



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 22nd May, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday 24th May, 2018

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 5th June, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Wednesday 6th June, 2018

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rachael Blake.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records dated 8th May, 2018, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Establishment of a new Special School for Communication and Interaction Special Educational Needs in Doncaster.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report and the appointment of Nexus Multi Academy Trust as the sponsor for the new Special School;
- (2) delegated authority to the Director of People and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools to negotiate terms with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to self-deliver the building of the school as well as the set-up of an effective school delivery model in conjunction with the agreed provider; and
- (3) approved that once the financial envelope is agreed for the capital budget, it be released via an Officer Decision Record (ODR) with delegated authority for spend to the Director of People and the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Mayor.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools presented a report providing an update on progress with the new school and sought approval of Cabinet for appropriate delegation for the next stages in its development.

She reported that the Council played a key role in supporting children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans and in shaping provision in the area. She stated that some of the children were currently placed in other schools in Doncaster, are educated other than at school or placed outside of the area and would benefit from this new provision being made available locally within Doncaster to meet their needs.

Councillor Fennelly highlighted the news that on the 3rd April 2018, Nexus Multi Academy Trust, a trust with strong relationships already in the Borough, had been announced as the successful sponsor of the school and officers had already started to work with colleagues from Nexus to ensure that this development will be a success.

In relation to the build and funding of the development, Councillor Fennelly stated that the capital for the build would be wholly provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) at an estimated cost of £7.24m.

She pointed out to Cabinet that the Council were currently at stage 2 of discussions

with the Agency requiring detailed surveys to determine the final cost of the project and only after the impact of these final surveys was known could the final build cost be determined. Any cost increase as a result of site surveys will be deferred to ESFA for additional funding.

She wished to point out that if the Council is not satisfied that it is in its best interests to deliver the new school, the responsibility would be passed back to the ESFA.

In conclusion, she stated that the new school would be a significant additional provision within the Borough for children and young people. It will see the Council working in partnership with local service providers and with colleagues within the region to provide pupils with tailored facilities and support to enable them to flourish and meet their full potential.

Councillor Glyn Jones welcomed the initiative stating that there were a number of young people that required additional requirements to enable them to succeed. He also stated that this could potentially benefit the wider region. He also welcomed the scheme being funded wholly by the ESFA.

In conclusion the Mayor echoed the comments made and was delighted to see the report come forward to ensure that help was provided to young people of the borough to ensure success and fulfil their aspirations. The Mayor requested that the recommendations be amended to clarify that the decision to release the capital should be taken in consultation with her.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Currently a number of Special Educational Need (SEN) children and young people are educated outside of the Borough, are educated other than at school or are attending schools in the Borough but would benefit from specialist provision within the area. Whilst this may continue there are a number of benefits to opening a new Special School for Communication and Interaction within the area outlined within 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

Damian Allen, Director of People

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Public Libraries Strategy 2018-21

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approves the Public Libraries Strategy 2018-21 and its associated action plan.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture presented a report to Cabinet on the Public Libraries Strategy for 2018-21. He reported that this was an exciting and aspirational time for Doncaster and its libraries. He stated that this was the Council's first libraries strategy for a number of years and it gives a vision and direction for libraries in Doncaster over the next 3-4 years.

Councillor Ball reported that the Strategy demonstrates our joint priorities for libraries as follows:-

- A new build Central Library open in 2020;
- An options appraisal for a new business model which could allow the service to attract more investment in future; and
- The key ways in which the service will support priorities for residents in the Borough.

He stated that it would be three years of further transformation for the service, building on its successes of previous years, strengthening its workforce, including its volunteer base and creating a strong platform for growth in reading, learning, knowledge and creativity within the borough's community assets.

In conclusion, Councillor Ball commented that any proposal for significant change in service in this period would be dependent on customer, staff and volunteer consultations and the showing of due regard. He went on to say that any changes and developments considered as a result of this strategy would only be to serve Doncaster's residents with a stronger service, which enables residents to fulfil their potential and helps support the borough and its people to thrive.

Councillor Chris McGuinness welcomed the report and stated that it was pleasing to see that page 33 of the strategy contained the seeking of greater community and staff ownership.

The Mayor welcomed the Strategy stating this was a great step forward in bringing all libraries within the borough under 1 strategy which also demonstrates that the work of the volunteers was valued.

She went on to say that the development of the Library strategy would enhance the learning environment for residents and by bringing services together it would help rationalise the number of resources required.

In conclusion, the Mayor further pointed out that the strategy would also boost economy by bringing further inward investment to the borough.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To demonstrate the requirements of the Service going forward in different ways, whether through the Service Plan, individual ODRs and separate reports to Cabinet and/or leadership.

To provide a cohesive and concise Strategy, which will lead to greater and wider partnership understanding, which can be used as an advocacy tool with the public, stakeholders and funders, and which reduces the number of separate reports which may have been otherwise required.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director of People

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Public Realm Art Strategy.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the new Public Realm Art Strategy for Doncaster.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture presented a report to Cabinet on the introduction of a Public Art Strategy. He stated that the Council want Doncaster's public art to be open and accessible for everyone and want all Doncaster citizens to play a vital role in creating 'Our Art' that strives to really put Doncaster on the map.

He stated that public art should be empowering, inspirational and raise the aspirations of people and the new Public Realm Art Strategy was a first for Doncaster.

Councillor Ball reported that written within the context of Arts Council England's Great Art and Culture for Everyones' strategic framework, it makes clear the national policy context and provides the case for change in ensuring that people can access great art regardless of age or background and provides a focus for the commissioning, programming, delivery and evaluation of great art and culture.

Cabinet welcomed the report and the Mayor stated that she was delighted to see more public art within the Borough. She made reference to the existing art such as the 'The Lovers' in Waterdale and 'The Mallard' at the Southern Gateway. She also made reference to the recent additions such as the Ted Hughes statue in Mexborough and the K.O.Y.L.I memorial statue to be erected in Elmfield Park in September/October 2018. In addition to this, she stated that it had been proposed that a Mining Statue also be erected in Doncaster which was part of the town's heritage. The Mayor wished to point out that the projects had been funded in many ways and with regard to the Miners Statue this would be supported through crowd funding.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to approve the strategy proposed and refer back to the Culture Team to redevelop the approach based on further feedback.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Damian Allen, Director of People

Signed..........Chair/Decision Maker