

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 5th September, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday 7th September, 2017

With the exception of Decision 1 'Doncaster Growing Together – The 4 Year Borough Strategy' which is subject to Full Council approval on 21st September, 2017, the end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 18th September, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday 19th September, 2017

Present:

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

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
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

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

Declarations of Interest, if any.

No declarations were made at the meeting.

Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 15th August, 2017 for noting (previously circulated).

Decision records dated 15th August, 2017, be noted.

DECISION 6.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Growing Together - The 4 Year Borough Strategy.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet supported the Doncaster Growing Together Strategy, Programme and draft prospectus and recommended to full council on 21st September, 2017.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones presented a report to Cabinet on the Borough Strategy and delivery programme to 2021. The report outlined the next chapter in Doncaster's improvement journey, confirming the Council's recovery and setting out a confident, bold ambition for Doncaster's future.

The aim of the strategy called 'Doncaster Growing Together' is to continue to:-

- Grow the local economy and Doncaster as a place, and
- Develop public services so that all of Doncaster's people and communities benefit.

The Mayor explained there was opportunity for amendments to be made to the document before Council are asked to approve it on the 21st September, 2017, following which the strategy would then be launched. It was intended that the full detail of the later stages of the four year plan will continue to be refined. The Mayor advised that elected members had been involved in the development of the strategy, including consideration in detail by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with a further opportunity for feedback on Thursday 7th September with a dedicated Members Seminar.

The Mayor stated that the document was a partnership strategy based on collaboration from a wide range of public services, voluntary and community organisations and the business community. It is designed to target attention and resources on the issues that matter most and proposes new ways of working, including public services working together with Doncaster citizens having a key role.

The strategy had four key themes as follows:-

Doncaster Learning – the Council will prepare the borough's young people for fulfilling lives, broaden their horizons and ambitions and bring the education system and business community together to give young people more exposure and opportunities to flourish.

Doncaster Working – the Council will develop the economy through continued inward investment, target high skilled jobs, support existing businesses to grow and ensure local people can connect to opportunities.

Doncaster Caring – the Council will support the most vulnerable residents, join up social and health, care and support and focus on prevention and support that enables people to enjoy life with their families and communities.

Doncaster Living – the Council will develop Doncaster as an attractive and secure place to live, meeting housing needs, including for vulnerable people, develop our town centres, the arts, culture and leisure opportunities and use physical activity, including cycling, to improve population health and wellbeing.

In conclusion, Mayor Jones stated that the projects and programmes that will deliver the strategy will be closely managed and there will be strong governance and progress reporting in place.

Cabinet welcomed the report. Councillor Joe Blackham stated that the report outlines a good picture for the future. He pointed out that he looked forward to the delivery of the strategy and was pleased to see that the document talks about the whole of Doncaster, and includes all Doncaster people and communities to ensure growth within the whole of the Borough for all to benefit from.

Councillor Bill Mordue echoed the comments made and stated that the report presented a clear direction of travel.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

(1) Do not develop a specific strategy and programme for the next four years (not recommended)

(2) Develop a DMBC only four year strategy and programme aligned to budgets (not recommended)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

DECISION 7.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Finance and Performance Improvement Report: 2017-18 Quarter 1

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the areas of performance and financial information;
- (2) noted the virements approved by the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Executive and approved virements over £0.5m for Cabinet, detailed in Appendix B;
- (3) approved the new charges and noted the change to the charges approved in the 2017/18 budget detailed in paragraph 39;
- (4) noted the new additions to the Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix D; and
- (5) noted the changes to the Strategic Risks as detailed in paragraph 33.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet was presented with the latest financial and performance information that indicated the Council's position towards the 2017/18 budget and progress towards the outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan.

As the Council were midway through the transition to the 2017/18 Corporate Plan themes, for quarter 1 the Council were still reporting on those priorities identified in the 2016/17 Corporate Plan. However, the outcomes will be grouped under the new 2017/18 Corporate Plan themes, Working, Caring, Living, Learning and Connected Council.

At quarter 1, the Council was forecasting a year-end overspend of £2.8m, which included funding of the Children's Trust £1.3m overspend, Learning & Opportunities – CYP £0.9m overspend, Regeneration and Environment £2.8m overspend and Adults, Health and Wellbeing £0.5m overspend. These overspends were offset by £0.1m one-off underspends in Finance and Corporate Services and £0.3m one-off underspends in Council-wide.

In terms of overall performance, 91% of services were exceeding or close to local targets, this is comparable to previous quarterly figure of 93%. Further details were provided within Appendix A of the report.

Members noted the areas in which Doncaster had performed well highlighting that 95% of invoices were paid within 30 days, £104m had been invested into Doncaster exceeding the £91m target and 328 full-time jobs had been created through the support of Business Doncaster. It was further noted that 303 new homes had been built in this quarter across the Council and Private Sector Providers and the Council's domestic re-cycling rates had surpassed the target levels. Permanent admissions to residential care are at their lowest for 5 years with a total of 65 permanent admissions within quarter 1 and 94 new Direct payment agreements were established, giving a quarter 1 total of 715. Members were advised of the measures that were adrift from local targets which were further highlighted within Appendix A of the report.

In relation to repeat referrals within 12 months to the Children's Trust, the Mayor Ros Jones stated that improvements had been made, however this would be monitored throughout the year to ensure continued improvements were made.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones wished to point out the increase in take up for Direct Payments and made particular reference to the scheme providing freedom and flexibility for disabled residents. Councillor Rachel Blake echoed the comments made and highlighted the improvements made by residential care in providing the assistance for people to stay within their own homes for longer.

The Mayor also echoed comments made and indicated that Doncaster was a growing economy. She stated that with the overall investment of £104m, £13m above target, 303 new homes and 328 new jobs through the support of Business Doncaster, it proves that by working together improvements can be made to the lives of Doncaster's residents.

In conclusion, Cabinet were advised that a review would be undertaken into how reports will be presented in the future. It was stated that the format would be in line with priorities outlined within Doncaster Growing Together strategy.

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

DECISION 8.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. SLHD (St. Leger Homes of Doncaster) Performance and Delivery Update: 2017/18 Quarter One.

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

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones presented the report to Cabinet stating that in consultation with the Council, St Leger Homes had set itself more

challenging targets for this financial year, compared to last year. The report showed a bit of a mixed bag in terms of performance against the new targets. He reported that 6 of the 11 Key Performance Indicators were currently better than target, 1 was close to target and 4 were above target.

Councillor Jones pointed out that whilst it's natural to want to focus on areas that were not on target, it is also important to recognise where St. Leger Homes was performing well and improving on past performance such as reducing rent arrears, reducing staff sickness absence levels and helping people to maintain independent lives.

He stated that the report also draws attention to some of the challenges that we face at the moment such as the increase in homelessness and rent lost due to the number of empty properties and complaints.

Councillor Joe Blackham suggested that the format of the report be reviewed for future meetings as he felt that the report did not reflect aspects of good performance.

Cabinet were advised that St Leger Homes had identified that further work needed to be carried out around behaviours and staff being more considerate when carrying out their work. It was stated that a report would be submitted to the Board in due course highlighting these areas where improvement was expected. It was also suggested that discussion also take place with the Cabinet member in relation to the graphics on future performance reports.

In relation to the number of households in temporary accommodation, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones sought further explanation with regard to the figure of 22 against the target of 10. Cabinet were advised that rather than using Bed & Breakfast for accommodation, dispersed units (part of St. Leger Homes accommodation) were now being offered which are part furnished and provide a better environment. It was noted that Bed & Breakfast would only be used as an overflow. A dedicated support team was also provided within the units. It was also stated that a review of the condition of the dispersed units was going to be undertaken.

Members were also advised that future reports would present information on how many people reside within Bed & Breakfasts and the percentage of decisions made within statutory timescales. It had also been suggested that a new performance indicator be aligned to the Complex Lives Team.

In conclusion the Mayor wished to highlight the importance of Local spend and the need to stimulate the growth of the economy and jobs within Doncaster. It was stated that this would be reported as a new performance indicator for this year.

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

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker