



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 14th December, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 15th December, 2022

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023. 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)

	<b>Cabinet Member for:</b>
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

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Councillors Nigel Ball, Lani-Mae Ball, Rachael Blake and Andrea Robinson.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

There were no questions or statements submitted.

The decision record forms from the meeting held on 30th November 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

## DECISION 1

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Multiply & Rural Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the receipt of the full UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) allocation (2022/23-2024/25) for Doncaster, of up to £8.96m;
- (2) approved the receipt of the Multiply allocation (2022/23- 2024/25) for Doncaster, which equates to approx. £1.45m;
- (3) approved the receipt for the full Rural Prosperity Fund (RPF) allocation (2023/24-2024/25) for Doncaster, of up to £634,307;
- (4) gave approval for delegated authority to be given to the relevant Director and Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Mayor, to accept and enter into funding agreements in respect of the three funding streams, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural Prosperity Fund and Multiply and agree scheme changes where required, if the value of funding changes, or where further terms and conditions are released;
- (5) delegated spend decisions for the Rural Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to the relevant Director and Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Mayor;
- (6) approved the addition of the capital element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural Prosperity Fund grants into the relevant capital programme;
- (7) approved option two delivery model, as set out at paragraph 26, for year one of Shared Prosperity Fund delivery (2022/23);
- (8) approved the spending plan, as set out in paragraph 29 and Annex B of the report for UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022/23, and for the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Mayor, to manage the spend to maximise the Council's core budget position, in accordance with the terms and conditions;
- (9) in accordance with the overview provided at Annex B of the report, delegated the finalisation of 2023/24 and 2024/25 spending plans to the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Mayor;
- (10) approved option three delivery model, as set out in paragraph 37 for Multiply delivery; and
- (11) gave delegated approval for the spending plan for the Multiply grant funding to the Director of Children's Services and Assistant Director of Finance, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

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

The overarching aim of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was to allow the Council to access funding and allocate that funding to invest in a wide range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve pride in place and increase life chances of people, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. This would allow the balance of priorities to reflect local need and opportunity.

Projects funded by the UKSPF would help Doncaster achieve a number of broad objectives as part of the Government's levelling up agenda, including:-

- Boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

Mayor Ros Jones, in introducing the report, outlined that in April Government had launched its Shared Prosperity Fund, with place-based allocations made to places across the country, which required Investment Plans to be submitted by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, before the money could be made available.

Alongside the Shared Prosperity Fund, Government also announced plans to roll out an adult numeracy programme 'Multiply' which also required an investment plan submission in order to access it.

Doncaster has been allocated £8.96m of UK Shared Prosperity Funding over three financial years to 2024/25 and its share of the multiply programme totals £1.45m. In collaboration with South Yorkshire colleagues, the Council submitted those plans to government over the Summer. The Mayor highlighted that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund plan for year 1 was only approved by government last week, yet the Council are already 8 months in to this financial year.

At a time when Council budgets are being cut and residents are experiencing a cost of living crisis, this funding represents a tiny amount of what would have been available through EU funding. In Doncaster, the funding would be used to target its communities, businesses and residents who are most in need.

It was noted that the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund programme, would see the majority of funding allocated in 2024/25, this will invest in people and places to impact system-wide change and attract wealth to help address inequality, exclusion and the causes of poverty. It will support new and existing businesses to grow and ambitious entrepreneurs to set up and run businesses and it will reach those places that require the most support through a community investment programme that maximises the reach of Doncaster's Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.

Multiply will support residents to improve their numeracy skills through new innovative programmes of activity that both engage people that would not ordinarily engage in mainstream provision, and will make maths practical by linking it to budgeting and cooking skills to further support our residents through the cost of living crisis.

The Rural Prosperity Fund, a more recent DEFRA top-up to Shared Prosperity Fund, would provide over £630,000 of capital funding from April 2023 and would be directed to rural communities and businesses.

To conclude, the Mayor emphasised that the financial year end was fast approaching, and as the Council have only just received approval from Government for its 22/23 spend allocation, recommended the report for approval by Cabinet, so the Council can start delivering in the New Year.

It was noted that there was a typographical error in the seventh bullet point of the recommendation of the report, which should read as 'Approves option two delivery model, as set out at paragraph 26, for year one of Shared Prosperity Fund delivery (2022/23),' and not option one as outlined. Cabinet acknowledged and supported the amendment to the recommendation as set out above.

Cabinet welcomed the Government funding coming forward, however expressed disappointment that confirmation of the funding would not be received until the end of the year and that the Council was to receive significantly less funding than expected compared to other areas of the country.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The alternative, would be to not progress the receipt of the 3 funding streams and let the resource be allocated elsewhere in South Yorkshire, or be returned to Government. This is not recommended.

**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. Acceptance of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Revenue Funding (CRSTS).

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet gave approval:-

- (1) to accept the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) revenue funding of £2,248,688;
- (2) that the funding be added to the Council's Revenue Budget;
- (3) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Economy & Environment and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement, to enter into a funding agreement

with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to allow draw down of funding; and

- (4) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Economy & Environment and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure, and Enforcement, to enter into contracts to assist in the delivery of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Revenue Funding programme.

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

The Department of Transport has awarded revenue funding of £5.2m to the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYCMA) to commence project feasibility work for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

Cabinet approval was sought to accept an initial allocation of over £2.2m revenue funding from the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority for a two year period to assist the Council to deliver a proposed programme of works to align with the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), which is aimed at improving the quality of life for Doncaster residents by the creation of sustainable access to employment hubs, enabling more opportunities and improving public transport and active travel in Doncaster, and would also improve accountability to local facilities.

The acceptance of the proposed grant would be subject to the Council entering into a funding agreement with the SYMCA to draw down the funding to deliver the projects.

Councillor Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement in presenting the report, outlined details of the proposed schemes to be undertaken in receiving the funding, including:-

- GatewayEast Railway Station – This scheme would provide a new rail connection to the GatewayEast growth hub, known as GatewayEast Rail. The preferred option identified was for a connection between the East Coast Main Line and the Doncaster to Lincoln Line, with a new station close to Doncaster Sheffield Airport within the GatewayEast estate. It was noted that the scheme was developed and submitted prior to the notice of strategic review and subsequent closure of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA). The Council was however hopeful that DSA will remain operational, either by being bought by another operator, or as a result of the Council using a Compulsory Purchase Order of the site. If DSA is not a functioning airport, then the scheme was very unlikely to go ahead. A major objective in bidding for a rail link was to support the expansion of freight and passenger numbers of DSA. If this scheme is not able go ahead, then the Council would be submitting alternative schemes for Doncaster to ensure it still receives its fair share of funding
- Local Centre Accessibility Improvements and Trans Pennine Trail upgrades – Improvements would be made in accessibility to north western local centres, including Carcroft, Skellow, Adwick and Askern. This scheme also includes

improvements to surfacing and condition of Trans Pennine Trail.

- Mexborough - Transport Network Sustainable Improvements - Delivering a series of sustainable transport interventions in Mexborough to improve access to the town centre via Active Travel and public transport.
- Cleveland Street Junction and Sidings Junction Bus Priority Improvements - Remodelling of roundabout to improve bus journey times.
- Shaw Lane Bus Lane - Creation of additional capacity on Shaw Lane to improve journey times for buses.
- East Doncaster Active Travel and Passenger Transport Connectivity - Improvements to the A630 between junction 4 of the M18 motorway to the A18 (Thorne Road) and between the A18 and A630 Wheatley Hall Road, including bus lanes and dedicated active travel facilities. We will also investigate the potential of a Park & Ride scheme for that corridor.

To conclude, Councillor Blackham stated that the revenue funding would be utilised to accelerate business case development, including data collection, transport modelling and staff resources that would allow Doncaster to access the funding to deliver the above capital schemes.

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

Do nothing - Failure to accept the grant funds would result in Doncaster residents not benefiting from the programme and potentially jeopardising £72m of capital investment in the City's transport network.

#### **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, Economy and Environment.

### **DECISION 3**

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

8. Doncaster Economic Strategy 2030.

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

- (1) Cabinet approved the Doncaster Economic Strategy 2030; and
- (2) Noted that action plans are in place, thereby allowing progress to be measured going forward.

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

Doncaster 's new Economic Strategy 2030 builds on the achievements of the Council's previous economic strategy, the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2018-2021, and is designed to deliver on the ambitions set out in the Doncaster Delivering Together Borough Strategy for Doncaster to transition towards a wellbeing economy that locally is regenerative and inclusive.

The Strategy sets out the Council's long term vision and ambition for good economic growth, development of Doncaster's local economy and improves the wellbeing of people, places and planet, whilst also recognising the challenges faced by the Council in the future.

The Strategy takes into account multiple external drivers for change that are key for the collaboration and investment opportunities on both a national and regional level; external factors such as the Climate Change crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery and the recent cost of living crisis affecting residents and businesses. In light of this, the Strategy would need to have an increased focus on action to help the Borough through the next two years, whilst not losing sight of the ambition for 2030.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, highlighted the improvements made in Doncaster's economy in recent years, and that the fantastic work of local businesses and Team Doncaster had seen the Borough become one of the top performers for jobs and productivity regionally. By working collaboratively with its partners and fantastic business community, Doncaster had been awarded with city status, following a bid that was heavily business led and championed by many of the business community and young people. He emphasised that everyone wanted a prosperous and successful Doncaster, with a thriving economy and high skilled, high paid jobs at its heart, where no one is left behind.

It was noted that the business community has also got behind the Council's work to save Doncaster Sheffield Airport, and, as demonstrated in the most recent South Yorkshire Quarterly Economic Survey, had given overwhelming support for this Council to Compulsory Purchase the airport site. However, the Deputy Mayor acknowledged that the world was changing and that Doncaster was still in recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine and was also being affected by the cost of living crisis.

A different approach was needed for the economy, one that measured success in the wellbeing of all its people, all its places and the climate crisis. Doncaster's new Economic Strategy does all this. It balances a future that works for all, and the steps vital to helping guide Doncaster through the present challenges. It outlines the Council's Economic Missions for thriving people, thriving places and a thriving planet. With 5 mission priorities, each with projects, to help get there. The current situation may slow down the journey, but it does not change the Council's vision, direction of travel, nor the Council's destination or the urgency.

The Strategy has been developed in collaboration with partners, and has included local businesses, Doncaster Chamber, the voice of residents, and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The Council's approach has gone wider, to include the voices key to understand what a successful economy looks like. It has

included health, education and skills, the environment, work at a localities and community level, and key organisations working with residents who face some of the biggest challenges.

The Deputy Mayor sought Cabinet to support and approve the Doncaster Economic Strategy 2030, with an annual update on progress and outline the next steps on the path to 2030.

Cabinet welcomed the ambitions of the Strategy which are far reaching for Doncaster for the next eight years and would widen economic opportunities, and to embrace skills and industrial platforms and the transition to a low carbon living and digital capability across the whole of Doncaster, including the rural ex-coalfield communities which continue to require assistance. Members looked forward to the action plans and outputs coming forward following implementation of the Strategy. Cabinet also highlighted the need for more levelling up funding and noted the difficult, and lengthy bidding process for funding.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- a. Not develop a new economic strategy.
- b. Develop a four-year economic strategy to replace the Inclusive Growth Strategy that ran from 2018-2021.

**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, Economy and Environment.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker