



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 19th January, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 20th January 2022

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 31st January 2022. 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)  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business)

	<b>Cabinet Member for:</b>
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball	Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People
Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Councillor Phil Cole	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Trading Services
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Councillor Andrea Robinson	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rachael Blake.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

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

The decision records from the Cabinet Meeting held on 15th December, 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.

## DECISION 1

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

6. Calculation and Approval of the Council Tax Base for 2022/2023.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

(1) approved the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2022/2023 year as 84,602 band D equivalent dwellings, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report; and

(2) approved the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2022/2023 year for each part of its area at parish level as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

**3. REASON FOR DECISION**

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval of the Council Tax Base for Doncaster for the 2022/23 year, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

The Council Tax Base determined the level of Council Tax for individual properties expressed in terms of their Band D equivalents using a prescribed formula after allowing for the effect of exemptions, discounts, premiums and reliefs.

Mayor Ros Jones introduced the report, which proposed that the Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2022/2023, is set at level of 84,602 Band D equivalent dwellings. This represented an increase of 1,792 Band D equivalent dwellings, compared to the 2021/22 Tax Base of 82,810. The report reflected an estimated loss on collection of 1.4% as opposed to 2.5% used last year.

The report also set out the Council Tax Base for each part of the Doncaster Borough at Parish level. The Tax Base would be notified to other precepting authorities requiring payment from Doncaster households. The proposed Council Tax Base for Doncaster and the proposed Tax Base for Town and Parish Councils, were appended to the report at Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

The Mayor invited comments from Members.

Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance and Trading Services, observed that two thirds of properties in the Borough were in Band A - D for Council Tax which represented a low Council Tax income Borough. He highlighted that there were over 19,500 properties receiving local Council Tax support who depended on the Council for assistance.

Councillor Cole commended the report and wished to place on record his thanks to the staff in the Finance Team for the expected achievement of a Council Tax collection rate of 98.6%. He highlighted that Doncaster's collection rate was higher than the average London Borough, Unitary Authorities, Shire District Councils and Metropolitan Councils, and the collection rate was higher than any of these Councils for the last 5 years.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, prescribe how the calculation of the Council Tax Base must be carried out. There are no other options.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

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

Not Exempt.

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Director of Corporate Resources.

**DECISION 2**

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

7. Levelling Up Fund (Round 1) Funding Offer.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) gave approval to accept the £18,610,000 Levelling Up Fund Round 1 money which has been awarded to Doncaster Council by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in respect of Doncaster Central, and to add the schemes outlined in the report to the relevant part of the Council's capital programme – Economy and Environment and Corporate Resources;
- (2) agreed that delegated authority be granted to the S151 Officer to accept and agree the terms and conditions of the associated Memorandum of Understanding, and any further associated Grant Agreements in respect of Doncaster Central, in consultation with the Mayor;
- (3) agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economy and Environment and the Director of Corporate Resources, and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to accept any additional monies provided by Government for Doncaster Central schemes outlined in the report, and to add these amounts to the relevant part of the Council's capital programme;
- (4) approved the roll out of the schemes, as outlined in the report, in accordance with the delegation below;
- (5) agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economy and Environment and the Director of Corporate Resources, and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, for initiation and the ongoing delivery of the programme, to include; funding commitment and spending decisions, and the amounts awarded to outside bodies in contracts

and grants, and to agree any changes necessary to the schemes to ensure deliverability within the timescales in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant. (The type of decisions likely to be delegated are contained within paragraphs 17-20 of the report); and

- (6) gave approval to accept the £125,000 Levelling Up Capacity Grant Funding which has been allocated to Doncaster Council by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to assist with the costs of developing LUF bids.

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

Consideration was given to a report introduced by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, which advised that the Council had been successful in securing a package of funding totalling £18, 610,000 of Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 1 money, aimed at improving the built environment, including cultural and heritage assets, and would assist town centre regeneration. The report sought approval to accept the funding. Details of how the funding would be utilised was set out in the report.

The Council had carried out an in depth consultation with residents of the Borough and had provided the opportunity for them to share their views on improvements they would like to see within the Town Centre.

The Deputy Mayor outlined the three complimentary projects associated and key zones within Doncaster's Urban Centre Masterplan, which would see investment as part of Doncaster Round one Levelling Up Fund, namely Enterprise Marketplace, Civic and Cultural Quarter, and Waterfront East.

The Deputy Mayor advised that over recent years, the Council had seen increased investment in the Town Centre and had delivered the Danum Gallery Library and Museum, the first phase of the Quality Streets programme, and had created a new modern welcome to Doncaster at the Station forecourt. He added that whilst the Council needed more sustainable investment from Government to help achieve the ambitious plans for the Borough, the levelling up fund would provide further investment in the town centre, which would build on the fantastic work already completed or underway, to help Doncaster deliver its 'Great 8' priorities in 'Doncaster Delivering Together.' He highlighted that the Council would have the opportunity to support more of the Borough with Levelling Up funding. The Department for Levelling Up and Housing and Communities had allocated funding to assist with the costs of delivering further levelling up bids for Doncaster North and Don Valley parliamentary constituencies, which will aim to provide further investment for localities and residents.

In commending the report, Councillor Phil Cole was pleased to note that work was to be carried out in renovating the Corn Exchange iconic building, which he felt was vital to bringing customers and visitors to Doncaster Town Centre. He also welcomed the regeneration and the development of the Waterfront East, which would bring a large area of land into use, with the potential to enhance the town centre, and which is closely connected to the Doncaster Interchange and transport hubs. He highlighted that the levelling up fund was the first regenerative funding Doncaster has received in a decade and emphasised the importance of sustained

funding, which he hoped over time would help to develop outlying towns in the Borough to change people's lives so there was better outcomes and opportunities.

Mayor Ros Jones, whilst welcoming the funding, pointed out that £119m per annum had been reduced from Government grants and spoke of the need for further levelling up funding for the Borough, to be spent by the Council as and when required, instead of the Council having to compete with other local authorities in a bidding process. She made reference to some of the land being utilised for a new hospital which she felt was vital for the residents of the Borough, to deliver a 21st century hospital and to help stimulate the local economy.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not to accept the Levelling Up Fund Round 1 and Capacity Grant Funding,

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

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

Not Exempt.

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Director of Corporate Resources.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker