



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday, 6th July, 2018

With the exception of Decision 1 'Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 which is subject to Full Council approval on 19th July, 2018, the end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 16th July, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Wednesday, 18th July, 2018

Present:

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

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 Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
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:-

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Mayor Ros Jones and Councillor Nuala Fennelly

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

Councillor Nick Allen asked the following question:-

'My question relates to Agenda Item 8, the St Leger Homes Management Agreement Review. The report highlights several excellent reasons to maintain the existing arrangements so that St Leger Homes can continue to deliver housing services in Doncaster. Item 21 explains the good work of St Leger Homes and the WOW offer. While I

have no doubt this scheme is excellent and reflects positively on St Leger Homes, DMBC and those who undertake it, I am concerned about the use of voluntary unpaid work experience placements for adults. I would like to know if there could be any way of paying people who successfully complete the eight week placement? Could this happen in future?’

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones provided the following response:-

“SLHDs unpaid work experience opportunities are just one element of a range of opportunities they provide to enable their customers to gain work experience. Where they provide support and learn contracts, which last for 6 months, these are paid employment. The work experience scheme provides real opportunities for individuals to try different areas of work and gain important work experience, typically up to 16 hours a week for up to 8 weeks.

Because the work experience is unpaid, it doesn’t affect a participant's benefits, and as the DWP are aware of the experience being provided, they will contribute to travel costs and arrange Job Centre contact around the work experience. The voluntary aspect of World of Work (WOW) and the work experience is important, because otherwise it could be seen as a ‘sector based work academy’ which would make attendance mandatory, with potential benefit sanctions for non-attendance. Former WOW participants have told SLHD that this was a barrier to them joining other schemes.

It is therefore felt that the option of being paid for the work experience is likely to have a material impact upon a person’s benefits and SLHD have found that the prospect of benefits being affected can be a real barrier for some potential participants”.

Decision records dated 19th June, 2018, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Youth Justice Plan 2018/19

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet endorsed and recommended the Youth Justice Plan to Council on the 19th July, 2018.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet were presented with a report outlining the new Statutory, Strategic Youth Offending Service Plan (YOSP) for 2018/19 for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster, where responsibility for the discharge of the Plan lies. It was noted that the Plan was due for review and submission to the Board annually.

It was reported that the plan highlights the performance against last year’s targets, which demonstrated that the strategy to reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system continued to be effective and likewise the YOS continued to

demonstrate very good performance in relation to preventing re-offending and the usage of custodial sentences. It was highlighted that the Young Peoples Youth Justice Plan had been identified by the Youth Justice Board as a national example of good practice and had been adopted by other areas throughout the country.

In the absence of Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Councillor Chris McGuinness wished to draw to Cabinet's attention the recent letter received by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, where the Chair had stated that the Committee had considered the Youth Offending Service Plan on the 28th June, 2018. The Committee were supportive of the Plan and were pleased to see the ongoing successes that had been experienced within the Youth Service, and which had been recognised by other Local Authorities.

Cabinet welcomed the report and congratulated the service on their continued improvement and success.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory plan that the Council is required to produce annually to inform the strategic and operational activity of Youth Justice Services. Therefore there were no alternatives considered or 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

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Commissioning Support - School Improvement Provision

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the content of the report;
- (2) approved the commissioning intention for the School Improvement Provision;
- (3) approved the use of funding for this programme that was agreed at School's Forum on 11 April. This funding will finance the programme for the academic

year 2018/19; and

- (d) agreed to review the school improvement provision in April 2019 with a view to approving a school improvement programme for a further two academic years.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report on the Commissioning Support for the School Improvement Provision. It was reported that to enable continuing and sustained improvement of Doncaster's primary, secondary and special school education settings, it is the Council's commissioning intention to seek an external provider(s) to deliver a school improvement programme for all 106 Doncaster primary settings, including maintained schools, academies, special schools, maintained Pupil Referral Units, 18 Secondary Academies and 5 Special Schools in partnership with Doncaster Council.

The report highlighted that the programme would provide Doncaster Council with continued robust intelligence on the effectiveness of all Doncaster schools, academies, special schools and maintained Pupil Referral Units including enabling early identification and swift response for schools needing additional support.

It was noted that the development of the programme identified must be sustainable over the lifetime of the contract period, including extension over a further two years, following funding agreement by the School's Forum. The successful provider will be monitored in line with the Local Authority's contract management arrangements.

Cabinet welcomed the proposals identified within the report.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- a) Do nothing – this option was discounted due to the ambition of Doncaster Council to continuously support education settings to improve
- b) Stay the same – there is now a developed market and therefore the option to grant award was discounted.

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. St Leger Homes Management Agreement Review.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet agreed that:-

- (1) Doncaster Council renews the 5 year contract with St Leger Homes for the period from 1st April, 2019 to 31 March, 2024 with a proviso of a break clause to be built in at year 3; and
- (2) St Leger Homes presents annually to Doncaster Council a review of its performance including a Value for Money assessment.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones presented a report to Cabinet on the review of the St Leger Homes Management Agreement. He reported that with the support of Central Government, in 2005 Doncaster Council created St Leger Homes, an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) to provide housing related services across Doncaster for both the social and private sectors.

He reported that the Council's existing management agreement with St Leger Homes is due to expire on 31 March 2019. The existing contract allows for an independent review to be carried out of St Leger Homes and its services, which assessed performance and value for money. This review is crucial in the Council's efforts to ensure the provision of a high performing Housing function for residents.

Councillor Jones reported that the assessment, undertaken by Housemark, had found St Leger Homes to be a low cost, mid-to-high performing organisation when benchmarked with its peers and housing providers nationally. He pointed out that it was on that basis, coupled with a 91% satisfaction rate by tenants, that he was recommending that Cabinet agree to extend the St Leger Homes Management Agreement.

In conclusion, he wished to personally state that the importance of ensuring a high satisfaction rate with housing tenants was at the very heart of his Cabinet portfolio priorities and it was on this basis that he wished to share with all present the 2018/19 performance targets to demonstrate his continued commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for residents.

Councillor Nigel Ball welcomed the report and recommendations and in relation to his own portfolio responsibility for Public Health wished to thank St Leger Homes for their hard work carried out during the winter months, paying particular attention to the excellent support given to those people who were rough sleeping.

In conclusion, Councillor Joe Blackham stated that all Members had witnessed substantial improvement from St Leger Homes and wished to see this continue in the future.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

In consideration of the options, there were a plethora available that Doncaster Council could consider, for example the Local Authority could:-

- Determine to bring all or part of the housing related functions that St Leger delivers back into Doncaster Council; and
- Commission another provider to deliver the housing related functions.

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