



City of Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 21st June, 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 22nd June, 2023

With the exception of Decision 1 'Youth Justice Plan 2023-24' which is subject to Full Council approval the end of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 3rd July, 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 Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities
Councillor Phil Cole	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Traded Services and Planning
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Sarah Smith	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nigel Ball and Councillor Jane Nightingale

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 24th May, 2023, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 prior to its submission to Full Council.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Early Help, Education, Skills and Young People on the Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24. The Plan is a requirement of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and is to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales annually.

Councillor Ball reported that the plan sets out the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and included: resourcing and value for money, performance against last year's plan, structure, governance and partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery for the service. Actions and timescales are set to develop the service and ensure the best provision for the children and young people of Doncaster.

The voices of young people were reflected in the plan in relation to their experiences of the service they had received from the YOS. It was advised that their comments were populated throughout the plan and available in full at Appendix 3.

It was reported that the Youth Offending Service continues to work to reduce re-offending with young people and this service area continues to perform well. The Youth Offending Service is within the top quartile of authorities with the lowest re-offending rates in England and Wales. Cllr Ball stated that over the last two years the custody rate had been affected by a serious incident involving young people not known to the Youth Offending Service, therefore a target was set of no more than two young people known to Youth Offending Service receiving a custodial sentence and this was achieved.

Councillor Ball advised that whilst the first-time entrant rate had exceeded the target, this was a process rather than a practice issue caused by delays within the Criminal Justice System linked to the pandemic. It was noted that the Youth Offending Service aimed to ensure the first-time entrant rate did not exceed the target through the work of EPIC and the Youth Justice Team and work towards the highly aspirational re-offending target of 22%. If achieved this would represent Doncaster's lowest ever annualised reoffending rate. The custody rate target remains the same as last year.

The plan also highlighted some notable achievements in 2022/23, including the continuation of a strong therapeutic offer for children and families and good performance in relation to Education, Training and Employment outcomes. The EPIC town centre hub continues to support large numbers of young people in the City and EPIC are developing further Virtual Reality experiences for use as an

educative tool for young people and the professionals working with them.

In conclusion, Cabinet noted that as the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework within the Constitution, it requires Full Council agreement.

Cabinet welcomed the report and applauded the work of the Youth Offending Service, and the voices of young people and ambitious targets reflected throughout the report.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Youth Justice Plan is a Statutory Plan, the option is to approve in its current format or return the plan to the Service Manager for Young People's Services and the Assistant Director for Practice Improvement for further consideration and review.

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 (DCS)

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. 2022-23 Quarter 4 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 allowances of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules;
- (3) noted the carry forwards approved by the Chief Financial Officer, detailed in Finance Profile attached as Appendix A – Finance Profile;
- (4) approved the payment to St Leger Homes, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the additional costs of managing the Council's housing stock totalling £0.38m;

- (5) noted the introduction of revised Adults Social Care fees used in the calculation of the financially assessed client contributions referred to in paragraph 158;
- (6) noted the introduction of new fees for Electric Vehicle Charge Points referred to in paragraphs 159; and
- (7) noted the use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in paragraphs 178-181, to fund the revenue overspend.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance, Traded Services and Planning presenting the 2022-23 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report. He stated that key national issues continue to impact on how the Council operates locally. Inflation levels remain above 10%, the 'cost of living' pressures on the wider housing system and the ability to achieve good economic growth. Councillor Cole advised that despite these challenges the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review visit suggested that the Council continues to operate effectively as a Council and provides good value for money for its citizens.

Councillor Cole went on to state that this Council was not immune from these rising inflationary pressures, and this was reflected in the revenue budget outturn position. Although the revenue budget overspent by £3m at year-end, this was a significant improvement compared to the £7.8m overspend forecast at Quarter 3. Key factors within the overspend had remained consistent throughout the year, being pay, energy and children's social care costs.

Performance for Quarter 4 remained positive and the Council had achieved the following:

- Continued to explore all options to retain a functioning airport.
- End of a second year of the five-year naturalisation trial to encourage a wider diversity of both plants and insects.
- Continued to maintain high standard of successful collections of household waste and recycling.
- Hosted the UK's first ever Remake Learning Days Festival.
- Facilitated £109m new inward investment into Doncaster.
- Maintained good performance levels for Adult Social Care assessments and reduced waiting lists.
- Highest ever number of affordable homes with a total of 361 new homes.

In addition, the Council will continue to review activity to improve its challenging areas of performance including:

- Persistent absence in secondary schools.
- Further improvement in the timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans for children with Special Educational Needs.
- Challenges in the staffing of children's residential homes and available foster carers which had resulted in the number of out of authority residential

placements rising over the last 3 years.

- Towards the end of the year, the Council also saw an increase in the number of reported rough sleepers and people declaring as homeless.

In conclusion, Councillor Cole stated that the Council continued to operate in challenging circumstances but had delivered on and seen improvement on many of its service standards. This delivery was a credit to the hard working and committed workforce and for that he took the opportunity to pass on his thanks.

Following the introduction, clarity was sought regarding the following

- An understanding of "Technical accounting terminology" detailed within the table at paragraph 149 of the report. This term is used to cover revenue charges for borrowing, minimum revenue provision, and National Non-Domestic Business Rates (NNDR)/Collection Fund; and
- An explanation was sought regarding the additional payment made to St Leger Homes as part of the contract management arrangements. Cabinet was advised that the additional payment was the result of inflation, and the district heating costs, which were not chargeable to tenants.

The Mayor asked that for future reporting a glossary of terms be included to provide clarity to Members and the public.

Further comments were made regarding the provision of affordable housing which had been a long-standing commitment of the Council in all areas of the borough, and given the pressure that all Councils were facing, it was remarkable that Doncaster had continued to deliver new homes. The work carried out with tree planting across the borough was also commended.

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 4 and year ended 31 March 2023 (2022/23).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance outcomes and the contribution SLHD makes to supporting City of Doncaster Council's (CDC) strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing and Business which presented the St Leger Homes of Doncaster performance and delivery update for Quarter 4 and Year ended 31 March 2023.

Councillor Jones stated that he and the Mayor had set some very challenging targets for St Leger Homes and expected St Leger to continually strive to meet those expectations. He reported that it was pleasing to see that performance continued to improve. In 10 out of 17 areas St Leger had met targets or had achieved performance within an acceptable tolerance level. That was against a challenging environment, of the cost-of-living crisis and still some issues of a competitive recruitment market and variations in material supply and pricing.

Councillor Jones advised that it is worth pointing out that in some areas, notably rent collection, repairs done right first time and the decreasing use of hotel accommodation for homelessness households, St Leger Homes were able to achieve very high standards.

Councillor Jones went on to highlight indicators that had not met expectations including:

- Void rent loss and the numbers of days that properties were empty whilst they were being repaired and relet;
- In the area of complaints there is much room for improvement; and
- The target for supporting residents into training and education.

In conclusion, he commented that the report demonstrated a good standard and that improvements were continuing. The report also provided explanation of where there were problems the City of Doncaster Council and St Leger Homes were taking the appropriate actions.

Cabinet welcomed the report. Mayor Jones commented that it would be remiss of her not to comment on the number of voids and the large waiting list for homes. However, commended the work carried out to reduce rent arrears. She also referred to the tenant's satisfaction survey and the difficulties in finding trades people and stated that this would continue to be monitored.

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, St. Ieger Homes of Doncaster

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker