



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 5th June, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Monday, 11th June, 2018.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th June, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Thursday, 21st 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 Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rachael Blake and Chris McGuinness.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Order of Business

Cabinet agreed to the variation of the order of business, by considering Agenda Item No. 9, before Agenda Item No. 6 on the agenda, to allow Councillor Nick Allen to ask his question at this part of the meeting.

Public Questions and Statements

In accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 3.2, Councillor Nick Allen asked Mayor Ros Jones the following question:-

'My question relates to the fourth recommendation which highlights the need to strengthen vocational routes into employment and higher education. Which agencies will collaborate to support apprentices in the borough? How will this collaboration increase the numbers of apprentices going into higher education and what provision will be made for apprentices who do not choose to pursue higher education?'

Mayor Ros Jones gave the following response:-

'Thank you Councillor Allen for your question. Before I answer it I'd like to say that I very much welcome the report, and agree with its findings and recommendations. Any collaboration to support apprenticeships needs to span the worlds of education and business. We need to see schools, training providers, large employers and universities working together.

Increasing the numbers of apprentices going to university will mean increasing both the number of higher and degree apprenticeships, but also increasing numbers at all stages in the vocational progression pathway, right through from traineeships, level 2 and 3 apprenticeships, and in time T levels so vocational routes offer the same opportunity for progression we see through academic routes.

As part of Doncaster's ambition to become a University city, building on the current offer, with the National College for High Speed Rail having recently opened and the potential for a University Technical college in Doncaster, these establishments along with our partners will provide the young people of Doncaster with vocational skills, qualifications and opportunities to enable them to pursue higher education if they so wish.

This vocational pathway would benefit all apprentices, whether they go to university, or to fulfilling employment at a level aligned with their ambition and ability. The report is clear that we cannot mandate this collaboration, but there is much we can do to facilitate it. For example, the Employment and Enterprise Team in the Council have a range of initiatives underway to support this activity looking at both supply and demand for apprenticeships, with a particular focus on employer engagement and this team will play a valuable role in supporting the sector in taking this forward.'

Decision records dated 22nd May, 2018, were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Post Sixteen Review of Education in Doncaster.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the significant progress made to date to deliver the report;
- (2) noted the information in paragraph 12 about who is responsible for the changes being implemented;
- (3) endorsed the recommendations for change and approach outlined; and

- (4) agreed to receive progress updates in July and September 2018, prior to the final arrangement being agreed in October 2018.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report following an independent review of Post 16 education in the Borough. The report set out the key findings and recommendations to improve outcomes for young people and raise achievement levels across the Borough.

In January 2017, Mayor Ros Jones announced the formal response to the independent One Doncaster Report. In the same month, Doncaster was awarded Social Mobility Opportunity Area (SMOA) status by the Department for Education. The Education and Skills Commission and SMOA seek to improve educational attainment in the Borough, to increase social and cultural capital of children and young people, ensure that the skills that young people develop were well placed to meet the needs of the job market, and to make sure that schools in Doncaster could thrive.

The One Doncaster report made a series of recommendations for local strategic partners in education, public services and business. One of the key recommendations from the Commission was to conduct a Post-16 review of the education landscape in Doncaster. The Commission found widespread evidence of confusion and dissatisfaction with the current arrangements. Young people, employers and the business community all spoke of the urgent need to put in place a simplified, more focused, more unified and more collaborative Post-16 system that worked in the interests of students, employers and providers. As such, in September 2017 Dr Paul Lally was commissioned by Team Doncaster to conduct an independent review of post 16 education in the Borough.

In May 2017, the Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2020 was launched. This set out the Council's ambition for children and young people across four key policy areas; achievement, safety, health and happy, and equality. This collective view of the partnership for children and young people acknowledged the need for clear learning pathways for children and young people, an inclusive education system at all key points of transition, and the importance of the development of the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy.

In September 2017, the Doncaster Growing Together prospectus was approved by Full Council. Within this, plans for the Doncaster Learning theme were approved. This focused on ensuring the Council prepare its young people for fulfilling lives, with bold reforms that would broaden their horizons and ambitions, and bringing the education system and business community together to give young people more exposure and opportunities to flourish. These included the guarantee of meaningful experiences for all children aged under 11, the development of Doncaster as a University City, and to improve routes to work through the Doncaster Skills Academy.

At the heart of the combination of these three key strategic documents, was the intent to create clearer pathways and opportunities for progression. This paper provided detail regarding the completed post 16 review, a summary of the key

findings and recommendations, and a timeline for dissemination, engagement and next steps.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools in welcoming the report, emphasised that the solution to address areas of concern regarding Post 16 education provision, could not be mandated by the local authority, the DfE or the Regional Schools Commissioner and that any change had to be school led and supported by other partners and providers.

Councillor Fennelly reported that she had opened the launch event on 24th May 2018, which had brought together key strategic partners to endorse the recommendations of the review and she was very optimistic about Doncaster moving forward, and what schools needed to do to work together with employers across Doncaster. John Edwards, the Regional Schools Commissioner, had attended the event and had welcomed the Council's approach. She advised that the Council needed to 'push forward' with the Academies to ensure that they were engaging in the process to coordinate the response necessary to initiate change, to ensure that all children across Doncaster were provided with the same journey so that they could go to university or an apprenticeship. Councillor Fennelly spoke of the need to look at the progress made so far and to look at where the Council was going in the future to ensure that everyone was moving forward in the same direction to deliver the changes.

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, welcomed the report and made reference to some of the priorities contained therein. In particular, he referred to the priority in relation to CEIAG (Creative Education Information Advice and Guidance) and the drive to ensure that this was impartial and independent. He reported that Parliamentary Select Committees had indicated that CEIAG within the UK was inconsistent and was not 'joined up'. However, Councillor Ball felt that Doncaster was moving forward with a vision towards encompassing this, which was to be welcomed.

The Mayor welcomed the recommendation in the Post 16 report in relation to the consolidation of school sixth forms in Doncaster, which would enable the Council to deliver the best education possible for young people and have the right level of attainment in order to drive the Borough forward. She commented that this would provide young people with the right tools to progress to achieve high salaried and skilled jobs, and would deliver the education that children truly deserved.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were no alternatives considered and rejected.

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 (DCS/DASS).

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Cultural and Learning Centre (DCLC) Project: Update Report (Non-Key decision).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the updated design proposals for the new Doncaster Cultural and Learning Centre (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report), as the basis for completing the detailed design; and
- (2) noted that the detailed design of the project continues and the project team is working closely with the construction contractor to ensure that the project is within budget before construction contracts are signed.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, which sought approval of the design proposals for the new Doncaster Cultural and Learning Centre, as the basis for completing the detailed design.

It was noted that detailed design of the building continued, and work was ongoing to ensure that the project was within budget before construction started later in the year.

Councillor Ball advised that a report to Cabinet, on 4th July 2017, had noted that while the current central library, museum and art gallery had delivered good services over many years, the existing buildings limited the ability of the service to modernise to better meet the current and future needs of the public and the Borough. The recommendation to deliver the new building, the Doncaster Cultural and Learning Centre, to house these services on the site of the former girl's school on Chequer Road, was subsequently approved.

Members were informed that since approval, detailed designs had been worked up in close consultation with the Cultural and Heritage Services and other stakeholders and leading experts.

Councillor Ball reported that proposals would see part of the existing girl's school being restored, before being encased in a glazed façade to showcase Doncaster's architectural heritage and provide a fantastic new gateway to the Civic Quarter.

It was further reported that the modern building behind would provide the right space for the service to modernise and better meet the current and future needs of the public and Borough.

The new building would become home to:-

- The children's and adult lending libraries
- The Museum and Art Gallery
- Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI)
- A high quality education space
- A small and micro-business start-up space
- Training and conference facilities

There would also be an exciting new rail Heritage Centre showcasing memorabilia from the famous Hall Cross collection and the possibility to display two locomotive engines built in Doncaster.

Councillor Ball reported that it was expected that construction works would commence on site to deliver the new facility in September this year, which would be completed and open to the public in Summer, 2020.

To conclude, Councillor Ball welcomed the report and felt that the new building would be a fantastic asset to the people of Doncaster.

Following the presentation of the report, Members viewed a video presentation / simulation of what the proposed new DCLC could potentially look like.

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development in welcoming the report, commented that the new building was an extremely exciting project for Doncaster. The new DCLG was to be an iconic building and was to be a blend of old and new and would be nationally important showcasing Doncaster's architectural heritage. The new development would also enhance the cultural offer in Doncaster, where young people would be able to view the rail memorabilia and learn about the history of Doncaster, together with a building that would not only show past greatness, but the way forward for Doncaster.

In relation to how the project would benefit the citizens of Doncaster, Mayor Ros Jones commented that the project would unlock Doncaster's rich heritage and increase public awareness of Doncaster's heritage, which people could learn from and generate more pride in Doncaster. It would also provide more interaction and learning from heritage resources. The new building would create a high profile for reading in the Borough and would bring people together and also improve people's health and wellbeing. The Mayor added that she was delighted to see the project coming forward in order to drive the economy of the Borough.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones welcomed the project coming forward which was previously part of Doncaster Girls High School campus and also part of Doncaster's Grammar School. He reported that the project would encompass different elements currently housed in Doncaster Grammar School and would offer an enhanced facility for the community, and provide the opportunity for nationally acclaimed Museums to come to Doncaster. The Deputy Mayor endorsed the proposals, commenting that it was something Doncaster could be proud of.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do not approve the DCLC designs as presented.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.
Damian Allen, Director of People (DCS/DASS).

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Doncaster Town Centre Parking Strategy.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet endorsed the Doncaster Town Centre Parking Strategy; and the commitment to the production of the Doncaster Town Centre Car Parking Health Check on an annual basis.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval and endorsement of the Doncaster Town Centre Parking Strategy.

It was reported that parking was an important asset within town centres, helping residents and visitors access businesses and services, and provided revenue for the Council. However, oversupply of parking could be a problem as it could encourage traffic, which could have a negative impact on congestion and air quality. A surplus of surface car parks could also hinder regeneration, contributing little to the visual fabric of the townscape.

Ensuring equilibrium between parking provision, parking income for the Council and effective demand management could provide a range of measurable outcomes including:-

- Greater accessibility and convenience for all key stakeholders
- A reduction in traffic congestion
- Improved air quality
- Reduced carbon emissions

It was reported that the Doncaster Town Centre Parking Strategy was structured into two parts:-

1. a town centre health check which reviews existing provisions; and
2. a strategy for long term management and aspirations of this provision, informed by the findings of the health check.

Scott Cardwell, Assistant Director of Development, outlined to Members the headline findings of the car parking health check including, current provision, demand, pricing, benchmarking and consultation. It was reported that the health check would be reviewed on an annual basis through regular monitoring.

The Assistant Director of Development also summarised the aims, objectives, future provision, challenges and recommendations of the Strategy, which were also set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report respectively.

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services, welcomed the report and was pleased to note the Council's plans to future proof car parking provision in Doncaster and that the annual reviews of existing provision would provide a safeguard that ensured that the Council could move forward with adequate parking.

Mayor Ros Jones commented that she was delighted to see that the Council was seeking to promote the use of a cashless parking system and that people would still have the ability to park and pay by cash.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing - The absence of an adopted Town Centre Parking Strategy restricts the ability of the Council to understand if the provision of car parking is or isn't meeting the demand.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

DECISION 4

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Further Regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation in the form of Additional Licensing and Article 4 Direction.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the implementation of an Additional Licensing Scheme for the area shown edged red on Map 1, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, for the period of 5 years for properties meeting the definition of a HMO in

accordance with the Housing Act 2004 and where each property has 4 or more occupiers; The scheme would be operated as a co-regulation scheme together with an approved partner;

- (2) approved the making of an Article 4 direction for the area shown edged red on Map 2, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, to be formally consulted upon and to delegate the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business Skills and Economic Development, the authority to confirm the Article 4 direction, subject to there being no objections which cannot be satisfactorily addressed by the Council; and
- (3) approved the fees, as described in Appendix 6 to the report, to commence from the introduction of the scheme.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report introduced by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, which provided details of the outcome from a public consultation regarding proposals to increase regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in parts of central Doncaster, to reduce the impact these properties cause on surrounding residents.

It was noted that over the past 5 years there had been a large increase in the number of small HMOs in some parts of Doncaster. This was causing concern to communities because of anti-social behaviour, changes in the 'feel' of the area and removal of much needed larger properties for family housing. HMOs were a very small part of the overall housing stock, but contributed to a large proportion of complaints received by the Council; 57% of HMOs Borough wide had generated complaints in the last 5 years. The comparative figure for single let properties was 9.4% attracting complaints. It was noted that in some areas, the impact was even greater with 85% of HMOs in Balby North attracting complaints. Larger HMOs were already licenced and these properties tended to cause less complaints.

The Deputy Mayor reported that public consultation took place for 3 months between October, 2017 and January, 2018 on two options to increase regulation of this type of properties:-

1. Additional Licensing could be introduced under the Housing Act 2004. It was a similar power to Selective Licensing but would apply only to properties that were managed as HMOs. It would make sure all smaller HMOs reached a certain safety standard and that landlords took steps to reduce ASB from tenants.
2. An Article 4 decision could be introduced under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It would ensure any new HMO conversion has to gain planning approval. This gave the Local Authority chance to say no, or impose conditions such as sound insulation to prevent problems occurring in the future.

Public consultation was in the form of letters to all residents and property owners, 4

community events and 2 landlord events. Events held were well attended and over 200 written responses were received. Most respondents reported concerns about their local area and the majority felt that refuse/fly tipping/litter, parking, neglected properties and people not treating others with respect were major issues in their neighbourhood.

The Deputy Mayor advised that there was overwhelming support from the respondents for introducing both an Article 4 Direction and an Additional Licensing Scheme with only 7% objecting to the proposals. Nearly 50% of the landlords responding to the consultation also expressed their support.

The report therefore seeks to:-

- a) approve the implementation of an Additional Licensing Scheme for the area shown edged red on Map 1 in the report for the period of 5 years for properties meeting the definition of a HMO in accordance with the Housing Act 2004, and where each property has 4 or more occupiers; The scheme would be operated as a co-regulation scheme together with an approved partner.
- b) approve the making of an Article 4 direction for the area shown edged red on Map 2 in the report; to be formally consulted upon and to give delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Business Skills and Economic Development, to confirm the Article 4 direction subject to there being no objections which cannot be satisfactorily addressed by the Council; and
- c) approve the fees as described in Appendix 6 of the report, to commence from the introduction of the scheme.

The Deputy Mayor explained that it was more complex to process a HMO licence than a selective licence so the cost per application would be £800 for up to 5 bedrooms or £270 if applying through Home Safe. However, he advised that the average rent for a 5 bed room HMO was substantially higher than the average family property, which meant the impact on landlords of the licensing fee should be lower than for recent Selective Licensing schemes.

The implementation process for Additional Licensing was the same as for a Selective Licensing Scheme. If a decision was taken to introduce a scheme, it would come into force after a 3 month notice period. It would take longer to implement Article 4 with 12-month formal notice required.

Following the presentation of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on the report.

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services, fully supported the report and welcomed the proposals coming forward. He commented that it was unfortunate that this scheme could not be extended at this point to cover other areas in the borough.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, spoke of how his Ward was directly affected by small HMOs and emphasised the need to implement the new regulations which would help to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in communities.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing –To continue partnership working in the area using existing legal powers available to the Council and South Yorkshire Police. Extensive enforcement using existing legal powers had been carried out in relation to ASB from HMOs. This was not recommended.

Only introduce Additional Licensing. This was not recommended.

Only introducing an Article 4 direction. This was not recommended.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Signed..... *R G Jones*Chair/Decision Maker

