

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday 20th June, 2017

Date notified to all Members: Monday, 26th June, 2017

With the exception of Decision 1 '2017/18 Budget Updates' and Decision 3 'Youth Justice Plan 2017/18', which are subject to Full Council approval on 13th July, 2017, the end of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5th July, 2017 and therefore the decisions can be implemented on Thursday, 6th July, 2017.

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jane Nightingale

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records dated 6th June, 2017, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. 2017/18 Budget Updates.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet recommended the budget allocations for the £7.0m additional Improved Better Care Fund for Full Council approval on the 13th July, 2017.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Mayor, Ros Jones presented a report to Cabinet providing members with an update on the 2017/18 budget, which was agreed by Council in March.

She stated that it was predominantly the additional £7.0m Improved Better Care Fund, that was announced on the 2017 spring budget and as a result could not be included in the original budget setting process. Unfortunately, the additional funding is one-off and therefore does not change the on-going budget requirements. She pointed out that the Council still faced significant future cuts as a result of budget cuts being made to Council by the Conservative Government.

However, the additional funding will help towards immediate budget pressures and support one-off key activities including:-

- Emerging pressures such as sleep-in nights and delayed transfers of care (DTC).
- Growing futures project which involves a multi-agency strategy for domestic abuse; and
- The Pause project working with the most vulnerable adult women to achieve better outcomes.

The funding is also being used to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, in particular in our town centres. The Mayor stated that if agreed, the proposal would be considered for agreement by Council at its meeting on 13th July, 2017.

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer & Assistant Director of Finance informed Cabinet that 3 changes were being made by the government to Business rates. Currently only details on Supporting Small Businesses scheme had been provided and this will be presented in the report to Council on the 13th July. With regard to the 2 other schemes the Council were still awaiting details.

The Mayor sought assurance with regard to measuring success of this funding and how it would be monitored and with regard to Residential Short Stay, where the demand had increased, would this project be outlined within the 4 year plan. In response, Steve Mawson stated that in relation to funding a report would come back in September detailing the remainder of the 4 year plan but assured Members that work was continuing on this issue. It was also acknowledged that work was continuing with partners such as the CCG to ensure a sustainable future for all parties.

Members were advised that a report would be submitted to the Health and Well-being Board on the 29th June covering these issues. It was hoped that in September a detailed report would be available. It was acknowledged that colleagues within the CCG were fully aware of the issues and the Council along with partners were working collaboratively to ensure a brighter future.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other alternatives considered or rejected.

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 of Finance.

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Finance and Performance Improvement Report: Quarter 4 2016-17.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted areas of performance and financial information;
- (2) noted the write-offs of outstanding debt detailed in paragraph 50;
- (3) noted the virements approved by the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Executive and approved the virements over £0.5m for Cabinet, detailed in Appendix B; and
- (4) noted the new additions to the Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix D.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet was presented with the latest financial and performance information that indicated the Council's position towards the 2016/17 budget and progress towards the outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan.

Overall the quarter 4 report showed that the Council was making good progress but still faced challenges both financially and for it to improve its performance activity across key areas of the Council's business.

At quarter 4, the Council was forecasting a year-end overspend of £2.3m, which is a £1.6m improvement from quarter 3 position. This included Regeneration and Environment £2.8m overspend funding of the Children's Trust £1.5m overspend. In terms of overall performance, 93% of services were exceeding targets, which was an improvement on the previous quarterly figure of 86%. Further details were provided within Appendix A of the report.

Members noted that Doncaster was generally performing well and in some cases was above regional and national trends. A £90.5m, investment into and within Doncaster nearly doubled the target level as did new FTE jobs created through the support of Business Doncaster. Continuing last year's success, 1057 new homes were built across council and private sector providers, which bucked the national and regional trend by over-delivering against our identified need, at a time when others in the region are falling short. With regard to our young people, 1175 new apprenticeships had been created since 2013 and our first choice school placements at both primary and secondary levels exceed national average levels. It was noted that admissions for residential care were lower this year than in previous years and quarter 4 saw the biggest increase in direct payment take up for 2 years. In addition, 70% of the local authority spends were made with Doncaster companies.

However, there were still some measures that were adrift from local targets including schools persistent absenteeism at both primary and secondary levels, drug treatment success rates, overall staff sickness levels and outcomes for Care Leavers; further details were highlighted within Appendix A of the report.

In relation to the overspend for the Children's Trust, Councillor Chris McGuinness asked whether the trust's Forward Plan would be sustainable. It was reported that work was continuing with the Trust and regular quarterly meetings take place with a view to reduce the amount of money spent on the Trust. Councillor Nuala Fennelly requested that a report be forwarded to the Mayor and Cabinet detailing the current position.

Damian Allen, Director of People wished to advise Members that the Trust were due their 4th monitoring visit from Ofsted with the view for a re-inspection in Autumn. He also advised that it is the intention for a report to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny providing further information and details on the progress made so far. He suggested that following the outcome of that meeting, the information be circulated to Cabinet.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones commented on the good progress made. However sought assurance that support would be available for people when Universal Credit was introduced to ensure hardship was minimised for residents. Cabinet were advised that exercises had taken place within the benefits section in preparation for the introduction. However, it was advised that whilst some cases can be dealt with quickly there was a legal requirement to allow 30 days for residents to submit documentation to the Council. It was also advised that a sizable support mechanism was in place to provide budgetary support and the Council had been working closely with Doncaster Credit Union and although the number of people using Universal Credit was low at the moment, this was expected to

increase in October.

In conclusion, the Mayor and Cabinet were pleased to see the improvements identified within paragraph 3 of the report but understand that there was more work to be done to deliver for the people of Doncaster and to ensure that everyone benefits over time.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other alternatives considered or rejected.

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 and Corporate Services.

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Youth Justice Plan 2017/18.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Youth Justice Plan and recommended it to Full Council for final approval on the 13th July, 2017.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Andy Hood, Head of Service, Targeted Youth Support presented Cabinet with the new statutory, Strategic Youth Offending Service Plan for 2017/18 for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster.

It was reported that for the second time, the Council had produced a Young People's Youth Justice Plan which compliments the corporate report and is designed to be accessible and understandable for our young people and families.

The report presented a strong performance by the YOS in 2016/17 including the reduction in the custody rate to its lowest ever for Doncaster, despite being a national outlier for many years in this area, the lowest ever binary re-offending rate and an on-going reduction in first time entrants. In addition, the YOS had been subject to a Peer Review in April 2017, which highlighted that the operational quality of the service was reflected in the strong strategic performance.

It was also advised that Doncaster YOS was currently the 4th best Youth Offending Service in England and Wales overall in reducing re-offending and was

outperforming all national and regional comparators.

Members were advised that through the EPIC Triage work carried out, it had resulted in exceeding targets for first time entrants and reoffending. Whilst the target of 81% hadn't been achieved for education and employments, Doncaster still compared well in relation to the rest of the UK. In addition the target of a 100% had been achieved for young children being placed in suitable accommodation.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly wished to state that the report presented pleasing results and thanked all staff within the EPIC team for all their hard work. Councillor Nigel Ball echoed comments made and stated that Doncaster's YOS was highly regarded within South Yorkshire.

Damian Allen also echoed the comments made by Members and wished to thank Andy Hood and his team for the hard work carried out and the improvements made to date.

The Mayor, Ros Jones advised members that the report had been submitted to Overview and Scrutiny and she had received a response from the Chair, Councillor Kevin Rodgers which outlined Overview and Scrutiny's support and approval of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/18. In conclusion, she stated that it was pleasing to see the improvements made to date to ensure that the Council were helping young people of the borough. However, highlighted there were still improvements to be made in relation to education as it was outlined within the report.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory plan, therefore there are no other alternatives considered or rejected.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Paul Moffat, Chief Executive DCST/Damian Allen, Director of People.

DECISION 9.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Public Health Commissioning Strategy for 2017-2019.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the Public Health Commissioning Strategy for 2017/18 to 2020/21; and
- (2) approved the procurement of the following first four public health services in 2017/18 to enable them to start in 2018/19:
 - 0-5 services including health visiting, smoking in pregnancy, healthy start vitamin distribution and targeted services for vulnerable families;
 - Infection prevention and control;
 - Doncaster smoke-free services;
 - Healthy living for BME women in Doncaster.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture presented a report stating that the whole Council was committed to and involved in improving health and reducing health inequalities. He reported that the Council receives a public health grant from central Government to support some but not all of this activity. The real value of the grant had been reduced due to central government austerity cuts, despite increases in responsibilities.

Councillor Ball pointed out that the Council had taken difficult decisions in the past to reduce the investment in public health services and more difficult decisions were required to balance the budget to meet the challenge set by central Government. He reported that the Public Health Commissioning Strategy sets out the overall approach to make the financial savings required by central Government.

The report also asked that Cabinet agreed to the re-commissioning of 4 specific services during 2017/18 which were as follows:-

- Smoking cessation services
- Public Health 0-5 services
- Services for BME women; and
- Infection prevention and control services

It was also noted that the impact of these decisions would be monitored.

Dr Rupert Suckling added that the Council had not been made aware of any further cuts from Government and stated that the service were waiting to see how the grant would be dealt with in the future. He outlined that the report presented, provided details that supported the financial elements outlined within the plan.

The Mayor commented that in light of year on year financial reductions, it may require the Council to take a step back and look at providing services in a different way. With regard to monitoring of the 4 services highlighted, Dr Suckling outlined to Cabinet that all contracts held by the Council were subject to monthly meetings. He also pointed out that work was taking place with South Yorkshire and the Humber to identify indicators that impact upon services as a whole.

Councillor Nigel Ball wished cabinet to note that despite services facing the 4%

cuts year on year, the team had carried out some innovative and creative work and were looking to facilitate expanding the offer to selective provision.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 – Do nothing. In this option there was no agreed public health commissioning strategy and there will almost certainly be an overspend against public health grant.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dr Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health.

DECISION 5.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. St Leger Homes Performance Report 2016/17 Quarter 4.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance outcomes and the contribution SLHD makes to supporting DMBC strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) Performance and Delivery Update for 2016/17 for Quarter 4. Stephen Thorlby-Coy, Head of Business Excellence, SLHD, was in attendance to present the report.

It was reported that at Quarter 4, six of the ten key performance indicators were on target, three were within acceptable tolerance levels and one was below target. Further details explaining notable areas of performance were provided within paragraphs 8.1 – 8.6 of the report and details covering the performance against all ten indicators were provided at Appendix A to the report.

Cabinet were advised of the continued good performance for void rent loss. Performance had also been good in relation to rent arrears, which was considered to be a particular good achievement bearing in mind the numbers of tenants impacted by wider welfare reform changes including the under-occupation charge and the rent introduction of Universal Credit.

In relation to the number of households in temporary accommodation, it was reported that the target was long standing and discussions would be taking place to

revise the target set to ensure the numbers were brought back to a satisfactory level.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report which was largely a good news story. However, it was clear that further work needed to be carried out with regard to temporary accommodation. The Mayor stated that whilst 'Tent City' had been a factor that had impacted upon the outcome, it wasn't the only reason for the increase. It was advised consideration was being given to alternative measures of the pathway from homeless to sustainable tenancy. The Mayor sought assurance that the wrap around service was in place. It was reported that mechanisms were in place and support plans were available which provided the appropriate level of support for each stage of the process.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no alternatives considered or rejected.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Paul Tanney, Chief Executive, St Leger Homes of Doncaster.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker