



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 6th March, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: 8th March, 2018

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 19th March, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday 20th March, 2018

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 20th February, 2018, be approved.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the EDI Framework;
- (2) noted and reviewed the due regard statement attached at Appendix E;
and
- (3) noted the LGA Summary Statement at Appendix F.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones introduced a report to Cabinet on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework. He drew Members attention to the following:-

The EDI Framework takes the Council through to 2021 and is aligned to the 'Doncaster Growing Together' priorities. The process had been overseen by the EDI Portfolio Board which was made up of Member and Senior Officer Champions and had been produced in conjunction with colleagues from the Local Government Association (LGA), who having reviewed the Framework presented today had recognised that good progress had been made in 2017 which was evidenced by the development of the EDI framework and associated governance arrangements. A summary statement from the LGA was attached at Appendix F to the report and this had been seen by Cabinet over the formulation of the framework paper.

The Deputy Mayor reported that the main focus of the Framework was the Council's Objective Summary attached at Appendix B to the report, which had been designed to be the Council's outward facing document and clearly sets out the Council's vision for the objectives, provides a description of the current position and the baseline data, and explains what the Council's focus was and why it had been chosen to include it in the first year of the EDI plan. It also highlights how each objective would be delivered.

He pointed out that the focus for 2018/19 would be the delivery of the year one priority objectives as set out in the Objective Summary document whilst simultaneously gaining further insight into communities and using this knowledge to shape and define the approach for years two and three.

Following the introduction of the report, the Mayor, Ros Jones sought Members comments on the report. Councillor Rachael Blake echoed the comments made by the Deputy Mayor and considered that by liaising and working in conjunction with the LGA presented best practice. She also stated that the make-up of the EDI

Board was very good ensuring that the whole of the organisation was represented.

Mayor Ros Jones indicated that she was delighted with the Framework. She stressed that the Council were going in the right direction. However, she stated that there was a need to keep progressing and to talk to differing sectors as it was clear that this matter was close to people's hearts in light of the questions submitted at Full Council yesterday.

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

Lee Tillman, Assistant Director Strategy & Performance.

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Doncaster Council Housing Allocation Policy Review.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Council's Housing Allocations Policy revisions to be implemented from April 2018.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones presented a report to Cabinet on the Doncaster Council Housing Allocation Policy Review. He reported that St Leger Homes had undertaken a review of the current Housing Allocation Policy on the Council's behalf. He pointed out that the overall objectives of the Housing Allocations Policy were as follows:-

- To continue to house those in need within Doncaster;
- Support stable and vibrant communities;
- Reflect local priorities; and
- Make the best use of the Council's housing stock

He stated that in developing the proposed new policy significant consultation had been undertaken with key stakeholders including Ward Members, the Homeless Support Partnership and most importantly customers. Additionally the draft Policy had also been to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the

Chair, Councillor Kevin Rodgers had confirmed their support for the proposed changes. The Deputy Mayor reported that the report proposes the adoption of six proposed changes to the current Policy and these were highlighted within section 6 of the policy document. He pointed out that there was a typo in Proposal 3 that should read 'direct offer' and not 'direct officer'.

It was reported that the proposed changes would ensure that the Council had a policy that reflected the current challenges the Council were facing and would enable the Council to continue to help those in greatest need. It was also stated that an effective Housing Allocations Policy also had much wider benefits than just providing quality homes. It also helps to ensure tenancies are sustainable, supports community cohesion, educational attainment and makes sure the Council makes best use of homes.

Following the presentation of the report, the Mayor sought Members comments. Cabinet welcomed the report and were delighted with the proposed changes to the Strategy which will be to the benefit of Doncaster residents.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Details of all options considered were identified within paragraphs 6-8 of the report.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Waddington, Director of Housing, St Leger Homes.

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Partnership Governance Report - Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment presented a report to Cabinet on the activity of the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

He reported that the Committee was made up of Local Authority Members and Officers, Environment Agency Officers, Internal Drainage Board Members and Independent Members. It was advised that the Council had a seat on the Committee which was shared with Rotherham Council.

Councillor McGuinness reported that being part of the Committee allowed the Council to share best practices, manage relevant risks and provide consistent and effective information from other risk management authorities. It also allows Doncaster to vote and challenge and spend on public funding via local levy.

Cabinet were advised that Doncaster Council pays a levy to the Yorkshire RFCC of £93,650 per year. The levy is paid by all authorities within the Yorkshire region including the Environment Agency and the Drainage Boards. It was noted that by paying the levy, it allows all risk management authorities to bid for partnership funding for flood risk schemes, surveys and hydraulic modelling. A list of the current projects that had received local levy contributions or had been fully funded from this levy was attached to the report. It was also pointed out that Bentley Pumping Station and the Skellow Rail Bridge were currently with Planning and Ward Members had been consulted.

Following the introduction of the report, the Mayor sought clarity in relation to timescales and whether work on the Bentley Pumping Station upgrade/replacement would be completed within 2018/19. Officers confirmed that the upgrade and replacement would be completed within that year.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report and were pleased to see that good progress was being made to alleviate the flooding within Bentley and surrounding areas. The Mayor also stressed that the report presented today was the most informative report to date and thanked officers for keeping members up to date with activities taking place within Partnerships.

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 partnerships working and strengthen 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

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker