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EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 19th September, 2017 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 21st September, 2017.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 2nd October, 2017 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday, 3rd October, 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) – (In the Chair)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Blackham and Councillor Chris McGuinness.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

In accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 3.2, Mr V.N Fisher asked Mayor Ros Jones the following question:-

“Two issues of concern. Firstly, that bus provision for transporting children to Ridgewood Comprehensive School has been reduced from 3 buses in 2016 to 2 buses in 2017. Secondly, it appears Doncaster along with the rest of South Yorkshire do not have a policy on safe transportation for our young pupil/students which I feel should be established. I hope that both these issues can be addressed.”

The Deputy Mayor gave the following response:-

“Thank you for your question Mr Fisher.

Buses are a vitally important form of transport for school journeys, and are currently provided through a combination of commissioned school services and local bus services.

Unfortunately, as you may be aware, Bright Bus Services recently withdrew its school service in Doncaster. In response to this Doncaster Council has been working in partnership with SYPTE and other bus operators to ensure that services can continue to meet the needs of pupils and schools.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide free transport for all pupils if their nearest suitable school is beyond 3 miles, although in this case we have actually gone above the requirement, providing bus services which support pupils living within 3 miles of their school.

I understand that SYPTE has now secured four buses to provide transport for the 227 pupils that receive the free bus passes, with a total capacity for at least 330 passengers. This additional spaces allow Year 12 and 13 pupils, who previously had a free pass, to use the services. It also provides additional spaces for pupils living nearer to school, who either have access to other local bus services or would be expected by the local authority to walk to school.

I am aware, however, that there have been some issues recently with increased demand and pupils not being able to use the service.

I am assured that steps have been taken to improve the situation, although the Council is recommending that pupils living nearer York Road, who do not wish to walk to school, instead use local bus services.

Notwithstanding this, I will raise your concerns and ask that the service is closely monitored, as it is essential that pupils are able to access good school transport services.

In terms of safe transport, I understand that work is currently underway to revise the 'Pupils on Public Transport' guidance document, which aims to ensure that all pupils experience a safe and timely journey to and from school.

I will therefore ask that you are contacted with further details of this guidance.

I hope this answers your questions."

Decision Records dated 5th September, 2017, were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Active Travel Officer in Schools programme/Collaboration Agreement.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet endorsed the Council entering into the Collaboration Agreement with the SCR Partner Authorities (Doncaster, Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham) to enable successful delivery of the Active Travel Officer in Schools project.

3. REASON FOR URGENCY

The recommended decision in the report will need to be taken as an urgent “rule 15 decision”. The delivery of the project requires procurement to start in September in order to ensure funding can be utilised as to the profile within the STAF programme.

4. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture in presenting the report stated that the Council, in partnership with Sheffield City Region Authorities, had been successful in receiving funding from the Department for Transport to deliver the Sustainable Travel Access Fund (STAF) “Get Going, Keep Going Project”. He advised that Active Travel Officers in Schools formed part of that programme. The contract would run until July 2020 and has a funding allocation of £700,000. The Council is leading on the procurement of the service on behalf of our partner local authorities Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield through a collaboration agreement.

Councillor Ball explained that the objective of the Project was to promote active travel in schools. The Project had been delivered for a number of years under the brand ‘Bike it’, which had resulted in a 16% increase in pupils cycling to school. Currently, there are 42 Bike it Schools in Doncaster and by the end of the contract the project will have engaged with a further 38 schools.

Therefore, approval was sought to enter into the Collaboration agreement with SCR partners to enable successful delivery of the project. The funding was ring fenced to this specific project, and if the funding was not used, the Council would have to return to the SCR and would lose one of the most successful sustainable travel initiatives delivered in Doncaster.

Councillor Ball highlighted that procuring and delivering as an SCR consortium would enable economies of scale to be achieved. It also allowed for a consistent approach to delivery and of monitoring of the outputs. This would provide strong evidence which can be utilised in future funding bids.

The Mayor and Cabinet were delighted to see the project coming forward, which would help towards getting children active by walking and cycling to school but would also encourage parents/carers to get active, thereby helping to address the challenges of childhood obesity. Cabinet also hoped that this initiative would help to discourage people going to and from school in cars, which would also assist in alleviating traffic outside schools, improve people’s health, and also help towards the reduction of traffic congestion across England, not just in Doncaster.

5. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing

This option would abandon the work on the Collaboration Agreement which would put the funding and the project of the Active Travel Services at risk.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

7. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

8.. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. General Fund Capital Receipts Programme.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed:-

- (1) to a managed four year, programme of property asset disposals to enable the delivery of the Councils Capital Programme; and
- (2) the Assets and Property Team to action the disposal of the property assets contained within this report as part of a managed four year disposal programme.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment introduced the report, which set out the Council's intention to implement a four year programme of asset disposals across the whole range of sites throughout the Borough. He highlighted that the programme is essential for funding the Councils Capital Programme which would support and deliver the Councils key priorities. It would release land for development which would create jobs and growth, support the local economy and provide sites for housing which would generate business rates and council tax for the Borough. He advised that the land and building assets proposed for disposal, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, were surplus and were not required for service delivery. It was reported that ward members had been consulted throughout the process in relation to the list of the proposed assets the Council was to sell.

Cabinet was asked to consider the asset disposal programme proposals, as detailed within the report and confirm support for a four year managed programme to support the Council's Capital Programme.

The Mayor and Cabinet were supportive of the proposals, which would help to raise finance to support the Council. Members spoke of the importance, prior to marketing the sale of all assets, of an extensive consultation exercise being undertaken with the public. Cabinet acknowledged that some of the land and asset sales could potentially affect members of the public and wanted to ensure that this was done appropriately and legally in order that interested parties had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Cabinet also spoke of the importance of

ward members being consulted, so that they could work with residents who may have a concern in relation to particular elements of the proposals and that the Council should monitor this closely.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing: Not having a managed programme of asset disposals would result in being unable to fund Capital Programme activities.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Appendix 2 of the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the Authority holding that information).

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Markets Development - Design Sign-Off

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the final layout designs for the redevelopment of the Wool Market and associated works, thereby allowing redevelopment to commence.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

In presenting the report, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones stated that Doncaster's award winning and historic market had been known as one of the biggest and best traditional markets in the North of England. It has been the heart of the town centre for hundreds of years and is considered one of the Borough's most important assets, its 'jewel in the crown'.

The Market has played an important part in the town centre's economy and the Council wanted that to continue. The Council was very proud of its market and wanted it to thrive.

The regeneration of the market is part of the Council's ambitious plans for the future of Doncaster which are aimed at creating a vibrant, thriving and sustainable town centre. In developing these proposals, the Council have taken into consideration the change in shopper expectations, delivering a vibrant space, with modern market trading facilities.

The final designs for the redevelopment of the Wool Market and the associated works have been worked up to optimise operational efficiency and viability, especially from a

retail focus. An element of flexible retail, entertainment and dining spaces have been incorporated so the building can be used for a variety of functions allowing it to deliver an improved customer experience and offer value for money.

It was further reported that planning considerations have been included throughout the design process and consultation has taken place with the Planning Department and Historic England. Pre-application stage has not resulted in any concerns. The scheme would be fully funded through the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund allocation and by DMBC's Service Transformation Fund and its Investment and Modernisation Fund.

The redevelopment of the market offers excellent opportunities for people from across Doncaster, both for local residents, traders and for people who wish to develop a new business. It would also help safeguard existing jobs and create new employment opportunities for others. The Deputy Mayor therefore recommended Cabinet to approve the final layout designs for the redevelopment of the Wool Market and associated works, thereby allowing the regeneration of the Markets to commence.

Cabinet echoed the comments made by the Deputy Mayor and felt that the proposals were a fantastic news story for the Town Centre, which would not only improve the renaissance of the markets, but would also have an impact on businesses and increase footfall in the town. Cabinet commented on the need to ensure that the people who currently used the markets continued to use the market in the future and hoped that the proposals would bring in new visitors to the town. Cabinet welcomed the flexible spaces which had been built into the design and opportunities to 'design out' anti-social behaviour. Cabinet hoped that the new design of the market could create something different, by delivering an improved customer experience, where people of all ages could come to the town and meet, eat and socialise, which they felt would be good for Doncaster. Cabinet gave their support to the final plan which had been subject to a 'value engineered' exercise, which gave reassurance that the design would bring value for money in terms of the money being spent by the Council.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Centering on the overall initial broad concept of a flexible retail, entertainment and dining environment the layout has not changed significantly throughout the design process. "Fine tuning" options such as altering the location of the toilet facilities, the floor finish, exposed ventilation ducting and type and location of access points, have all 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

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker

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