

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 1ST NOVEMBER 2023

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 6.2 – MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS ON THE DISCHARGE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE JOINT AUTHORITIES AND MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

Questions relating to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority to be asked at the meeting by Councillor Douglas Johnson – to be answered at the meeting by the Council’s Fire and Rescue Authority Spokesperson (Councillor Tony Damms)

(Provided in written form, in advance of being asked and answered at the meeting, for the benefit of attendees)

Questions from Councillor Douglas Johnson

- (1) Has SYF&R been consulted this year about any intended moorland burning?
- (2) What is SYF&R’s response to moorland burning?
- (3) What is the impact on SYF&R of moorland burning?

Answer from Councillor Tony Damms

A written answer will be provided.

Questions relating to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to be asked at the meeting by Councillor Ian Horner – to be answered at the meeting by the Council’s representative on the Combined Authority (Councillor Tom Hunt)

(Provided in written form, in advance of being asked and answered at the meeting, for the benefit of attendees)

Questions from Councillor Ian Horner

- (1) How much time was spent discussing the cuts to Bus services at the last MCA meeting?
- (2) Were any alternative proposals to avoid cutting bus services discussed at the meeting?

Answers from Councillor Tom Hunt

As members will know, the Government has consistently underfunded public transport in South Yorkshire and across the country. MCA members have spent a considerable amount of time over recent months discussing the impact to bus services.

At the last MCA board meeting on September 12, the Mayor provided an update on the campaign about South Yorkshire's buses that has been launched in order to ask Government to recognise the scale of the challenges facing South Yorkshire's bus network. Over the last few months, the Mayor has been holding a series of public events across South Yorkshire to hear about how the bus cuts had impacted South Yorkshire residents first hand. Details of all upcoming meetings can be found at <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/fair-deal>

Bus services were formally discussed by the MCA board at the meeting on July 31st. At that meeting a decision was taken to support tendered service contracts that will deliver a stable and sustainable tendered services network for a period of approximately 2 years. This decision means that statutory school services, non-statutory school services to July 2025 (initially) and Monday to Saturday daytime services up to 7/8pm would be secured, and an average of 95% of evening and Sunday services across the region are protected. An alternative option to protect around 80%-90% of patronage on evening and Sunday network services was not supported.