



**To the Mayor and Members of the
Cabinet**

**TO APPROVE THE DRAFT LEARNING PROVISION ORGANISATION STRATEGY FOR
DONCASTER**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Learning Provision Organisation Strategy sets out the future Learning Landscape for Doncaster and thus has a significant impact in all wards. The Strategy will be the focal point for the development of proposals for expenditure of significant amounts of capital funding.

The Strategy will ensure that:

- We meet the demand for appropriate and varied learning provision in a range of settings over the next five years
- A framework is in place for planning and for generating the necessary resources to ensure the commissioning of high quality learning settings,
- We provide a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity in Doncaster,
- There are sufficient places to meet the needs of learners with individual needs, including those with Statements of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan, and those who have been excluded from school.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Mayor and Members of Cabinet are asked to:
 - a) approve the Learning Provision Organisation Strategy for Doncaster
 - b) agree 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.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Local council's play the key role in the organisation of learning provision for

children and young people. A co-ordinated approach to the commissioning of learning places will ensure that all citizens benefit from improved outcomes and experiences in Early Years, Schools, and post 16 Settings.

BACKGROUND

5. The proposal is to approve the New Strategy for the Organisation of Learning Provision in Doncaster.
6. The Strategy:
 - a) Captures the opportunities and challenges the Council works with in a mixed economy, multi provider infrastructure in meeting the demand for effective learning provision in a range of settings in the future
 - b) Provides a framework for planning and generating the necessary resources to ensure that we meet the requirement to commission high quality learning settings
 - c) Enables a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity in Doncaster
 - d) Enables the secure planning to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the needs of all learners, including those with SEND and those who have been excluded from school.
7. The Strategy supports and sits within Doncaster’s Strategic Vision and associated plans.
8. The Strategy sets out the main challenges that Doncaster faces in meeting demand for learning provision over the next 3 – 5 years and the way that the Council proposes to meet this need with high quality learning provision in response to local demographic pressures and demand for learning places.
9. By providing the policy and strategic framework for consultation with sponsors and potential learning providers the strategy will inform the commissioning of Early years provision, school places, and post 16 development and training and hence improve educational outcomes and aspirations in Doncaster.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10. See Section 11 below

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

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

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

12. The impact of the Strategy is as follows:

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong</i> 	<p>Effective organisation of learning provision provides the infrastructure for improved education and skills for all people.</p>

	<p><i>voice for our veterans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and 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>Improved learning outcomes will enable more people to pursue safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</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>The proposed strategy will inform investment in the development of high quality learning settings through the associated capital strategy</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Young people of Doncaster will be provided with high quality, appropriate provision to meet their needs within Doncaster.</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>The Strategy will provide a context within which there will be opportunities to access to funding from the DfE for some of the learning provision.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>The Strategy provides firm leadership and governance in the area of Early Years, School, and Post 16 Learning Provision.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

- Should the Council not provide a clear Strategy for the Organisation of Learning Provision there is the risk that Learning Provision will emerge in a piecemeal and disconnected fashion led by potential alternative providers.
- The Council has the responsibility to ensure that every child has a school place. The Strategy provides the vision and methodology for ensuring that the Council can fulfil this obligation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- The Authority has school place planning duties under the Education Act 1996. This duty includes:
 - promoting high standards of education and fair access to education;
 - securing sufficient schools in the area; and
 - considering the need to secure provision for children with special education needs.

The Strategy will assist in ensuring that these responsibilities will be effectively managed and that any potential risks are mitigated.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Capital

As part of the Councils capital budget setting process analysis has been undertaken of the Learning and Opportunities Children and Young People (LOCYP) estimated capital expenditure and funding options. The summary of the capital budget model is presented in the table below. The strategy also sets out the funding options available for Pupil Place Planning and the current Council policy is to ring-fence these available resources to LOCYP need.

17. The capital budget model includes assumptions of known on-going commitments for schools condition, other early help and short breaks and estimated new school places from census data forecasts and local plan / housing developments.
18. The model also includes assumptions on academy conversions and the consequent transfer of grant funding from the Council to academies direct, however the pace of academy conversion will mean that the model may require updating to present the increased reduction in the Schools Conditions Allocations for maintained schools.
19. The model includes assumptions on contributions from schools and includes prudent S106 contributions from developers. More S106 money may be available as and when signed agreements are in place and when developments happen.

LOCYP Budget Plan	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Balance B/F	8,785	10,749	10,295	3,881	2,037	393
Annual DfE Allocation Basic Need, Maintenance, S106 and Contributions	10,746	6,426	1,867	4,186	4,186	4,186
TOTAL Funding Available	19,531	17,175	12,161	8,067	6,223	4,579
Spend Commitments Maintenance	3,029	3,230	3,030	3,030	2,830	2,830
Spend Commitments Other	3,456	350	350	350	350	350
Spend Commitments School Places	2,297	3,300	4,900	2,650	2,650	400
Net Balance C/f (+surplus/-deficit)	10,749	10,295	3,881	2,037	393	999

20. The table above shows that in 2021-22 spending commitments almost match the resources available however it is extremely likely based on previous years spend that the estimated costs for schemes will increase.
21. The aim overall remains to balance spend against available LOCYP funding. On-going the strategy will be reviewed and performance measured as part of the Directorate's Learning Provision & Organisation Board meetings with the capital programme updated accordingly.
22. At the Learning Provision & Organisation Board (LPOB) meeting scheduled for 9th November reports relating to capital condition and school roofs are being submitted for approval for indicative work to take place during 2018-19 totalling

£3.3m. The approved amount will be used within this report to Cabinet on 28th November 2017 and is currently Schools Condition £2.6m and School Roofs £0.7m.

23. These allocations are currently accounted for within the figures shown in the table above at paragraph 19. Any changes will be incorporated into the figures above following approval at LPOB and subsequently the 18-19 budget setting report that is due to be considered at Full Council on 5th March 2018.

Revenue

24. The local authority must determine a budget share for all schools and academies, funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. For any new schools opening in their area there would be no actual pupil numbers as at the October census for the subsequent year's schools formula calculation (i.e. from the date of the school's opening), therefore an estimate of the pupil numbers to attend the new school should be included in the budget share calculation for the new school.
25. Funding for significant pupil growth is currently retained centrally from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), as a growth fund before the schools funding formula is calculated, as permitted and set out in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations (Schedule 2, Part 2). The growth fund was set up from 2014/15 with agreement of Schools Forum on criteria for allocation, and the total sum top-sliced from Schools Block DSG for this purpose in 2017/18 was £370k. The criteria for allocation include funding for the provision of an extra class, an increase in admission numbers and an agreed pre-opening cost allowance for new schools (all of which must be in order to meet basic need as agreed with the local authority).
26. In terms of DSG contributing towards capital spend, the School Funding Reform arrangements for 2013/14 set out that revenue funding to cover costs of capital expenditure could not be centrally retained, therefore funding from DSG revenue is not now possible without the specific agreement of the Secretary of State.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

27. The Strategy is a significant programme of change, with significant HR implications associated with the increasing diversity of education provision – the continuing expansion of academies and free schools mirroring a continuing diminution in the number of employees working in maintained community schools with Doncaster Council as their employer. Related to this is the further development of the local authority as an enabler and broker rather than a direct provider of services. It is essential that staff are appropriately engaged in this transformation, and are equipped with the skills to make it a success. A particular challenge that schools and academies will need to address is in ensuring that the best talent can be attracted to work in Doncaster and be retained.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

28. There are no direct technology implications at this stage. Any requirements for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of the Learning Provision Strategy would need to be considered by the ICT Governance Board (IGB) in line with the agreed ICT governance processes.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

29. The Strategy is intended to provide equal opportunities for all children, pupils and students to access appropriate and effective learning provision which demonstrates that we value our young people and provide them with a learning environment that will meet their needs.

CONSULTATION

30. Discussion have been held with colleagues within Finance, Property and Construction Services, Planning, Housing, Regeneration and Environment and Asset Board regarding the need for a Strategy and its proposed content.

Primary, Secondary, and SEND, Headteachers have been consulted either individually or through consultative groups. Presentations have been made at and feedback gathered from two Governor Forums.

31. A very helpful and positive Consultation / Engagement session was held with the Doncaster Youth Council on 30 October 2017. Key issues arising from the discussion have already been included in the Strategy.
32. Everyone consulted was very positive regarding the development of the Strategy. They welcomed the fact that there would be a clear statement of principles for the Organisation of Learning Provision to ensure that the Council's response to future population growth was well managed and sensitive to local needs.
33. Consultees welcomed the fact that there would be a clear and transparent strategy within which the Council would be fulfilling its responsibility to commission Early Years, School, and post 16 provision in a coherent manner so that initial placements will be sound, there will be continuity in learning, and outcomes will improve.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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