



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 22nd June 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 23rd June 2022.

With the exception of Decision 1, 'Youth Justice Plan 2022/23', which is subject to Full Council approval on 14th July, 2022, the end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 4th July 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)

### Cabinet Member for:

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 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 Record forms dated 8th June, 2022 (previously circulated), were noted.

## DECISION 1

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Youth Justice Plan 2022/23.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23, prior to it being presented to Full Council in July for approval.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People, introduced the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23, which covered the work and the achievements of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster, where responsibility for the discharge of the Plan lies.

Legislation required the Youth Justice Plan to be considered by the Cabinet, prior to submission to Council. The Council had a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to produce and publish an annual Youth Justice Plan to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The Plan set out information about the provision of youth justice services in Doncaster in relation to resourcing, value for money, performance against last year's plan, structure, governance and partnership arrangements, and the risks to the future delivery of the service. In line with best practice, the statutory Plan was supported by a Young People's Youth Justice Plan. Feedback following consultation with young people in relation to their experiences of the ongoing pandemic and the services they received from the YOS was provided throughout the plan and at Appendix 3 of the report.

Councillor Ball, in presenting the report, confirmed that the Plan highlighted some areas of excellent performance by the YOS over the past year and one particular area of challenge.

The Plan had been informed throughout by the experiences and voices of young people and these could be viewed throughout the plan itself and also in the Appendices to the report.

Councillor Ball highlighted that in the past year, the Youth Offending Service had continued to reduce the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system, which was well above the national average. Its work to reduce re-offending with young people had been an historic area of strength and remained so. The Youth Offending Service was well within the top quartile of all Local Authorities with the lowest re-offending rates in England and Wales.

However, she reported that due to the impact of a serious incident last year, involving children not open to the Youth Offending Service, the custody rate had

increased significantly. This has resulted in the Youth Offending Service moving from the top quartile in the previous year, to the bottom quartile this year. However, she emphasised that this was considered to be highly anomalous and it was expected that performance would return to normal levels this year.

Cabinet was informed that the Plan also set the YOS targets for this year, which were highly ambitious. The Youth Offending Service aimed to maintain its low first time entrant rate through the work of EPIC and the Youth Justice Team, and to further reduce Doncaster's re-offending rate. If achieved, this would represent Doncaster's lowest ever annualised reoffending rate.

The Youth Offending Service had also set a non-statutory target this year to bring the rate of Children who are looked after in the criminal justice system to a level which is comparable to children who are not looked after. This was a highly ambitious target, as children who were looked after were statistically much more likely to be involved in offending than those who were not. However, the Youth Offending Service was committed to addressing this disparity in the years to come.

The Plan also highlighted some notable achievements last year, including a highly positive Thematic Education, Training or Employment inspection, the development of a dedicated counsellor's post and the opening of the EPIC town centre hub.

The Mayor and Cabinet Members complimented the report and the YOS team's achievements, drawing particular emphasis on the work done concerning "looked after children", re-offending rates better than many other Councils and work done with Children requiring either speech and language therapy or dyslexia interventions.

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

The Youth Justice Plan was a statutory Plan. The options were to approve it in its current format or return the plan to the Assistant Director for Practice Improvement for further consideration and review.

#### **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 and Skills.

## **DECISION 2**

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

7. Locality Investment 2022-24.

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

Cabinet approved the allocation of £2.039m from the Better Care Fund (BCF) non-

recurrent reserves for locality investment across Doncaster and gave delegated authority for the final decisions to the Council's Director of Public Health and Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities, subject to due diligence.

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

Consideration was given to a report which sought Cabinet's approval to allocate funding of £2.039m from the Better Care Fund (BCF) non-recurrent reserves for investment, to be allocated to localities across Doncaster that met certain criteria which would aid the work already in progress by the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector in investing in solutions that address community priorities based on community insight and locality plans.

In introducing the report, Councillor Nigel Ball outlined that the investment created an opportunity to invest in the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector, to directly support the health and wellbeing of individuals and families at very local levels and supports a key part of the local economy. This approach contributes to improving opportunities and life chances for residents and communities and was also one way of showcasing local achievements within each locality, to highlight and build upon strength-based community centred approaches. This would also promote local decision making, leaving no one left behind and creating opportunities to celebrate community spirit.

Councillor Ball highlighted that the recommendation had been based on extensive community capacity building and investment over the past 18 months. In 2021, the Local Solution Community Investment Fund was launched and supported by Well Doncaster as a 'test and learn' project using community centred approaches in response to the COVID pandemic and community insight. The non-recurrent reserve of the Better Care Fund was a budget jointly held by Doncaster Council and Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group, and was overseen by a Joint Commissioning Management Board.

It was noted that the Joint Commissioning Management Board had approved a community investment pot of £2.039m from this reserve to develop a local investment approach to ensure that Doncaster was well-placed. The budget had been allocated to the 4 localities weighted for population size and deprivation. The specific amounts were detailed in paragraph 14 of the report.

The Voluntary Community and Faith Sector organisations had worked together to develop outline proposals which addressed the findings from the local community insight and the issues identified in the locality Plans.

The Council was now at the stage where approving the resources would signal the next step in locality investment. Councillor Ball emphasised that further refinement was needed and due diligence of the business cases was required, and he hoped that Cabinet colleagues agreed that the Locality Investment offered an excellent opportunity for Doncaster's grass roots voluntary community and faith sector organisations in Doncaster, and sought Cabinet's support to the recommendations contained in the report.

Cabinet members welcomed the proposal and highlighted the importance of

supporting those communities most in need.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Option 2: To continue with traditional grant processes.

Option 3: To do nothing.

**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. Phase 2 of Council House Build Programme and S106 Acquisitions.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the development of sites within Phase 2 of the Council House Build Programme (CHBP) at:-
  - (Former) Nightingale School, Balby
  - (Former) Adwick Depot, Adwick
  - (Former Archives) King Edward Road, Balby
  - Plantation View, Bessacarr
  - Springfield Avenue, Hatfield
  - (Former) Barnburgh House, Edlington
  - Moor View, Branton;
- (2) gave approval that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Environment and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, to accept the funding and agree terms and conditions for any Shared Ownership and Affordable Housing Programme (SOAHP) Grant funding awards for all the Council House Build Programme (CHBP) schemes, and subject to an Officer Decision Record (ODR) for each scheme bid;
- (3) gave approval that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Environment and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, the Portfolio Holder for Education,

Skills and Young People, the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Trading Services, the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources, and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to award construction contracts to deliver Phase 2 of the Council House Build Programme (CHBP) following the conclusion of the procurement process and subject to an ODR;

- (4) gave approval that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Environment, the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People, the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Trading Services, the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources, and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to acquire new homes through Section 106 Planning Agreements, as scheduled in Appendix C of the report, and subject to an Officer Decision Record (ODR) for each agreement;
- (5) agreed the recommended procurement strategy for the appointment of a contractor to build homes on the Phase 2 sites;
- (6) approved the drawdown of funding earmarked for these developments in the Housing Capital Programme; and
- (7) approved the appropriation of the following sites from the Council's General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA):-
  - Former Nightingale School, Balby
  - Former Depot, Fernbank School, and Social Education Centre, Adwick
  - King Edward Road (Archives), Balby
- (8) gave approval that the Director of Economy and Environment provide a further report for Cabinet approval detailing additional sites that can demonstrate the wider geographic spend of housing delivery across the Borough, with the hope of bringing them into the second phase of the Council House Programme.

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

Cabinet considered a report which outlined proposed plans to develop 7 sites within Phase 2 of the Council house build programme, to deliver affordable new Council housing on Council owned sites and acquisitions of new homes from private house-builders through Section 106 planning agreements. The site plans and indicative schedules of house types were set out at Appendices A and B of the report- respectively.

The scheme would be financed from various funding streams, notably the Housing Capital Programme, grant funding from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined

Authority Brownfield Housing Fund and the anticipated addition of grant funding from the Homes England 'Shared ownership' and Affordable Housing Programme for 2021/26.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, introduced the report and summarised the key points in the report as follows:-

- Phase 2 of the scheme would deliver circa 125 new homes, ranging from 1 bed flats, to 5 bedroom homes, including 45 bungalows. Development costs were currently estimated at £25m.
- All homes would be managed by St Leger Homes and allocated to those on the Housing Register using the Choice Based lettings process in accordance with local lettings policies.
- All sites were 'brownfield' land, bringing in excess of 4 hectares of under used land back into valuable use and creating nearly a hectare of landscaped open space across all 7 sites.
- Approval was also sought for a programme of purchases from developers through Section 106 planning agreements for 46 homes, which included 41 bungalows.
- Funding would be sourced from the Housing Revenue Account supported by grants from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Fund of £3.66m and anticipated grant from Homes England of £5.67m.
- These would be the first gas free homes built by the Council and will have air source heat pumps, photovoltaic Solar panels and Electric Vehicle charge points.
- Additional measures would ensure energy costs were minimised for residents and support the Council's ambitions to address fuel poverty, whilst also supporting improvements to residents' health and well-being, particularly those from lower income households.
- The schemes adopted a new landscape led design approach for the Council's Housing schemes to reflect local and national climate, bio-diversity and environmental policies.
- Building would commence on site in early 2023 with phased completions anticipated from late 2023 onwards.
- Construction activity from this phase would safeguard and create over 160 construction jobs, 9 apprentice opportunities and generate an estimated spend of over 16 million into the local supply chain.

Mayor Ros Jones was pleased to observe that the number of Council housing stock was to be extended, which she felt was imperative in view of the number of people currently on the Council housing lists at the present time.

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

Option 2 – If approval was not given, the development of much needed affordable homes would not take place. The Council had identified within its Housing Strategy- the requirement for more affordable homes and the Housing Development Plan (HDP) outlined the CHBP Phase 2. The delivery of approximately circa 125 new homes on Council owned land contributed to the delivery targets of the Strategy and Housing Delivery Plan. If delivery was not approved, the Council would fail to meet a range of objectives including those in the 2020-25 Housing Delivery Plan, the 2020 Housing Strategy, and the Local Plan, and the sites would remain vacant until an alternative use could be found. The Council would also lose access to significant Capital funding through the SYMCA and Homes England, with the potential for an adverse reputational impact on future funding bids.

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

There were no declarations.

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

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

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

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker