

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 14th February, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Tuesday, 21st February, 2017

With the exception of Decisions 1 to 5 which are subject to Full Council approval on the 2nd March, 2017 the end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 2nd March, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Friday 3rd March, 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 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

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tony Corden.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

Councillor Nick Allen asked the Mayor Ros Jones the following question:-

'Do you think your budget demonstrates value for money? How much of the report was officer led and does the budget reflect your manifesto commitments or the policies of national government?'

In the absence of Councillor Nick Allen, the Mayor said she would provide a written response to his question. The written response sent is:-

“These budget proposals continue to deliver my priority of ensuring the Council is able to provide efficient and effective public services, whilst investing in the future of the borough

and its residents, despite the harsh austerity measures imposed on Doncaster by central Government.

The punitive Government cuts will not lower my ambitions for our borough and its people. I have made clear my priorities, to help drive forward our economy, increase job creation, raise education standards, build more homes and support residents and communities across Doncaster. In developing the budget we set a remit to protect, and indeed improve, vital front line services, particularly those which support vulnerable people. To do this, we are living within our means, modernising services and striving to deliver value for money in all of our work. I am proud of the effectiveness we have already achieved, improving services through initiatives like our Smart light programme, whilst making savings that minimise the impact of the Government cuts on our residents.

That said, I am extremely disappointed at the Government's complete failure to deal with the national funding problems facing adult social care and the health service. Their answer, which is to underfund vital services and yet increase the financial burden on local taxpayers, is frankly outrageous. It places strain on to those who can least afford it, through a regressive tax system that benefits wealthy areas over places like Doncaster and South Yorkshire.

The budget has been developed collaboratively to deliver my priorities and those agreed by the Council and I am grateful for members of Overview and Scrutiny for their input and support for the proposals. I have received no feedback from any other political groups on the Council, which I would have been willing to consider. Given that I published the draft proposals in November to allow for input from all Councillors and it is now mid-February, I assume that there will be no late political games from the opposition and that the budget will be supported unanimously in the Council Chamber in two weeks time.

We are seeing the highest levels of employment for more than 10 years, record house building, improved school standards and a transformation of Council services. All have been positively influenced by our work and these proposals build on the solid foundations that we have put in place over the last three years.

We are sticking to that plan and it is paying dividends for Doncaster”.

Decision records dated 31st January, 2017, were noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Revenue Budget 2017/18.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet recommend to Full Council to approve the Revenue Budget proposals for 2017/18 as set out in the report. This includes:-

(1) the revenue budget proposals for 2017/18 detailed at Appendix B (savings

£21.516m) and Appendix C (pressures £5.255m);

(2) Council Tax to be increased by 3.99% to £1,237.81 for a Band D property (£825.21 for a Band A) for 2017/18. This includes:-

- (i) 1.99% council tax increase equates to an increase of £23.69pa for Band D per annum, £0.46 per week (£15.79pa for Band A per annum, £0.30 per week);
- (ii) 2% Government's Social Care "precept" equates to an increase of £23.80pa for Band D per annum, £0.46 per (£15.87pa for Band A per annum, £0.31 per week);

(3) the 2017/18 Grants to 3rd Sector Organisations outlined in paragraph 23 and Appendix F;

(4) the summary fees and charges analysis shown in Appendix G together with the detailed fees and charges proposed for 2017/18 at Appendix H;

(5) the Medium Term Financial Forecast including all proposals in this as set out in Appendix J; and

(6) a gross revenue expenditure budget of £483.8m and a net revenue expenditure budget of £213.4m, as detailed in Appendix J.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Mayor presented the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 to Cabinet. She reported that the budget proposals would continue to deliver her priority for ensuring the Council is able to provide efficient and effective public services, whilst investing in the future of the borough and its residents despite the harsh austerity measures imposed on Doncaster by central Government.

She stated that she had made it clear that her priorities were to increase jobs, apprenticeships and grow Doncaster's economy. Deliver homes that meet the needs of everyone, raise education standards and increase opportunities. Deliver vital services for children and vulnerable residents and support our communities by delivering efficient and effective services.

In these difficult times, the Council also have to live within its means and must ensure that it meets its goals by modernising and improving services, delivering value for money and working in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sector to maximise the resources available.

It was noted that the Council had worked hard over the last three years to deliver its goals whilst minimising the impact of the draconian Conservative austerity measures which had given the Council a solid foundation to build on.

The Mayor expressed her disappointment at the Government's complete failure to deal with the national funding problems facing adult social care and the health service.

The Mayor reported that the Government's answer was to underfund vital services and then increase the financial burden on local taxpayers which she felt was outrageous. This places strain on those who can least afford it, through a regressive tax system that benefits wealthy areas over places like Doncaster and South Yorkshire. She pointed out that despite this, even wealthy areas were facing large rises and indeed, Conservative led Surrey Council were intending to hold a referendum to increase Council Tax by a staggering 15% until some text messages were exchanged. She stated that unfortunately Government policy means Council Tax rises were inevitable in order to sustain vital services. In fact it was not just inevitable, it was the preferred approach of the Conservative Government.

Through careful planning the Council has managed to limit the proposed rise this year to 3.99% which meant that Council Tax in Doncaster would remain one of the lowest in the Country, but she was deeply disappointed that the Prime Minister had forced these costs on to the people who could least afford them. The Mayor highlighted that the Council's only course of action was to grow its way out of the situation and the good news was that in Doncaster, the Council were delivering on that agenda and the promises it made.

The Mayor continued by highlighting last year's success with regard to the following:-

- An 11 year high in employment figures, with more than 9000 new jobs since 2013;
- The most homes built for 15 years including Council House and specialist homes for the elderly;
- GCSE results going up in Doncaster again bucking the national trend with a further increase in number of schools rated good or better;
- More enforcement against people who don't respect the borough with 8000 fines issued against litter louts;
- Thousands of new energy efficient street lights installed, saving money;
- Even more support for Veterans, valuing the Armed Forces and the work they do; and
- Helped reduce the cost of living through my Big Power Switch, installing solar panels and insulation, meaning thousands of households have benefited from the Council's schemes.

The Mayor thanked all staff and partners who had helped the Council to deliver these successes in often difficult circumstances and stated that the Council approach was paying dividends for Doncaster. The budget sets out how the Council would continue to deliver priorities for Doncaster and deliver even more success in the coming years.

Councillor John Mounsey, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee thanked the Mayor for allowing him the opportunity to present Overview and Scrutiny's response to the budget proposals of which a copy had been forwarded to Cabinet following their discussions on the 13th December 2016. He stated that the discussion had been helpful in allowing Members to understand what the key proposals for 2017/18 were, what they seek to achieve and how some of the challenges around deliverability will be addressed. He

pointed out that members fully appreciated the difficulties in achieving savings targets whilst delivering services and meeting the Borough's stated priorities. He believed that OSMC's engagement in the budget process had been both productive and positive and took the opportunity to thank Steve Mawson, Simon Wiles and all other Directors for attending meetings and responding to questions raised by the Committee.

Councillor Joe Blackham commended the report and stated that it represented the cumulative effort made by Team Doncaster which was a prime example of Doncaster pulling together to become a role model for other Councils to follow.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones concurred with the comments made by members. He presented the following addendum which provided clarity to the narrative on Home Care at page 17 of the report:-

If people need support and are eligible for it then they will receive it. Care at home is a priority. The Council know that people want to stay at home for as long as possible and the Council will work with them if they are eligible to make sure that they are able to do just that.

By working in localities to increase levels of community support that can help people remain independent for longer, we will reduce people's need for formally funded care. We are investing in improved information advice and guidance so people will know what range of options are open to them when they first contact us.

As the ageing population continues to rise and as more people stay in their own homes, we expect the number of intense packages of home support to rise.

We assess each person's situation on an annual basis and we will look at the best way of meeting their needs. Where appropriate we'll highlight community options in their local area and new options such as assistance from technology. Each package will be tailored to a person's needs and aims to keep them as well as they can be for as long as possible.

Councillor Chris McGuinness noted that whilst there were no significant changes with regard to his portfolio, he wished to highlight the savings made by Private Hire Licences being renewed every 5 years rather than annually. Councillor Nuala Fennelly also highlighted a typing error with regard to Skills Funding Agency identified on page 25 of the report and whether it should state that funding was due to end in July 2017.

Simon Wiles, Director of Finance and Corporate Services stated that all comments made by Cabinet today would be taken on board and amended within the report prior to submission for approval by Full Council on 2nd March, 2017. He also reported that the Government were late in announcing the grant regime and it was unlikely a response would be received before the papers for Council were published. He stated that legal advice had been sought and it was advised that the provisional figures set would be used. It was reported that although there was a risk of change to business rates in the South East of the

Country, it was hoped that there would be no change in the figure for grants.

In conclusion, the Mayor reported that the budget proposals demonstrated a well-run and efficient Council despite the austerity measures set by the Government. She highlighted that 68% of the Council spends went on services provided by local businesses which had helped Doncaster's economy grow and thrive. She took the opportunity to thank all staff for their efforts and stated that she would always seek further improvements to ensure the borough moves forward.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

A list of options for the 2017/18 savings have been produced and considered over the preceding months. Savings for 2018/19 onwards will be formulated.

The budget proposals seek the appropriate balance in meeting the savings whilst still delivering on the key priorities; protecting front-line services where possible in particular adults and children's social care services.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director Finance

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2020/21.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet recommend to Council that the Capital Budget proposals for 2017/18 to 2020/21, as set out in the report are approved. This includes:-

- (1) approving the capital programme, noting the proposed investment over the next four years and note what that will deliver; and
- (2) approving that Cabinet take responsibility for agreeing any significant changes to the Schools Condition Programme and the Local Transport Plan funding and that they are agreed in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Mayor presented the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2020/21 to Cabinet

stating that growing Doncaster's economy, creating new jobs and improving education were vital to the future of Doncaster and its people. She reported that these goals form the cornerstone of the capital budget which will see £332m of capital investment over the next four years.

It was reported that in 2017/18 the Council will spend around £119m to stimulate growth and prosperity and deliver projects that will help to bring high skilled, well-paid jobs to Doncaster. In addition, and most importantly, it was noted that growth will be inclusive growth providing new opportunities that local people can benefit from.

The Mayor highlighted the opening in September, 2017 of the new National College for High Speed Rail, a national institution providing cutting edge engineering training at Lakeside which will bring university level skills training to Doncaster and support the town's already thriving railway industry.

£6.6m will be invested in phase 2 of the FARRRS airport link road which will also start this year. Phase 1, the Great Yorkshire Way had brought record passenger numbers to the airport and was already delivering hundreds of new jobs at iPort despite being open less than a year.

It was noted that the new Urban Centre Masterplan would transform the centre of Doncaster and the Council will be investing more than £30m with the support of the Sheffield City Region. The Mayor stated that to be a successful place, the Borough needs a strong centre. One that supports not just retail but professional services, entrepreneurial businesses and new town centre housing.

In delivering the Masterplan, it will ensure that Doncaster's centre acts more like a 'city centre' and is sustainable. It will deliver jobs that are accessible to people across the borough as well as vibrant retail and leisure facilities for residents and visitors alike.

The Mayor advised Cabinet that the Council were already seeing development start to improve the railway station forecourt area and further investments will be made in the markets in 2017/18 which is one of Doncaster's most important assets and the Council is committed to its success.

The Mayor further advised that the Capital Programme will also be used in innovative ways such as the Herten Triangle Leisure Scheme which is a Council led development that will create up to 200 new jobs as well as delivering £300,000 of income that can then be spent on public services.

The Council will also be rolling out the successful Smartlight project, modernising street lights whilst saving money and reducing our carbon footprint. It was noted that these projects will not just bring new jobs, leisure facilities and improved services to Doncaster but will deliver vital income and savings that help to minimise the impact of the Government cuts to the Revenue Budget.

It was reported that more council houses will be delivered, with 79 new Council owned affordable units completed or acquired in 2017/18. Over the next four years more Council Houses will be developed with new units across the borough.

The Council are also investing in projects to further improve existing schools, housing, leisure and culture facilities as well as support vulnerable people such as:-

- 1,200 housing adaptations for the disabled were estimated to be completed per year with an estimated funding package of £15.7m;
- £18m will be spent on improving and maintaining the existing Council housing stock;
- 360 new primary school places were estimated to be created in 2017/18, whilst numerous schools would have improvement works completed; and
- £1.4m is expected to be spent on the Borough's public leisure centres provided by Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust over the next two years.

Following the Mayor's introduction, Cabinet welcomed the report and made the following comments:-

Councillor Jane Nightingale stated that it was pleasing to see the continuing support for Housing within the Borough. She highlighted the work being carried out with Social landlords and was also pleased with the amount of housing investment being made within the town.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly praised the programme of improvement in relation to primary school places, which had increased to 70% over the last 3 years.

Councillor Pat Knight stated that it was good to see the improvements being made within leisure facilities which will go towards improving the health and wellbeing of residents within the borough.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones reported that with regard to Adult Health and Well-being, he was pleased to see the 1,200 housing adaptations would be made which will enable people to stay within their own homes for as long as possible.

Councillor Bill Mordue stated that the report presented was a testament to the hard work carried out. Doncaster's economy was growing faster and capital investment was bringing jobs to the Borough and in turn providing good standards of living.

Councillor Joe Blackham echoed members comments stating that the Capital Programme report demonstrated what can be done when a Council functions together. He praised staff for the clear and concise report.

The comments raised by Cabinet were also echoed by Councillor John Mounsey, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

In conclusion, the Mayor stated that the report showed what Team Doncaster can do to drive improvements forward for the residents of the borough, who deserve it.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 – Do not invite any new capital proposals for the 2017/18 to 2020/21

Capital budget process.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director Finance

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/18.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the report and recommended to Council to approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals as set out in the report and including:-

- (1) rents are reduced from 3rd April 2017, by 1.0% as detailed in paragraphs 7 to 10 in line with Government policy. This will result in an average weekly rent decrease of £0.71, resulting in an average rent of approximately £70.21 per week. Rents will be charged every week of the year;
- (2) the budget proposals for the HRA for 2017/18, which are contained in Appendix A. These proposals set a balanced budget for the HRA and maintain a reserve of £4.0m; and
- (3) fees and charges set out in paragraph 13.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Jane Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Housing, presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget to Cabinet. The report set out the HRA Budget for 2017/18 financial year and the medium term financial forecast for the next three years. The account has a budget to break down and is targeted to have a working balance of £4.0m over the next four years.

She stated that the recommendations within the report were as follows:-

Housing rents are decreased by 1% in 2017/18 and in the following two years. It was noted that rent reductions significantly reduce resources available within the HRA. However, the Council were confident that it will not reduce their ability to deliver excellent, value for money services to all our residents.

Unfortunately due to HRA rules, the proposed rent reductions will reduce the

number of new build council houses that the Council are able to deliver but work was continuing across the Council and with other partners to look at alternative options for housing delivery.

It was noted that average rent in Doncaster would remain the lowest of all South Yorkshire Councils at £70.21 per week and the report also proposes a freeze on all other fees and charges.

Councillor Nightingale reported that the HRA continues to fund £32m of investment within the Council stock during 2017/18, the main areas of investment are the new build programme, the regeneration of the Bristol Grove area in Wheatley, continued investment in new energy efficient boilers and heating systems and new roofs including fascias, gutters and soffits.

Cabinet welcomed the report. The Mayor stated that Doncaster had the lowest Council rents within the South Yorkshire region and perhaps throughout the Country whilst still managing to create new Council houses and raising the decency standards. However she expressed her disappointment that the Council were unable to build as many council houses as they would like but felt assured that further options for housing delivery would be investigated.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 defines how Local Authority rents will be set over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. No other options were considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director Finance

DECISION 4.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21.

2. DECISION TAKEN

(1) Cabinet noted and recommended the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 and the Prudential Indicators to Council on the 2nd March, 2017;

- (2) Cabinet recommended to Council to approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in paragraphs 21-22 and in Appendix B; and
- (3) Cabinet note and recommend to Council the contents of the attached Treasury Management Annual review for 2015-16 and in Appendix F.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18-2020/21. The report detailed the strategy for management of the Council finances and provided a framework for the operation of the treasury management function within the Council. It was reported that treasury management makes sure that sufficient cash is available to meet service delivery in line with the approved Capital and Revenue budgets. It was noted that key prudential indicators were contained within the body of the report and further detail was within Appendix A.

Cabinet were advised of the key messages which were as follows:-

- 1. Borrowing – This would increase during the period covered by the report but the Council would remain under-borrowed against its borrowing requirement to avoid the higher cost of carrying debt. As the borrowing rates were forecast to only rise gently over the next 4 years, the primary borrowing strategy for new and replacement debt would be to take cheaper short term loans to maximise interest savings over the period of the report. The borrowing strategy was detailed in paragraphs 23-58 of the report.
- 2. Investments – Securing the return of investment funds remained paramount when selecting counterparties and the strategy reflects this. The investment strategy would continue to manage the balances available and support cash flow requirements. Following on-going benchmarking work, the Council had identified ways to reduce risk profile of investments and at the same time increase its potential yield. The Investment Strategy was outlined within paragraphs 59-78 of the report.
- 3. A low risk policy had been established to protect the Council from losses caused by financial institutions failing to repay investments when due. The policy allows the Council to spread the risk amongst a number of approved lenders and financial instruments, covered in detail at paragraph 79-90 of the report.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report and stated that the report was clear, concise and an excellent piece of work. It complied with CIPFA standards and showed that Doncaster was making the most of its finances to ensure economic growth.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Other options that had been considered and members needed to be aware of, that would affect the investments and borrowing decisions were as follows:-

Options	Like impact on income and expenditure	Likely impact on risk management
---------	---------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Invest in a narrower range of institutions and shorter terms	Interest income will be lower	Reduced risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any single loss could be magnified.
Borrow additional sums at long term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Reduced interest rate risk. But higher investment balance could lead to a higher impact in the event of a default.
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income. Premium to be paid if debt paid down (avoided if the reduction is done by not replacing maturing debt).	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of default, however long term interest costs become less certain.
Increase level of borrowing	Additional cost of debt interest is likely to exceed additional investment income received	Under borrowing uses a combination of reserves and working capital. Any adverse changes to either could lead to cash not being available to fund expenditure. Leading to increased levels of borrowing.
Borrow sufficient funds to clear the under borrowed position	Additional interest costs of up to £2.134m per annum	Reduced interest rate risk, but significantly higher costs. In addition the higher investment balance could lead to a higher impact in the event of a default.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director Finance

DECISION 5.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. Corporate Plan 2017-18.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted and agreed changes to the outcomes and objectives in the Corporate Plan; and
- (2) recommended the updated Corporate Plan for submission to Full Council on the 2nd March, 2017

3. REASON FOR DECISION

It was reported that the Council's current Corporate Plan was due to expire at the end of 2016/17 and at Full Council on 15th September, 2016, it was agreed that the Plan would be updated as part of the Council's annual 'Define and Deliver' cycle. The updated Corporate Plan for 2017/18 was attached at Annex 1 to the report which provided clear direction for the work of the Council for the next year. Members were advised that in doing so, it would bring together the plans and delivery programmes that were already shaping how the Council works, for example the One Doncaster Action Plan, Doncaster Urban Centre Masterplan, Early Help Strategy and the Place Plan.

It was advised that the updated Corporate Plan included four outcomes which are supported by 20 objectives. It shifts the balance from monitoring indicators and service measures to driving delivery, underpinned by a focus on achieving inclusive growth, which means local people are able to benefit from the employment opportunities being created. It was noted that the Corporate performance monitoring in quarter 1 2017/18 will reflect this updated outcomes framework and further detailed work will be undertaken to define delivery programmes and the accompanying service measures.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report stating that the executive summary was concise highlighting a clear direction of travel and bringing together a number of plans. Significant progress had been made with regard to service delivery which in turn had generated savings and the report had greater focus on what matters most to the citizens of the borough.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Simon Wiles, Director of Finance & Corporate Services.

DECISION 6.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

11. School Admission Arrangements for 2018/19 Academic Year.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the following admission arrangements for 2018/19 school year:-

- Community School Admission Arrangements;
- Community School Nursery Admission Arrangements (Sections 18 to 20 of the report);
- Primary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements
- Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements (Sections 21 to 23 of the report); and
- Notification of parents of the arrangements for admission including those to the proposed University Technology College (section 16 of the report)

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet were presented with a report which outlined the adoption of schemes for co-ordinating the Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Schools and the approval of the Admission Arrangements for Community Schools in the 2018/19 School Year.

It was advised that the Local Authority has a duty under Section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to make arrangements for enabling parents of children in its area to express a preference for a maintained school and to give reasons for that preference. It was noted that the Local Authority is required to publish information for parents detailing the arrangements for admission to schools by 12 September each year. Regulations to be published shortly will require the inclusion of details for future proposals to develop a local University Technology College and a requirement to write to parents of prospective pupils to explain the appropriate admission arrangements if confirmed.

Members were also advised that in future years, the admissions arrangements/co-ordination arrangements will be included as part of a wider school organisation strategy, integrating education settings place, planning, admissions arrangements/co-ordination and capital developments into a single overarching strategy aligned to the wider place plans and recommendations identified in the One Doncaster report. It was further reported that an Armed Forces Covenant was also embedded within the co-ordinated admission scheme for secondary schools in Doncaster.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly welcomed the report and the proposed new procedure for next year.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report stating that it provides equal opportunities for all parents to apply for their preferred school which was carried out in a fair and equitable way.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The options considered were detailed within the body of the report, in paragraphs 18 to 23 but it was reported that the Local Authority must ensure that its arrangements take into account the relevant regulations and comply with the mandatory provisions of the code. It was however, noted that the arrangements proposed within the report were based upon those currently in place and had been subject to the required consultation.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director Learning, Opportunities and Skills.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker