



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 20th July, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 21st July 2022.

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 1st August 2022. These 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 Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities
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

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions were submitted at the meeting.

Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 6th July 2022 (previously circulated) be noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan (DDTIP)

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan (DDTIP) for 2022-23, as attached to the report at Annex A, for submission to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA);
- (2) approved the proposals for Doncaster's allocation of the Project Feasibility Fund (PFF), as attached to the report at Annex B, and for the business case to be submitted to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) on this basis;
- (3) gave delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to accept and agree the funding if there are any changes required, further terms and conditions or associated funding agreements issued as part of the formal approval of the Project Feasibility Fund (PFF) funding;
- (4) noted the overall themes proposed for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to shape the SYMCA submission;
- (5) noted that a further key decision will follow to accept the UKSPF funding.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Consideration was given to a report, introduced by Mayor Ros Jones, which sought approval of the Borough's new annual plan 'Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan' (DDTIP), attached to the report at Annex A, which outlined the key investment priorities to help deliver the Borough Strategy 'Doncaster Delivering Together' (DDT). Cabinet's approval was also sought for proposed submissions to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Project Feasibility Fund (PFF) and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Project Feasibility Fund.

The aim of the Investment Plan was to support the delivery of the Council's Borough Strategy, by outlining the Council's place-based approach to investment, in particular outlining the priority capital and revenue projects for external funding opportunities. The requirement for a place-based investment plan had been agreed by South Yorkshire leaders to help present prioritised investment as part of monies in association with devolution 'Gainshare'.

To help support the production of and delivery of investment, SYMCA was supporting each of the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities' with a Project Feasibility Fund (PFF). This would help: relieve constraints and improve capability, reduce reliance on external expertise and develop plans into a pipeline of programmes and projects. Paragraphs 16 to 20 of the report outlined how Doncaster plans on spending £3.54m PFF allocation to Doncaster.

The UKSPF is one of the UK's flagship funding programmes to 'level up' the UK, as a replacement for old EU structural funds. On 13th April 2022, the UKSPF prospectus was announced, outlining that Doncaster was due to receive £8,960,876 (capital & revenue funding) over 2022/23-2024/25 as part of UKSPF. As per the UKSPF prospectus, Doncaster is now submitting its proposals to be included in the SYMCA Investment Plan for submission to the UK Government by 1st August 2022. Paragraphs 21 to 26 of the report outlined how Doncaster plans on spending its £8.96m UKSPF allocation.

The report set out the capital and revenue place-based funding initiatives to deliver the ambitions of the DDT Investment Plan, which would allow the Council to prioritise its activity, through an annual process, enabling greater visibility, transparency and oversight by the Council, residents and Executive Members. The Plan would also be used to identify priorities for accessing gainshare from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Council will work with its partners for a more coordinated approach in terms of investment propositions prioritised for funding by the Council, submissions for funding and those currently delivered. To maximise the investment potential of the Plan, the Plan would not only align with the priorities of the SYMCA, but also those nationally and locally. The Plan had been developed using current intelligence and in consultation with key groups which had been used to shape the content of the Plan and inform funding bids, i.e. Levelling Up Fund 2 bids. This would allow spending to be linked to a coherent place-based model that delivers better outcomes for the Council and improved scrutiny in relation to Council spending.

The Mayor in introducing the report, made the following statement:-

'Last September we reached a significant milestone in Doncaster's improvement journey. Last week we presented Doncaster Delivering Together to Full Council, with the one central mission of Thriving People, Places and Planet. It presented:-

- Six Wellbeing Goals to move towards
- Our Great 8 Priorities to focus in on delivery
- It is grounded in our Ways of Working to achieve success
- And our aim to be regenerative

This was not about 'business as usual'. We needed a step change to ensure everyone is part of Doncaster's success. Doncaster is a proud place of places and our delivery needs to reflect this.

We have innovation sites, the City Centre, Unity at Stainforth and Hatfield and Gateway East at the airport. Diverse towns and villages. Aspiring localities and talent across the Borough.

We have invested in our City Centre to make it a place everyone can enjoy, but our communities across the borough also need our attention. And we have started that process, with Community Investment Masterplans in key locations.

With the number of funding opportunities becoming available, through Levelling Up, or from our South Yorkshire devolution deal, or locally across Team Doncaster, we

need to deliver an approach to investment that is fitting of our plans and ambitions. I know my Cabinet colleagues feel the same.

The Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan is our plan to do this.

For the first time we will have one place that highlights our investments to ensure the right projects are being funded. It is grounded in our place of places and presented by Localities. We want to make it easier for everyone to see what is happening in their ward and community, and I have asked officers to make this available online and work will be done to get this in place for next year.

Our plan will be updated annually, so it can respond to challenges. It will not have everything at any one time, but will be the seeds for the plan to grow over time.

This 'live' approach has never been more needed as we respond to the shocking and very disappointing announcement by Peel, relating to Doncaster Sheffield Airport. Keeping this document live, means it can be updated to reflect changing and dynamic situations as they occur.

Let me confirm my commitment to make the airport work. Together, we have grand ideas for Doncaster Sheffield Airport and Gateway East that we will still pursue to bring high skilled, high wage jobs and innovation to Doncaster, reflected in this plan.

We have made significant investment already, and know the potential of the airport not just for Doncaster, but for South Yorkshire, Nationally and Internationally.

If the airport closes, then Doncaster would level down and we will work hard to not let that happen.

But the Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan is more than this document and the projects within it. It is a mindset. A mindset that we will do investment differently, to deliver the investments to support thriving people, places and planet.

To support our Plan, a Project Feasibility Fund has been provided by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

This £3.54m support will help shape our plan, let us crack on with delivery and develop the right projects for Doncaster, through for example more Community Investment Masterplans.

But pitching for funding never stops. We are already seeing our Plan in action with the development of Levelling Up Fund bids for Edlington; with a new leisure centre, improvements to the town centre and tackling issues on the Royal Estate; and Doncaster North with improvements to Mexborough, Moorends and regenerating Brodsworth Miner's Welfare Institute in Woodlands. We have listened to what is important to people, and now are working hard to make it a reality.

We will also be developing our projects for our £8.96m share of the Shared Prosperity Fund, where we are supporting:-

- The Cost of Living Crisis – to support those who need help now more than ever
- Business growth and productivity – to bounce back from the pandemic to be better than ever
- Third sector capacity building – to support our fantastic third sector partners

- Programmes that are having an impact – like our employment support activity

This is an exciting time for Doncaster.

I now ask for Cabinet’s support for the new Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan, so that we can support communities across Doncaster to reach their potential.’

Cabinet welcomed the report, which was a significant step change for Doncaster, and highlighted the Council’s and partners’ commitment towards Doncaster as a place of places recognising the aspirations and potential Doncaster can bring. The Plan would maximise investment opportunities for Doncaster and focus on delivering on areas of deprivation and need in the Borough. It was recognised that the Plan was an evolving document and Members hoped to see improvements being made.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The alternative options considered for DDTIP were to:

- Develop a place-based investment plan that was solely aligned to the SYMCA;
- Not develop a place-based investment plan.

The alternative option considered for the PFF was to:

- Not submit any proposals and reject the £3.54m PFF allocation.

The alternative option considered for the UKSPF was to:

- Not submit any proposals and reject the £8.96m UKSPF allocation.

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 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Doncaster Council Home to School Transport Policy 2022-2027

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the results of the consultation;
- (2) in light of the consultation, approved the proposed changes and clarification to the existing 'Home to School Transport' Policy;
- (3) approved the phased removal of bus passes issued on a "no extra cost" basis, with effect from September 2023;
- (4) approved the phased removal of bus passes issued to pupils moving house during school years 10 and 11, with effect from publication of the Policy; and
- (5) approved the issue and publication of the revised Home to School Travel Assistance Policy, as attached to the report at Appendix 3.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People which sought approval to implement a revised Doncaster Council Home to School Transport Travel Assistance Policy for 2022 to 2027, following a rigorous 9 weeks public consultation held between 29th November 2021 and 31st January 2022 on proposed changes to the existing Home to School Transport Policy.

Due to the rising pupil population, and an increase in the number of pupils and students with complex needs, there had been a rapid growth in the number of requests received for home to school and college travel assistance to be provided by Doncaster Council. Requests for assistance had also increased as a result of an increase in the number of families on low income. Therefore, there had been a need to ensure that the provision of travel assistance combined effective, efficient and value for money services for the children and people of Doncaster. There was also an additional focus on ensuring the service provided to children and young people was of a high quality and suitable for their requirements. There would be an ongoing focus on encouraging independence via the independent travel training offer. This offer supports the aim of Doncaster to be Child Friendly throughout. With this in mind the existing Home to School Transport Policy had been reviewed and a number of suggestions made to update, clarify and change elements of the Policy.

The report set out an analysis and assessment of the current policy provision, the key proposed changes being consulted on, the rationale for the changes to the Policy, the outcomes of engagement with the public and the expected efficiencies and savings to the service provision. The proposed changes to the Policy had been based on the consultation undertaken which was outlined in paragraphs 11(a) to (p) of the report and Appendix 1A of the report. To ensure that the widest possible audience was reached, different methods had been utilised for the consultation, as set out at paragraphs 42 to 45 of the report, including virtual events, and an electronic survey had also been provided as part of the consultation, details of which were set out at Appendix 1B of the report.

The revised Home to School Travel Assistance Transport Policy provided clarity and updated a number of areas of the existing policy, and provided clear direction to families and transparency in the travel assistance options that are available to

them. It also clarified the circumstances under which travel assistance is not available and removed areas which previously offered more choice to some based purely on where they lived. The Policy would also better meet the needs of children and their families. This would promote greater independence, help the development of essential life skills and provide opportunities and greater support to families.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball thanked all of the people who had taken time to respond to the consultation, highlighting that their input was invaluable and had helped to shape the new Travel Assistance Policy.

All of the comments received had been carefully reviewed, and as a result of this, the proposal for a contribution charge for Post 16 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities transport was withdrawn, as it would have had a significant impact on some Doncaster families, particularly when they are also dealing with the rising cost of living.

The proposal to phase out the provision of bus passes to a catchment school, if it is not also the nearest school, had also been withdrawn, as more time was needed to fully understand the impact of this proposal and the number of pupils who may potentially be affected.

The Council also needed to understand the current availability of the bus network to the nearest and/or catchment school if travel assistance to the catchment school for eligible pupils was removed.

Councillor Ball outlined the two key proposals for approval and a number of other points within the revised Policy. The two remaining key proposals would put the provision of bus passes for home to school journeys on an equal footing for everyone, by removing certain exceptions and inconsistencies within the current policy.

The first of these was to phase out the current exception which provides a bus pass to pupils attending an alternative to their nearest school or allocated school on the basis that they would have been entitled to transport to their nearest school and the alternative does not cost the Council any more.

This is an exception that provides an added benefit and additional options to some pupils based purely on where they live that others do not receive. If this is phased out, it would ultimately lead to an annual saving of approximately £29,000 by 2027/28.

The second exception was to remove the proposal which provides travel assistance for pupils who move house during Academic Years 10 and 11. The feedback received from the consultation in the main agreed that if families chose to move house they should then pay any subsequent bus fare.

An appeals option exists for families who do not move out of choice, enabling them to detail their circumstances and their situation. Each case would be determined on an individual basis.

Additionally, in an emergency, any request for help would be considered urgently to ensure that families are provided with an early decision and resolution. This would be highlighted on the Council website and families would be able to call to discuss their situation in order to further speed up the process. If this is phased out it would

ultimately lead to an annual saving of roughly £8,000 by 2025/26

To conclude, Councillor Ball asked Cabinet to endorse the report.

Cabinet welcomed the extensive consultation undertaken and the different methods utilised by the Council to engage the public, in particular the face to face events offered throughout the consultation, which had made a real difference, and thanked those people who had responded to the consultation. Cabinet was pleased to note that the Council had listened to the views of parents and children and had removed some suggestions in relation to additional costs previously paid for by those families with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. In relation to the appeals process, Cabinet welcomed the flexible approach for exceptional cases, where families moved through no choice of their own.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1: Do nothing. This will mean that the existing policy, which is now outdated and does not provide as much information or clarity for families, will remain in place.

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 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Stainforth Town Deal - All projects.

2. DECISION TAKEN

- (1) that Cabinet approve the submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) of the Project Business Case Summary Documents for the ten projects, confirming the intention of Doncaster Council to secure a combined £21.60m Town Deal funding for Stainforth;
- (2) that Cabinet approve the acceptance of £21.60m Town Deal funding for use on the ten projects, subject to satisfactory review of the Summary Business Cases by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and in accordance with the conditions and requirements of the funding which are set out in this report;
- (3) that Cabinet give delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, to accept and agree the funding if there are any further Terms and Conditions, or associated funding agreements issued as

part of the formal approval of funding;

- (4) that Cabinet give approval for the use of Council borrowing to fund £1.27m of the project costs in advance of receipt of Section 106 funds;
- (5) that Cabinet give approval that the projects, as detailed in the report, be added to the relevant part of the Council's Capital Programme;
- (6) Cabinet noted that the Section 151 Officer will confirm the project and expenditure, as per the Business Case, represents value for money, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, and sign the Project Business Case Summary Documents for the ten projects;
- (7) that Cabinet give delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, to procure and award Contracts, in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), on the basis that decisions will not commit the Council to additional costs beyond the scheme affordability envelope;
- (8) that Cabinet give delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Environment and the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, to finalise the Business Cases and submit subsequent project change requests where there are significant changes to the projects, or projects cannot be progressed to delivery, on the basis that decisions will not commit the Council to additional costs beyond the scheme affordability envelope;
- (9) that Cabinet give approval to delegate to the Director of Economy and Environment and Corporate Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business, to accept and agree the terms for any match funding (external grant, or private sector match) that can be secured to support the projects to deliver as outlined;
- (10) that Cabinet give approval to delegate authority to the Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources, to award grants to outside bodies and enter into the necessary funding agreement with Network Rail who may deliver the project on behalf of the Council; and
- (11) that the Mayor and Cabinet Members are notified of any additional Revenue costs to the Council, arising from the implementation of these projects.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones, introduced a report which provided an update on progress and sought Cabinet's approval to submit Business Cases to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the 10 Stainforth Town Deal Projects, as set out at paragraph 1.2 of the report, in order to secure a combined £21.60m Town Deal funding for Stainforth. Approval was also sought to delegate approval to the Director of Economy and Environment and the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and

Business to award future contract appointments relating to the delivery of the projects.

The Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had released the Grant Offer Letter for the Stainforth Town Deal in December 2021, confirming £21.60m towards the following 10 Stainforth Town Deal Projects:-

- (i) Restoration and lighting of Colliery Headstocks (£4.235m)
- (ii) Enabling Employment uses (£1.211m)
- (iii) New Country Park (£2.151m)
- (iv) New Station Footbridge (£3.080m)
- (v) Station access improvements (£4.166m)
- (vi) Public Realm Improvements (£1.235m)
- (vii) Activating Derelict Site (£0.552m)
- (viii) Safer Streets (£0.095m)
- (ix) New Community Hub (£3.134m)
- (x) East Lane Gateway (£1.740m)

These Projects would deliver against a number of Stainforth's needs, in providing better access for residents to employment, improving the town centre, creating safer streets, providing greenspace for healthy living and restoring headstocks.

The report set out details of the key benefits of the projects, grant offer conditions in respect of 2 of the projects, the work carried out with external partners to develop the full Business cases, station improvement projects, feasibility work and internal partners to undertake feasibility and design work and costings.

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones outlined that Stainforth Town Deal was made up of 10 projects resulting from public consultation to establish the top priorities for Stainforth Community to be submitted for Town Deal funding. A bid for £25m was submitted to Government and the Council had been awarded £21.6m.

It was highlighted that at this stage the number of projects had since been reduced to 9, with the removal of the 'Activating derelict site' project. It was noted that a request had been submitted to utilise the funding on 2 of the other projects due to increased costs, with the aim of ensuring that the full £21.6m would be spent in Stainforth. It was reported that the recommendations in the report provided the flexibility to accommodate project change requests and respond to changing circumstances.

The Deputy Mayor advised that match funding for some of the projects was allocated from Section 106 agreements, as part of existing planning permissions, and the proposal was that the Council was to borrow funding to use on this project until the Section 106 funds were received.

In the current economic climate, there may be future cost issues due to inflation and resource availability. Projects would be value engineered to bring them within the funding provision, or a future prioritisation of projects may have to take place through Stainforth Town Deal Board.

The Deputy Mayor advised that the report sought delegated authority to accept funding, the procurement, award of the contracts and any change requests necessary throughout the life of the Town Deal.

The Deputy Mayor drew Members' attention to paragraph 5.10 of the report which made reference to the completed summary Business Cases being attached at Appendix A to the report. Cabinet was advised that these had not been included, as they had not yet been finalised, although a summary of each of the projects was included in the report. The Summary Business cases would be submitted by 5th August to Government Office, in order to draw down the funding for projects to be delivered by March 2026. It was agreed that recommendation (viii) be amended to clarify these arrangements to ensure that the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business would be consulted on the final Business cases and any subsequent project changes in the future.

Cabinet welcomed the projects, however, assurances were sought that there would be no potential revenue cost implications or liability for the Council arising from these projects, such as the ongoing maintenance of the assets. Officers provided assurances and examples of how some of the schemes had been developed to minimise any additional revenue cost to the Council. The Director of Corporate Resources advised that the Council was aware of the risk and provided further reassurance that mechanisms were in place to ensure that financial impact on the Council would be carefully monitored. She drew Members' attention to recommendation 6 of the report which provided an additional check, as the project and expenditure for each Business Case would be confirmed with the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for consideration.

Cabinet agreed an additional recommendation be included to ensure it be informed of any additional revenue costs associated with these projects that impact on the Council.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do not submit Project Summary Business Cases to DLUHC for the ten projects.

The inclusion of Stainforth in the Town Deal recipients list is an opportunity, not a directive. Whilst a decision not to proceed with the Business Case is an option, it would mean that Doncaster miss a significant opportunity to kick-start the regeneration of Stainforth and the identified key social and economic benefits that the Town Deal could deliver. This is not the recommended option.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

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

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker