



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 18th June, 2019 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 20th June, 2019

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 1st July, 2019 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday 2nd July, 2019

Present:

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 Joe Blackham     | Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services               |
| Councillor Rachael Blake    | Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board |
| Councillor Nuala Fennelly   | Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools                        |
| Councillor Chris McGuinness | Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment         |
| 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 the Chair, Mayor Ros Jones

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements.

Mr Tim Brown asked the following question:-

“Mayor Jones, DMBC’s workforce profile on page 21 Delivering for Doncaster 2018-19 Quarter 4 is showing “Ethnic Minority” 5.06%.

Please provide a breakdown of the 5.06% to allow for an understanding of the White (White Irish, White European and White) and non-white composition of DMBC workforce (Black, Asian, Mixed and Other) and encourage the Interim CE Mr Allen to meet with black parents and young people to explore implementing best practice from the likes of the NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard. The intended outcome is to help DMBC improve its inadequate workforce equality, diversity and Inclusion workforce performance”.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, provided Mr Brown with the following response:-

“Thank you for your question Tim. You will see by the table provided to you the breakdown of Doncaster Council’s workforce profile in regards to Ethnic Minority. As a Council we believe it is important that our workforce reflects the diversity of our population. Once our interim Chief Executive takes up the post, he will continue to meet with parents and young people across Doncaster. As a Council we continually take note of best practice and implement where possible and appropriate”.

#### 2018/19 Quarter 4

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Council Workforce | 4163                   |
| Declared Origin   | 3184                   |
|                   | <b>76.83% Declared</b> |

| Ethnic Origin              | Ethnic Category        | # Employees | % of Declared |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| African                    | Black or Black British | 14          | 0.44%         |
| Asian and White            | Multiple Heritage      | 3           | 0.09%         |
| Bangladeshi                | Asian or Asian British | 2           | 0.06%         |
| Black African and White    | Multiple Heritage      | 1           | 0.03%         |
| Black Caribbean and White  | Multiple Heritage      | 5           | 0.16%         |
| Caribbean                  | Black or Black British | 7           | 0.22%         |
| Chinese                    | Chinese                | 3           | 0.09%         |
| Gypsy/Roma                 | Gypsy or Traveller     | 1           | 0.03%         |
| Indian                     | Asian or Asian British | 11          | 0.35%         |
| Irish                      | White                  | 11          | 0.35%         |
| Kashmiri                   | Asian or Asian British | 3           | 0.09%         |
| Other Asian Background     | Asian or Asian British | 8           | 0.25%         |
| Other Black Background     | Black or Black British | 3           | 0.09%         |
| Other Ethnic Group – Other | Other Ethnic Group     | 9           | 0.28%         |
| Other Multiple Heritage    | Multiple Heritage      | 1           | 0.03%         |

|             |                        |            |              |
|-------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Other White | White                  | 58         | 1.82%        |
| Pakistani   | Asian or Asian British | 21         | 0.66%        |
|             |                        | <b>161</b> | <b>5.06%</b> |

Mr Brown made a supplementary statement expressing his concerns at the lack of employment opportunities for young BME applicants, and that artificial barriers be removed for job descriptions.

Councillor Glyn Jones agreed with Mr Brown that barriers such as requirements of prior experience for apprenticeship positions were not helpful and believed, that this had been remedied.

Councillor Jones reported that two similar questions had been received from Councillors Nick Allen and Jane Cox and which would be answered together. As Councillor Cox was not in attendance, a response would be sent to her.

Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

“My question is about item 11 of the 2018-19 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report. What are the real reasons for the significant increase in fly-tipping over this period? Do you think recent rule changes, including a restriction on the amount of rubbish Doncaster residents can take to HWRCs, has led to that. This is counter intuitive because we are punishing people who want to recycle, and this does not fit with the long term green agenda.”

Councillor Glyn Jones provided the following response:-

“Doncaster has six Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC’s) that are geographically situated across the borough, ensuring that residents have ample access to these sites. They are provided for household waste. This does not include commercial waste or construction type waste.

I would like to make it clear that there are no restrictions put in place for residents using their car to come to an HWRC to deposit waste or recycling from their home, and that the Council is actively encouraging waste minimisation and recycling.

There is a permit system set up for vans and trailers. These are valid for two years, are free of charge, and there is no limit on how many visits can be made. We have recently changed the permit system to allow sign written vans to access HWRCs, so long as the waste is not in connection with the business. This demonstrates that the Council is committed to ensuring that residents with larger vehicles are not disadvantaged.

The Council also offers a one off discretionary trip for residents who have hired a van to remove rubbish or move home etc; again to ensure that the HWRCs remain accessible to residents.

Finally, the Council is investigating the possibility of allowing commercial waste on one of the HWRCs. However, this will be a chargeable service.

A new joint contract across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham for HWRC management commenced in October 2018. This contract has harmonised the majority of site operations and conditions of operations. One of the amendments, in a drive to stop traders using the site for disposal of commercial waste, was a restriction in the amount of inert (building rubble), volume and visits. These were restricted to 5 x 25kg bags of inert waste and two visits per year. This introduction has raised concerns with some residents about a link between this restriction and a rise in fly-tipping. Fly-tipping has been on an increase nationally for 5 years, as reported by DEFRA, and it is too early to confirm whether the HWRC change has had an impact on this figures.

Some site users have also misinterpreted the restriction thinking we were limiting general visits, so we have decided to remove the two visits a year rule for inert waste deposits at our HWRCs. I can also confirm that the Environment Teams are reviewing the fly-tipping processes and recording of complaints, so we can better understand the picture of fly tipping within Doncaster.

A bit of background to how seriously we take fly-tipping and littering. Over the last two financial year we have issued over 11,900 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly-tipping, and undertaken 55 fly tipping related prosecutions.

Councillor Chris McGuinness added that people can go to the HWRC as many times as they wish although they are restricted to a total of 5 bags each visit. The Council takes fly-tipping seriously, and over the last two financial years, the Council have issued over 11,900 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly-tipping and undertaken 65 fly-tipping related prosecutions. In some cases, a company hired to remove waste by a resident will not be registered, or have the required permit, leading to fly-tipping. On those occasions the Council can use the householder duty of care and fixed penalties can be awarded to a person who has hired a company to dispose of waste which had resulted in fly-tipping. This has resulted in 23 households in Doncaster receiving a fixed penalty of £250. Covert surveillance cameras have also been installed at fly-tipping hotspots across the borough.

Decision Records dated the 4th June, 2018, be noted.

## **DECISION 1.**

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

6. 2018-19 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report and 'Delivering for Doncaster' Booklet.

### **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the quarter 4 performance and financial information; including:-
- (2) the changes to the Strategic Risks, as detailed in paragraph 44 and Appendix B of the report;

- (3) approved the new additions to the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A - Finance Profile;
- (4) noted the virement for approval per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance Profile; and
- (5) noted the carry forwards approved by the Chief Financial Officer, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance Profile.

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

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, introduced the report which focussed on Quarter 4 and the outturn financial and performance information for the 2018/19 budget, performance against key service standards, and progress towards delivery of outcomes, set out in the Mayor's 4-year plan 'Doncaster Growing Together'. The report showed the organisation was in a good position, with a positive financial outturn and consistently good performance for 2018/19. The Council has acknowledged the challenges earlier in the year, which were addressed. However, there was still more to do in the delivery of savings for 2019/20 and beyond.

In regard to the Council's financial position, Councillor Jones stated that Quarter 4 and year-end financial position was an underspend of £2.1m, which was a significant improvement on Quarter 3, at which point the Council was expecting to break even.

He advised that despite overspending in Learning & Opportunities, Adults, Health and Wellbeing and the additional £6m allocation to Doncaster Children's Services Trust, the Council underspent due to the continued close management of budgets, delivering greater savings, particularly in Regeneration and Environment and Corporate Resources. Councillor Jones commented that although significant financial challenges remain for the future, including considerable savings targets for 2019/20, and an estimated £13m budget gap for 2020/21, the report presented a positive position.

Councillor Jones stated that with the continued uncertainty around the anticipated spending reviews, the long overdue green paper on social care and Brexit, the Council does not know what funding it will receive for next year, which makes it very difficult to form a budget and plan for council services, post March 2020.

Councillor Jones made reference to the following performance headlines:-

- A further 422 new homes were delivered in Quarter 4, bringing the year to date total to 1,327, exceeding the annual target of 920 homes per year, and delivering another record delivery. Doncaster has exceeded 1,000 net homes per year for the past 4 years.
- Challenges remain around persistent absence in schools at secondary level. Doncaster schools reported 18.8% of young people missed more than 19 days of the school year. National average stands at 13.6%.
- Agency spend continues the positive direction of travel as the year-end figures demonstrate with overall spend down from £4.68m in 17/18 to

£3.19m for 18/19.

- A new way of working in the One Stop Shop by the removal of the ticket machine, so customers are guided to self-service as the first option. This has meant that queues have reduced, and customers were being served quicker, and the service continues to push the channel shift to more online services.
- The significant budget pressures on social care are currently being managed for 2018/19, although, as detailed in the report, they remain a challenge for the future sustainable medium-term financial planning. The number of people receiving direct payments had risen to 33.6% against a target of 30.7%, and time taken to complete a social care assessment has improved by 15 days over the past 3 months.

The report was opened up for Cabinet Members questions and comments.

Councillor Nigel Ball commented that it was an encouraging performance report, particularly considering the effect of budget cuts imposed on Doncaster, which has been affected by cuts more than most other areas.

Councillor Rachael Blake stated that it was important to recognise the achievements made by staff and show that appreciation to them who have often, and for a considerable amount of time, worked in difficult circumstances on a daily basis, making difficult decisions because the funding is not available.

Councillor Joe Blackham commended the achievements made through working together by turning the £2.1m negative to a positive, which was an exceptional performance.

Councillor Glyn Jones echoed the comments made and wished to note the efforts and achievements by officers, managers, portfolio holders, and the input from Overview and Scrutiny, which had led to this positive position.

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

No alternative options were considered.

#### **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.

## DECISION 2.

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. St. Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) Performance and Delivery Update: 2018/19 Quarter Four (Q4) and End of Year.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance outcomes and the contribution SLHD makes to supporting DMBC strategic priorities.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Glyn Jones presented the report stating that overall, St Leger Homes' performance for the last financial year was excellent, and the hard work of all staff should be applauded.

Councillor Jones wished to report a few of the highlights covered within the report as follows:-

#### KPI 1 – Current rent arrears

Performance at the end of Quarter 4 was 2.61% (£1.92m), which was an improvement on the previous three quarters and means the end of year target of 2.95% had been achieved. This was also an improvement on the previous year, when arrears were 2.63% (£1.95m).

This improvement was the result of investment in the Tenancy Sustainability and Income Collection Teams at the start of the year. The rate of transfer on to Universal Credit (UC) had continued to be greater than the forecast provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), meaning the amount of rent to collect, rather than being paid directly via Housing Benefit, was higher at this stage than originally anticipated. To place in context, as a result of UC being paid direct to tenants, there was approximately £9m more rent to collect this financial year than last year.

#### KPI 2 – Void Rent Loss

Performance for the whole year was 0.49%, which was an improvement on 2017/18 where the KPI was 0.78%.

#### KPI 3 – Void re-let time

Performance for the whole year was 20.9 days. This was almost half the time taken in 2017/18 (40.0 days) and means the target had been achieved.

It was noted that the excellent performance on voids means that the Council not only lose less income, properties are empty for less days, and are able to re-house people more quickly.

In relation to KPI 4: Number of households placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, which had no target. Councillor Jones reported that there were amendments to the figures within the report and welcomed Julie Crook, Director of Corporate Resources, St. Leger Homes, to present those amendments.

Julie reported that there was total of 75 households placed into B&B accommodation in Quarter 4, compared to 58 during Quarter 3, bringing the total for the year to 274. The total number of nights spent in B&B accommodation was 502 compared to 569 in Quarter 3, and 1,166 in Quarter 2. In Quarter 4, of the 75 total number of households placed in B&B, there were 25 households with children (45 children in total). In Quarter 3, of the 58 in total number of households placed in B&B, there were 21 households with children (43 children in total). In Quarter 2, of the 81 total number of households placed in B&B, there were 17 households with children (50 children in total). In Quarter 1, of the 60 total number of households placed in B&B, there were 17 households with children (21 children in total). In conclusion, for the year in total, of the 274 total number of households placed in B&B, there were 90 households with children and 159 children in total.

Councillor Jones opened the report up for Members questions and comments.

Councillor Rachael Blake asked what the term “Bed and Breakfast” meant and whether it would be useful for the term to be changed. She also sought clarification as to the type of accommodation people were in, and the reason why they would be placed in this type of accommodation. In response, Julie Crook stated that the term “Bed and Breakfast” was used by Central Government in which to collect the data. It refers to the use of local hotels. Families do not share facilities in such accommodation, and are given priority for more suitable accommodation. “Bed and Breakfast” is usually used in an emergency situation, often to deal with a safeguarding issue. “Bed and Breakfast” is only used as a last resort, and was done on a night by night basis while the service supports the person/family in securing a more permanent place to live.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

No alternative options were considered.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

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

Not Exempt

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Paul Tanney, Chief Executive St. Leger Homes of Doncaster

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker