



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 17th November, 2020 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 19th November, 2020

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 30th November, 2020. The decisions 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:

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| Councillor Nigel Ball | Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture |
| Councillor Rachael Blake | Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care |
| Councillor Joe Blackham | Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services. |
| 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. |

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chris McGuinness, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment.

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were submitted for the meeting.

Decision Record dated 13th October 2020 (previously circulated), were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. To approve the revised Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020; and
- (2) agreed that delegated authority be given to the Learning Provision Organisation Board to oversee and ensure the effective delivery of the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, which sought approval of a revised Strategy for the Organisation of Learning Provision in Doncaster.

It was highlighted that the current Strategy had previously been presented to Cabinet in 2017.

The Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020 set out the future Learning Landscape for Doncaster. This would be the focal point for the development of proposals for expenditure with a 12-month review point for the capital programme.

The Strategy focused on the following 4 key areas:-

- The Council would meet the demand for appropriate and varied learning provision, in a range of settings over the next five years;
- A framework was in place for planning for generating the necessary resources and utilising existing surplus places with the aim of establishing high quality settings that were fit for purpose;
- The Council had a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity of provision in Doncaster;
- There were sufficient places to meet the needs of learners with individual needs, including those with Education, Health and Care Plans, and those who had been excluded from school.

The Council played the key role in the organisation of learning provision for children and young people. Through a co-ordinated approach to the commissioning of learning places, the Council could ensure that all citizens benefit from improved outcomes and experiences through Early Years, statutory school age, and through to post 16 Settings.

The Strategy was designed to capture opportunities and deal with the challenges faced as a Borough, within a mixed economy of providers in a range of settings.

Councillor Fennelly highlighted that the Council had a responsibility to ensure that every child had a school place, and the Strategy provided the vision and methodology for ensuring that the Council fulfilled this obligation.

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, welcomed the Strategy, which would provide a varied, alternative provision across education, which he hoped would be a success.

Mayor Ros Jones welcomed the report and highlighted that the Strategy when implemented would give every child the best opportunity to maximise their potential.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Riana Nelson, Director of Learning Opportunities, Skills and Culture.

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Big Picture Learning Update.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

(1) noted the updated delivery model for the Big Picture Learning and the Contractor, which would consist of:-

- The development of a new provision for Key Stage 4, which will explicitly aim to support disengaged young people with sustained work experience supported by coaching and mentoring, whilst providing relevant qualifications; and
- This provision would be delivered by a range of qualified and experienced partners which would be procured by the Contractor, and would maximise the overall offer to allow a significant increase on the number of young people who were able to access the school, with 120 young people able to access the provision in the first year, as opposed to a limit of 60 in the original model.

(2) approved the changes to the overall delivery model and to enter into the deed of variation, and noting that the contract variation to the Life Chances Fund (LCF) agreement, would be approved separately through an Officer

Decision Record (ODR);

- (3) approved the changes to the delivery model, as summarised in the report, with the newly agreed financial model and rate card including the splitting of the provision into distinct age-focussed areas, and the competitive procurement process for partners who will be responsible for the Key Stage 4 model;
- (4) approved the financial summary, as detailed in paragraphs 29-32 of the report which set out the costs, outcomes and rate card for this and subsequent years; and
- (5) noted the continued delegated authority to the Director of Learning Opportunities and Skills and the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, to take all strategic decisions pertinent to the delivery of this model via the Contractor, including those related to the development of the new model.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Schools, Young People and Schools, introduced a report which outlined the key changes to the plans for the Big Picture Learning project in Doncaster.

It was highlighted that the project would open up access to education and qualifications for a group of young people who may find themselves out of the education system and struggling to attend school, or to find work later in life.

The original Big Picture project in Doncaster was the first education project funded by a social impact bond, with support from the Life Chances fund, on a payment by results basis. The Council had worked continuously to support the development of the project, and had invested considerable time and energy, and made numerous changes over the past year, to improve governance, leadership and the quality of delivery.

The Council had used the recent challenges brought on by Covid-19, to review and re-evaluate what the Council wanted the provision to deliver for young people. This had been the result of lengthy planning and discussions with key partners, and particularly with the social investor, Big Issue Invest. Because of this, the Council would now be able to deliver a way of engaging young people who were currently home educated, experiencing anxiety due to the pandemic, missing from education, or at risk of exclusion. The young people were likely to struggle to sustain engagement with an appropriate education and were particularly at risk during the current period. The areas of the new provision would offer these students a highly personalised form of learning, which would be planned around their interests and aspirations.

In June 2020, Cabinet had agreed a revised offer of delivery which would enable the current provision to act as an alternative provider, offering bespoke support to young people in returning into schools, and helping them access learning after they've transitioned. Cabinet had also supported the development of a new provision, working with the Chamber of Commerce and other local providers, to

immerse young people from Years 10 or 11 into the workplace with access to mentoring, extended work experience, relevant qualifications and apprenticeships. The report summarised how this would now take place.

This new arrangement would increase the numbers of children who could benefit from this contract (from 90 in the first year, to 120 in the second year, as opposed to the 60 in total in the previous contract) at a lower cost. The provider would be paid upon meeting outcomes around attendance, learning and behaviour as part of the contract. A new financial model had been developed, with the same overall contract value, which would cost £13, 926 per place on average, as opposed to £17,655 in the original contract. The report set out all the main changes around the delivery of education provision, contracts and finance. The Contractor was currently working to finalise which locally based trusts would be the lead roles in delivering the next phase over the coming months.

Cabinet was asked to note the changes being made to the overall provision and the numbers of children who would attend, and that approval be given to the changes in contracts, and the financial model and 'rate card', as summarised in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report, which has had to change in order to reflect the changes in the method of delivery, and the involvement of other local partners.

To conclude, Councillor Fennelly asked Cabinet to support this exciting and innovative project, which she felt would make a real difference to young people, employers and residents of Doncaster.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Housing, welcomed the new delivery model, which he felt was excellent news for Doncaster, and would ensure that young people were re-engaged back into learning, which would aid their future learning and development, and would help deliver better outcomes for young people. He spoke of how the project had been needed for some time and that the Council had recognised that not all young people were the same, and that individuals were different and they needed individualised learning experiences to better promote their life chances.

The Mayor welcomed the report and the approach taken by the Council to provide young people with varied alternative provision and stressed the importance of education in helping young people to achieve their full potential, so they got the life chances that they deserved.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Appendix 1 to the report was not for publication because it contained exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Riana Nelson, Director of Learning Opportunities, Skills and Culture.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker