. Thanks were paid to everyone who provided evidence for the review and in particular Anne Charlesworth, Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Louise Hayter and Teresa Roche from RMBC, Diane Graham and Matt Pollard from RDash, Gemma Hewitt from the CCG, Members of the Health Select Commission and Councillor Roche, Cabinet Member for their input and shaping the lines of enquiry.

The negative impact of drug and alcohol abuse not only affected the individual but also their families, children and communities. For the Members that took part the knowledge of drug and alcohol misuse was enhanced and presented a detailed analysis about drug and alcohol dependency and suicides. The findings were laid out in detail along with a comprehensive set of recommendations.

The report was presented for information to share the review findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet and Commissioners would be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise and what action would be taken to implement the recommendations, together with details of timescales and accountabilities.

Members welcomed the report and its recommendations which would be looked at in due course. Councillor Roche wished to refer to Recommendation 3 relating to the work in the south of the Borough which was excellent and which ought to be extended. This was funded by what was the then Wentworth Valley Area Assembly and he had Ward Members welcoming them considering from their Ward funds this work continuing. He welcomed people in getting in touch with the Cabinet Member or Terri Roche.

Councillor Steele, on behalf of Scrutiny wished to thank Councillors Evans and Short and the rest of the Members for their work on this review. This highlighted the role of Scrutiny in policy decisions and that the work undertaken the Cabinet Members appreciate this and hoped this could be supported fully.

The Leader pointed out that this was the opportunity for a group of Councillors to influence and shape the policy in public. He thanked the group for the work and others on the work they had done and the need to raise awareness of such an important issue.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the report and recommendations in respect of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services be noted.

(2) That the response of Cabinet be reported back to the Health Select Commission.

Mover:- Councillor Evans

Seconder:- Councillor Short

**194. SCRUTINY REVIEW - USE OF INTERIM, AGENCY AND CONSULTANCY STAFF**

Consideration was given to a report which presented the views of a cross-party review group on the Authority's use of agency, interim and consultancy staff following concerns about the forecasts of overspend.

The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that the Council measured performance and value for money in its use of agency staff and consultants and was taking appropriate action to maintain spend within acceptable limits. The recommendations made by Members were based on information and evidence collated during the course of the review and their challenge of existing practices and developing protocols.

The recommendations made by Members were based on information and evidence collated during the course of the review and their challenge of existing practices and developing protocols. The Workforce Management Board (WMB), led by the Assistant Chief Executive and attended by Assistant Directors from all Directorates, had been set up shortly before the commencement of this review to introduce a control process, with the use of agency staff requiring explicit Directorate and Board sign off.

It was helpful that the review coincided with the development of the Workforce Management Board as Members were able to hold officers to account and see evidence of its work with associated improvement in performance; increased oversight and reduction in spend. Through this regular dialogue, Members were able to influence the development of procedures and clarification of definitions and reporting routes which has meant that some of Members' recommendations were implemented during the course of the review.

The report was presented for information to share the findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet would be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise, what action, would be taken to implement the recommendations, along with details of timescales and accountabilities.

Councillor Cowles was happy to second and concurred with Councillor Steele. He commended him for the in-depth work that was undertaken and the avenues pursued and challenges being faced.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the report and recommendations in respect of use of agency, interim and consultancy staff, as outlined in Section 4 of Appendix 1, be noted.

(2) That the report is forwarded to Cabinet and its response to the recommendations be fed back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Mover:- Councillor Steele

Seconder:- Councillor Cowles

**195. NOTICE OF MOTION - GENDER EQUALITY**

Proposed by Councillor Hoddinott and seconded by Councillor Pitchley:-

This Council notes:-

- That 100 years ago, the Representation of the People Act was passed allowing women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time. This followed a sustained campaign by women across the country, including many women in Rotherham.
- The first female Councillor for Rotherham County Borough was Councillor Mary MacLagen, who was elected in 1924 to represent Clifton ward. She was an active feminist, and was secretary of the Rotherham Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
- That it took another 19 years to elect our first female Mayor, Councillor F. L. Green in 1943. Our first female MP for Rotherham, Sarah Champion was elected in 2012 and the Council's first female Chief Executive, Sharon Kemp, was appointed in 2015.

This Council believes:-

- We are indebted to those that have fought for gender equality and remember those women who died, suffered and sacrificed for a woman's right to vote today.
- That a healthy democracy reflects the people it represents; all elected bodies should strive for equal representation of men and women.
- That this is still much to campaign for to achieve equality – less than a third of MPs are female, more than 90% of limited company executives are male, and in 2017 in the UK, men earned 18.4% more than women.

This Council resolves:-

- To erect a plaque to Councillor Mary MacLagen, the first woman Councillor in Rotherham and suffragette, in a prominent position in Rotherham Town Hall, to be paid for by public subscription.
- To seek a blue plaque for Councillor Mary MacLagen's home on Broom Lane, Rotherham.
- To encourage the next generation of women to play their part in politics in Rotherham, by reviewing carers, maternity and paternity arrangements for Councillors through a member's working group.
- To provide a political voice for women in Rotherham by ensuring that issues that matter to them such as equal pay, bullying and harassment, sexual violence, and domestic abuse are heard within the Council.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**196. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendation and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Roche

Secunder:- Councillor Mallinder

**197. PLANNING BOARD**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendation and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Secunder:- Councillor Tweed

**198. STAFFING COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendation and minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee be adopted:-

Mover:- Councillor Alam

Secunder:- Councillor Read

**199. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendation and minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor McNeely

Secunder:- Councillor Andrews

**200. RECOMMENDATION FROM STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

Further to Minute No. 62 of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 consideration was given to the report in respect of its membership and the appointment of Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the appointment of the current Town and Parish Council representatives be confirmed until further nominations are received from the Town and Parish Councils.

(2) That the appointment of the current Independent Members of the Committee be confirmed until the end of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Mover:- Councillor McNeely

Seconder:- Councillor Andrews

**201. LICENSING**

**Resolved:-** That the reports, recommendation and minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Ellis

Seconder:- Councillor Sheppard

**202. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of the South Yorkshire Combined Authority be received.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Lelliott

**203. SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority be received.

Councillor Atkin pointed out that with regards to Minute No. 12 it was noted that the Stronger Safer Communities Research Sprinkler Fund had been set up from reserves that partners could bid into to make buildings safer. Rotherham had been successful in securing £138,765 towards fitting sprinkler systems into some two storey accommodation for elderly and vulnerable people namely at Dawson's Croft, Hampstead Green and Shaftsbury House.

Councillor McNeely welcomed the information given that Shaftsbury House was in her Ward. She had recently been involved in a meeting regarding new build properties where she had asked them to make enquiries with the Fire Service about putting the sprinkler system in before they were built.

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Seconder:- Councillor Taylor

**204. SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority be received.

Mover:- Councillor Ellis

Seconder:- Councillor Wyatt

**205. SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the meeting of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel be received.

Mover:- Councillor Steele

Seconder:- Councillor Roche

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

**Councillor R. Elliott** asked, having been re-appointed to the Fire Authority, could he trust Councillor Atkin to remember this Chamber's wishes for the second pump to be reinstated at Rotherham fire station.

With a predicted underspend of £2.2m, please confirm that you won't accept no for an answer and you will push for its immediate reinstatement?

Councillor Atkin gave his assurance that he had already made it plain the Council's position to the Fire Authority, and he would continue to do so, alongside Councillor Taylor.

This did not, of course, guarantee that the Authority would agree with the Council for the reasons discussed over the last few months, but he and Councillor Taylor would do what they could to persuade them.

In a supplementary question Councillor Elliott referred to the last Council meeting where Councillor Atkin stated that the second pump at Rotherham could be manned in an emergency by retained fire fighters by way of a 5 minute response call. In such an emergency, as these personnel would be coming from Dearne and Birley Stations, was Councillor Atkin able to tell him the length of time it would take before the engine was active and started on the second pump.

Councillor Atkin confirmed when a pump was on retained duty fire fighters had 15 minutes to get active. South Yorkshire was particular busy last night. There was a major fire at Dinnington at a plastics factory. This involved 8 ground appliances and one air appliance. The fire was contained at 5.30 p.m. At approximately 9.00 p.m. there was a further fire incident involving Fosters Garden Centre which required 5 ground appliances, 2 were recalled back. This showed that 11 pumps were working in Rotherham and highlighted the resilience across South Yorkshire.

**207. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN**

**(1) Councillor Short** asked what steps did the Council take to ensure the "Hand Car Wash" firms which operated in our town did not exploit workers?

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commission had concerns that car wash workers were being paid less than the minimum wage, were kept in squalid housing and subject to possible modern slavery.

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed this was an issue that affected many people including foreign nationals and UK victims. Following the Modern Slavery Act and new legislation a national system was set up for dealing with victims called the national referral mechanism. There was more information about referrals and the types of referrals coming through. The Commissioner had quite rightly highlighted the use of car washes, nail bars and other cheap services as actually fuelling modern slavery and people were being trafficked and put into forced labour.

Work was taking place with partners to co-ordinate a response to modern slavery and at the next meeting of the Safer Rotherham Partnership this would be considered and plans put in place.

With regards to car washes and enforcement, the Police and Council would react to any concerns by the public or Councillors. The service was aware of a couple of incidents and premises had been inspected based on reports. Consideration would need to be given as to what could be done, how to be more proactive and raise awareness of the issue amongst the public. This would be raised at the next meeting of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

In a supplementary question Councillor Short made reference to a visit he had made to a car wash during a particular cold spell during the winter. The young men working had no protective clothing, their clothes were sodden and they were shivering and shaking. The owner, who was usually chatty, when asked why his workers were not suitably equipped indicated he did not understand and walked away. Councillor Short believed those who were licensed should comply with the relevant regulations and on this basis he wished to propose that a cross-party meeting look at this area to see if something could be done further. He

was aware of an initiative by Luton Council and how the Government's Audit Committee was due to receive a report on this shortly.

Councillor Hoddinott further explained that incidents should be shared with the Police and officers so they could be looked into. It was pointed out that if any member of the public or councillor had circumstances where they were particularly concerned they could telephone the national modern slavery hotline and make reports anonymously which would be picked up by the Police. The points about cross-party working were welcomed and Councillor Hoddinott was more than happy to put this in place to see what more could be done.

**(2) Councillor Cowles** asked, in light of the recent planning decision to allow Yorkshire Water to build a new reservoir in Boston Park as they requested, did the Leader accept that Labour could not now be trusted to preserve public assets and green spaces for the benefit of residents as they were intended?

The Leader confirmed he did not accept the comment made.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles confirmed he had managed to obtain a copy of the 1903 Covenant which confirmed the use of the land as open green space and should be used solely for the purposes of public recreation ground. Page 6 stipulated that the said lands should only be used for the purposes of a public recreation ground. It further set out that urban authorities should maintain public parks and pleasure grounds and not in 2018 change our mind as it suits. The Covenant further stipulated that any work to the 1903 water reservoir should be well fenced from the public recreation ground. It would seem that RMBC Planning Department was in breach of the 1903 Covenant by agreeing a land swap with Yorkshire Water. The family of the Earl had been contacted and they were not aware of what had taken place. It would seem that Legal Services had failed to seek permission from the Earl or other living descendants and were prepared to go ahead with the outcome expecting the family or others to bear the cost of a legal challenge, which could be expensive. Once this land had been lost it had gone for 80 years so Councillor Cowles, therefore, asked if the Leader knew if the site or the surrounding routes were visited by the Chair of the Planning Board before the decision was taken. Councillor Cowles himself had sent a letter into Planning for this to be read out at the meeting, but it was not done so. In light of all this, the Leader was asked if he wanted to reconsider his response and that he was in fact not fit to manage the green spaces.

The Leader was not certain why this particular question was directed at him as any Member knew the Planning Board had a regulatory function and decisions were made. The Leader could not confirm if the Board had actually visited the site. It would be wrong for him to be intervening in a particular Planning decision and if he claimed Labour Party members had a view about a particular planning application, there would be claims that

decisions were pre-determined and pre-judged. If Councillor Cowles wished to ask these types of questions to the Chair of the Planning Board he may be in a better position to answer.

In terms of this particular site a planning application had been received, followed due process and a decision made. If there were legal issues that arose they would be addressed in due course. The Leader was aware and sympathetic that if Yorkshire Water did not undertake necessary works to the reservoir this threatened the water supply to 20,000 people and Rotherham District General Hospital.

**(3) Councillor Cowles** asked, following the collapse of 'Carillion' did the Cabinet Member have any concerns at the decision by your partner SYPTE in the selection of 'Interserve' as the prime contractor for the relocation and development of the bus station?

Councillor Lelliott explained SYPTE was aware, that although Interserve recently issued a profits warning they selected this contractor following a competitive process and they offered significantly better value for money than the nearest competitor. SYPTE have undertaken due diligence and did not have any concerns in this respect, however they have also taken out a bond to insure Rotherham should there be any issues of this nature when they would be covered.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out the Council should be concerned. He read some of the comments from the press about profit warnings so if there was a company failure and results in major delays to the project, Councillor Cowles was sure the public would not understand why this happened. These delays could take months or even years. The tram train was an example of another failure so would have thought due diligence would have been taken and asked had the Cabinet Member taken any due diligence.

Councillor Lelliott pointed out that it was for SYPTE to conduct its affairs and business how it saw fit. This was the same for the tram train. The Council could advise and guide, but was unable to dictate how SYPTE managed its projects. However, the Cabinet Member would be concerned if there was an impact on Rotherham, but was sure with the due diligence undertaken by SYPTE this would not happen.

**(4) Councillor M. Elliott** asked who determined that the appropriate time to close the multi-storey car park on Wellgate should be 7.00 p.m.?

Councillor Lelliott confirmed this was an historic decision, but was reviewed every year. Consideration had been given to extend the opening hours in Wellgate Multi Story Car Park in June 2017, but on the data received it would at a net cost to the Council. In and around the Wellgate centre there was a decline in usage after 6.00 p.m. and customers would be much more likely to use the alternative on and off street parking places which were widely available.

In a supplementary question Councillor Elliott understood the reasons, but had seen Members dashing from the Town Hall to get to the car park before it closed and secondly Rotherham United last Wednesday night was involved in a very important football which was attended by more than 11,000 supporters. People were driving around the town searching for suitable parking and to see the multi-storey closed and empty was extremely annoying. He asked if the opening hours could be reviewed.

Councillor Lelliott reiterated that the opening hours were reviewed annually and it would not be viewed favourably if it was kept open purely for Members. In terms of the football matches Councillor Lelliott would be more than happy to look and discuss opening the car park, but this had never been requested.

**(5) Councillor Cowles** often heard in the chamber that residents were listened to. He asked could the Cabinet Member then explain why when market traders were asked whether recently vacated space should be used for new business development or another seating area, traders requested new business development that it was decided to provide another seating area?

Councillor Lelliott formally thanked officers for the hard work that had been taking place in the market building. Councillor Lelliott confirmed she and officers met regularly with the Market Traders and have also worked with them to set up a new Traders Federation. Through both these meetings there had been traders that supported the removal of the empty stalls and provision of extra seating with very few traders against the idea.

In addition, the Council had made a £20,000 a year saving through this work which in turn had assisted the Council to reduce rents by 10% for a full year as some traders were struggling.

Traders also requested free parking on Drummond Street and an additional 36 spaces were provided. In addition, they asked for additional seating areas so this was provided which was further evidence that the Council was listening. If there was a particular trader who was unhappy with the decision Councillor Lelliott was happy to meet and work through the issues.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles was happy the Cabinet Member had brought up some of those figures. Speaking to people there were already 4 seating areas in the market so providing a fifth was hardly promoting the development of the market.

He further brought to the Cabinet Member's attention a report on Look North that Rotherham was in the top ten list of worst town's in England for retail so the Council's track record was not looking that great. Footfall continued to decline so footfall figures were no longer published. This action on a further seating area was only the Council's way of shrinking the market area as it was an easy way of filling the space.

## COUNCIL MEETING - 23/05/18

Mansfield was £6.00 per stall with a further 20% off during winter months. St. John's in Liverpool was free for 3 months. By comparison Rotherham's 10% reduction for 12 months was the equivalent of £1.80 a stall and on a Tuesday market rents had been raised by a £1.00 plus £1.00 of build out per two feet. Could the Cabinet Member explain what kind of incentive this really was.

Councillor Lelliott explained Rotherham market was half the price of its Sheffield neighbour so compared competitively. In terms of the seating areas, having a downstairs seating area for those who had mobility difficulties was an excellent idea. In addition a stall would be opening shortly for consultation proposals with Clifton Park and the Market to get ideas moving forward. This would ensure that any points and issues could be raised by market traders.

**(6) Councillor Carter** asked what progress had been made with enacting the Town Centre Masterplan since the consultation last year?

Councillor Lelliott confirmed that considerable progress had been made on delivering the masterplan, for example:-

- The £10.5m University Campus at Doncaster Gate was well on the way and would be up and running by September.
- The Transport Interchange was now being refurbished and a newer facility would be much better for the people of Rotherham.
- The Council had selected a development partner to bring forward 3 Town Centre Housing sites which will deliver 182 new houses.
- Work was due to start on a £10m revamp of Westgate Chambers.
- The George Wright Building was now open after redevelopment.
- Forge Island had invited 3 potential development partners to submit detailed development proposals.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter referred to the masterplan and the proposals to increase the provision in terms of increasing a night time social economy and asked for an update. He also asked about the plan for the many empty retail outlets and shops.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the deadline for completed Stage 2 submissions for Forge Island was the 29<sup>th</sup> June and a development partner would be selected by September. Exact details would be provided in writing.

In terms of the town centre the Council did not actually own many of the empty retail outlets. The Town Centre Business Growth Board were looking at having vinyls being erected in the meantime, but every effort was being made to develop the masterplan further.

**(7) Councillor Napper** explained, as reported on Channel 4 Dispatches 26.03.2018, groups called C.A.G.E. and M.E.N.D. want anti-terrorism laws abolished and the Prevent Campaign stopped. He asked had any of the Rotherham Labour Group shared a stage with the Leaders of these groups as they had only good things to say about Jihadi John?

The Leader confirmed that neither he nor the Council actually kept a record of when a Labour Councillor had spoken alongside any groups. Anecdotally he was aware that some of these groups had actually been involved in some broad based anti-racism campaigns and some Labour Councillors have also been involved on the odd occasions in those meetings. These events also included speakers from other political parties and a whole range of views and it would be a long shot to say that they shared views about terrorism. If there were any suggestion that any Labour Councillors shared these more extreme views this was extremely laughable.

In a supplementary question Councillor Napper referred to the Labour Leader, Jeremy Corbyn sharing a stage with these people. However, in terms of community cohesion these type of groups tended to do the opposite and were not always conducive to communities.

The Leader confirmed the Labour Party was persistently anti-racist and it would continue on a cross party to pursue this agenda. However, it did not necessarily always agree with all the views of people that took part in those campaigns.

**(8) Councillor Cowles** repeatedly heard that austerity was the cause of all the Council's ills, yet despite this, during the past 3 years 15/16, 16/17, 17/18 numbers of FTE's employed had fallen yet the overall salary bill had risen significantly and he asked could this be confirmed.

The Leader explained about the nature of employment law and the way Local Government employment worked. The detail in the press about the annual salary bill confirmed there was a slight increase over the 3 year period and if the cost of employment, agency and temporary works was included there was a small cash decline in staff. The reason this happened was due to the reduced reliance on agency staff and at the same time the retained staff, which had reduced by 400 people over the 3 year period, were entitled to annual pay awards and additional increments. There were increases in the employers' rate of superannuation and national insurance contributions. If the steps taken had not been implemented the wage bill would have been much more expensive and not affordable.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles referred to the annual wage increase and the fact that employees were asked to take 3 days leave without pay. In comparison terms this was the equivalent to about 1% and accounted for the pay rise. The Council had lost 400 members of staff, but if you compared this with the salary increase it still went up by

£680,000 and the following year rose by another £200,000. He, therefore, asked what was the average salary across the authority, the average salary outside Rotherham generally and how many staff were employed at a salary of £65,000 and above.

The Leader confirmed he did not have numbers to hand. He pointed out average salaries were included in the annual pay statement which was recorded and published on the Council's website. The Council had a tighter budget which mean, sadly, the staffing complement had to decrease and difficult decisions taken in order to reduce the funding gap. He confirmed he would ask officers to assemble the factual information and send this forward in writing.

**(9) Councillor B. Cutts** would receive a written reply to his question.

**(10) Councillor Carter** asked would the Council add to its Minimum Standards Charter, that all new contracts would have to offer the Joseph Rowntree Living Wage, in line with Council employees?

Councillor Alam confirmed that whilst the Council would encourage all commissioned Council service providers to pay the Proper Living Wage, it was estimated that the rough cost of compelling them to do so would be around £10 million per year. This was not an affordable option at the moment.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked could the Council not be more aspirational and for the employees of contractors to receive the same living standards. Many Councils had already commissioned or were looking to introduce the Living Wage in contracts and asked would the Cabinet Member look at this and include this in the future.

Councillor Alam would like to ask the commissioning providers to pay the Living Wage, but with this being £10 million worth of contracts this was quite challenging and to implement this it would be more expensive. The Council could only encourage providers it could not be enforced.

**(11) Councillor Napper** referred to the Government proposing guidance for scrutiny committees, in that, committees should have full access to financial matters and should not be restricted due to commercial sensitivity regarding contracts. He asked when would this happen?

Councillor Read confirmed the changes had already been made and Members to have access to all reports and exempt information making the process more open and transparent.

**(12) Councillor Cusworth** asked what was the Council doing to help reduce chronic homelessness within Rotherham?

Councillor Roche confirmed homelessness and sleeping rough was a national problem and had been caused by both the current Tory and Coalition Governments, the trend of which was a national disgrace.

Rotherham under a Labour administration had an excellent track record of tackling homelessness and undertook a wide range of activities to prevent homelessness often involving partnership working. A dedicated Homelessness Team sat alongside Property Allocation officers and the recently established Financial Inclusion Team. This ensured the Council met its statutory duties and carried out as much preventative action as possible. This included money management and benefit advice, referrals to employment solutions and tenancy affordability assessments.

Officers were also providing support to help tenants sustain their tenancies in the public and private sector and support resettlement programmes with the prison and probation services. The number of homeless preventions for the last year was 451.

Rough sleepers were supported by a variety of agencies including the Council with a dedicated worker recently appointed through a sub-regional grant funded programme. Rotherham participated in the National Rough sleeper count in November, 2017 and recorded 2 people rough sleeping.

There were loads of other examples in the way the Council was working to help solve this problem. The Cabinet Member was happy to provide a full list if this was requested.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cusworth referred to a programme Housing First being rolled out in other authorities and asked if Rotherham was involved.

Councillor Roche confirmed this was handled via the Housing Team, but he would ensure a written reply would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

**(13) Councillor Carter** asked how many families in Rotherham were affected by the collapse of Home Start South Yorkshire, and what was the Council doing to support these families in a difficult time?

The Cabinet Member for Housing was unable to attend the meeting today so a reply would be provided in writing.

**(14) Councillor Carter** asked the Cabinet Member for Housing how many homes within the Town Centre Masterplan will be funded by the HRA as privately occupied homes to then be sold on the open market?

The Cabinet Member for Housing was unable to attend the meeting today so a reply would be provided in writing.

**(15) Councillor Fenwick-Green** asked since its introduction 2 years ago, could the Cabinet Member tell her what improvement the Eastwood deal had made to Eastwood village?

Councillor Hoddinott thanked Rotherham East Councillors for the work they were doing with the Eastwood Deal and the work taking place to review it. A great deal of work had taken place in the first 2 years on how to address the immediate concerns and looking at some of the longer term issues. A number of different approaches had been tried and partners had moved to working closely together with joint team meetings and co-location. A medium focus had been on the built environment with particular attention on enforcement.

In 2017/18 there were 340 fixed penalty notices issued which was an increase from just 7 in 2016/17. There had also been 210 enforcement notices issued for more complex cases around anti-social behaviour and seven prosecutions as a result. The year before there had been 208 enforcement notices with three prosecutions.

Selective licensing had made a big impact improving the private rented sector and officers, just in the last few years, had been in over 500 properties in Eastwood to inspect. A number of cases had been raised with 53 warnings in the last year about waste in gardens and noise nuisance.

Overall, with the continuous enforcement as a whole there had been a 28% decrease on the same period in the previous year. In the longer term the regeneration in the area and changes to the housing stock would continue. It was recognised there was more to do as fly tipping and rubbish in gardens continued to be a problem. Neighbourhood working would continue to be encouraged and initiatives by Ward Councillors would go a long way to addressing some of the engagement and community working going forward.

**(16) Councillor Cusworth** explained in Swinton, Ward Members were tackling the issue of school parking by setting up Travel Plan Working Parties in Primary Schools and arranging, for example, themed walks to school, park and stride car parks and working towards ModeSHIFT Stars Active Travel accreditation and asked if the Council supported this approach?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed she did and anything that could be done of tackle congestion was welcome. In Swinton she welcomed the initiatives and was happy to look to see how this could be supported across the borough.

**(17) Councillor Carter** referred to residents in Rotherham expressing frustration with the early closure of burial services mid-afternoon and asked was it fair that Sheffield residents got a better deal than Rotherham's residents who paid extortionate fees for a worse service from the contract with Dignity?

Councillor Hoddinott agreed it was not fair and had expressed her frustration about the shortcomings in the contract. She had raised the issue around the cost with Dignity and was pleased that they had confirmed they would be freezing their prices until October, 2018. She would, however, make representations and look into the issue of early closure. Sheffield did close later, but Barnsley and Doncaster actually closed earlier when comparing times with neighbours. She confirmed she would continue to push for changes.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked if he could be informed and be given the representations to Dignity about what steps had been taken as a Council.

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed she would be happy to provide correspondence.

**(18) Councillor Cowles** explained whenever any enforcement for littering or other types of anti-social behaviour had been suggested for implementation in Eastwood he had been made aware that Councillor Hoddinott had thus far blocked the use of such enforcement and he asked could the Cabinet Member confirm whether or not this was the case?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed this was not the case.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles believed the situation with the Eastwood Deal had got worse not better despite the monthly cost of cleaning up the area. He received the photos and the emails each week and believed the Cabinet Member had requested they not be sent to her. He reminded her doing nothing was not a viable option. Every time he walked around with Mr. Kirk he had gardens brimming with rubbish and asked why. If selective licensing was such a success why were the gardens accumulating rubbish. The Council now knew who owned these properties so why were there any yards with rubbish in as these should be dealt with as soon as it appeared. He asked why had greater enforcement not been employed to stop some of the concerns happening down there.

Councillor Hoddinott outlined the progress and she had spoken to residents who believed it was better. There was more to do and she urged residents to talk to their Ward Councillors. She received the numerous emails and photos which were reported and acted upon. In terms of enforcement appropriate action was taken where necessary with moves towards prosecutions, which often meant some of the rubbish in gardens, was not cleared as quickly as this often provided as evidence.

**(19) Councillor Napper** asked when would R.M.B.C. look at reducing the speed limit on sections of Moor Lane North and South, Braithwell Road, Hollings Lane, Magna Lane and Far Magna Lane?

Councillor Hoddinott explained officers were looking at the representations on reducing speed limits on these sections. The Cabinet Member was more than happy to share the detailed work on this and a meeting was to be scheduled shortly to look at reasons for the speed limits and the accidents in the areas, which were not always speed related.

Around the Thrybergh area following representations the school would be having a 20 mph zone introduced in the next few weeks. She was happy to look at other areas with Councillor Napper.

In a supplementary question Councillor Napper explained in the last 5 years there had been 22 accidents on Moor Lane North, on Hollings Lane 3 deaths in the last 2 years, 14 vehicles overturned on Magna Lane and 2 accidents on Far Magna Lane at the crossroads near the Joker pub pedestrian crossings, but this was a 40 mph stretch. Down near Ravenfield School it was recommended that lights come up 20 mph, but this was not recognised by drivers.

The roads were classified as "B" and "C" and pointed out that in rural areas where roads linked the larger villages and HGV generators to strategic and main distribution networks and heavy pedestrian activity these types of roads should have 30 mph. Many of the roads described had speed limits of 40 mph. Officers had indicated that they had to wait until someone died before they could take action and he asked why should there be a delay and someone hurt when they could not take responsibility. He believed this was wrong and it was time that action was now taken. He welcomed attendance at Ravenfield Parish Council meetings.

Councillor Hoddinott found it unacceptable that action could not be taken until someone died in an accident. She shared Councillor Napper's concerns and was happy to sit down to see what action could be taken or what opportunities there were to take this forward. Some of the accidents were related to the camber of the road on Hollings Lane and the surface on Magna Lane. Some Members had used their devolved budget to look at speed measures that could be used in some areas and this was something the relevant Ward Members may wish to consider.

**(20) Councillor Napper** referred to Rotherham being in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons with the Chief Constable and 200 officers on T.V. regarding Eastwood arresting 12 people, impounding 3 cars and dismantling 2 cannabis farms and asked when was the Council going to get a grip of this place.

Councillor Hoddinott explained that action was taken where needed. She had spoken to the Police who confirmed this was in relation to Operation Duxford. The 200 officers were across Rotherham and not just in Eastwood. It was an important operation with the Police acting on community information in that area.

As supplementary information Councillor Napper pointed out that when the Chief Constable reported on television that he had 200 officers in the area this was considered a serious problem. However, many of these problems were continuing and it was hoped the Police would look into them further.

**(21) Councillor B. Cutts** question would be responded to in writing.

**(22) Councillor Cusworth** explained the Government was currently running a consultation on 'Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse' and asked how had Rotherham Council engaged with this?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed the Government was conducting quite a large scale consultation how Local Authorities responded to domestic abuse. This consultation would close at the end of May, 2018. Work had been taking place with partners about what it was they wanted to see with some important questions being asked about the definition of domestic abuse and how domestic abuse work was being funded. They had been protected so far in Rotherham, but if this was a priority it needed to be funded properly.

Councillor Hoddinott thanked Councillor Cusworth for leading on the engagement with Members and for chairing a session around the Government consultation. All this was being brought together and would feed into the representations around those areas. Councillors having read the response gave some good feedback and how to recognise the non-physical domestic abuse and the mental and financial abuse just as much.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cusworth referred to Amber Rudd, the then Home Secretary, concluded her forward to the consultation by saying "We are optimistic by working together we can better prevent, protect and support all victims of domestic abuse" so how can we as a Local Authority prevent, protect and support victims of domestic abuse during such times of Tory austerity.

Councillor Hoddinott explained it was difficult as these services have been affected by the austerity and the Council would do all it could to protect as far as possible.

## COUNCIL MEETING - 23/05/18

Councillor Hoddinott paid tribute to the Housing Team success in gaining various national grants to assist local services. It was a shame, however, the Council had to rely on this ad hoc funding for such a core service and it was key that this should form part of the consultation when this was a priority and should be funded appropriately.

**(23) Councillor B. Cutts** would receive an answer to his question in writing.

**(24) Councillor Cusworth** explained the need for mental health care was in the news daily and asked could the Cabinet Member please tell her what RMBC were doing to support and care for people in Rotherham who may have mental health care needs?

Councillor Roche explained the health and wellbeing was important to everybody in Rotherham, enabling people to live fulfilling lives and to be actively engaged in their community. Mental health was crucial.

Last Monday he launched the Five Ways to Wellbeing as part of Mental Health Awareness Week (14<sup>th</sup> - 20th May) and he confirmed a survey had shown that the people of Rotherham recognised the importance of looking after their mental health and wellbeing. The launch covered that everyone had mental health, just like physical health it was important that steps were taken to look after it. The following steps, known as the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' were easy and could be incorporated into our daily lives almost straight away. The simple things such as:-

1. Be Active.
2. Connect.
3. Give.
4. Keep Learning.
5. Take Notice.

The support and services that were provided range from individual personalised support, group work, support within the home and support with social inclusion and were all based on a prevention, enablement and recovery model. The main focus of support was to maximize independence and to support people to become part of their local communities.

Services provided within Rotherham were universal, targeted and specialist. For people with longer term needs the Council worked with Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) with Social Workers and approved mental health professional staff working together to provide appropriate support.

The staff were currently "integrated" into multi-disciplinary teams which provide services to people with mental ill health.

Yesterday the Local Government Association had visited who praised Rotherham for its integrated services and rated as one of the best in the country.

RDaSH provided elements of rehabilitation, crisis, acute and home treatment, assertive outreach, early intervention in psychosis and day services. The Trust also provided psychological therapies and primary care mental health services.

The team supported a 24 hour crisis intervention service alongside providing mental health act assessments when required in a timely manner.

RMBC and RDaSH worked closely with the Voluntary Sector who also provided a wide range of support, services and community options, including Voluntary Action Rotherham MIND and Rotherham United. Part of this included the newly developed mental health social prescribing which had been seen to be a national leader. In addition to these areas there were a number of initiatives in schools including a dedicated website to help people improve their mental health.

Work was also undertaken as part of social inclusion to improve mental health like the projects at Wellgate Court. In the near future the Cabinet Member hoped to present a new project on loneliness which was a key determinant of mental health and if more could be done to reduce loneliness this would aid to improve the mental health of people.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cusworth referred how in the U.K. between 2003 and 2013 over 18,000 people took their own life and asked what work was being done with regards to suicide prevent in the Borough.

Councillor Roche outlined the work being undertaken in this area and praised the lead officer, Ruth Fletcher-Brown. This included work in the south of the Borough with Councillor Ellis, professionals, local staff and members of local parishes in order to make people more aware. This included the local public houses allowing designed beer mats to be circulated "Don't let silence kill you". Anything that could be done to get people to talk about their problems and issues would help and the Cabinet Member urged Ward Members to introducing this campaign in their areas. There was an active strategic officer group which includes agencies such as the Samaritans and the Police to see what could be done about suicide in the Borough. This could be improved further as this was not just a local but a national problem.

**208. URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.