



# City of Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 27th April, 2023

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10th May, 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)

### 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

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones.

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records dated 12th April, 2023, be noted.

## DECISION 1.

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan (DDTIP) 2023-24.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet considered and approved DDT Investment Plan, Annex A for 2023-24.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Mayor Ros Jones seeking approval for the Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan (DDTIP), the borough's annual plan outlining the key investment priorities to help deliver the Borough Strategy 'Doncaster Delivering Together' (DDT).

Mayor Jones stated that for the first time, the Council's ambition for investments could be highlighted in one place enabling the Council to take a unified regenerative and inclusive approach to investment to ensure the right projects are being funded across the city.

She reported that as part of the Council's annual commitment, she was pleased to launch the second iteration of the DDT Investment Plan which will use project feasibility funding from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to drive delivery of projects and develop investment ambitions for the city, for example:-

- Innovative approach to improving the fortunes of communities, such as Regenerative Neighbourhood pilot in Edlington;
- Improving social infrastructure across the borough, such as Askern Country Park and Pool, Thorne Leisure Centre, and the Youth Hub in Wheatley;
- Delivering on Stainforth Town Deal; and
- Creating a city centre fit for the future through delivery of the Levelling Up Fund.

Mayor Jones reported that to support DDTIP, a Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan Map was in production, to be launched in May 2023 that will present key investments within the borough in a user-friendly way.

Whilst sustainable funding to deliver for Doncaster is challenging, Mayor Jones stated that she was looking forward to developing the Council's Levelling Up Partnership and will await the detailed government criteria on investment zones via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The Council would seek to secure an element of this for Doncaster, and, if eligible, and subject to government launching it, Edlington will form the basis of the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 bid this year.

Cabinet were advised that by supporting the 5 spatial priorities, this iteration outlines the Council's Investment Programme to 2030 and the key projects the Council will focus on to help deliver priorities in the short-term, as well as Doncaster Delivering Together.

The importance of the plan was already seen through working with the South Yorkshire Combined Authority on projects such as Hybrid Air Vehicles and further investment to support work on the Waterfront and the possibility of a new hospital for Doncaster.

In conclusion, the Mayor stated that she was proud that Cabinet approved £3.1m in funding towards legal costs of a Compulsory Purchase Order for Doncaster Sheffield Airport, and whilst it was hoped that Peel would agree to sell, the Council needed to be ready with a CPO if needed once every alternative had been explored. She stated that she was determined to see the airport reopen for jobs, the region, the country and most importantly for Doncaster.

Cabinet welcomed the Doncaster Delivering Together Investment Plan which outlined clear ambitions for the borough. However, members expressed their disappointment with regard to the Levelling Up Fund process.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

To not develop a place-based investment plan.

**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. Household Support Fund 4.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

- Cabinet agreed to accept the £5,978,546.15 of funding for the delivery of the following initiatives, at the discretion of the Council, to be funded by Household Support 4 in line with the government criteria:-
- May School Holiday £15 a week for 1 week to approximately 17,000 eligible children totalling £255,000;
- Summer School Holiday £15 a week for 6 weeks to approximately 17,000 eligible children totalling £1,530,000;
- 38 Food Banks to receive funding through the 23/24 financial year from a total allocation of £190,000 based on take-up levels by referral for those in crisis. This will be held by the Council and paid upon the evidence provided;
- £25,000 to the national Hygiene Bank charity to provide hygiene products to those in need across their network of Doncaster's food banks, charities,

schools and other organisations;

- £300,000 to top-up the over-subscribed Local Assistance Scheme for use throughout the year for emergency financial support relating to food, energy costs and housing support;
- A payment of £150 to 17,250 working age households in January 24 or 2 payments of £75 in November 23 and February 24 totalling £2,587.500

In addition:-

- Utilise the remaining £581,046 for new food and energy applications that arise throughout the year due to new benefit entitlements, moving into the borough or to those who have not identified themselves previously; and
- The Director of Corporate Resources to decide how any remaining funds are spent in consultation with the Mayor.

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

Cabinet considered a report, introduced by Mayor Ros Jones, detailing the additional Government further Household Support Fund allocation that has been made available to Authorities in England to support those in need during the cost of living crisis from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Mayor Jones stated that the share of the fund for Doncaster Council was £5,978,546.15.

Mayor Jones reported that the Council has some discretion to decide how this fund is spent within the government criteria, and has already used £510,000 of the fund to provide a £30 payment of food over the school Easter Holiday break to approximately 17,000 eligible children from low-income households in Doncaster

She stated that the decision today decides how the rest of the Fund will be spent during the current financial year, and the proposals included:-

- A £15 payment for food in the May school holiday to the approximate 17,000 eligible children at a cost of £255,000.
- A £90 payment for food in the summer holidays to the approximate 17,000 eligible children at a cost of £1.5 million.
- A payment of £150 to approximately 17,250 working-age low-income households to help with energy costs in this winter at a cost of £2.5 million.
- £300,000 added to the Local Assistance Scheme for use throughout the year for emergency financial support to those in crisis relating to food, energy costs and housing support.
- £190,000 to be set aside and allocated to Doncaster's 38 Food Banks where required through the year based on the level of use at food banks by those in urgent need.
- £25,000 to the national Hygiene Bank charity to provide hygiene products through the year to those in need across their network of Doncaster's food banks, charities, schools and other organisations.

Cabinet were advised that an application process will be open throughout the year for new eligible households to apply, and the remaining £581,000 is being set aside to cover that cost.

In conclusion, Mayor Jones advised that decisions about any unspent funds that must be spent by 31st March 2024 will be made in the final part of the year, so that Doncaster People benefit from all the funds available.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball wished to highlight again the Council's priority to providing school meals within the holidays for those children and families who are eligible. Councillor Ball stated that the Council supports the campaign for the Government to introduce universal free school meals.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Option 2 – The other option considered was to fund food for all the school holidays in 23/24 and only provide an energy payment to approximately 3,500 households on housing benefit or council tax reduction only, who are not receiving the £900 government cost of living payment.

**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

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker