



City of Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: 14 March, 2024

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on **(25 March, 2024)**. These decisions will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Chair -

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 Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care and Equalities
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Councillor Sarah Smith	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Apologies:-

An apology was received from Mayor Ros Jones

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

Declarations of Interest, if any.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 7th February, 2024 for noting (previously circulated)

The Decision Records from the meeting held on 7th February, 2024, previously circulated, were noted.

DECISION 6.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Levelling Up Fund (Round 3) Funding Offer.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- 1) accept up to £17,950,341 Levelling Up Fund Round 3 money which has been awarded to Doncaster Council by DLUHC in respect of Doncaster North and to add the funding to the Council's capital programme.
- 2) provide delegated authority to the S151 Officer to accept and agree the terms and conditions of the associated Memorandum of Understanding and any further associated Grant Agreements in respect of Doncaster North, in consultation with the Mayor.
- 3) provide delegated authority to the Director of Place, the Director of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to accept any additional monies provided by Government for Doncaster North schemes outlined in this report and to add these amounts to the relevant part of the Council's capital programme.
- 4) approve the roll out of the schemes as outlined in this report, in accordance with the delegation below.
- 5) provide delegated authority to the Director of Place, the Director of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders for initiation and the ongoing delivery of the programme, to include: creation of specific projects within the capital programme, funding commitment and spending decisions and the amounts awarded to outside bodies in contracts and grants, and to agree any changes necessary to the schemes, to ensure deliverability within the timescales in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to accept up to £17,950,341 of Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 3 money awarded to Doncaster Council by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

After previously unsuccessful bids, Doncaster was informed in November 2023 that they had been awarded up to £17,950,341 for the Levelling Up Doncaster North project as part of the third round of the Fund. Doncaster's successful LUF Round 3 package bid consisted of three complementary projects within the Doncaster North constituency, specifically Woodlands, Mexborough and Moorends. The funding

would enable capital interventions and regeneration in these key areas which were vital for the economic resilience and productivity as well as the health and wellbeing of the area.

Project One: Mexborough Town Centre (£12,531,172)

The transformation of Mexborough town centre will involve targeted street and building enhancements, better integration of the town centre with local community facilities and the development of new public spaces.

Project Two: Moorends Regeneration (£3,937,864)

The second project would help to transform the heart and heritage of Moorends with a revitalised public realm that would give greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists.

Project Three: Brodsworth Miners Welfare Institute (£1,481,305)

The final project at Brodsworth Miners Welfare Institute would look to refurbish and repurpose the building in line with its Grade II listed status to enhance its role as an activity hub for the Woodlands and surrounding communities.

Members were made aware that there were risks associated with the project, and due to the rising costs of the scheme due to inflation, specifically in relation to land, materials and supply, as well as the reduced timescale to meet the project deadline, this meant that whilst tangible improvements would be made to the three areas, support would be needed to ensure the successful completion within the parameters of the schemes.

Cabinet welcomed the report and acknowledged that the funding would provide positive improvements for the areas detailed within the report.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option A - Not to accept the funding from Levelling Up Fund Round 3.

Option B - To accept the funding from Levelling Up Fund Round 3. To approve the roll out of the approved schemes as outlined in this report. To provide delegated authority to the relevant directors for initiation and the ongoing delivery of the programme as approved, subject to deliverability within the timescales and terms and conditions of the grant. (This is the recommended option)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Director of Corporate Resources

DECISION 7.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Stopping the Start: Smokefree Generation Plan and Funding.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

1) To delegate to the Acting Director of Public Health and the Chief Finance Officer the acceptance of £499,326.00 per annum ⁱⁱ DHSC funding over a five year period commencing 1st April 2024, in association with the new national plan; Stopping the Start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation, and to agree to the associated terms and conditions.

2)

delegate to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Communities, Leisure and Culture and Chief Finance Officer the decision as to how to use the DHSC funding within the set terms.

3)

support the proposed investment approach as outlined in section 31 of this report.

4)

Note the significant public health impact that the implementation of the new smokefree generation plan will have on long term population health in Doncaster.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which built on the recently published policy paper "Stopping the Start: The Council's new plan to create a smokefree generation". This laid out the route for addressing the harms of tobacco addiction by supporting smokers to quit, prevent addiction to smoking before it starts, curb the rise of vaping in children and young people and the proposed funding of £499,326.00 per annum over five years to reduce smoking prevalence.

Members noted that smoking continued to be the single biggest cause of cancer and death in the UK, with over 4200 admitted to hospital annually due to smoking related illness, and die, on average, 10 years earlier than the average life expectancy,

Members were asked to accept funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the City of Doncaster Council to develop and deliver a programme of activities to reduce tobacco use and associated harms and prevent uptake of smoking over the five-year funding period.

City of Doncaster Council currently receive funding to provide stop smoking services and support through the public health grant across the borough. This funding is in addition to that and will be provided through a new section 31 grant on top of the current public health grant allocations. The funding allocation has been calculated using local smoking prevalence data and must be invested in smoking cessation work whilst maintaining current local investment in cessation services.

This new funding would enable the City of Doncaster Council to strengthen the current systems across Doncaster to develop and provide effective and accessible resources for its residents to quit smoking and lead healthier longer lives. It would maximise the effectiveness of stop smoking services by increasing awareness, ensuring accessibility and increase the number of community-based interventions.

Stopping young people from ever smoking was one of the most significant public health interventions of this generation and the funding would enable these community-based interventions to interact with young people to empower them with the knowledge to make informed decisions that would hopefully prevent young people from ever smoking. This would also look to recognise that whilst vaping was significantly less harmful than nicotine smoking, it was not risk free and delivered the strong message that vaping must not be considered an alternative to smoking for those who have never smoked.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 (recommended): Accept and support the proposed funding of £499,326.00 per annum from the DHSC to enable the continuation and further expansion of a local tobacco strategy in line with the new national plan and related guidance.

Option 2: Not agreeing to accept the £499,326.00 per annum funding from the DHSC. Although this option will not prevent residents from accessing the local tobacco dependency treatment services in Doncaster, it will significantly impact the local and national target of reducing smoking prevalence to 5% by 2030.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

DECISION 8.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Doncaster's Carers Journey 2024.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approve "Doncaster's Carers Journey 2024".

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Doncaster's All-Age Carer's Strategy 2022-2025 was agreed by organisations across Team Doncaster and approved by Council Cabinet. It was co-produced by Council officers and Team Doncaster partners alongside informal carers. Doncaster's Carers Journey 2024 has been put together in a similar way. It is designed to review what has been done to better support informal carers in 2023, and what was planned moving forward through 2024.

Doncaster's Carers Journey 2024 parallels the All-Age Carers Strategy in being structured around six themes which were chosen by Doncaster carers themselves:

- Identification
- Recognition
- Information and Advice
- Rights
- Connection
- Independence and Wellbeing

Each theme was set out in a dedicated section that provided a clear definition, examples of progress, and first-person insights from the lived experience of individual Doncaster carers. Additionally, the document sets out ways for more of Doncaster's carers of all ages to have their voices heard.

Cabinet welcomed to the meeting, Debbie Osborne and Giovanni Pezone, the Co-Chairs of Doncaster Carer's Insight Board and the Carer's Action Group, both of whom had been instrumental in co-producing the Carers Journey. They provided Members with valuable insight and provided more in-depth information on the themes outlined above.

Cabinet noted that Doncaster's Carers Journey would be updated on an annual basis based on a "you said, we did" approach that would build on achievements

and continue to embed co-production.

Members welcomed the report and felt that it was positive to see the issues addressed that had been in place for many years in order to ensure that adequate support was on hand where needed and could be accessed easily and readily. In response to a query regarding this access to support, Members were informed that they could contact the Doncaster Carers Well Being Service (01302 986900) who would look to provide advice and support where possible. Additionally, the Carers Strategy which could be downloaded online, provided a wealth of other contacts and networks for support.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option One - Not producing a “Doncaster’s Carers Journey 2024”

Option Two - Team Doncaster officers compiling the document

Option
Three

- Team Doncaster officers compiling the document alongside Doncaster carers as part of an ongoing programme of improvement (Recommended Option)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Director of Adults, Well-Being and Culture

DECISION 9.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Quarter 3 2023-24 Finance and Performance Improvement Report.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- 1) Approve the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance profile.
- 2) Note the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

- 3) Approve payment to St Leger Homes as part of the contract management arrangements, for the additional inflationary costs over and above those budgeted within the Housing Revenue Account (£0.57m) and General Fund (£0.16m), with reconciliations at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet were presented with the Finance and Performance Improvement Report for Quarter 3. Moving into the 2024 financial year, there was concentration now on the new budget and corporate plan.

The Local Government sector has seen well documented examples of significant difficulties with increasing demands and rising costs portrayed in the national media. Doncaster has, and continues, to face difficult choices but a continued focus on performance, value for money and the achievement of efficiencies was essential to the ongoing delivery of services for residents and business across the city.

Members noted that continued conflict in Ukraine and in the middle east contribute to how people are feeling in the UK and would continue to have an impact on world prices in the medium term. The Employment and wage rates were relatively stable at the current time, and close to the regional average, but the inflationary pressures were still having an impact, even though they had fallen. The 'Cost of Living' pressures continued to be problematic and although some had eased, there would continue to be increasing costs with some difficult decisions to be made in the future.

The Council continued to be impacted by inflationary pressures, however, it was managing the position which was reflected in the balanced position forecast on the revenue budget, at Quarter 3. There remained several key pressures, namely overspends on both adults and children's social care costs significantly exceeding budgets, but looking ahead, it was positive to note that the Council's overspend has been reduced since Quarter 2, and a balanced position was forecast. This was largely due to the use of over £4 million of non-recurrent overspends. However, the position would continue to be monitored and action would be taken where necessary to ensure a sound financial position was maintained.

Members' attention was also drawn to some highlights in terms of performance across the Council, with performance remaining predominantly high in spite of the many challenges faced: -

- The creation of 129 new jobs created paid over £31,000 per annum.
- The Council continued to reduce assessment waiting times and annual reviews are on target.
- There was an improvement in the number of Education and Health Care Plans issued within 20 weeks, this was the highest completion rate since quarter 2 in 2021/22
- Over this period communities' teams have responded to over 6,000 early intervention and prevention issues to tackle anti-social behaviour, hate crime and low-level crime within Doncaster's neighbourhoods.
- The Council was exceeding its target for removing fly tipping waste within 7 days of being reported.

The Council was continuing to operate successfully under challenging circumstances and was delivering on or above the service standards set, which Councillor Cole noted was testament to the hard work and commitment from its work force and partners.

The Deputy Mayor afforded all Members the opportunity to comment, and Councillor Rachael Blake requested that her thanks be conveyed to the staff within Childrens Services who worked tirelessly to support children and young people across the borough with limited resources in order to achieve the best outcomes for all.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no alternative 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

Director of Corporate Resources

DECISION 10.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd Performance & Delivery Update Quarter 3 Ended 31 December 2023 (2023/24) and Value for Money Statement for Year Ended 31 March 2023 (2022/23).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- 1) Note progress of SLHD's performance and the contribution SLHD makes to supporting Doncaster Council's (DC) strategic priorities; and
- 2) annual VFM Statement for 2022/23; and KPIS for 2024/25.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

As part of the agreed governance framework detailed in the Management Agreement there was a requirement to provide a quarterly performance report for the Executive Board of the City of Doncaster Council (CDC).

The Management Agreement acknowledges the importance of Value For Money

(VFM) and required both CDC and St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) to use reasonable endeavours to deliver the best possible VFM. The agreement required appropriate VFM reporting which includes a quarterly report of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and an annual VFM statement.

In relation to SLHD's 2022/23 VFM performance, it was again very positive, in particular when benchmarking with both peers and housing providers nationally. Benchmarking again showed that there were more cost and performance indicators above median than below, and VFM dashboards showed services to be in favourable quadrants.

For 2023/24, of the 20 KPIs measured at end of Q3, 12 were met or were within agreed tolerances of target, and 8 were not meeting the required levels. However, it was key to note, that these KPIs were set at a high level, and when benchmarking with its counterparts, Doncaster continued to perform in the top 25% and were performing favourably with the City having the 9th lowest rents for housing in the country.

St Leger Homes of Doncaster continued to perform well but were facing problems to overcome like never before, with budgetary costs and inflation, as well as massively increased demand for housing with a nationwide homelessness problem that had never before been experienced and it was proving hard to keep up with the increasing demand.

Prior to moving to the recommendations, Cabinet's attention was drawn to a small error within the report that stated Executive Board would approve the decision. However, it was made clear that in fact Cabinet would approve the recommendations.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no 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

Director of Corporate Resources St Leger Homes

DECISION 11.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

11. Biodiversity Duty First Consideration.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet note and endorse the publication of the Council's first consideration of the Biodiversity Duty. The actions that the Council subsequently agrees to take, will be approved as a separate decision.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Biodiversity Duty (the Duty), as set out in the 2021 Environment Act (the Act), places a legal requirement on the Council to consider what action it can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to report the actions agreed and taken. A 'first consideration' of the Duty has been undertaken and accompanies this report.

Doncaster Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in September 2019 and have incorporated action for biodiversity within the City's Environment and Sustainability Strategy. However, the Government's suggested format will further drive action for biodiversity based on an initial in-house, 'first consideration' of how biodiversity is conserved and enhanced through Council functions; followed by subsequent reviews of progress and actions required at regular intervals.

The strengthened Duty would require the Council to:

- Consider what it could do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on its in-house first consideration.
- Act to deliver these policies and achieve its objectives.

In approving this report, Cabinet will ensure that the Council meets its legal obligations under the Act and takes proactive measures to make a positive contribution to addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency, through its own actions.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

OPTION 1 - To note and endorse the publication of the Council's first consideration of the Biodiversity Duty. This was the recommended option.

OPTION

2 - To not support the first consideration report

The

'first consideration' of the Biodiversity Duty is a legal requirement of the Environment Act and therefore the Council must undertake this process. This was not a recommended option.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Director of Place

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker