

To the Chair and Members of the

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

**INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMISSION: ONE DONCASTER
REPORT – STATEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	None

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After an intensive review, the Independent Doncaster Education and Skills Commission published its report on 21st October 2016.

The report has subsequently been subject to intensive consultation and came to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on 6th December 2016. Views were taken from a teachers and academics; from skills and training professionals; from the business community; from parents and, perhaps most importantly, from the young people who these changes will most affect. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and any reservations have centred around implementation, not the actions themselves. The Commission's time was well-spent as their report is considered accurate, fair and incisive – and it provides us with a platform to make a very positive change.

On 1st February 2017 Team Doncaster published its formal response to the Commission – One Doncaster: Response and Statement of Implementation - which is attached at Annex A.

Consultation indicated a re-ordering of structure and some reconfiguring of details in order to demonstrate clear intent. Team Doncaster has formally adopted the Commission's three key messages and fully accepted its' analysis of local strengths and challenges. Team Doncaster choose to adopt four of its seven characteristics, add one of its own (innovation and enterprise) with the remaining three characteristics are moved into recommendations. Consequently the number of recommendations has been reduced from thirty to five: the remainder become actions for implementation. Nothing has been lost, simply re-ordered and re-prioritised. The focus, therefore, will be on delivering the recommendations as four distinct strands of an overall programme of change. These strands are:

- Education and Skills Partnership Board (Implementation Board)
- Whole Person Whole Life Focus
- Skills for Growth
- Schools Partnership: The Professor Sir Tim Brighouse Challenge
- Reviews

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

Not exempt.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is asked to endorse the 'One Doncaster: Response and Statement of Implementation' report and agree to receive further updates on progress and the impact upon young people.

4. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

The Independent Education and Skills Commission One Doncaster Report is likely to have a long-term impact on the citizens of Doncaster, as its recommendations aim to address challenging long-standing issues, which require a co-ordinated and strategic response. Ultimately, the report aims to improve education and skills levels in the borough that will lead directly to increased employment opportunities and better chances in life, as well as raising aspiration and increasing social and cultural participation.

5. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

The final report of the Education and Skills Commission was brought to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 6th December 2016 and the views of the panel added to the wider consultation response.

Consultation

Post launch, consultation on the report commenced at the Team Doncaster Partnership Summit on 2nd November 2016 with over 80 people from across the wider partnership in attendance. The outcome of this consultation event resulted in the wider partnership signing up to 'The Doncaster Declaration' and discussion on the individual recommendations and phased approach. Group consultation sessions and also 1:1 meetings were also held. Consultation and awareness sessions undertaken included those with: Head Teachers Partnership Consultation Workshop; Sheffield Institute of Education; and Children and Families Strategic Partnership Board. Further consultation and awareness sessions included but were not limited to young person engagement via an extended Youth Council/School Council; and a young person service design event; Multi-Academy Trust Chief Executive Officers; Regional Schools Commissioner; and the 14-25 Board. Additionally two online surveys were also developed – one for young people and a second version for adults. Both were also accessible via social media – Twitter/ Facebook.

Partners discussed the need to have a more connected approach to communicating and celebrating both achievements and activities already established in Doncaster; the role of the business community in taking forward demand led requirements and creating employment opportunities in the borough particularly in relation to adult skills and access to work experience for those furthest away from the employment market; how the report will be communicated to young people; the importance of 'learning super powers' to build confidence in our young people; and the importance of good information, advice and guidance.

Team Doncaster Response and Statement of Implementation

At its meeting held on 18th January 2017 Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership confirmed its formal adoption of the Independent Education and Skills 'One Doncaster' Report, and stated its intention to proceed to implement its recommendations.

The statement of implementation was launched by The Mayor and shared at the Ambassador Event held on 1st February 2017. Team Doncaster has provisionally appointed Joint chairs: Professor Chris Husbands, Vice Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University will represent education; and Nigel Brewster, local businessman and current Vice Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Their first task will be to help create a detailed implementation plan.

Next steps will include:

- A meeting of the Joint Chairs to agree the establishment and membership of the Education and Skills Partnership Board;
- Meeting with partners to agree a way forward on establishing a joint programme office;
- Holding early planning and scoping meetings with businesses, schools and public services; and
- Meeting with the Regional Schools' Commissioner.

The original group of Commissioners plan to return in Spring 2018 to review progress.

Social Mobility Opportunity Area

Government has recently nominated Doncaster to be a 'Social Mobility Opportunity Area' one of 12 local authority areas that will share around £72m funding. This is in its very early stages but it is clear that the Education and Skills Commission progress will be central to Doncaster's engagement with social mobility challenges and that the newly established Education and Skills Partnership Board is ideally placed to oversee this area of work.

6. IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

The Education and Skills One Doncaster Report is set around key strands: a whole person whole life focus; skills for growth; and school improvement. The impact on the Council's key outcomes are:

Outcomes	Implications
All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i>	Good all-age education and skills systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable us to prepare our children and young people and adults for employment in the future, in turn helping the economy to grow and flourish; and• Enable citizens to benefit from local job opportunities
People live safe, healthy, active and	

<p>independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>and enable employers to benefit from a talent bank of skilled employees supporting the creation of new jobs and safeguarding our communities by creating and maintaining opportunity in the local area.</p> <p>Good all-age education and skills systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support families to thrive by preparing children and young people and adults for future employment; and • Will provide modern, value for money services <p>Strong education and skills systems require partnership working with strong leadership and governance</p>
<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

7. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The agreement to establish a Commission has emerged out of a strong partnership fostered within Team Doncaster. Consequently the assumption is that there is sufficient interest and engagement across stakeholders to work in partnership to effect ambitious change in the education and skills sectors in Doncaster. The approach of the Commission was a listening one. The risks of not consulting on its recommendations are that that the wider ownership of its recommendations is diluted. The Commission's recommendations are highly ambitious and aspirational and the job of consultation is to test the local appetite for change.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst there are no legal implications arising out of this particular report, the individual recommendations that make up the report may require specific and detailed legal advice as they develop further.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications relating to the recommendations in this report (which is for information purposes), however, the action plan which the Education and Skills Partnership Board proposes will require financial investment.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

11. TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technology implications arising from this report.

12. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

In line with the corporate approach to compliance against the Equality Act 2011, due regard must be shown across all activity within the Council. As the Education and Skills Commission One Doncaster Report draws together a diverse range of activities at a strategic level, a due regard statement is not required. All the individual components that underpin the One Doncaster Report may require a due regard statement to be completed and reported as and when appropriate.

13. CONSULTATION

During the development of the Education and Skills Commission One Doncaster Report consultation has taken place with Doncaster MBC leaders, officers and teams; politicians including The Mayor, Cabinet Members, leaders of opposition parties and Overview and Scrutiny members; Doncaster MPs; voluntary and community organisations; young people and families; schools and education providers; higher education and training providers; and Doncaster's business community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

One Doncaster: Response and Statement of Implementation

CONTACT OFFICER AND REPORT AUTHOR

Mike Rees
Senior Policy & Strategy Adviser
Email: mike.rees@doncaster.gov.uk

Damian Allen
Director Learning Opportunities and Skills (DCS)