



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 7th May, 2019 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 9th May, 2019

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 20th May, 2019 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday, 21st May, 2019.

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)

### **Cabinet Member for:**

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
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:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chris McGuinness.

## **PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS**

### Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 23rd April, 2019 (previously circulated), were noted.

## DECISION 1

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Pathways to Progression - Ambition 2

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet gave approval to:-

- (1) accept the European Social Fund Grant (ESF) of £299,259 for use by the Council to deliver the ESF Pathways to Progression project and delegate the Director of People to enter into contract with Sheffield City Council, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development; and
- (2) use £97,040 of earmarked reserves and £152,960 Ambition underspend as match funding.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which sought permission to accept a European Social Fund grant of £299,259, to be utilised to build upon the successful South Yorkshire Ambition Programme, engaging marginalised adults aged 18 and over, including those with multiple and complex barriers, to participate and engage with education, training, or employment.

The programme would also help to support and identify underlying issues to move participants closer or into the labour market. Marginalised adults for the purpose of the programme included lone parents, looked after children, care leavers, ex-offenders, carers, traveller communities, long term NEET, long term unemployed, BME groups, women and those without basic skills.

The bid had been submitted by Sheffield City Council on behalf of a consortium of local authorities, including Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils; with Sheffield City Council acting as the Accountable Body, on behalf of the consortium.

The funding will allow additional and alternative support to be made available to the target groups and provide individualised packages of support, which would include:-

- a diagnostic assessment of need and action plan detailing a personalised pathway to education employment or training;
- a personalised package assembled and delivered in the right sequence to meet individual needs and address personal barriers e.g. substance misuse, mental health services, housing, childcare, careers or financial advice;
- motivational, life, basic and vocational skills training commissioned as required from a framework of providers;
- connecting beneficiaries to and providing ongoing support when they enter

further education, apprenticeships, self-employment/employment or training. This will address any issues that may arise with the intention of supporting individuals to remain engaged on their personalised pathway; and

- support for and engagement with the institutions/employers involved, to enhance the success rates of participants.

Cabinet welcomed the report and hoped that it would build on the positive success of the first tranche of the South Yorkshire Ambition Programme. Members also expressed the importance that people with mental health problems were also able to take advantage of this programme.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Do nothing (not recommended): This option would see no additional services provided for the cohorts set out in the body of the report.

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

#### **6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt

#### **7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Damian Allen, Director of People, (DCS/DASS).

## **DECISION 2**

#### **1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

7. BREXIT Preparedness Fund

#### **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet agreed the following to be delivered within the financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021:-

- (1) to finance dedicated business support via Doncaster Chamber (£165,000) as described in paragraphs 14 to 20 of the report; this proposition levers in £196,400 match funding and will require the production of a funding agreement between both parties;
- (2) the creation of a Council Brexit Contingency Fund (initially £45,000) to cover any eventuality that arises;
- (3) delegated responsibility for the detailed decisions on draw down of funds from the Brexit Contingency Fund to the Chief Financial Officer (Assistant Director of Finance), in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder; and

- (4) to enable the ability for the Council to receive additional sums into the Contingency Fund from Government for the purpose of preparing and mitigating the impact of Brexit; and
- (5) if there are any impacts that the Council would need to fund, in addition to the Brexit fund, these are to come out of Council reserves where possible, not mainstream budgets.

### **3. REASON FOR DECISION**

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development, introduced a report, which informed Members of the Council's preparations for Brexit from the EU, and implications for the Council in relation to supporting Doncaster's businesses, and work undertaken to date to mitigate the impact of Brexit. The report sought approval to accept and utilise Doncaster's £210k allocation of the recently approved funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to support implementation of Doncaster's Brexit planning for a period of two years, ending 31st March, 2021.

Doncaster Council and its partners had undertaken strategic and operational planning for Brexit from the EU for the last twelve months; fundamental to this were a set of priorities which included:-

- Gathering and sharing intelligence, and information likely to be of value in identifying and managing the risks, threat and opportunities arising from EU Exit;
- Managing the Council's collective response to ensure effective service delivery is maintained, continues to be responsive and robust business continuity arrangements are in place;
- Working in partnership with the Sheffield City Region and the community to monitor and mitigate the economic impact of EU Exit on business resilience, food and essential supply chains, workforce and business investment; and
- Taking all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of EU Exit on community cohesion, particularly those within communities that might feel especially vulnerable because of actual or perceived implications of EU Exit.

In ensuring that the Council had timely and robust business continuity arrangements in place, it was important that it discussed its preparations for this fund at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27th February 2019, who were wholly supportive of the preparations.

The Government had indicated that the decisions on how the grant would be utilised was at the discretion of Councils, with an expectation that it would fund additional planning and capacity. Therefore, it was proposed that the Council utilise this funding to:-

- Provide dedicated support to businesses to both mitigate any negative impacts of Brexit and take advantage of opportunities (for example to increase exports). This proposal levers in match funding from Doncaster Chamber which is estimated to be £196,400; and

- Establish a flexible Contingency Fund to allow Doncaster to address the challenges created by Brexit as they emerge.

Cabinet was supportive of the report, as the contingency fund would help to manage any issues connected to mitigating the impact upon businesses of Brexit.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The deliberations contained within this report are based on scenario planning for a range of scenarios. The options available to the Council as a Local Authority may be limited, given its ability to influence the legislative reforms currently being debated by Parliament. However, for the purpose of this report, the option presented to Cabinet include do nothing; the preferred option or a 'watered' down version of reforms. The Council's favoured approach includes supporting communities and businesses alike; this option aligns to the Council's Doncaster Growing Together Programme and the Inclusive Growth Strategy, and also presents Doncaster with an opportunity to enrich a sustainable economy.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

**6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt.

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources.  
Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker