



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 25th February, 2020 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 28th February, 2020

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 10th March, 2020. These decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

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 Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment.
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bill Mordue.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records dated 11th February, 2020, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Changes to the Council's arrangements for Adult Social Care Charges.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) considered and noted the detailed outcome of the comprehensive consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the proposals contained within the report and set out in Appendix A;
- (2) recognised that the proposals were reasonable initiatives to safeguard/improve services and recover costs that the council incurs in the management, administration and provision of care and support (in line with the guiding principles); and
- (3) approved the 9 proposals to change adult social care charges set out in the 'Individual Proposals'.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on the proposed changes to Adult Social Care Charges.

She reported that Doncaster is a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents, through excellent community services and by maximising people's independence and making best use of their strengths and those of local communities. However, the Council are aware that the number of people needing adult social care in Doncaster is increasing, putting more pressure on services, whilst at the same time the amount of funding that the Council receives from the Government has reduced by around 50% in the last 10 years, and the service is underpinned by one-off funding of £33m in 2020/21, which does not help future sustainability. This makes it harder to keep vital services running and to make sure that they are fit for the future.

Councillor Blake reported that in order to protect and invest in services the Council has to consider how it can make the best use of the budget available, whilst still supporting people to live independent, happy and healthy lives. This is why changes to a range of fees, charges and charging practices in adult social care are being proposed.

She stated that the changes proposed in the report will contribute to: making services more sustainable; improving choice for the customer; increasing equality and fairness; making charging simpler; improving charging practice; building independence through better use of people's strengths, and better advice and guidance. The report sets out 9 proposals to change adult social care charges.

Councillor Blake informed Cabinet of the extensive consultation exercise, which was carried out at an early stage working closely with the Consultation Institute.

Formal consultation of the 9 proposals commenced on 14th October 2019 and ran until 22nd December 2019. The Consultation Institute's conclusions regarding the consultation exercise were identified at paragraph 170 of the report and the aggregated results of the consultation were attached at Appendix A.

In addition to the comprehensive consultation exercise 2 informal Overview and Scrutiny sessions have been undertaken and the report was considered at a formal Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting on 21st February 2020. Scrutiny Members were in support of the proposals although they did not support the increase in day care charges. Councillor Blake stated that this proposal has therefore been shelved due to their feedback and the consultation results.

Councillor Blake then took Cabinet through each of the following 9 proposals in turn, highlighting the current arrangements, the new proposal consulted upon, consultation feedback summary and the proposal after consultation:-

- Proposal 1 – Home Alarm Services
- Proposal 2 – Care at Home
- Proposal 3 – Day Opportunities provided by the Council's SMILE service (paragraph 65 of the report)
- Proposal 4 – Safeguarding personal assets
- Proposal 5 – Arrangements for people who pay for their own care in full
- Proposal 6 – Maximum weekly charge for non-residential services
- Proposal 7 – Enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Proposal 8 – Financial assessments for residential respite and short stay care
- Proposal 9 – The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)

Following each proposal, a number of questions were raised as follows:-

Proposal 1

Mayor Ros Jones asked whether the proposal would make sure that vulnerable people will continue to be protected in the future. Councillor Blake assured Cabinet that the Council will continue to support vulnerable people and for those people who are not wanting to use this service alternative arrangements will be made based on their individual needs.

Proposal 2

In response to a question on whether a person who requires more than 1 care worker, will get more than one care worker in the future and what would happen if this was not affordable, Councillor Blake stated that this charge was being brought in for those people who are new to the service, who will know from the beginning what the charge will be. An assessment of their need will also be undertaken and if their requirement is that they need 2 carers then that will remain the same. Councillor Blake wished to point out that people who have moved to 1 carer had found it much better and were satisfied with the service provided.

Councillor Glyn Jones asked whether the proposal would improve equality. In

response, Councillor Blake stated that each individual will be assessed on their needs and those people currently receiving direct payments would not be treated differently. The Council had complied with its duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty in respect of all of the proposed changes identified throughout the report and a copy of the due regard statement is attached at Appendix B.

Proposal 3

Councillor Chris McGuinness made reference to paragraph 69 of the report regarding services offered by SMILE and asked whether it was the intention for those services to continue. Councillor Blake stated that SMILE is a modernised service, who provide an excellent service to residents. She was pleased to state that their continued commitment to providing this service remained. She also advised Cabinet that work will continue on progressing innovative initiatives that offer more and better choices in communities.

Proposal 4

A number of questions relating to the protection of property fees were raised and in response, it was stated that this charge would be a contribution towards the costs incurred by the Council to go out and ensure that service users empty properties were safe and secure. In terms of the cost, the costs are very competitive compared to private sector alternatives and the actual costs of providing the service. Cabinet were also advised that although the Council has a duty to provide this support it does not have an obligation to provide it either without charge or at a subsidised rate. In terms of boarding of pets, this would be based on individual needs. It was noted that not every Council offers this service, however it is there for people who may not have family members to rely upon.

Proposal 5

Mayor Jones stated that whilst it is felt that no charge should be levied on people reaching their ageing years, the Council have substantial savings to make. The Mayor and Cabinet were pleased to see that the one-off charge would be payable in monthly instalments and not as a lump sum.

Proposal 6

Councillor Blake wished to reiterate that this charge would only be effective on new customers to the service. Mayor Ros Jones concurred with what had been said and whilst she didn't agree with charging those people who have made provision for their ageing years, it was necessary to meet the financial demands on Council services. She was pleased to see, that the Council were not seeking payment from existing customers, the charge would only be effective for new customers who would be made fully aware of the cost from the beginning.

Proposal 7

Councillor Glyn Jones sought clarification with regard to what the legislation said about including all of the daily living component of Personal Independent Payment (PIP) in a financial assessment. Councillor Blake advised Cabinet that there were

two components of PIP, mobility and daily living. Mobility has been disregarded in the final assessment. However, the Council can take into account the daily living component. She also wished to emphasise that the Council would not be seeking the full amount in one payment, it would be a phased approach.

Proposal 8

Councillor Nigel Ball stated that Doncaster Council had carried out the work with the Consultation Institute and sought Councillors Blake's views on whether she was happy with the process undertaken. Councillor Blake reported that the Consultation Institute have been with the Council since the beginning of this process and have provided the Council with a great deal of useful information and advice along the way. The Council had a substantial amount of feedback prior to starting the formal consultation process. She felt that the consultation exercise has been robust and all customers, staff and outside groups such as AGE UK have been invited to give their views on the proposals. She stated that the new proposals had been examined in minute detail and the proposed charges have been purely made on the outcome of the consultation.

Proposal 9

Councillor Blake wished to emphasise that this proposal has been looked at by officers in minute detail and by reducing by a maximum of 3% per annum, until the Council and government rates are brought into line, starting in April, this would have less impact. Further measures for couples have also been made.

Councillor Blake presented Cabinet with a summary and conclusions stating that the consultation results and scrutiny feedback have been fully considered and the Council has done its best to limit the impact on people to more manageable levels. The final proposals have been amended in light of this.

She presented the proposals with the following modifications:-

- To protect existing customers by including the costs of all care workers attending and providing a service to a person in their financial assessment, for new customers only;
- To not introduce the increased charges for day services, but increase the charge by inflation only;
- To progress innovative day services initiatives, working with partners, including the voluntary and faith sector;
- To cap transport charges to SAPAT clients at £120 per annum
- To provide better information and advice to self-funders
- To enable self-funders to pay the admin charge in monthly instalments;
- To protect existing customers by taking away the maximum charge for new customers from April 2020;
- To use social care and financial assessments to make sure that the "maximum charge" does not increase disproportionality;
- To have better conversations on disability related expenses, which could reduce the impact of any PIP changes;

- To reduce the immediate impact of PIP changes by phasing them in over 3 years rather than a large increase in the first year;
- To clarify definitions of “residential” and “non-residential” care in financial assessments and accurately reflect household costs;
- To reduce Council MIG rates by a maximum of 3% a year until the Council and government rates are brought into line;
- To introduce a cap that limits the impact of MIG changes on couples; and
- To work closely with couples’ to reduce the impact of moving to national rules for couples financial assessments.

Councillor Blake stated that collectively these amendments will reduce the impact of changes on people who are already receiving social care and make sure that if people are affected by multiple changes, then they do not suffer financial hardship. She went on to say that every effort has been made to identify all people who could be significantly financially impacted and the Council will work closely with any individuals who feel that this is not the case.

She concluded by stating that the amended proposals before Cabinet are reasonable initiatives that will safeguard services and recover costs that the Council incurs in the management, administration and provision of care and support.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report and recognised that the Council had sought to mitigate and listened to residents and the outcomes of the consultation and amended its proposals accordingly. Overview and Scrutiny members have also been consulted and their views have been taken on board to produce a comprehensive set of proposals in order to improve the service delivered to residents and to ensure the services provided continue into the future.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Partial Implementation – This is not recommended since it would add to the confusing nature of existing arrangements.

Do nothing – This is not considered an option as the present charging methods and governance are not fair, consistent or effective and service costs are high.

Cease to provide the services highlighted in the report and make savings from the corresponding reduction in resources required to provide them. This is not recommended due to the value of the services to Doncaster’s vulnerable people and the value for money offered by the fees and charges levied.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Phil Holmes, Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Community Wealth Builders.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed:-

- (1) to receive funding of £505,530 from European Regional Development Fund;
- (2) to use the funding to recruit two experienced Social Enterprise Officers; procure external support to aid the bespoke delivery and procure a digital platform.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture on the Community Wealth Builder programme, which is funded by European Social Investment Fund. The programme will bring £505,530 to deliver both a commissioned service and non-financial support to new and existing social enterprises, by providing business development packages, information, and networking opportunities that will increase the likelihood of survival and growth.

Councillor Ball stated that the approach is also to engage with both private and public place-based anchor institutions that are rooted in the local community by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, and residents.

The Community Wealth Building programme will seek to offer institutions a robust and realistic opportunity to buy more quality goods and services locally; meaning that social enterprises can innovate, thrive and create sustainable employment. The programme had a specific focus on furthering the proliferation and expansion of social enterprises whose primary objective is to achieve social impact rather than generating profits.

He stated that as part of the programme, the Council will recruit two experienced Public Health-Community Wealth Builder Officers and procure external support to aid the bespoke delivery of the contract and procure a digital platform website.

The aim of Community Wealth Building Programme is to deliver a local economic growth approach, framed around the co-operative values of self-help, participation, social responsibility and democratic accountability.

He commented that local communities will benefit from the programme, as support to social enterprises will ensure the creation of a number of local employment opportunities, and from the community-based services social enterprises deliver.

Promoting entrepreneurship, by providing the following support to individuals with

ambitions to create or grow a social enterprise:-

- To provide support to existing and new social enterprises to access the local market by providing opportunities for enterprises to engage with anchor institutions.
- To provide networking opportunities to strengthen entrepreneurial and enterprise culture within the SCR but focusing delivery in Doncaster
- To deliver a range of provision for advice and support for entrepreneurship, in particular amongst under-represented groups and those in more isolated communities, by developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes with a focus on increasing the number of social enterprises.
- To provide advice, support, and mentoring to potential entrepreneurs to support them to become 'enterprise ready' and to bring new products and services to the local market.
- To provide development packages for social enterprises to support them to implement productivity improvements (e.g. to utilise resources efficiently).
- To provide advice and support to local enterprises to improve their processes and develop their workforce in a way that increases social capital.

In response to a query raised by Mayor Ros Jones in relation to the effects the levels of deprivation was having on the residents, Councillor Ball stated that there were certain areas of the Borough that were suffering more than others and there has been a chronic under-provision of resources which has impacted on the lives and health of residents in the borough. Mayor Jones commented that it was immoral that people are being affected by this and stressed that the Council will do all they can to help residents live healthier lives. She also stated that it would be wrong for Cabinet not to accept this funding for the Community Wealth Builders which will provide much needed assistance for the residents of Doncaster.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 2 – Not accepting the funding

Not to accept the fund would jeopardise the approach to becoming a community led health and wealth borough and the strengthening of our communities.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dr Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. 2019-20 Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Improvement Report and 'Delivering for Doncaster' Booklet

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved and noted the quarter 3 performance and financial information including:-

- (1) the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix B – Finance Profile in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules;
- (2) the creation of the earmarked reserves, detailed in paragraphs 39 and 48;
- (3) the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix B – Finance Profile; and
- (4) the proposal of a new strategic risk being developed detailed in paragraph 56. Details of Strategic Risks Profiles detailed within Appendix C.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Mayor Ros Jones on the Quarter 3 Finance and Performance report.

Mayor Jones stated that the report showed the organisation was in a good position, with a positive financial outturn position, with a positive financial outturn projection, and continued good performance.

She reported that at the end of Quarter 3, the Council is forecasting a year-end underspend of £1.3m. The projected underspend is being taken as an opportunity to invest in additional capacity within community teams and early help to support communities impacted by the recent floods and in addition for the replacement of CCTV equipment and the provision of additional resources to support the investment in smaller leisure facilities across the borough.

Mayor Jones stated that Doncaster Council and its partners responded professionally and effectively to support residents and communities affected by the recent flooding across the borough and she took the opportunity to thank all the staff that have been and will continue to be involved in the recovery. She stated that the Council will continue to support residents and communities as required. The financial cost to the council currently stands at over £600,000, but the council will continue to support residents and communities going forward, ensuring the council are prepared both socially and financially for if and when it happens again.

Performance headlines were as follows:-

- 218 new homes were delivered in Quarter 3, bringing the total so far to 935,

and has already exceeded the annual target of 920. Last year was the highest year ever and it looks set to exceed that this year. However, the Council must ensure that focus goes on 'Affordable Home' and meet the needs of all residents.

- At 64%, provisional attainment results at Key Stage 2 show notable educational improvements particularly, in maths and writing for young people.
- 70% of local authority spend is with local based suppliers, which is approximately £30.8m going into the local economy.
- The percentage of fly-tipping incidents investigated and removed within seven days fell significantly from 91% to 45%. This was affected by resources being redirected to respond to the floods. As part of the budget proposals for 2020/21, further financial resources have been allocated to street cleansing, grounds maintenance and enforcement services. This will see investment in equipment, enforcement, additional resources and improved methods of operation within the services.

Cabinet welcomed the report and in relation to flooding, the Mayor stated that the Council would continue to press central government for further funding, as there had been inadequate sums of money provided towards flood defences. She stressed that the Council will continue to assist residents to provide help and support where needed. She again expressed her thanks to the sterling leadership headed by the Chief Executive and all staff involved in the flood efforts and the help and support of the Fire Service, Armed Forces and the Environment agency.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

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 4.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd (SLHD) Performance and Delivery Update : 2019/20 Quarter Three (Q3)

2. DECISION TAKEN

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

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones on the St Leger Homes of Doncaster performance and delivery 2019/20 Quarter 3 update.

The report stated that generally performance is consistent with Quarter 2, one green indicator had slipped to amber. This is the percentage of current arrears against the annual debit.

Councillor Jones reported that the other KPIs have remained in the same RAG rating with six Green, five Amber and three Red and despite resources being diverted to address the impact of the extensive November floods, performance has so far only dipped slightly.

He commented on a couple of the key indicators as follows:-

KPI 1 - % of current rent arrears against annual debit

He stated that this indicator has an adjusted target, which takes account of the non-payment of Universal Credit for the 53rd rent week.

Rent arrears increased in the final week of the quarter due to the late payment of direct rent monies from the Department for Work and Pensions in regards to Alternative Payment Arrangements.

St Leger Homes now has over 4,400 tenants claiming Universal Credit with 76% of customers claiming Universal Credit in rent arrears.

Since 2018, over 2,600 tenants have been provided with intensive support from St Leger Homes' Tenancy Sustainment Team which has so far secured £1,01m of financial gains for those receiving support with benefit claims, appeals, grant applications and financial support to reduced debt.

KPI 2 and KPI 3 – Void rent loss and average number of days to re-let void properties.

In this quarter, Councillor Jones reported that there had been an improvement in both indicators, although both continue to show red and are outside what are very stretching targets.

This improvement has occurred during a time when a number of properties were held for potential flood victims and for decants whilst the council undertake flood related repairs. Some of this impact is yet to feed through to these two indicators. The continued improvement has been brought about through the development of a detailed action plan and bringing void teams under one manager.

He commented that complaints remained low, with the tenant's complaints appeals panel now fully operational, and the tenancy sustainment service continues to outperform its targets.

Councillor Jones wished to take this opportunity to thank St Leger Homes of Doncaster, and all the staff that were involved in supporting residents and communities during the recent floods. There were over 200 staff involved in both the immediate aftermath of the flooding and the recovery, supporting tenants in each of the 82 flooded properties. He was pleased to state that the programme of re-instatement works is progressing well, with a detailed programme in place. The plan is for all St Leger tenants to be back in their homes by Easter.

Cabinet welcomed the report. Mayor Ros Jones made comment in relation to 76% of claimants of Universal Credit being in rent arrears, which showed that UC was clearly not working and putting residents in financial difficulty. She stressed that the Council along with St Leger Homes will continue to provide support and ongoing assistance to all residents.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

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

DECISION 5.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. Performance Challenge of Doncaster Children's Services Trust: Quarter 3: 2019/20

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of DCST performance outcomes and the contribution that the Trust makes to supporting the Council's strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received the performance challenge report for Doncaster Children's Services Trust for Quarter 3 presented by Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools.

She reported that the financial position of the Trust remained positive with a forecast underspend of £1.0m, which was due to a combination of changing demand pressures, and how the Trust manages placement costs and activity.

The Trust continued to demonstrate a reduction on the numbers of looked after children, and are forecasting that the referral rate for the current year will be 14% below last year. This will be the second year in a row this has reduced.

It was reported that out of area expenditure had increased in this quarter, due in part to the closure of Tickhill Square Children's Home. The Future Placement Strategy is fundamental to reducing the number of out of area placements for children and young people and supports them to live closer to home.

Councillor Fennelly stated that performance in general was positive, with the majority of measures being either better than target or within tolerance.

She went on to say that the Trust will focus on the following areas:-

- Ensuring better tracking and management of adoption cases to reduce any delay in the matching and placement of children's "forever families".
- Focus on getting the most out of Care Leavers' pathway plan app, ensuring plans are reviewed within timescale.
- Working with teams to ensure all staff receive regular quality supervision, after a dip on performance in December.

The Trust will also continue to work with colleagues in DMBC and partners to deliver the future placement strategy allowing children to benefit from a stable, loving, care environment with the borough's own foster carers and residential homes.

Cabinet welcomed the report and commented that over a period of time the Council have seen improvements which had been brought about by the continuing efforts to reduce the financial pressures on the Trust. The Trust is rated as a good service and will endeavour to continue to make further improvements to become an outstanding service provision.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

James Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker