



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

To the Chair and Members of the  
CABINET

### **PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REPORT South Yorkshire Joint Advisory Committee on Archives**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Ball	All	No

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. As part of the Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its relationship with external organisations and partnerships, the attached report provides details on activities undertaken by the following organisation: South Yorkshire Joint Archives.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. This is not an exempt report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3 To note the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with South Yorkshire Joint Archives.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. Reviewing the activities of partnerships where the Council or Executive appoints representatives helps to ensure alignment with Borough wide priorities, improved stewardship of public funds and public confidence that effective controls are in place to manage any relevant risks. Effective governance also ensures partnerships' working contributes to the effective and efficient provision of services to the Public and the achievement of value for money.

## BACKGROUND

5. At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Council agreed that where it made appointments to external partnerships, a mechanism should be put in place to report back to the Council on the activities of that body in a consistent manner. As the Council increasingly works with partners to achieve common objectives and/or ensure effective stewardship of public funds this process will demonstrate greater transparency and accountability within partnership working.
6. Attached at Appendix A is a Partnership Governance document relating to South Yorkshire Joint Archives; this provides Members with an overview of key activities undertaken, any significant future activities and any significant governance or other issues.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. 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.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. To regularly report back on the activities of partnerships provides an opportunity to strengthen governance arrangements, monitor the effectiveness of those arrangements and raise awareness of wider partnership activities.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9. Good partnerships governance has the following impacts on Council priorities

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li><li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li><li>• Inward Investment</li></ul>	Heritage has been used elsewhere in the UK and Europe to act as a driver for regeneration – heritage-led regeneration is a well-established concept – and by preserving, maintaining and enhancing Doncaster's heritage through our Archives, and through shared sub-regional working, it can form part of the wider case for Doncaster as a great place live, work and study.
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p>	As more people living in Doncaster understand, have

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	access to and engage with Doncaster's history, the more opportunities we find to encourage civic participation and shared cultural understanding, acting as a stimulus for civic pride and contributing to community cohesion.
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	Families thrive through having an appreciation and enjoyment of heritage-led events and places within the borough. Children will have further opportunities to learn about Doncaster's past, and schools will have better opportunities to engage with heritage-led resources. This already happens in Doncaster, but it will be more joined-up, better communicated and better resourced by effective partnership working.
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	By providing access to opportunities for the borough's most vulnerable, whether access to heritage experiences, heritage education, means that we are ensuring equality of opportunity. In ensuring that the borough cares for its history, more children and young people will have access to great arts and cultural experiences in future.
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	By providing robust partnership guidance ensures the stewardship of public funds. Strengthening partnership working by identifying, managing and reducing risks in order to enable strategic and operational partnerships achieve all our objectives.

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. Failure to review partnerships' and key internal groups' activities exposes the

Council to risks that can impact on a number of levels as follows:

- Failing to ensure an effective Strategic Fit
- Failing to identify and address the gaps and shortfalls in Relationships
- Failing to fully assess and plan for the Organisational Impact the changes will have
- Failing to robustly develop and test the Economic Case for partnership working
- Reputational damage to DMBC due to flawed partnerships
- Conflicts of interest not being managed
- Damaged relationships with partners.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial HP Date 26/04/2018]**

11. S 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a general power of competence which allows local authorities to do anything an individual can do, unless prohibited by law (and subject to public law principles). This power allows for the general oversight of the external organisation on which Council members and officers sit. It is important that where the Authority nominate officers or members to sit on external partnerships they do have an ongoing oversight of the governance standards of the partnerships. As a minimum, the partnerships should be aware and have policies reflecting the ethical standards of behaviour expected of public office holders.

It is essential that those the Council appoints to sit on outside bodies understand their duties and responsibilities in relation to their position on those bodies and the limit of any delegations they may enjoy. Further specific advice should be sought if they are in any doubt as to these matters.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials OB Date 26/04/2018]**

12. Doncaster Council contributes £13k per annum towards the South Yorkshire Joint Archives service. There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. The attached report provides details on activities undertaken by this service as part of the Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its relationship with external organisations and partnerships.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials DLD Date 26/04/2018]**

13. There are no Human Resources implications in respect of this report.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...PW... Date...26/04/2018.....]**

14. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

#### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CT Date 26.4.18]**

15. It is considered that there are no direct health implications although health should be considered on all decisions.

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NS Date 26/04/2018]**

16. There are no Equality implications specific to this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

17. Not required.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18. Appendix A: Partnership Report

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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