



# City of Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 29th March, 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 31st March, 2023

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 13th April, 2023. These decisions 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)

### 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 for absence were received from Mayor Ros Jones and Councillor Joe Blackham.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records dated 15th March, 2023, be noted.

Prior to the consideration of the reports, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones stated that Cabinet had been joined by representatives of the 'Hear Me Out' group who were here to share their lived experiences in relation to Agenda Item 9, the 2023-25 Equality, Diversity

& Inclusion Framework and Protected Characteristics. For this reason, he proposed and Cabinet agreed that they consider Agenda Item 9 first.

## **DECISION 1.**

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

9. 2023-25 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Framework and Protected Characteristics.

### **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet agreed the EDI Framework and the introduction of a new local protected characteristic 'Care Experience'.

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

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities setting out the Council's EDI objectives and arrangements for embedding equality into everything it does.

Councillor Blake stated that the EDI framework presented today represented several years journey towards a better understanding of the life of residents and the communities in which they live. The engagement and lived experience has been used to review and revise the key elements that make up the EDI Framework. The report sets out examples of how residents lived experience is informing what the Council does and the progress it has made, for example:

- Domestic Abuse Strategy was co-produced by survivors
- Ethnic Culture Fusion Network – a staff forum to shape internal workforce policies

Councillor Blake went on to report that Doncaster Council was continually striving to ensure people are not discriminated against and have never been afraid to take a lead and stand up for what they believe to be right. She highlighted that the Council proactively adopted 3 local protected characteristics: socio economic status (poverty), Veterans and homeless and rough sleepers and these were included in the Council's 'due regard' process.

Councillor Blake commented that the EDI journey will never be complete; there would always be more to do, and she was pleased the Council were able to take another step in the journey today.

Cabinet were advised that an independent review of Children in Social Care May 2022 by Josh MacAlister recommended that Government should make care experience a protected characteristic. In response to this the 'Hear Me Out' voice group for care experienced young people joined a national movement led by Terry Galloway.

Whilst other Councils have adopted Care Experience as a protected characteristic, Doncaster was the first place where young people themselves championed the case.

Councillor Blake stated that these young people have done a fantastic job in promoting the case and she was delighted to see the question posed to Full Council on 27th February asking if “the local Authority, who are Corporate Parents, support the national campaign in making care experience a protected characteristic here in Doncaster” and a motion was proposed to adopt young people’s ‘care experience’ as a local protected characteristic. The motion was unanimously carried.

Only by continuing to work with our young people will the Council know if it is making a difference. She welcomed representatives of the ‘Hear Me Out’ group who were here to share their lived experiences.

Members of the ‘Hear me Out’ group presented to Cabinet their own lived experiences, both in care and leaving care, detailing their experiences of discrimination.

Riana Nelson, Director of Children, Young People and Families wished to thank the ‘Hear me Out’ group for their attendance and provided them with the commitment to working collaboratively in order to make their experiences better.

Councillor Blake went on to comment that as a Cabinet and Council they take their responsibilities seriously and have welcomed the comments. It is recognised that action needs to be taken in order to change people’s views. She also stated that as Corporate Parents the Council need to be challenged and held to account, in order to reach the point where experiences are improved for the Children and Young People in its care.

Councillor Blake made a suggestion that the title of the protected characteristic be changed to ‘Care Experience’, and this was agreed.

In conclusion, the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet thanked the representatives of the ‘Hear me Out’ group for their attendance at the meeting.

**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 2.

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Youth Strategy 2023-2028 (including Youth Investment Fund).

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the Youth Strategy (2023-2038) and noted the co-produced delivery plan will be completed in April 2023 and overseen by the Youth Advisory Board;
- (2) noted the progress on the Wheatley Youth Hub and the expected opening date of November, 2023, subject to planning; and
- (3) delegated the decisions on the expression of interest in phase two Youth Investment Funding, including site locations, commencing capital build projects, acceptance of associated revenue funds and grant terms and conditions to the Director of Children, Young People and Families, and the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Lead Member.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People outlining the refreshed Youth Strategy 2023-2028. The report set out the vision, to create a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century youth offer, with eight ambitions that form the foundations for the delivery of the strategy. These were essential in helping young people develop the confidence and resilience to improve their life chances, transition to adulthood, and engage meaningfully with their communities and wider society.

Councillor Ball stated that the new Youth Strategy would contribute to the City Strategy by supporting more young people to be active citizens, who are able to thrive in the place where they live. She went on to state that partnership working and the need to deliver services on a locality basis, ensuring young people were safe from harm, thriving and community respect and resilience was promoted and underpins the vision and ambitions set out in the strategy at paragraph 39 of the report.

It was advised that the Youth Strategy reflects the Council's drive to apply an early intervention and prevention approach, ensuring the majority of resources are targeted into universal youth provision, providing engaging and diversionary opportunities, therefore reducing the need for more expensive targeted provision. However, there is a need to provide targeted and specialist support for children and young people when it is needed and at the earliest point possible, including on issues such as alcohol and substance misuse, sexual health, sexual or criminal exploitation and gangs.

In regard to the Youth Investment Fund (YIF), Councillor Ball reported that in October 2022 the Department of Digital Media, Culture and Sports announced the YIF inviting Local Authorities to apply for predominately capital (80%) and revenue (20%) funding to support the delivery of youth provision. There are two distinct funding pots. The first, Phase One is aimed to test out new modern methods of construction, and the second, Phase Two (22/23 to 24/25) will deliver up to 300 youth facilities across the country that represent positive value for money.

Doncaster has been successful in Phase One of the YIF, however this is dependent on the relevant permissions and planning approval. The proposed site is in Wheatley.

A programme board for the YIF has been established with key services including Planning, Commissioning, Assets, Corporate Landlord, Children, Young People and Families, and Finance, along with Communication and Marketing colleagues. This group will report directly to the lead Assistant Director.

In conclusion, Cabinet were advised that a provisional funding plan was in place for the delivery of the Youth Strategy that includes the potential monies from YIF, current budget, Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding, and the potential ability to generate external funds. Discussions are still ongoing with the Department for Culture Media & Sport to extend the YIF funding beyond 2025. Along with other Local Authorities, Doncaster are lobbying Department for Culture Media & Sport, with regards to extending the timescales, in order for this to support the delivery of the strategy.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Do nothing and maintain the status quo

**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 3.**

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

7. Doncaster's Locality Plans 2023-2024.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet approved the Locality Plans, noting the progress made over the last year,

the degree of engagement with local people and the priorities agreed for the year ahead.

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

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities on Doncaster's Locality Plans 2023-2024. She reported that this was the second year in which Locality Plans had been produced.

She commented that Doncaster is a City but was also a place of places which has a large geography and significant diversity that requires an approach that moves beyond "one size fits all". Many people, families and communities in Doncaster have experienced a year of incredible pressure in relation to the rising cost of living. These Locality Plans show how this Council and its partners can and will work alongside people, thinking locally and acting personally, to provide the best chance of navigating these unprecedented challenges

As well as describing the priorities people want to see for this year, these Locality Plans also set out what was delivered by Team Doncaster in each Locality last year. For example:

- Partnership "Days of Action" to support residents and businesses in addressing anti-social behaviour.
- Newsletters launched to keep local residents aware of what is happening in their locality, alongside tailored information on-line and via social media.
- Targeted activities to support both the physical and mental health of local people.
- Investments in local facilities that benefit local businesses and help people get out and about.
- The launch of "Your Family" hubs in each Locality; and
- Coordinated actions to reduce dangerous driving and increase road safety.

In conclusion, Councillor Blake was pleased that this year's Locality Plans were even more inclusive, accessible and reflective of local views than last year's; and like last year, they will guide the Council and local partners in working alongside many communities between now and March 2024 to make the most of its strengths and help tackle the challenges.

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

The Council could have chosen to abandon its focus on Locality Plans and rely on Borough-wide plans to drive progress.

### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

### **6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt

### **7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Phil Holmes, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

## DECISION 4.

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership Strategy.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress and endorsed the initial South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning seeking endorsement of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy.

Councillor Ball reported that the Integrated Care Systems had been set up to bring local authorities, NHS organisations, combined authorities and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector together with local communities to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

He stated that all Integrated Care Partnerships were required to publish an interim Integrated Care Strategy by the end of December 2022. This was a nationally set deadline that had been identified as challenging, and therefore this initial strategy is expected to be a starting point and will evolve over time.

He went on to report that the Integrated Care Strategy describes the regional approach and sets out a vision, outcomes, ambitions and joint commitments.

He advised that the Integrated Care Strategy must consider how NHS bodies and local authorities can work together. An Integrated Care Plan Working Group, including City of Doncaster Council representatives, developed the vision and content of the initial Strategy, including shared outcomes and bold ambitions. There are also City of Doncaster Council representatives on the Integrated Care Partnership linked to our health and wellbeing board, Public Health, Chief Executive and the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.

For Doncaster, existing and developing local focussed plans at both place and locality scale will continue to provide direction and strategy for improvements in health and wellbeing. This will include a five year forward plan for Doncaster and partners are reviewing and refreshing the priorities for Doncaster for 2023/24 in our Doncaster Place Plan.

In conclusion, Cabinet were asked to consider any steps that need to be taken to align council strategies and plans with the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

No other options were considered.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

**6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Rachael Leslie, Deputy Director of Public Health

**DECISION 5.**

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

10. Rule 15 Urgent Decision - Delivering Better Value in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Grant.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet accepted the grant award of £1m subject to the terms and conditions of the grant and delegated further decision making regarding spend, in line with the agreed implementation plan and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant, to the Director of Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People.

**REASONS FOR URGENCY**

As this award had been made very recently, it had not been possible to provide the usual 28 days notice on the Forward Plan, therefore, the decision is being taken in accordance with Access to Information Rule 15 General Exception provisions. If the Council is to ensure that it can deliver actions as per the agreed plan, it is important that we accept the grant award to ensure the timely delivery of the SEND implementation plan.

**3. REASON FOR DECISION**

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball stating that Doncaster had seen significant challenges in its high needs system. The number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have increased from 1,898 in 2019 to 2,489, which is a 31% increase. There has been a particularly steep rise in those young people with social, emotional or communication needs, and this has in turn, led to an increasing number of placements for young people with these complex needs. The High Needs Block funding in Doncaster is predicted to overspend in 2022-2023 by £8.1m.



Councillor Ball stated that the DfE have continued to work with local authorities to try and identify ways of managing or controlling local deficits. Doncaster are one of 55 local areas who volunteered to be part of a project 'Delivering Better Value in SEND', which ran from October 2022 to March 2023. She went on to report that Doncaster council and partners were supported by DfE to create a clear analysis of the underlying drivers in the local system and to identify a set of actions which will allow the Council to develop a more sustainable SEND system.

Councillor Ball advised that following on from this analysis, an implementation plan was created aimed at making changes to the local system. This plan formed the basis of an application for grant funding from the DfE to support this work. Following scrutiny from DfE SEND advisors and key partners, such as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability, a full maximum grant of £1m has been awarded to Doncaster.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

To not accept the 'Delivering Better Value' grant.

**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.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker