



City of Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 17th March, 2023

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th March, 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.)

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 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

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Councillor Joe Blackham.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 1st March, 2023, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Rule 15 Urgent Decision: Department for Education - Holiday Activity and Food Programme.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed:-

- (1) to accept the grant totalling £1,390,110.00 to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food Programme across Doncaster in line with the Department for Education Grant Determination;
- (2) to delegate decision making regarding the allocation of the grant to the Assistant Director: Partnerships, Early Intervention & Localities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities; and
- (3) to align delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme to the wider Doncaster Youth Offer.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

It was not possible to provide the full 28 days' notice on this decision, due to the need to accept the grant with sufficient time, to notify the DfE of our proposed programme delivery or allow sufficient time to commission partners to support the delivery. If the urgency provisions for decision making were not applied, there is a risk that the grant is not accepted and the programme not delivered in the timescales.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People seeking consideration of the Section 31 Grant Determination for the Holiday, Activity and Food Programme.

Cabinet were advised that the Holiday Activity and Food Programme was first successfully delivered in Doncaster in 2021, and again in 2022. In 2023 the DfE had awarded the Council £1,390,110.00 to coordinate and provide free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities for 2023. This funding was a slight increase from 2022 of around £25,000.

It was reported that over the last two years the necessary infrastructure had been put in place to make the programme successful, including partnerships with the local community groups, schools and businesses.

It was advised that activity would be mapped to ensure there was delivery across all areas of the borough, and, in addition, provision would also be mapped to ensure there is a varied range of activity and experiences for children and young people.

It was noted that young commissioners support the evaluation and quality assurance of providers to ensure; that the activities are good value for money, are what children and young people are wanting, and that the delivery is of a high standard.

At a time when many more families are facing difficult financial circumstances, this programme ensures some of our most vulnerable children and young people are able to access high quality activities and are provided with healthy and nutritious food, combatting holiday hunger and alleviating some pressures on families.

The Mayor and Cabinet welcomed the report and were pleased to see that the funding would be continuing in order to help the most vulnerable, particularly in terms of the current economic climate. Mayor Jones stated that she hoped that Government support and funding would continue into the future and assured that the Council will endeavour to do all that it can as a Council to provide support to the most vulnerable.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no other options considered.

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 Children, Young People and Families

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. On-street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed:-

- (1) to procure and enter into a concession contract for the provision of services by Ubitricity via Direct Award through the ESPO procurement framework;

- (2) to allocate £2k to Street lighting from the Council's contingency budget to fund the ongoing costs of charge point vandalism/destruction; and
- (3) engagement takes place within the communities where EV charging points are being considered to inform the site locations.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Mark Houlbrook, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Waste, with regard to On-street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging.

Councillor Houlbrook reported that for the majority of electric vehicle users, the preferred location for charging their vehicle is at home. Charging at home usually occurs off-street in garages and driveways. However, in many parts of Doncaster, off-street parking is not an option for residents.

He stated that over 30,000 households in Doncaster do not have access to off-street parking. By installing charge points on-street or in public car parks, residents without off-street parking can enjoy the convenience and value of charging their electric vehicles close to their home.

He went on to report that the government have asked Local Authorities to lead in this area of the EV charging market, and have made some funds available to support the upfront cost, but this still requires the Council to provide upfront capital and the financial pressure of covering the full cost of operation, maintenance and charge point management services.

In order to trial on street charging, while limiting the financial risk to the Council, it is proposed that a pilot scheme be undertaken with Ubitricity.

Councillor Houlbrook stated that the pilot will see Ubitricity cover all upfront capital costs for installation, as well as ongoing maintenance, servicing and operation for 100 new charge points across 11 locations in Doncaster, therefore limiting the risk and resource requirement from the Council.

It was noted that as more residents use electric vehicles, communities will benefit from improved air quality, lower fuel costs and reduce their impact on the environment. This project is one of a number of small steps the Council need to take which can lead to scalable change as the Council aims to deliver on its net zero ambitions.

It was advised that the infrastructure needed to be in place before people move to electric vehicles. If the infrastructure is not there, there will be a risk of trailing charging cables across the public highway.

The trial intends to discover how people respond in terms of responsible use and care, and whether there is further demand in neighbouring locations. The Council will work with local ward members ahead of any installations to utilise local information to help inform the preferred siting of the charge points.

It was noted that the Council has already started its own transition to zero emissions vehicles and appropriate charging infrastructure, and will see the number of public charging points doubled by the end of the month, with over 80 public charging bays across the City's car parks.

Following the introduction, Cabinet Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions as follows:-

Councillor Rachael Blake welcomed the proposals and the involvement of Ward Members. However, she asked whether the spaces available were exclusive for EV parking or for anyone to use. Officers advised that the spaces would be available for anyone to use. However, blocking of the EV charging points would be discouraged and the Council would look at how it could best manage this with its partners.

Cabinet Members would welcome the involvement and engagement of ward members in terms of earmarking streets for proposed installation, and for those residents and businesses affected to be consulted on the proposals. It was also noted that consideration should be given to the possibility of the proposals being rejected and identifying alternative arrangements. Officers advised Cabinet that whilst it was not in the original plan to consult further with residents, this could be undertaken.

Cabinet was advised that this was a pilot and would include some level of uncertainty, and issues such as blocking of EV parking would need to be monitored and managed. Officers advised that the process would require sequencing prior to reaching procurement stage, and it was hoped that through engagement with members, this would provide a clear way forward.

Mayor Ros Jones proposed an additional recommendation which was seconded and agreed, proposing engagement with residents and businesses affected by the installation of the charging points to inform the site locations.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Options considered were identified within paragraphs 58 and 59 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

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker