



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Wednesday, 19th October 2022, by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 20th October 2022.

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 31st October 2022. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.) – In the Chair

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

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Mayor Ros Jones and Councillors Jane Nightingale and Andrea Robinson.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

On behalf of Mayor Ros Jones, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones read out the following question which had been submitted by Councillor Nick Allen:-

'I've noted the report on the Active Travel Social Prescribing pilot and I commend you for taking action to place the scheme in deprived communities, where there are clear and pre-existing health inequalities and outcomes. However, I feel some of the language about how the pilot's outcomes would be assessed used too many broad brushstrokes. I'll like to know how the reduction in health inequalities will be assessed on an individual basis. I feel the wider conclusion, the bigger picture, should take into account protected characteristics

and factors, which we know matter hugely and impact health significantly, such as race, sexual orientation and learning disability.'

In the absence of Councillor Allen, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones thanked Councillor Allen for his question and read out the following response. A copy of the response would be forwarded to Councillor Allen:-

'The feasibility study conducted by an independent organisation included an Equality Impact assessment which was assessed by the Department for Transport as part of the funding application.

The equality impact assessment will ensure that the pilot will be delivered in a fair and inclusive way and will not present barriers to participation or disadvantage any protected groups from participation.

As part of the Pilot we will be employing an evaluation partner who will undertake independent data collection, this will include both quantitative and qualitative methods to measure both individual and population impacts of the pilot.'

The Decision Records from the meeting held on 5th October 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

## **DECISION 1**

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

6. Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot.

### **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

1. Approved the acceptance of £665,000 of funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to deliver an Active Travel Social Prescribing pilot in Doncaster;
2. Approved that delegated authority be given to the Directors of Economy and Environment and Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement to enter into a funding agreement with the Department for Transport (DfT) to allow delivery of the project; and
3. Approved that delegated authority be given for the Council's Section 151 officer to sign off the outcome agreement.

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

Doncaster has been awarded grant funding from the Department of Transport (DfT) to deliver an experimental pilot to test and learn about the impact of Active Travel Social Prescribing in Doncaster, alongside monitoring the value of the investment. Doncaster was one of eleven authorities to receive the funding out of 30 bids submitted to the DfT. The £665,000 revenue funding is over a three year period.

Social prescribing is a means of enabling people to participate in a range of local

non-clinical services to address people's needs in a holistic way. It also aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health and wellbeing. Active Travel Social Prescribing aims to reduce health inequality and make active lifestyles more attractive to people by offering free-to-access cycling and walking activities, such as walking groups, free bike loans, and cycle training. The pilot will be fully inclusive, as it will include the provision of adapted bikes to enable people with physical disabilities to experience and enjoy the benefits of cycling.

There is an ever-growing need to bring new and innovative ways to help improve physical and mental health issues, such as inactivity, loneliness, obesity and general poor health, many of which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pilot is targeted to link in with infrastructure being installed as part of the Transforming City Programme and will build on what is already happening in Doncaster to help to strengthen the following offer for residents who access social prescribing:

- Cycle training and led rides
- Walking groups
- Personalised travel planning
- Inclusive cycling sessions
- Bikes on prescription loan
- Stakeholder engagement events

The project would enhance the established Social Prescribing offer and the initial phase 1 of the pilot would be held in Balby, with a view to scaling up the project in future years.

Doncaster Council is delivering a strategic walking and cycling vision connecting key towns and villages, including Balby, with the town centre. The schemes support the vision to address the need for more accessible infrastructure to enable disabled people to walk and cycle more, through improvements that link the community with the parks and green space. Through Social Prescribing, the Council want to reach out to people with long-term health conditions and disabilities, and connect them to expertise in inclusive cycling and walking, to create an environment where physical activity and independent mobility is a reality for more residents.

Balby is a deprived area, with many residents experiencing long-term health conditions. Appreciative Inquiry carried out by Well Doncaster within the community identified parks as a key and valuable asset.

The pilot will be closely monitored to determine its impact on those taking part.

Councillor Joe Blackham, in presenting the report, commended it for Cabinet's approval to accept the funding.

Cabinet was supportive of the proposed scheme, as it would help to reduce health inequalities and get people to be more active, which was welcomed.

In response to a question from Councillor Rachael Blake, it was noted that the

Voluntary and Community Sector have been involved and had engaged in the process as part of the feasibility study. Various stakeholder workshops had been held across the Borough, involving relevant community groups who had been invited to participate in order to seek their views on the current social prescribing offer and how the Council could embed active travel into a wider offer. In relation to the funding, the Council would be carrying out a tender process to bring in a service provider to deliver the schemes. Future events were also planned, where the voluntary sector and community organisations would have the opportunity to further participate and to get involved in the workshop, as much as their capacity allowed. It was hoped that the funding would allow to extend the current capacity, but was subject to a procurement exercise, to test the market. This was welcomed.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Do nothing - Failure to accept the grant funds would result in Doncaster residents not benefiting from the programme.

**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.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker