

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held on Wednesday 4 November 2020, at 2.00 pm, as a remote meeting in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, and pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

**PRESENT**

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Tony Downing)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Gail Smith)

1	<i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i> Simon Clement-Jones Bob Pullin Richard Shaw	10	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Andy Bainbridge Vic Bowden Moya O'Rourke	19	<i>Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Ward</i> Peter Garbutt Jim Steinke Alison Teal
2	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Bob McCann Chris Rosling-Josephs	11	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Roger Davison Barbara Masters Shaffaq Mohammed	20	<i>Park &amp; Arbourthorne</i> Julie Dore Ben Miskell Jack Scott
3	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	12	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Abdul Khayum Alan Law	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> Mike Drabble Dianne Hurst
4	<i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i> Angela Argenzio Kaltum Rivers	13	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	22	<i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i> Dawn Dale Peter Price Garry Weatherall
5	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Talib Hussain Mark Jones	14	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Lewis Dagnall Cate McDonald Paul Turpin	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Mike Chaplin Tony Damms Jayne Dunn
6	<i>City Ward</i> Douglas Johnson Ruth Mersereau Martin Phipps	15	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Ian Auckland Sue Auckland Steve Ayriss	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Penny Baker Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Crookes &amp; Crosspool Ward</i> Tim Huggan Mohammed Mahroof Anne Murphy	16	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond Josie Paszek	25	<i>Stocksbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i> Jack Clarkson Julie Grocutt Francyne Johnson
8	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea Zahira Naz	17	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Terry Fox Sioned-Mair Richards	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Neale Gibson
9	<i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i> Joe Otten Colin Ross Martin Smith	18	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> Tony Downing Kevin Oxley Gail Smith	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> Alan Hooper Adam Hurst Mike Levery
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Paul Wood

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ben Curran, Abtislam Mohamed, Peter Rippon, Jackie Satur and Sophie Wilson.

**2. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 2.1 It was moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, and seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, that, in view of the amount of business to be conducted at the meeting, the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.5 be suspended and the termination of the meeting be extended by 30 minutes, to 6.00 p.m. to ensure time is made available for Members' supplementary questions.
- 2.2 On being put to the vote, the motion was negatived.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 In the light of the announcement made earlier at the meeting by the Lord Mayor indicating that the Vice-Chancellors of the City's two Universities will be attending the meeting to report on the work that the Universities have been undertaking during the pandemic, interests in agenda item 8 on Coronavirus Update (item 9 of these minutes) were declared by (a) Councillor Lewis Dagnall on the grounds that he is a funded post-graduate student at the University of Sheffield and will shortly be employed by the University as a teaching assistant, (b) Councillor Mark Jones on the grounds that his partner is a Lecturer at the University of Sheffield and (c) Councillor Kaltum Rivers on the grounds that she is a funded post-graduate student at the University of Sheffield.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) reported that one petition and questions from six members of the public had been received prior to the published deadline for submission of petitions and questions for this meeting. He added that one of the questioners was now not able to attend the meeting, and, in view of the pressure on time, he would arrange for a written answer to be provided to the questioner as an alternative to dealing with it in this meeting.

4.2 Petitions

4.2.1 Petition Regarding Provision Of Free School Meal Vouchers

The Council received a petition containing 975 signatures and concerning the provision of free school meal vouchers.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Kurtis Crossland. Mr

Crossland said there were twenty thousand children in Sheffield who depended on free school meals. He referred to the Council's October half term voucher scheme and the announcement that there would also be provision for free school meals during the Christmas holiday, which he said was very good news for anyone that depended upon free school meals. He said that some mistakes did occur in relation to the provision of vouchers in the October half term and he asked the Council to reassure people in that regard.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council. Councillor Dore thanked Mr Crossland for presenting the petition and said that the Council had made the decision to provide free school meal vouchers in the Christmas holidays, following the decision to fund free school meal vouchers during the October half term and this was announced in the last week. She said that it was hoped that the Government would change its approach and listen to people to provide food to those most in need and especially during the Coronavirus pandemic and as a result of the economic effects of the pandemic upon jobs and wages. Councillor Dore referred to the negative effects on those families of coalition government austerity policies and welfare reform.

#### 4.3 Public Questions

##### 4.3.1 Public Question Concerning Crossing on Station Road, Halfway

Kurtis Crossland made reference to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Station Road, Halfway and asked when construction was expected to start.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, responded that timescales were difficult to estimate. There would be a consultation regarding the scheme and people would be made aware when that consultation was to begin.

##### 4.3.2 Public Question Concerning Housing Offices

Sophie Thornton asked whether the Council still intended to reduce the number of housing offices and, if so, which ones were being considered for closure.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, stated that the Council was considering how it delivered the housing offices services. No final decisions had been made and there would be consultation with Tenants and Residents Associations prior to any decisions being taken. This would not take place immediately and was delayed because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

##### 4.3.3 Public Question Concerning Garage Fly-tipping

Sophie Thornton said that following her question to Council in October, she had received a reply confirming that the garage site on Gervase Avenue had been tidied and the garage doors closed over the remaining fly-tipping. She asked the

Council to reconsider its approach and clean out the garages to remove the remaining rubbish.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, responded that he would take the matter up with the relevant service on behalf of Sophie Thornton to make sure the situation relating to the garages was dealt with correctly.

#### 4.3.4 Public Questions Concerning Streets Ahead and Street Trees and the Leader of the Council

Russell Johnson said that at a meeting in March 2018, the then Chief Executive of the Council had told him that an Amey sub-contracted or employed person had suffered a broken bone in the course of their duties at Meersbrook Park Road on 22 February 2018. He asked where the Chief Executive had obtained this information and what corroboration was sought before repeating this as fact.

He asked if the Leader of the Council had considered the idea, which was also the subject of social media, that the Council should demonstrate its sincerity in the apology required by the Local Government Ombudsman in its report, by repaying Injunction costs of tree campaigners. If so, what conclusion had the Leader come to and why? He asked if the Leader was aware that there was widespread belief that the Ruling Group on the Council did not appear to understand the concepts of atonement or remorse?

Mr Johnson made comments about damage to Sheffield's reputation resulting from what he stated was years of administrative malefaction by the Council and he asked whether the Leader would consider stepping down now, avoiding further risk by waiting until May 2021.

Councillor Mark Jones, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change, responded in relation to the first question, that he could not comment on conversations that had taken place between Mr Johnson and the former Chief Executive. However, he was working with officers to understand the background to this incident and allegations and he would respond to Mr Johnson in writing as to the findings of that investigation.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that she had known of the incident relating to a member of the workforce as referred to by Mr Johnson, because it was repeated several times during that period and was an issue in the public domain. She had not been formally informed that someone within the workforce had suffered an injury.

In relation to comments on social media, Councillor Dore responded that she did not engage with social media. She said peaceful campaigning against the replacement and replenishment of street trees was different to breaching an injunction. The Council had extended a full apology and had worked with campaigners to develop a new joint strategy for the future replacement and replenishment of street trees and this was in a good place.

Councillor Dore said that at present, people needed guidance, help and support during the Coronavirus pandemic and she was aware that there was a widespread belief that this Council was doing everything possible to save lives and to protect the most vulnerable.

#### 4.3.5 Public Question Concerning Electric Vehicle Charging Outlets

Russell Johnson asked whether the Council was aware that, despite the Climate Emergency, and the declared intention to encourage electric vehicle ownership, Sheffield still had significantly fewer Electric Vehicle charging outlets than comparable cities and some much smaller towns and he asked why this was the case.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, responded that the Council recognised the need to provide electric charging infrastructure points and to promote the take up of electric vehicles. The Council was in the process of a roll out of rapid chargers through the early measures fund and it was actively seeking further funding to be able to enhance the network. The Council had also worked with private organisations to help develop provision, which included charging points. A promotion scheme for electric vans was also being implemented with Highways England to provide incentives for businesses to change to electrified vehicles. He said that provision of charging infrastructure was reliant upon the national grid and the underlying infrastructure and it was therefore difficult to make comparisons between cities. The Council was moving ahead on this issue and was implementing rapid chargers, which may not be the same as the standard ones seen in other places.

#### 4.3.6 Public Questions Concerning Local Government Ombudsman Report Concerning Street Trees

Ruth Hubbard asked whether as part of the "full apology" following the Local Government Ombudsman report, the people of Sheffield deserved an explanation as to why the Council took things "too far" and if not, why not?

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that the details of the response to the Ombudsman's report were in a Cabinet report and a copy of that report could be sent to Ruth Hubbard or it could also be accessed on the Council's website.

#### 4.3.7 Public Questions Concerning Coronavirus

Nigel Slack asked several questions concerning the Coronavirus Pandemic. He stated that the Government had failed the nation by insisting that educational establishments continued to provide one of the major vectors for the ongoing crisis of infections, hospital admissions and deaths relating to Covid-19.

He said that this approach was damaging both to public health and to the economy and that the decision regarding lockdown had been taken weeks after

the science demanded it, and that was the Government's fault. Mr Slack commented that the City now needed to stand up and be counted.

He asked whether the City would demand that the Government close the schools, colleges and Universities, as demanded by teaching unions and 'the science' to help suppress the uncontrolled pandemic as they were contributing to community infections and as a result, all age groups were now being affected.

He said that it was entirely possible for the country to 'afford' a real national lockdown economically and to enable people to work on ways to support the mental health of those worst affected. He said that the Government chose not to do so and the Council followed orders.

Mr Slack asked: why the Council continued to follow flawed advice from the Government; when would the Council take the right steps to protect students, staff and workers in education; did the Council think this supposed 'lockdown' would work without closing education; and what did the Council say to those working in education and families of students who did not have faith in the Covid-19 related safety measures in place?

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that representatives of the two Universities were attending this meeting of Council and she hoped that Mr Slack would be able to listen to their respective contributions.

She said that the Council had always stood up and been counted and had done so in relation to the present Government and had not shied away from standing up for Sheffield, including over the past ten years.

She said there was a difference between following advice from the Government and having to follow instructions. This day, Parliament would consider and vote upon further measures relating to the Coronavirus pandemic and which would determine whether schools and universities would be required to remain open or closed. That would be a decision of Parliament, rather than advice and the Council had to follow that decision.

She said that her political party and political group's position was that education and learning should remain open and accessible. She said it was a very difficult balance to keep people safe from the virus, whilst also recognising the impact, in many other ways, of those decisions.

Those impacts might be far more harmful for some, especially children and young people who were the most vulnerable and disadvantaged as they would be disproportionately adversely affected by the closure of schools. It might also include matters of safeguarding and an increase in mental health conditions.

Councillor Dore said that there was also data to show that the impact on inequality would be long term and that the gap would grow wider. There were also consequences for the futures of some of the most very vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and which had already been seen with the

previous lockdown.

She said that risks had to be properly managed but the cost of children being out of school was too high. There was also a balance to be considered with regards to the closure of other provision such as gyms, leisure centres and other wellbeing activities and the effect on people's physical and mental wellbeing. She said that education was a priority.

Prior to asking the questions above, Mr Slack referred to a written response that he had received from the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families and he expressed concern that in that written response he was being accused of blaming students for spreading the virus and of being divisive.

He stated that he did not blame the students or the pupils in schools and that he blamed the Government, the universities and accommodation providers for failing to protect those young people. He said that whilst no one sector was blameless, when people gathered in environments where staff and students felt unsafe, and where students were succumbing to infection, it was those in power who should shoulder the blame. He said that to infer that he thought otherwise was wrong and he expected an apology.

Councillor Jackie Drayton, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, responded and said that in relation to Mr Slack's request for an apology, she would apologise if she had upset him in what she said in the written answer, although she wished to make it clear that she was answering a written question to her. The question had talked about students and young people being responsible for the death of a family member and universities putting money over the health of their students.

She said that she did recognise that Mr Slack was very passionate about challenging organisations, including the Council and the universities and in his belief as to why he thought it best that students and young people should not be attending school and university. She said that she felt the language he had used was divisive and emotive and she did not accept that it was right to use that sort of language.

Councillor Drayton commented on the circumstances of many families and the challenges of having to support and teach children at home with restricted space and limited access to technology and also sustaining a job. She also referred to the raising of anxiety of people being together in one household. She said that the people who were disadvantaged the most were the poor and the vulnerable and that the pandemic was affecting those people more than others. She said that those children and young people needed to be at school to ensure they were supported and so long as the schools and universities were working hard to keep people safe, she would continue to support them.

Councillor Drayton said that she was sorry if Mr Slack was upset about what was said in the way she had replied. However, this was not meant in any other way than to disagree with the language he had used and she explained that she was happy to always receive a question from Mr Slack.

## **5. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE**

- 5.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) and seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith), that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons be altered by taking item 8 on the agenda [Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update] as the next item of business.
- 5.2 Greg Fell, the Director of Public Health, provided an update on the latest position in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and James Henderson, Director of Policy, Performance and Communications, outlined the restrictions announced by the Government on the second national lockdown, which was due to start on 5 November.
- 5.3 Professor Koen Lamberts, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, and Professor Sir Chris Husbands, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University, each reported on the work that both Universities had been undertaking during the pandemic. Professor Lamberts was accompanied by Heidi Fraser-Krauss, Executive Director, Corporate Services, and Professor Husbands was accompanied by Joe Rennie, Group Director, Student and Academic Services.
- 5.4 This was followed by an opportunity for Members of the Council to ask questions and a summary of the questions to Greg Fell and James Henderson and responses was as follows:-
- 5.5 Questions were asked about the potential for mass testing of the population for Covid-19 and in response, Mr Fell informed Members that testing was effective if it linked to the right interventions that followed. There were however some scientific uncertainties with regard to testing a whole population. These included the accuracy of the testing and the scientific validity of the exercise - in relation to which there would be learning from the experience of the Liverpool pilot in whole population testing and the deployment of 2000 military personnel to support that programme. There were also significant logistical problems in repeatedly and frequently testing such a large number of people and there would need to be some certainty in relation to its benefits and the related behaviours and systems and processes, including linking the test to the process of NHS track, trace and isolate.
- 5.6 Mr Fell explained that there could be benefit in population screening of defined cohorts, such as asymptomatic testing in domiciliary or home care settings as was now being done in care homes. Similarly, there might be a case for asymptomatic testing in critical services both in the public and private sectors, albeit with some caveats. There might also be a case for asymptomatic testing of contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19, such as households and that was being examined at present in reference to learning from the experience of the Liverpool pilot. It was important to be clear about the logistics of testing a wider



proportion of the population. Further information would be provided in writing.

- 5.7 As regards the question of whether schools and universities should close, SAGE (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies) had been clear in advice to Government that the reopening of schools and universities would lead to more cases of infection. The balancing factors were that firstly, schools were operating in a largely safe environment and there was little in any documented evidence of in-school transmission. However, cases connected to schools were reflective of community transmission which was brought into school and then appropriately isolated. Second, the transmission from children to adults was quite rare. And thirdly, education was good for children and not having education affected life chances and was inequitable.
- 5.8 In relation to the effects of a second lockdown on the rates of Covid-19 infection, the less contact people had, together with other measures, the more rates would reduce. It was also recognised that there would be longer term consequences for some people, such as those who had developed 'long-Covid' and a related impact for health and social care.
- 5.9 Not enough people who should be isolating were doing so. Although there was financial support available for people to self-isolate, it was acknowledged that those with less income could find it difficult to self-isolate for two weeks. Community support for those who were required to self-isolate was also important. Observations were made as to the effectiveness of the NHS Covid-19 App and it was hoped that these would be addressed.
- 5.10 In relation to older people continuing to go to the workplace, whilst people who were clinically vulnerable should take extra care, there was not at this time specific government guidance on going into the workplace. The Council would undertake risk assessments in relation to employees as appropriate.

(Note: Due to time constraints, any remaining questions from Members to Greg Fell and James Henderson were to be asked and answered in writing.)

- 5.11 A summary of the questions to the Universities and responses was as follows:-
- 5.12 The Students' Union had been engaged in relation to the delivery of teaching and assessment so that no students suffered detriment and teaching was delivered either on campus or online. International students made a major contribution to the culture and economy of the City. The Universities had reduced international travel by using alternative technologies and were also looking at future ways of working in relation to reducing environmental impact.
- 5.13 In connection with the transmission of the virus in the air, the Universities had followed guidance and had been working with the Council's public health team and other experts. Risk mitigation measures adhered to government guidelines, including the wearing of masks in teaching areas and active ventilation, together with social distancing. There was not evidence through track and trace of aerosol transmission in teaching settings.

- 5.14 As regards concerns about the level of university fees and the possible reduction of fees and relatively little teaching time in some cases and having spoken with students, it was thought that students did understand the circumstances relating to the Coronavirus pandemic and they were philosophical and quite realistic. The reaction of students to placing learning materials online had been mixed with some students saying they were just as good or better and others saying that they were not so good. Lectures were recorded in short segments, for students to access. Both universities had a cost base and it was just as labour intensive to develop online materials as to deliver teaching in person. It was thought, and the case had been made to Government, that changes could be made to the regime of repayment of student loans.
- 5.15 Universities had been working hard to provide high quality learning for students. If students felt that learning outcomes had not been met, those concerns could be raised with the university through the appropriate procedure and support was available through student advisers. The Universities were determined to deliver the learning outcomes that were expected.
- 5.16 Questions were asked about support to students who were required to self-isolate and Members were informed that an extensive support package was provided to those students, including welfare and emotional support and awareness of access to mental health and wellbeing services, eligibility to a hardship fund and an ability to borrow a laptop. Students staying in university accommodation received a daily check-in or they could register for a daily welfare call in relation to their specific needs and how they were feeling. Support was offered for access to medication and shopping deliveries. There were also a range of online services to make sure that students remained engaged with their course. There was peer support available for other students who were not self-isolating but might also need support or services. In summary, there was a lot of hard work being done in this regard to support students.
- 5.17 As regards blended learning and whether there was any planned increase in face to face teaching and learning, universities had needed to respond and adapt rapidly and were looking at the year ahead, including timetabling, teaching and placements, and in respect of health and education courses and it was expected that the experience for students would be different later in the academic year.
- 5.18 In relation to teaching and learning for students on clinical, nursing and teaching courses, clinical teaching was being delivered face to face. There were challenges with regard to placements for health and education and this was the subject of current activity.
- 5.19 Support was available for students living in other accommodation in communities and those on placement elsewhere in the UK and shopping could be delivered to students who were self-isolating because of the Coronavirus. The Universities did engage with local communities and were keen to reassure people and make sure that people in communities were not unduly concerned.

There was related proactive activity, including social media and the Universities were responding to enquiries. In general, students both understood and complied with guidance. Local MPs and Councillors were also kept informed of activity.

- 5.20 In response to questions concerning student accommodation and the effect of the pandemic upon providers, including providers of larger student complexes, and the future for student accommodation, it was explained that the two Universities were different in that, unlike the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University was not a provider of accommodation and worked with private sector providers. The information available indicated that the market would not shrink in the near future.
- 5.21 For Sheffield Hallam University, a significant proportion of students lived in large residential complexes. Work was done in partnership with providers in relation to welfare and support and issues of conduct and discipline. Others lived locally or commuted into Sheffield or lived in homes provided by local landlords, including as part of a registered scheme and students were encouraged to move into homes with such partners.
- 5.22 The approach with regards accommodation providers was similar for the University of Sheffield. It was anticipated, looking at the demographics, that demand for higher education accommodation would increase and would be resilient and there was robust demand for a higher education experience in an institution and as a resident of a city.
- 5.23 In relation to risk assessment and what had been learned concerning transmission of Covid-19, it was thought that any movement of people brought a risk of transmission and that was proportional to the underlying transmission rate in the population. How the risk translated into actual transmission depended upon both the underlying rate of infection and mitigations that were put in place. Mitigations were put in place in collaboration with the Council's Public Health team, to help ensure the effect of transmission on campus was as low as possible. There was limited control in relation to behavioural compliance but this had been very good on the whole. It was about balancing the benefits of providing students with education and the risks associated with any movement of people.
- 5.24 It was a matter of judgement as to the overall risks. It was considered that, if young people had been asked to put their lives on hold for a year, that would have resulted in a very difficult position, which created problems with the delivery of higher education in 2021 and it presented challenges with regards to mental health and youth unemployment. There were some important trade-offs and it was considered that the mitigations which had been put in place by the Universities had worked.
- 5.25 A question was asked about students returning home for the Christmas holiday and the effect of them returning to Sheffield on the rate of cases of Covid-19 and what action might be taken in that regard. In response, it was considered that this would depend on the consequences of a range of public health

interventions. Whilst it was possible that there would be an increase in cases of Covid-19 when students returned, this also needed to be considered along with the prospects of those young people and long term needs of society for an educated workforce and it was really important that they did return. Government guidance was awaited in relation to students going home and returning after the Christmas holiday and what could be expected in terms of risk and mitigation depended upon the model that the Government chose to recommend.

- 5.26 In response to a question concerning the continuing job security, leading up to the Christmas period, of university employees including those in job roles in catering and cleaning, it was stated that for Sheffield Hallam University staff in such roles, there had not been spare capacity with people having been fully occupied and thought would be given to the future. However, it was not intended to make people redundant at this point. For the University of Sheffield, the position was broadly the same and tribute was paid to those staff who had been crucial in keeping the University campus open and allowing research to take place and in keeping people safe and it was not intended to make people redundant at this point.
- 5.27 In relation to the effectiveness of mitigations and what might be done differently for the return of students in January as compared to the arrival of students in the autumn term, in respect of Sheffield Hallam University, the campuses and delivery of teaching had been secure and there had not been evidence of transmission. However, at the beginning of term, there had been some behaviours that had accelerated transmission and the University had worked incredibly hard with students, including in relation to communications and that was considered to have been effective. There was also examination of further development of test and trace which could help to manage the present circumstances. The University was also considering how it might adapt teaching and learning and that work was not yet complete and had been put on hold whilst an immediate response was put in place to the announcement of Tier 4 restrictions by the Government.
- 5.28 As regards international students, for the University of Sheffield, early on, there was concern as to an anticipated reduction in international students being able or choosing not to travel to Sheffield. A significant number of students had chosen to wait until the new year and to defer their arrival and were undertaking the first semester online. There were challenges, including in relation to visas and international travel. Arrangements had been put into place recently for travel from China. The numbers of students registering to come to the University was holding up reasonably well. The Government had offered a loan and grant package, which was expected in the new year, to help cover the shortfall in international student numbers and fees which helped the University to maintain research.
- 5.29 Support from the City Council was valuable in terms of working with teams in the Council and so there was understanding of local needs and concerns and in order that the Universities were also informed by the Council.
- 5.30 For Sheffield Hallam University, it had been anticipated that there would be a

reduction in numbers of international students and in fact this reduction had not been as large as expected earlier in the year. The numbers of domestic students had held up well. The Universities were working together to put a proposal to Government concerning how there might be more effective working in relation to social and economic recovery and renewal. There was a wish for the two Universities to collaborate together and with the City Council to consider the place of the Universities, their contribution to the City and in improving the quality of life for young people and the population of Sheffield.

- 5.31 Questions were asked about how a learning and academic deficit might be addressed and as to how the lack of a wider learning experience of students in higher education could be addressed such as by the use of summer schools. In response, it was acknowledged that this was a concern and the current circumstances presented a different experience for students. The University was looking at learning outcomes and giving consideration as to what might need to be picked up in future years and for first and second year students. Students were demonstrating considerable resilience and were learning through responding to the present circumstances relating to the pandemic. Students had often been ahead in relation to their grasp and use of new technologies and in the last six months, universities had found they had had to catch up.
- 5.32 The Council noted the information reported and thanked all of the presenters for attending the meeting and providing their updates and for answering Members' questions.

## **6. TRIBUTES TO FORMER COUNCILLORS**

- 6.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) and seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith), that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business be altered by taking tributes to former Councillors, followed by a vote of thanks to former Councillor Olivia Blake, as the next items of business.
- 6.2 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) provided an opportunity for Members of the Council to pay tribute to former Councillors Mike Bower, Keith Hill, George Mathews and Alf Meade, who sadly had died on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, respectively.
- 6.3 Former Councillor Mike Bower had served as a Member of the Council from 1976 to 1998 and was Chair of the Education Committee from 1983 to 1986 and Chair of the Policy Committee, and Leader of the Council, from 1993 to 1998.
- 6.4 Former Councillor Keith Hill had served on the Council from 1999 to 2014 and was Chair of the South West Area Panel from 2005 to 2008.
- 6.5 Former Councillor George Mathews had served on the Council from 1982 to 1998 and was Deputy Chair of the Employment Committee from 1983 to 1988

and Deputy Chair, then Chair, of the Planning and Economic Development Committee from 1992 to 1998.

- 6.6 Former Councillor Alf Meade had served on the Council from 1971 to 2015, albeit with a number of small breaks in service on the Council during that time. He was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to the community.
- 6.7 Several Members of the Council spoke to pay tribute to the four former Councillors.

(NOTE: During the above item of business, it was - RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Penny Baker and seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, that the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.5 be suspended and the termination of the meeting be extended to enable the tributes to be paid, and a vote of thanks to be passed to former Councillor Olivia Blake.)

## **7. VOTE OF THANKS TO FORMER COUNCILLOR OLIVIA BLAKE**

- 7.1 The Council paid tribute to former Councillor Olivia Blake who had resigned on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 to fully focus on her role as a Member of Parliament, after serving as a Member of the Council, representing the Walkley Ward, since May 2014.
- 7.2 It was **RESOLVED**: that this Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to former Councillor Olivia Blake for her hard work and service to the City of Sheffield.

## **8. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

- 8.1 A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated.
- 8.2 Supplementary questions (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4), questions relating to urgent business (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6ii) and questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue and Pensions (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6i), were not able to be asked before the meeting terminated at the conclusion of the tributes to former Councillors.

## **9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

- 9.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Dianne Hurst, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be approved as a true and accurate record.

**10. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES**

10.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Dianne Hurst, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge, that:-

(a) approval be given to the following change to the memberships of Committees, Boards, etc.:-

Scrutiny Committee                      - Councillors Peter Garbutt and Ruth Mersereau to  
Substitute Members                      be appointed as additional substitute members

(b) representatives be appointed to serve on other bodies as follows:-

Sheffield City Region                      - Councillor Mazher Iqbal to be appointed as the  
Mayoral Combined                              Reserve Member for Councillor Bob Johnson  
Authority Housing and  
Infrastructure Board

**11. APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF ADULT HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

11.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor George Lindars-Hammond, seconded by Councillor Jackie Drayton, that this Council notes the information contained in the report of the Director of Human Resources and Customer Services now submitted, informing the Council of the recent appointment of Alexis Chappell to the post of Director of Adult Health and Social Care, and that Ms. Chappell is expected to start in post in early November 2020.