



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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**Date: 24th July, 2018**

**To the Chair and Members of the  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

### **LEARNING PROVISION AND ORGANISATION - UPDATE**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	No

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update on progress with Learning Provision Organisation Strategy in Doncaster and work to date.
2. The overarching intention of the above is to ensure the effective delivery of high quality learning provision in response to local demographic pressures and demand for learning places across Doncaster and thus has a significant impact in all wards.
3. The Strategy was previously considered by Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 5 March 2018 and requested that a further update on progress with the delivery of the strategy be provided to Members in July 2018.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

4. This is not an exempt report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. Members are asked to:-
  - i. Note the content of the report;
  - ii. Note that the initial tranche of area plans have now been published;
  - iii. Note that the Strategy will continue to be updated at each meeting of the Learning Provision Organisation Board as necessary to include any relevant updates, new issues and resources available to meet additional requests.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

6. Local Authorities play the key role in the organisation of learning provision for children and young people. A co-ordinated approach to the commissioning of learning places will ensure that all citizens benefit from improved outcomes and experiences in Early Years, Schools, and post 16 Settings.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Learning Provision Organisation Strategy**

7. The Strategy was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 December 2017 and sits within Doncaster's Strategic Vision and associated plans. By providing the policy and strategic framework for consultation with sponsors and potential learning providers the strategy will inform the commissioning of Early years provision, school places, and post 16 development and training and hence improve educational outcomes and aspirations in Doncaster.
8. It is overseen by the Learning Provision Organisation Board and is the focal point for the development of proposals for expenditure of significant amounts of capital funding and to ensure that:
  - the demands within a multi provider infrastructure for appropriate and varied learning provision in a range of settings over the next five years are met;
  - a framework is in place for planning and for generating the necessary resources to ensure the commissioning of high quality learning settings;
  - a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity in Doncaster is provided; and
  - there are sufficient places to meet the needs of learners with individual needs, including those with Statements of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan, and those who require additional support.

### **The Learning Provision Organisation Board**

9. The Board has been established to improve outcomes for all children by building strong partnerships, working effectively together, and providing rigorous and regular performance management. The Board's primary role is to ensure the effective delivery of the Learning Provision and Organisation Strategy.
10. The Board's inaugural meeting was held on 26 September 2017 and has met on 5 occasions during this academic year (2017/2018), most recently on 11 July 2018. The membership includes representatives from a number of officers in addition to representatives from schools, academy trusts, early years settings and Doncaster College. Full details of the terms of reference, membership and meetings of the Board have been placed on the School Organisation Web Page at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)
11. In addition to the establishment of the terms of reference and membership of the Board, immediate areas of focus and activity have been on:
  - the consideration of the draft Strategy;
  - an analysis of the school and childcare provisions within each pyramid of the Borough and assessment of need; and
  - the determination of funding requests from schools to address safeguarding and access concerns.

## Local Area Analysis and Recommendations

12. Underpinning the Strategy are the Pupil Place Planning Local Area Plans. These plans are made up of pyramid based Key Data Reports and Pupil Place Proposal and Action Plan Reports. These together incorporate both school place planning and childcare place planning in one set of strategic plans.
13. The reports look at a range of information from demographics through to the current situation, pyramid development compared to the current status of provision and how we plan to resolve any potential shortfalls.
14. The content of the plans was considered and approved by the Board at its meeting on 24 January 2018 details of the contents are included within Appendix 2. Five pyramids were prioritised for completion by the end of the academic year based on the demographic information and volume of additional housing and two additional pyramids have also been completed. These are:

Armthorpe	Hall Cross	Mexborough	Hayfield
Hatfield	Rossington	Hungerhill	

15. Meetings have been held with headteachers from each of the four pyramids to consider the data and take feedback from each group.

## Additional Areas of Consideration

16. In addition to the development of area plans covering mainstream schools and early years provision the Strategy covers additional areas. These include SEND, Post 16 and Inclusion. Each of these have been reviewed in order to provide appropriate high quality learning provision in response to local demographic pressures and demand for learning places.

## Additional Provision (Inclusion)

17. Progress has been ongoing with the establishment of the new Communication and Interaction School which has now moved into phase 2 of the detailed site survey reports. Nexus Academy Trust was announced as the responsible body for the school and the Local Authority continues to work as part of their Project Board.
18. In terms of capital development, the Local Authority was successful in its application Reviews of SEN and Behaviour provision for £616k. This was subject to a report to Cabinet on 13 July 2018 which approved the following projects:-

i.	Maple Medical PRU (Mulberry)/Levett Pupil Referral Unit	£200k
	Development of bespoke provision for more complex children with EHCPs – 30 places	
ii.	Seedlings (to be based at Maple Medical PRU)	£200k
	Relocation and increase in the number of places from 10 to 20 and the entitlement offer of funded hours to 15 hours nursery provision per child	
iii.	Heatherwood Special School	£150k
	Increase in funded places overall by 20 places including post 16-19	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£550k</b>

### **Additional Provision (Sixth Form)**

19. A post 16 review has been carried out with an interim report produced in December 2017 and a full report produced in April 2018. The review focussed on three main areas: the principles of a good system of 16-18 education in Doncaster; alignment with wider strategic intent; and developing a vision for post 16 education. This ensures that we identify the principles of an effective system of education for 16-18, ensure planning and direction of 16-18 provision contribute to the wider economic agendas of the borough and sub region and lay the groundwork for the establishment of a vision for post 16 education in light of this review.
20. Schools have been asked to consider these principles during the summer term. Further consultation will be undertaken early in the autumn term prior to the publication later in the term prior for implementation in September 2019.

### **Safeguarding and Access Fund**

21. Following approval by the Secretary of State, members of the Schools Forum delegated £1,000,000 to be used for Safeguarding and Access Improvements in schools and academies. This fund has been managed by the Learning and Provision Team with regular reporting and decision making undertaken by LPOB. To date the following projects have been funded and each school has been asked to make a contribution of 10% towards the costs of works:-

<b>Type of Works</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Access Improvements	8	95,499.32
Door Entry	7	31,031.18
Electronic Gate Access	1	6,652.86
Fencing, fabric and reception improvements	1	27,427.50
Fire Safety	8	37,648.04
Lighting Improvements	4	96,783.94
Other	7	49,419.57
Secure Reception	12	98,271.84
Security Fencing	39	492,912.12
<b>Budget Figure £1,000,000</b>	<b>87*</b>	<b>935,646.37</b>

\*Includes items to be considered at the Learning Provision Organisation Board on 11 July 2018 (£207K).

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

22. In order for the Local Authority and the School Organisation Board to be best placed to take advantage of the opportunities ahead it is essential that the Local Authority has a Strategy in place ready to meet the demands of future education provision.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

23. This report provides an opportunity for Members to discuss the impact of the Strategy across all areas of the wider Learning Opportunities, Children and Young People areas of responsibility.

**IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES**

24. The impact of the Strategy is as follows:

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy will provide a context within which there will be opportunities to access to funding from the DfE for some of the learning provision.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster’s people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<p>The strategy will inform investment in the development of high quality learning settings through the associated capital strategy</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	<p>Effective organisation of learning provision provides the infrastructure for improved education and skills for all people.</p> <p>Young people of Doncaster will be provided with high quality, appropriate provision to meet their needs within Doncaster.</p> <p>Improved learning outcomes will enable more people to pursue safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p>

	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy provides firm leadership and governance working with partners across the areas of Early Years, School, and Post 16 Learning Provision.</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

25. If the Local Authority does not provide a clear Strategy for the Organisation of Learning Provision there is the risk that Learning Provision will emerge in a piecemeal and disconnected fashion led by potential alternative providers.
26. The Local Authority has the responsibility to ensure that every child has a school place. The Strategy provides the vision and methodology for ensuring that the Local Authority can fulfil this obligation.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [HMP 11/07/18]

27. The Local Authority has school place planning duties under the Education Act 1996. This duty includes:
  - promoting high standards of education and fair access to education;
  - securing sufficient schools in the area; and
  - considering the need to secure provision for children with special education needs.

The Strategy will assist in ensuring that these responsibilities will be effectively managed and that any potential risks are mitigated.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SB 11/07/18]

### Capital

28. As part of the Local Authority's capital budget setting process analysis has been undertaken of the Learning and Opportunities Children and Young People (LOCYP) estimated capital expenditure and funding options (which includes the schemes mentioned in paragraphs 16, 17 & 20). The summary of the capital budget model is presented in the table below. The strategy also sets out the funding options available for Pupil Place Planning and the current Local Authority policy is to ring-fence these available resources to LOCYP need.
29. The capital budget model includes assumptions of known on-going commitments for schools condition, other early help and short breaks and estimated new school places from census data forecasts and local plan / housing developments.
30. The model also includes assumptions on academy conversions and the consequent transfer of grant funding from the Local Authority to academies direct, however the pace of academy conversion will mean that the model may require updating to present the increased reduction in the Schools Conditions Allocations for maintained schools.
31. The model includes assumptions on contributions from schools and includes prudent S106 contributions from developers. More S106 money may be available as and when signed agreements are in place and when developments happen.

<b>LOCYP Budget Plan</b>	<b>2018/19 £000</b>	<b>2019/20 £000</b>	<b>2020/21 £000</b>	<b>2021/22 £000</b>	<b>2022/23 £000</b>
Balance B/F	13,773	16,265	5,419	2,037	118
Annual DfE Allocation Basic Need, Maintenance, S106 and Contributions	12,004	2,062	4,382	4,696	3,917
<b>TOTAL Funding Available</b>	<b>25,777</b>	<b>18,327</b>	<b>9,801</b>	<b>6,733</b>	<b>4,035</b>
Spend Commitments Maintenance	3,458	3,030	2,830	2,830	2,830
Spend Commitments Other	2,575	798	784	1,135	350
Spend Commitments School Places	3,477	9,080	4,150	2,650	400
<b>Net Balance C/f (+surplus/-deficit)</b>	<b>16,265</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>455</b>

32. The table above shows that in 2021-22 spending commitments almost match the resources available however it is extremely likely based on previous years spend that the estimated costs for schemes will increase.
33. The aim overall remains to balance spend against available LOCYP funding. On-going the strategy will be reviewed and performance measured as part of the Directorate's Learning Provision & Organisation Board meetings with the capital programme updated accordingly.

## **Revenue**

34. The local authority must determine a budget share for all schools and academies, funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant, in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. For any new schools opening in their area there would be no actual pupil numbers as at the October census for the subsequent year's schools formula calculation (i.e. from the date of the school's opening), therefore an estimate of the pupil numbers to attend the new school should be included in the budget share calculation for the new school.
35. Funding for significant pupil growth is currently retained centrally from the Dedicated Schools Grant, as a growth fund before the schools funding formula is calculated, as permitted and set out in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations (Schedule 2, Part 2). The growth fund was set up from 2014/15 with agreement of Schools Forum on criteria for allocation, and the total sum top-sliced from Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant for this purpose in 2017/18 & 2018/19 is £370k. The criteria for allocation include funding for the provision of an extra class, an increase in admission numbers and an agreed pre-opening cost allowance for new schools (all of which must be in order to meet basic need as agreed with the local authority).
36. In terms of the Dedicated Schools Grant contributing towards capital spend, the School Funding Reform arrangements for 2013/14 set out that revenue funding to cover costs of capital expenditure could not be centrally retained, therefore funding from Dedicated Schools Grant revenue is not now possible without the specific agreement of the Secretary of State.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [AG 19/02/18]**

37. The Strategy is a significant programme of change, with significant HR implications associated with the increasing diversity of education provision – the continuing expansion of academies and free schools mirroring a continuing diminution in the number of employees working in maintained community schools with Doncaster Council as their employer. Related to this is the further development of the local authority as an enabler and broker rather than a direct provider of services. It is essential that staff are appropriately engaged in this transformation, and are equipped with the skills to make it a success. A particular challenge that schools and academies will need to address is in ensuring that the best talent can be attracted to work in Doncaster and be retained.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW 11/07/18]**

38. There are no direct technology implications at this stage. Any requirements for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of the Learning Provision Organisation Strategy would need to be considered by the ICT Governance Board (IGB) in line with the agreed ICT governance processes.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [RS 11/07/18]**

39. Learning outcomes and health outcomes are intrinsically linked. On the whole



investments in improving learning outcomes should also improve health outcomes. The strategy makes reference to matching provision to geographical demand and the needs of specific population groups. Decision makers will want to ensure that there is effective ongoing monitoring of the implementation of this strategy.

### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [NMc 11/07/18]**

40. The Learning Provision Organisation Strategy gives due consideration to the extent to which the Local Authority has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

### **CONSULTATION**

41. The Strategy and establishment of the Board have been subject to full consultation with all relevant partners including schools.
42. Further consultation will continue to be undertaken regarding individual proposals with relevant stakeholders in two parts; Part 1 involves informal consultation of proposed solutions within each pyramid; Part 2 will involve consultation in respect of any prescribed alterations which may be necessary.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

43. Learning Provision Organisation Board; Terms of Reference, Membership and Agendas and Minutes of meetings are available from the School Organisation Web Page at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

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