



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 12th December, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday 15th December, 2017

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 28th December, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Friday 29th December, 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.

Decision records dated 28th November, 2017, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Superfast Broadband Phase II Proposal.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) supported the proposal to further extend Superfast Broadband across South Yorkshire;
- (2) agreed to the inclusion of £780k into the Council's Finance and Corporate Services Capital Programme in order to support the proposal – this release is dependent upon the other South Yorkshire Authorities also receiving approval to contribute to their share of the total match funding required; and
- (3) agreed that savings on the PTE levy or other revenue savings are used to support the borrowing costs to fund the capital contribution required i.e. will be cost neutral for the Council.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Jane Nightingale presented an urgent Rule 15 report to Cabinet seeking support for further expansion of Superfast Broadband throughout the Borough. Cabinet were advised that the urgent decision was required in order to meet the deadline set to agree match funding that must be met if the Council are to take advantage of a further central government scheme. Councillor Nightingale was delighted to present the report which comes at a zero additional cost to the Council and was a much welcomed utility for residents throughout the Borough.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones stated that he was pleased that the programme would be rolled out across the borough including rural areas. However, he sought assurance that the project remained at a neutral cost to the Council. It was reported that the Council were the provider of the service and funding had been set aside for the project and this would not be released until all of the other South Yorkshire Local Authorities had approved their contribution to their share of the funding.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do not agree to a Phase II.

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 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. To Approve the Draft Learning Provision Organisation Strategy for Doncaster.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the Learning Provision Organisation Strategy for Doncaster incorporating the amendment made at the meeting; and
- (2) agreed to delegate authority to the Director of People for Learning and Opportunities, Children and Young People/Adults, Health and Wellbeing Directorate to oversee and ensure the effective delivery of the Learning Provision Organisation Strategy. This will be undertaken in consultation with the Learning Provision Organisation Board.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nuala Fennelly presented a report to Cabinet on the draft Learning Provision Organisation Strategy for Doncaster. She stated that the 2016 Pupil Place Planning Strategy will convert to an ever evolving School Organisation Plan allowing it to take into account the diversity of the education system across Doncaster enabling it to become fit for purpose.

The Plan presents new learning providers an umbrella analysis that will capture the essence and principles for providing excellent learning outcome for Doncaster. It will consider the Council education system from early years to post 16 which will become a launch pad for opportunities to pull together strands of work across Doncaster for young people.

Cabinet noted that the direction of travel for young people is very important and there is a need to be able to say to any new provider ranging from free schools, University Technical College and Multi academy trusts that the Council have a strategic plan and they have to fit into the Council's direction of travel avoiding a bolt on approach that will give the Council a systematic and coordinated plan. The development of the local area plan (one for each pyramid of school) will make web links open and available to all, directly from the strategy plan. The plans will capture and explain how needs are identified, proposed solutions and outline options to explore.

Councillor Fennelly stated that if the Strategy was approved the next step will be to develop the local plans in three stages. The first step will cover priority areas

established by the Learning Provision and Organisation Board by March 2018 and the other 2 steps by September 2018. The impact of this board will allow the Council to draw a wider range of funding and create a co-ordinated approach to our education system in Doncaster.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report. In relation to the Capital Programme 14.2 Medium Term paragraph identified on page 41 of the draft strategy, the Mayor requested an amendment to the wording with regard to Section 106 to read as follows:-

- Access to Section 106 Developer Funds is subject to the delivery of the sites identified and is not therefore guaranteed but it is very important that the Council utilises this source of funding where appropriate.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

It is essential that a Strategy is in place and no other option had been considered.

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 of People.

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Partnership Governance Report - Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with YPO.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Jane Nightingale presented the report to Cabinet stating that the Council's approach was to report on relationships it had with external organisations and partnerships. The report specifically related to the partnership arrangements between the Council and the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO).

She advised that the Council were a founder member of YPO since 1974 and receive annual dividends from this continued partnership.

The report seeks to strengthen the assurance to the Council by demonstrating that

there are effective governance arrangements in place at YPO and gives a transparency on all their activities and the decisions made. Councillor Nightingale reported that the Council should be assured that there are effective governance processes in place at YPO and that the Council are fully engaged in all activities and decisions made via the YPO Management Committee that the Council holds a seat on as a founder member.

In relation to the net profit which is identified as being £2.166m below budget, the Mayor asked how this would affect the annual dividend the Council received. It was reported that in the short term there should not be an effect as there are sufficient funds in reserves. However there may be a small reduction in dividends if profitability levels were reduced. The dividend is also partially based upon the amount that the Council itself spends with YPO and this can fluctuate. The Mayor asked that officers sought assurance from the YPO with regard to the budget.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Without consistent and effective information on their activities, it is more difficult for the Council to understand and register the effects of decisions made by partnerships and take action where appropriate on any decisions made/proposed. The option to do nothing, therefore, misses the opportunity/requirement to respond to the ever-growing incidence of partnership working and strengthens the Council's control framework and its management of risks.

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 and Performance.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker