

Mayor Ros Jones
Floor 4
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Councillor Charlie Hogarth, Bentley Ward

Home Tel: 01302 564881

E-Mail: charlie.hogarth@doncaster.gov.uk

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Dear Ros

CORPORATE PLAN 17-18 UPDATE

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held an informal session on the 2nd February, 2017 to consider the Corporate Plan which has been updated as part of the annual 'Define and Deliver' cycle. Members provided their support to the Corporate Plan 17-18 and provided comment on whether the priorities in the Plan will direct the Councils collective efforts to ensure that Doncaster and its people thrive. I would be grateful if you could take account of the suggestions when presenting the Plan to Full Council.-

- Concern was raised over the phrase '**value for money**' as Members were of the opinion that because something was the cheapest option did not make it any better value. It was recognised that the Council needs to act in a cost effective manner within its available finances but it was felt that there should be more emphasis on money being spent to present better outcomes and to consider the social value.
- **Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance** – Concern was raised about the ability to deliver this when there may be less community assets in the future. The Committee recognised that this was about identifying what the community needed and maximising what was available to achieve it.
- **Working with our Partners to provide effective leadership and governance** – Members commented that the model the Council is working to may change in the future as a result of devolution. It was suggested that this objective include reference to stakeholders and/or residents. In respect of indicators, it was asked that this be made clearer explaining how the gap would be narrowed. Members were of the opinion that that the Council should be considering narrowing the gap with national averages as well as local ones as it should look at striving to be more successful in a national setting.

- **Doncaster Working** – Members suggested that this be strengthened by including Doncaster residents as a named partner. It was also put forward that there should be more emphasis on achieving this through a combination of private/public sector working.
- **Doncaster Caring** – Members suggested that residents should be a named partner as it would not be possible to deliver this objective without enabling them to do so. Regarding indicators, it was felt that they should include the number of people volunteering and community groups set up. There was also a discussion about including outcome measures on ‘how satisfied people are with their care’. Comments were also raised about engaging and supporting carers. It was put forward that we need to look at the policies of our key partners such as the police in how they address care in the community so we can ensure that we undertake a more joined up approach. Finally, concern was raised over older children with more complex needs that may fall through gaps in the system. It was acknowledged that there was a cross over between Doncaster Learning and Doncaster Caring but it was believed that this aspect should be strengthened.
- **Doncaster Living** – Views were expressed that the wording should reflect that this was about villages as well as town centres. It was also suggested that ‘citizens’ should be replaced with ‘residents’ to make the plan more consistent. In respect of more shops becoming occupied, it was proposed that the wording should state that it is about creating more shops ‘that support the Councils ambitions’ to ensure that there are no conflicts with what the Council is trying to achieve, for example, reducing obesity. Reference was also made to the prominence of green spaces as it was felt that this was something that could have a significant positive impact on the lives of residents. It was added that neighbourhood plans seek to protect green spaces and therefore a reference to those could address this. In respect of active lives, there was a discussion about how the Council could make it easier for residents to become more physically active. Comments were raised about the potential and benefits of developing cycle paths and walking routes perhaps by extending the Trans Pennine trail to link and improve access to Doncaster’s villages and popular local destinations such as the Dome. Finally, it was commented that more should be added about celebrating our rich heritage and on this basis it was suggested that Doncaster Cast should be identified as a named partner.

- **Capable Council Fit For the Future** – Members questioned if the wording around buying more from local providers could be more specific to incorporate 'commission' and the 'VolCom sector'. They were informed however, that clarification needed to be sought on whether this could be considered due to clear rules in purchasing. In respect of key partners it was suggested that Town and Parish Councils be added along with the 'workforce'. Members expressed disappointment that a Community Engagement Strategy still needed to be developed and felt that it was essential in achieving the Councils ambitions. In respect of the strapline, it was questioned whether 'capable' was the most suitable word and other suggestions including 'ambitious', 'modern' and 'connected' were proposed as alternatives. In terms of benchmarking, it was recognised that it was always valuable to consider what others are undertaking although acknowledged that what may work elsewhere would not necessarily work in Doncaster

Members felt that the updated Corporate Plan was excellent, more succinct and read well especially by being broken down into different sections and headings. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Allan Wiltshire for outlining in detail the information contained in the Corporate Plan. I would be grateful for a response by no later than the 4th March 2017.

Kind regards,



pp. Councillor Charlie Hogarth
Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

cc OSMC Members
Cabinet Members
Jo Miller, Chief Executive
Directors
Lee Tillman, Assistant Director, Strategy and Performance
Allan Wiltshire, Head of Policy and Partnerships