

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 17th January, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 19th January, 2017

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 30th January, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday 31st January, 2017

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Transportation
Councillor Tony Corden	Portfolio holder for Customer, Corporate and Trading Services
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Pat Knight	Portfolio holder for Public Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio holder for Business, Skills, Tourism and Culture
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio holder for Housing

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements.

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 3rd January, 2017, were noted

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE
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6. National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR) Progress Update and Next
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Steps.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the progress made on the National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR);
- (2) receive and invitation to visit the site (in early 2017) to tour the unique building and hear what facilities will be available;
- (3) approved the commencement of a programme of staff engagement and briefing including departmental newsletters and a virtual tour of the building;
- (4) receive a report on student accommodation at a future meeting;
- (5) noted that corporate resources no longer need to be set aside as a contingency for the project as grant funding was now fully secured; and
- (6) in conjunction with NCHSR, approved the establishment of a series of media events at the site and schedule events to capture wider interest in the project, starting with promotional sessions at Doncaster's Business Showcase in February, 2017.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received an update report detailing the significant progress made by the NCHSR, a new specialist rails and engineering campus at Lakeside.

It was reported that student enrolment will commence during spring 2017, however work had already commenced to develop progression routes and pathways into the NCHSR and to promote the widest possible access for local communities.

Members were advised that the construction of the college building was on programme with the 'topping out' ceremony due shortly and completion of the building is set for August 2017. It was noted that almost £4.5m in contracts had already been let to Doncaster based companies either as main sub-contract packages or through the wider supply chain and to date, 8 apprentices had been appointed to work on the site, 3 from Doncaster and the remaining 5 from within a 15 mile radius.

Mayor Ros Jones stated that this was great news for the Borough and highlighted that construction of the project had been funded through the Government grant via Sheffield City Region (SCR) monies which meant that the Local Authority were no longer required to earmark monies towards the project. She stated that the development was the right investment for the young people of the borough. Mayor Jones was also pleased to see that there were a number of Doncaster companies that had benefited from the project and 1 of the developers had advanced onto the Wilmot Dixon select list for further work. Mayor Jones highlighted what this meant for the citizens of Doncaster and was delighted to see the progress made on the development.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones thanked those whose hard work had gone into this development and it was great news for the borough which would benefit young people throughout the region especially Doncaster. He also highlighted the significant element of funding through the SCR for which he was grateful.

Councillor Bill Mordue echoed the comments made by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and felt this development was an excellent news story for Doncaster and the region and was looking forward to visiting the site and visiting young people at the College once the project was complete.

Jo Miller, Chief Executive, stated that Members may recall discussions made on the devolution deal which clearly showed commitment to the project. Jo advised members that there was commitment from Government for a National Institute for Technology and Infrastructure and work was being undertaken with Businesses to identify where the skills were required. She stated that these discussions would be business led and she hoped to report back with an update at a future meeting.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly also echoed Members comments and stated that young people felt that they now have a future and something to aspire to when they finish school.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones reported that this development was an example of good practice from both the public and private sector which will benefit the borough and the United Kingdom. She highlighted that there was massive shortage of engineers throughout the Country and this project was good news for Doncaster.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Jo Miller, Chief Executive declared an interest as she is a member of the Governing Board and is also the Chair of the Finance and Resource Committee for the National College for High Speed Rail.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker