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Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members on Thursday, 25th January 2018.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 5th February, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday, 6th February, 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 Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
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 Councillor Nigel Ball and Councillor Chris McGuinness.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

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

Decision records from the meeting held on 9th January, 2018 (previously circulated), were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and Sport England Local Delivery Pilot. Urgent Rule 15 Decision which by reasons of Urgency has not been included on the Forward Plan.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:

- (1) recognised the important role physical activity does play in tackling public health issues and improving the wellbeing of Doncaster's population;
- (2) agreed to accept entry into Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot and ensure the Council maximises opportunities presented by the programme through providing council wide support;
- (3) agreed to enter into a series of funding agreements with Sport England throughout the 4 year term of the Local Delivery Pilot;
- (4) agreed to adopt the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy as the overarching document to support Get Doncaster Moving and ensure Team Doncaster partners provide all possible support to deliver;
- (5) noted the establishment of Get Doncaster Moving Project Board and sub-groups to oversee the delivery of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot; and
- (6) approved delegation for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Director of Public Health and Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, to negotiate with Sport England to maximise opportunities from the Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot and access significant funding to deliver programmes of activity.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which provided an overview and background for adoption of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, and approval to accept entry into Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot which was designed to develop a coordinated approach to Get Doncaster Moving. 124 authorities had applied to be part of the pilot, and Doncaster was 1 of only 12 authorities selected to receive funding.

The report also outlined the key aims and objectives of the Strategy and focus of the Council's bid and future target delivery for the Local Delivery Pilot. The size of the issues relating to inactiveness and public health would require a step change in approach and the Strategy and funding programme aimed to play a key role in the Council's ambitions to reduce the inequalities promoted by the lack of physical activity, and aimed to stem and reverse the trend of growing inactivity across the population.

Through adopting the Strategy and accepting entry into the Local Delivery Pilot, the Council aimed to build a strong partnership which would support the delivery of the Strategy's aims and objectives and increase levels of physical activity.

It was noted that Doncaster has some of the lowest physical activity levels in the country, with almost a third of adults doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week. These low levels of activity had a significant impact on the population's wellbeing and health, contributing to the high levels of overweight and obese children and adults. This provided a physical and financial strain on public services, for example, an estimated 24,000 extra GP visits contributed to the lack of physical activity and holding back of large segments of populations from fulfilling their ability to grow and develop. To help address this the 10 year Strategy would establish a long-term vision and framework, rather than a short term fix, that would engage partners and individuals across all sections of society to enable the population to access greater opportunities to become more physically active.

The Local Delivery Pilot funding will enable Doncaster to access levels of funding not previously attainable to develop cutting edge approaches to engaging our population to become active with particular emphasis on those individuals and families who are struggling to meet life's demands and are not able to engage fully in the growth of Doncaster.

Cabinet welcomed the Strategy which they felt was long overdue and hoped that once the funding and delivery plans were in place, this would help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in the Borough from birth into old age. As the Strategy developed, this would also look to provide a greater chance of young people keeping engaged in physical activity and to continue into adult life. However, Members acknowledged the difficulties faced in achieving the desired outcomes of the Strategy. To conclude, Cabinet commended Officers in producing an excellent, clear and concise report.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing - This option would reduce the impact of the increasing levels of Physical activity and Sport with potential of further decline in participation, and not being able to access Doncaster's share of the £100m Local Delivery Pilot and the ability to develop population scale interventions.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health.

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Council House New Build Programme - Warde Avenue, Balby and Old Road, Conisbrough.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved:-

- (1) the development of the site on Warde Avenue, Balby and the site on Old Road, Conisbrough for the construction of 66 units. The schemes would form part of the Council House Build Programme and the appointment of Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd (known within the report as 'Willmott Dixon') as development contractor would be made via the SCAPE procure framework; and
- (2) the drawdown of funding earmarked for this development in the Housing Capital Programme, and to accept grant funding of £2.72m from the HCA for the projects. Delegation to accept this grant has already been given to the Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director of Finance.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report, introduced by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Equalities, which sought approval for the delivery of 66 new council houses for rent that would form part of the Council House Build Programme on two sites. 25 units would be built at Warde Avenue, Balby and 41 units would be built at Old Road, Conisbrough.

In presenting the report, Councillor Glyn Jones, spoke of the great need for good quality, affordable housing in Doncaster. He indicated that the proposal set out within the report would not only deliver 66 new affordable homes for rent, but would offer increased housing choice, for the residents of Doncaster.

It was noted that the site would deliver 2, 3 and 4 bedroomed homes in areas where people wanted to live. The properties would be let and managed by St Leger Homes and allocated through Choice Based lettings. Both sites had planning permission and both sites can achieve start on site by the end of March 2018.

The Deputy Mayor reported that the affordable Housing Grant of over £2m had been awarded for the sites from the Homes and Communities Agency (now known as Homes England). These properties would complement the new homes already added to the Housing stock managed by St Leger Homes. The delivery of the new homes meets the Mayoral Priority, creating jobs and housing, meeting the current needs of people in Doncaster.

In welcoming the report, Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools indicated that one of the sites to be developed was in

her ward and stated that the residents of Balby were looking forward to the new homes being built.

The Mayor was delighted with the project coming forward, which she felt was a step in the right direction.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 2 – If approval was not given the development of much needed affordable homes would not take place. The Council had identified within its Housing Strategy the requirement for more affordable homes. The delivery of 66 new homes on Council land contributed to this delivery target. If delivery was not approved, the land at both sites would remain vacant until an alternative use was found.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Appendix 1 to the report was not for publication as it contained exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment.

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Tenancy Strategy 2018-21

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed the Council's Tenancy Strategy 2018-21.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Equalities introduced a report which proposed the Council's Tenancy Strategy for 2018-21.

Members noted that the Council had a legal obligation to produce and publish a Tenancy Strategy under the Localism Act 2011, which had expired at the end of 2017. St Leger Homes had been commissioned to produce a new Strategy on behalf of the Council.

The new Strategy takes account of the Housing and Planning Act, but recognises that guidance on fixed term tenancies has not been forthcoming from the Government; it was therefore proposed that fixed term tenancies were kept to a minimum of 4, 5 and 6 bedroomed properties, and properties with significant

adaptations. All other properties should be allocated on the most secure tenancy type possible.

The Strategy also reflected the Council's commitment to community sustainability and recommended that the social housing provider go beyond the legal minimum and continued to allow immediate family members to succeed to tenancies.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternative options were considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Waddington, Director of Housing Services, St Leger Homes of Doncaster.

DECISION 4

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Partnership Governance Report - Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Partnership.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Partnership.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

As part of the Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its relationship with external organisations and partnerships, Cabinet received a report, which provided Members with an overview of key activities undertaken in relation to Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership, including any significant future activities and any significant governance or other issues.

Members of the BDR Partnership were the statutory waste disposal authority and waste collection authorities for their respective areas. They had decided to make joint arrangements for the provision of a range of waste management services. As a result the parties have entered into an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA), for the purpose of regulating their respective rights and obligations to each other, and in order to promote the efficient management of the Managed Contracts and Joint Contracts.

As part of the Inter Authority Agreement, a Joint Waste Board had been established to manage the contracts and partnership and was attended by Elected Members and a Steering Committee attended by Officers.

It was noted that the key contract currently ongoing was the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project at Manvers, Rotherham, funded by £77.4m of funding from central government towards facilities to deal with the treatment of leftover household waste, turning it into a valuable resource rather than sending it to landfill. This was waste left over after householders took out materials that could be re-used or recycled before leaving their wheeled bins or bin bags to be picked up by refuse collection vehicles.

It was reported that the waste partnership was currently working well. The plant is operating effectively, and it was noted that arrangements had since been put in place to improve fire safety at the plant which provided assurance to the Council.

Cabinet welcomed the report which demonstrated that good governance arrangements were in place and recognised the work being achieved to keep household waste out of landfill sites and to recycle waste where possible.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Without consistent and effective information on their activities, it is more difficult for the Council to understand and register the effects of decisions made by partnerships and take action where appropriate on any decisions made/proposed. The option to do nothing therefore misses the opportunity/requirement to respond to the ever-growing incidence of partnerships working, and to strengthen the Council's control framework and its management of risks.

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 5

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. Partnership Governance Report - Update from St Leger Homes of Doncaster.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the feedback and comments in respect of the Council's partnership arrangements with St Leger Homes.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Equalities, introduced a report, which identified the Council's partnership arrangements with St Leger Homes.

He explained that St Leger Homes was an Arm's Length Management Organisation created by Doncaster Council in 2005. With the support of Central and Local Government, St Leger Homes manage and maintain around 20,200 homes, 100 shops, 2,800 garages and sites, some Housing Revenue Account land and a number of other housing related services.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted that as part of Doncaster Council's approach to monitoring and evaluating its relationship with external organisations, the report presented to Cabinet today provided clarity and reassurance that there were effective governance principles in place in relation to the Council's contractual relationship with St Leger Homes of Doncaster.

The report set out the objectives and representatives appointed to the organisation and the capacity in which they served. The report also detailed the key activities undertaken during 2016/17, the key activities expected to be undertaken during 2017/18 and the plans for 2018 and beyond.

In concluding his presentation of the report, the Deputy Mayor recommended that Cabinet endorse the Partnership Governance arrangements for St Leger Homes.

Cabinet welcomed the report, which demonstrated that good governance arrangements were in place and gave assurance that St Leger Homes as an Arm's Length Management Organisation was delivering services for the residents of the Borough and meeting the Council's exact standards.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Without consistent and effective information on their activities, it was more difficult for the Council to understand and register the effects of decisions made by partnerships and take action where appropriate on any decisions made/proposed. The option to do nothing therefore misses the opportunity/requirement to respond to the ever-growing incidence of partnerships working, and to strengthen the Council's control framework and its management of risks.

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.....Chair/Decision Maker