



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 11th March, 2021

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 22nd March, 2021 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 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 Councillor Nuala Fennelly.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

Councillor Nick Allen asked Mayor Ros Jones the following question:-

‘My question relates to section 10 of agenda item 6 about Quality Streets. There is a reference to a possible ‘claw back’ - in your estimation, how likely is this to happen? What are the associated risks, for Doncaster Council, with this project, given it is backed by the Conservative government and was bid for by Sheffield City Region.’

Mayor Ros Jones gave the following response:-

‘Councillor Allen, thank you for your question.

The reference in the Cabinet report to clawback is covered in the Legal Implications which states clawback may be included in the funding agreement’.

Until we receive the funding agreement from SCR, we will not know the full level of any clawback arrangements that may be required.

Approval to award the contract will be subject to these being acceptable arrangements. All previous projects under the Local Growth Programme have had acceptable clawback arrangements.

We expect that if there are any clawback arrangements they will relate to output benefits rather than the more onerous outcome benefits.

In any case, we believe the risk of clawback to be low’.

Decision Records dated 23rd February, 2021, be noted.

## **DECISION 1.**

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

6. Quality Streets - Active Travel and Digital Infrastructure Programme: Doncaster Town Centre.

### **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) Noted the Council has submitted a Full Business Case for Transforming Cities and Getting Building Done Fund;
- (2) Noted the progression to Funding Agreement stage;
- (3) Delegated the approval of the final design of the specific scheme to the Director of Economy & Environment, in consultation with the Mayor and the Portfolio holder for Business Skills and Economic Development; and
- (4) Delegated the negotiation of acceptable terms and conditions and decision to entering into a funding agreement to the Director of Economy & Environment and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor.

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

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet member for Business, Skills and Economic Development stating that the report sought

Cabinet approval to enter into a funding agreement with Sheffield City Region to be able to draw down Getting Building Done and Transforming Cities funding for the delivery of Quality Streets – Active Travel and Digital Infrastructure Programme, subject to Full Business Case approval at the Mayoral Combined Authority

Councillor Mordue reported that the Quality Streets - Active Travel and Digital Infrastructure Programme is a continuation of the recent Quality Streets improvement and enhancement to the main urban centre. The scheme provides the opportunity to improve the experience and connectivity with recent projects in the urban centre, providing regeneration and an increased green environment to enhance the visitor experience.

He stated that Wood Street, Cleveland Street, Duke Street, and St Sepulchre Gate will benefit from segregated cycle facilities, improved connectivity from the Station to the Civic Cultural Quarter, improved access, and create a safer environment with priority focused on quality of place.

These improvements will create space for people to feel safe and overall improve the public realm with landscaping and trees, also with the introduction of new rain garden / sustainable drainage solutions and wider pedestrian areas to support businesses in alfresco leisure opportunities

He commented that the potential improvements in the active travel network could lead to a significant modal shift, leading to air quality benefits and a healthier population by encouraging walking and cycling. The scheme will be funded through Getting Building Done, Transforming Cities Fund and Doncaster Council match funding; Totalling £9.45m. The improvements include improved bus stops and real time information points and the installation of ducting to facilitate future digital infrastructure provision to improve digital connectivity.

In conclusion, he reported that subject to funding approval, works are expected to start in June and be completed on a street-by-street basis, starting with St Sepulchre Gate then moving to Duke Street, Cleveland Street and finally Wood Street.

Mayor Ros Jones was delighted to see this scheme coming to fruition and stated that it really was going to enhance people getting around the town and encourage people to be more active through walking, cycling and greening much of the town centre. This will in turn bring about a real quality to the town centre and subject to the scheme going through the Mayoral Combined Authority she hoped to see the scheme progress as quickly as possible. The Mayor presented amended recommendations which were accepted.

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

##### **Option A: Do minimum option (reference case):**

This option will not realise any improvement to the highway or public realm, the only work to be carried out will be maintenance work to the footpath and highway when budget available and when required. The area will also continue to decline.

### **Option B: Deliver scheme to one or two streets only**

This option would deliver the bi directional cycle lanes and improved public realm to a reduced area. However, it will fail to deliver the connectivity across the urban centre, creating a disjointed environment for cyclists and pedestrians and not redress the balance with vehicles in the urban centre.

### **Option C: Bi-directional cycle lanes only**

This option would deliver the bi-directional cycle route connecting the Station Forecourt to the Civic and Cultural Quarter. However, there will be no uplift or work to the public realm to enhance and improve the attractiveness of the place for cyclists or pedestrians. The lack of improvement to the place will limit full benefits being reached in terms of numbers. Transforming Cities Fund provides cycle lanes only and the reduced Transforming Cities Fund may not cover the works required to deliver the cycle lanes across the four streets resulting in a disjointed cycling scheme.

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

There were no declarations.

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

Not Exempt

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

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment.

## **DECISION 2.**

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

7. All Age Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities and /or Autism (2021 - 2024).

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

Cabinet:-

- (1) agreed the Strategy and the identified priorities; and
- (2) noted the progress made to date in actions taken

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

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care presented the report stating that Doncaster's Learning Disabilities and Autism Strategy is intended to help Doncaster people of all ages to live a full and happy life, to be included more in Doncaster life and to experience every opportunity available whether they have a learning disability or autism or both. She commented that she was a great

believer in “nothing about us without us” and this work demonstrated that. She welcomed and introduced Raymond Humphryes who has a learning disability himself and has helped the Council to develop the strategy and Kay Kirk who has also been involved in developing the strategy from a carer’s perspective and asked them to present their thoughts to Cabinet.

Kay Kirk was pleased to be invited to the meeting today and stated that it was good that the Council is listening to the voice of people with lived experiences of learning disabilities and autism. She commented that carers like her were also advocates for the people they care for like her son who has some complex needs. She explained that it was imperative that she knows that the people who care for him when she is not with him and services he uses understand his needs and provide care, which supports him to keep safe, well and happy.

Kay went on to say that being part of the development of the strategy and the carer short-break work-stream has enabled her to share experiences of what works and what does not to help officers to plan what makes a difference for people. She stated that carers have their own needs and caring for loved ones is what they do. However, at times help is required whether it is through flexible and accessible short-breaks or responding to a change in circumstances to help continue caring roles. Kay pointed out that she championed carers, to make sure that they have a voice, which can be heard and welcomed the opportunity to be part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board as well as the work-stream plan, which is a great development and there is a need to build on the success to make sure that now and in the future carers will be listened to and valued and continue to see further improvements to the services provided for their loved ones.

Councillor Rachael Blake read the comments made by Raymond Humphryes which, were contained within the appendix to the report. Following this, Raymond wished to state that he had enjoyed being involved in the development of the strategy and hoped that he could provide further contributions in the future.

In conclusion to her introduction, Councillor Blake thanked Raymond and Kay for attending and showed her appreciation for them taking part and giving up their spare time to contribute and develop the Strategy and to help write it and asked that Cabinet agree the Strategy and priorities and note the progress and actions taken to date.

Mayor Ros Jones thanked Raymond and Kay for their contributions and attendance and opened the report out for comments.

Councillor Glyn Jones asked about steps taken to ensure an easy read version of the strategy was in place.

In response, Phil Holmes, Director of Adult Social Care agreed the importance of accessibility. He explained that the Council had followed European Union guidelines for developing the easy read documents. A draft document was then shared with Inclusion North, a user led organisation specialising in easy-read and Raymond as a representative from Choice for All (Doncaster). The document was refined following their comments and further assistance was also obtained from other people with learning disabilities and those who live in some of Doncaster’s

supported living settings. He stated that there were a lot of positive comments and some good constructive suggestions for further editing.

Some consultees requested a shorter version of the strategy and this has been prepared. Both versions will be made available on the Councils website and officers will continue to work with service users.

Councillor Jane Nightingale stressed the importance of awareness of the work of carers and asked Kay Kirk how being a carer had impacted on her everyday life.

In response, Kay stated that she had been a carer since she was 13, firstly caring for her brother, then her late husband and now her son. She explained the importance of knowing that there is support for her if needed. Kay welcomed the work done with the carers action group and the opportunity for carers to share their experiences of caring for loved ones with learning disabilities and autism. She advised that the strategy was a big piece of co-production of helping everybody understand what caring is to people. However, Mental Health needs addressing, as there are many carers that are not identified.

Mayor Ros Jones sympathised with the position of carers. She welcomed the Strategy and co-production. She thanked everyone for their contributions and stated there will be many more people who have lived experiences in Doncaster and they will be the judge of whether the strategy makes a difference. She sought assurances and explanation with regard to future action plans, which will ensure that the Strategy does make a difference, as it is intended to do so.

Phil Holmes, Director of Adult Social Care responded stating that the next steps were absolutely key. He reported that the five priorities which have been talked about have been pulled together alongside people with lived experiences who have identified what is most important to them i.e diagnosis for autism, support, education and employment, housing and supporting family carers. He advised that an action plan will be developed for each of the priorities and that again will be carried out alongside those people with lived experiences to ensure that the service is delivering and can be held to account. He also advised that the Learning Disability Partnership Board along with the Carers Groups, Autism Board and the arrangements in place for children and young people was also key to the strategy. He commented that the Council were trying to ensure that it gets a co-chair from people with lived experiences and representation from Councillors who are accountable to local people to ensure that officers are held to account. He stated that this framework will be used to drive the action plans and make sure that progress is made in terms of Doncaster people, rather than people not being sure or clear on how they are being supported.

Mayor Ros Jones stated that shared experiences bring it home to each and everyone, as the Council is considering and approving Strategies, and believed that co-production was key and welcomed taking the strategy forward.

In conclusion, Councillor Blake echoed the comments made by Phil Holmes, in relation to being held to account to ensure that the Strategy and the priorities deliver for the people they are intended for.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

**Do nothing.**

If the strategy refresh was not progressed, the plans would risk being delivered against old data, and not take account of revised national and local strategy, guidance and best practice, including COVID-19 and its impact on identified groups. In addition, the Strategy would not have a formal launch.

**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/Rupert Suckling Director of Public Health/Riana Nelson, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills (DCS).

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker