



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Wednesday, 5th October, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Wednesday, 5th October, 2022

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 14th October, 2022. This 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)

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 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:-

Apologies were received from Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones and Councillors Joe Blackham and Rachael Blake.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were reported at the meeting.

Decision Records dated 21st September, 2022 be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Updated Medium-term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2025/26.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the gap and commented on the information provided in the report, including the next steps in the process to address the budget shortfall.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Mayor Ros Jones outlining the financial challenge for the Council, which is an estimated funding gap of £12.2m for 2023/24 and £18.4m over the next three financial years, based on modelling work undertaken and the most likely scenario.

The full details on the assumptions were provided in the report at paragraphs 16 to 29, including the continued uncertainties in relation to forecasting costs and income at the present time. The report also included significant pressures across a number of Council services, in particular Children's Social Care, although this position is consistent with national trends it is not affordable or sustainable.

Further pressures were also highlighted in relation to ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG) and uncertainty remains in relation to forecasting the funding from Government. The funding settlement for Doncaster is expected to be made available mid-December 2022. In addition, the future Adult Social Care Charging Reform is anticipated to place significant pressures on the Council.

Mayor Jones stated that the Council has a good track record of managing finances well and although it is recognised how difficult it will be, the Council will continue to take a robust approach to produce a balanced budget and over the next few months, the Council will be working hard to address how to bridge the gap with support for Doncaster people, communities and businesses remaining at the forefront of all decision making.

Cabinet commented on the report highlighting the pressures placed upon residents by the increasing cost of living and the likely increase in demand for Council services, despite decreasing budgets. Members affirmed their commitment to helping those most in need. Cabinet echoed the comments made by Mayor Jones stating that the Council will continue to make the necessary savings in order to run a balanced budget for the next 3 years.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

A range of scenarios have been produced for the variable elements included in the MTFS, and savings options will be developed as part of the budget setting process for 2023/24.

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

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker