



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 30th November, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 1st December, 2022

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 12th December, 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 or statements were made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 16th November, 2022, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Council Housing Allocation Policy Review.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) considered the outcomes of the review, public and stakeholder consultation as set out in the report shown in Appendices D and E;
- (2) considered the recommendations on policy changes consulted on, full details shown within Appendix A; and
- (3) formally adopted the amended Housing Allocations Policy as shown in Appendix C.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones which set out the recommendations for fourteen proposed changes to Doncaster Council's Housing Allocations Policy.

He stated that drivers for the review include the change in demand for social housing in recent years, and more significantly over the last 2 and a half years, the developing housing market and significant increases in applicants who are unsuitably housed or homeless, all of which are outlined in section 15.

Councillor Jones advised that a key part of the review process has been to undertake extensive consultation with residents, active housing applicants, community groups, key stakeholders and elected members using a range of media and support to inform discussion. A copy of the outcomes of the consultation were attached at Appendix D & E of the report.

In summary the consultation engaged with:-

- 47 Elected members
- 897 responses across full consultation
- 451 Organisations
- 234 under-occupying council tenants
- 1,041 comments received in the 866 responses to the Public consultation survey
- Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Committee

He went on to explain that the purpose for the changes is to address the increase in housing demand and reduction in supply, to make the system fairer, quicker, easier to understand and implement.

Cabinet fully supported the adoption of the reviewed policy, highlighting the need for more affordable housing within the borough, including bungalows for those residents who need them. The support for Armed Forces personnel highlighted at page 83 of the report was also welcomed.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Options considered have been informed through legislative requirements, research, consultation and input from the project group key officers, including Doncaster Council's Legal Services.

Each of the fourteen changes outlined in Appendix A including

- The proposed change
- The reason for change
- The public consultation outcome
- The recommendation

Further analysis of proposal eight is set out in paragraph 17 of the report.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Mark McEgan, SLHD Director of Housing and Customer Services

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. 2022-23 Quarter 2 Finance and Performance Improvement Report.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in Appendix A – Finance profile;
- (2) noted the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix A – Finance profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules; and
- (3) noted the increase in District Heating charges referred to in paragraph 136.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received the 2022-23 Quarter 2 Finance and Performance Improvement report introduced by Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance stating that the 'Cost of Living' crisis had accelerated, and whilst support to manage rising energy bills for residents and businesses has been announced, the wider economic outlook remains uncertain. In addition to inflationary pressures on energy and food, the rise in the cost of borrowing has seen a significant shift and the speed at which this cost has increased has been significant since mid September.

Councillor Cole reported that employment levels for now were stable. However, real wages are decreasing and nationally the latest GDP figures showed a contraction with a widely anticipated formal recession later this winter. He went on to state that the impact on residents means that incomes are squeezed and for some this means choices on things people might usually take for granted.

Cabinet were advised that the Council was not immune from these inflationary pressures, there are real challenges for the Council in regard to savings required. At quarter 2, a £8.5m overspend was forecast for 2022/23, full details on the main variances were provided in paragraphs 107 to 132. It was noted that tough choices and a pragmatic realism are needed to prioritise what the Council focusses its attention on, and how savings can be made whilst still striving for better for the borough.

Councillor Cole went on to state that performance for quarter 2 remained predominately positive and a number of achievements have been made, as follows:-

- successfully incorporated the functions of the Children's Trust into the Council;
- continued to explore all options to retain a functioning airport in Doncaster;
- provided additional investment to providers of domiciliary care;
- New recorded investment into Doncaster is at £68 million, which is above target for the end of quarter 2;
- There has been a significant amount of work within safeguarding service in recent months. The Council have scrutinised areas of practice, recording and focused attention on improvements. This has led to a significant improvement in people reporting they feel safe following an intervention with the Council; and
- Quarter 2 saw an increase in the number of families supported through early intervention via the stronger families programme.

In conclusion, Councillor Cole wished to advise that there were some significant investments on the horizon that could make a big impact on the borough and in the midst of difficult circumstances the Council continues to perform well in a large proportion of key service areas.

Councillor Rachael Blake wished to highlight the outcomes framework, particularly in regard to Health. She reminded Cabinet of the introduction of the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission and the opportunity for residents to submit evidence which

will give an insight into the realities of peoples' lives and contribute to the work aiming to improve life expectancies.

Cabinet welcomed the report and echoed the comments made by Councillor Cole. Whilst the Council was well managed, it recognised that unless the government provide additional funding, there will need to be a realistic review of service delivery. Mayor Jones stated that Council will be required to make difficult decisions in order to meet the financial challenge but she reiterated her commitment to looking after the most vulnerable.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable

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 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Limited (SLHD) performance and delivery update - Quarter 2 ended 30 September 2022 (2022/23).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance indicators, and that the implications of the contents may ultimately affect the delivery of services to the people of Doncaster.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered the St Leger Homes Performance and Delivery Update 2022/23 Quarter 2 report presented by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business.

Councillor Jones stated that at the end of September 2022, seven Key Performance Indicators were met or within agreed tolerances. There is evidence of excellent performance, some elements of which are the best for a very long time.

He stated that the report also showed improving trends in all measures which are off target, with the exception of the two STAR indicators.

Councillor Jones went on to specifically address some of the measures which are off target, as follows:-

- KPI 2 Void Rent Loss.
- KPI 3 concerns the average number of days a property is void. Again we have set a challenging target of 20 days.
- KPI 4 concerns the number of households placed in B&B accommodation.

In conclusion, Councillor Jones wished to mention that there are some areas where performance is very good, such as on rent arrears, repairs done right first time and the amount of money that is spent locally and Anti-Social Behaviour resolution and as previously stated the majority of the off target measures are showing improvement month on month.

Cabinet welcomed the report and were pleased with the continued improvements, particularly in regard to void properties. Mayor Ros reiterated the need to continuously improve the issues around voids.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dave Richmond, Chief Executive Officer, St Leger Homes of Doncaster

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker