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Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 16th October, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Friday 19th October, 2018.

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 30th October, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Wednesday, 31st October, 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 Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
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.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

Mr Tim Brown asked Mayor Ros Jones the following question:-

‘With reference to the Community Engagement Plan which is on the agenda, can Mayor Jones provide an assurance that black African Caribbean citizens have been afforded an opportunity to co-produce the way how DMBC engages with BME citizens and that DMBC have fully embraced the Brown’s Principles?’

Mayor Ros Jones provided the following response:-

'First of all thank you for your question Mr Brown.

Effective community engagement is already happening across the Borough in many forms. Indeed many of the Borough's achievements over the last few years would not have been possible without it. There are a whole host of examples, such as the excellent work our communities teams do day in day out, the community library service delivering thousands of volunteer hours each year, and the community led support model that is making a success of 'Well Denaby'. But we can and will improve what we do.

The Community Engagement Strategy, which is on the agenda today, is part of a wider community engagement framework. The framework sets out some key principles and actions that we want to take, along with our partners, to improve how we engage with all people, regardless of their background.

However we must acknowledge the difficulty in engaging with hard to reach groups, we don't always get it right, but I want to assure you Mr Brown, we will endeavour to improve how we engage with all people through the actions set out in this strategy.

During the development of the framework, which began in 2017, we have offered a range of opportunities for different communities to get involved which is described in the Due Regard Statement, these include;

- A wide range of Organisations across the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
- Our Parish and Town Councils
- The Inclusion & Fairness Forum
- Front Line Officers across the Council and Partners, who work with local people day in day out
- The Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Board
- and the general public

But this is not the end of the journey with regards to community engagement, there are many more opportunities to get involved and shape what comes next. Many of the actions in the strategy will need to be developed and implemented and where appropriate we will work with all communities, including BME communities, to develop these. For example, the strategy sets out our ambitions to set up a single space for volunteering opportunities. To make this a success we will need to work together with local people who are already volunteers and those who support volunteering already to make it a success. A further action within the strategy describes an assessment and strengthening of key community networks, improving how we can encourage and support more people from protected groups to be involved.

But the real work starts now in implementing this strategy and we want to deliver this together with local people to make it a success.

To conclude and answer the final part of your question; we take the responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty seriously. In the last year we have refreshed our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Framework setting out new governance arrangements and a specific set of objectives we will be delivering this year.

Due regard is embedded within the local authority decision making process, with the Due Regard Statement being a live document used by the Council when planning and

delivering its functions, including during the time a decision is taken and whilst being implemented.

I am happy for one of the officers to send to you a direct link to the information in the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Framework if you think that would be useful to you.

Thank you again Mr Brown for your question.

Mr Brown asked a supplementary question enquiring whether the Strategy had been circulated at the August meeting of the BME Advisory Group meeting as he had no recollection of this taking place.

In response Mr Brown was advised that whilst the document wasn't circulated at that meeting, a copy of the draft strategy had been circulated to all members of that group for their input.

The Mayor thanked Mr Brown for his supplementary question.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

5. All Age Carers' Charter

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet endorsed and implemented the All Age Carers' Charter and Commitment.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet member for Adults Health and Wellbeing introduced the report initially emphasising the role of carers, stating that they were not volunteers but people who gave up their time freely to support a friend or relative in providing care for their health and wellbeing on a 24 hour basis.

Councillor Blake stated that the All Age Carers Charter was a positive step to demonstrate the commitment to carers across Doncaster. The Charter, through its profile and partnership commitment, will bolster the further fusion of carer support across the borough. She stated that the Charter moves all stakeholders towards a wider partnership approach driving the carer aspiration and vision that carers of all ages are recognised. The Charter would also increase carer awareness resulting in numbers of carers self-identifying, and through a carer aware workforce across all ages.

She reported that the profile of carers of all ages would be raised to help increase carer health and wellbeing among communities and provide a platform to celebrate carers in Doncaster, helping to reduce stigma and isolation which can be linked to caring.

Councillor Blake commented that the All Age Carer approach was one that brought great opportunity from a corporate, employer, education and wider perspective to

ensure carers within communities were seen, heard and supported and as such she was delighted to be in the unique position to present a genuinely co-produced All Age Carers Charter for Doncaster, that would bring practical steps to bring about meaningful change for the future within families and communities.

Councillor Nuala Fennelly wished to add that she was also pleased to endorse the All Age Carers Charter which incorporated and reflected the needs of Young Carers. She stated that the voice of children and young people who had a caring role contributed strongly to the development of the charter through creative consultation sessions to enable young people to express what caring was and what it meant to them.

She explained that the Charter would provide a welcome and needed springboard to help identify and support young carers in communities. Partners across all organisations played a key part in this and the endorsement of the Charter today would serve to highlight this further, as would the subsequent campaign.

Councillor Fennelly went on to say that the offer of timely and effective assessment for Young carers would enable them to have better opportunities, for example, by improving school attainment and attendance and providing a sense of belonging within their school community. This in turn would support their aspirations, potential achievements and confidence to help them plan for the future.

She further pointed out that the All Age Carers Charter promoted a whole family approach, enabling services to work together thus providing efficient support and overall improving the carer offer within Doncaster.

In conclusion, Councillor Fennelly wished to state that over the next 3 years in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, she would be meeting with carers and championing them to enable them to have a better voice within their communities.

Councillor Glyn Jones commented that this strategy was long overdue. He stated that Carers were a part of society who were unrecognised. They perform a caring duty without any regard for themselves and this strategy will help to formalise arrangements. He also wished to state that without the role that the carers undertake, the cost to the state would be significant.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones echoed the comments made by members and, stated that the strategy would raise the profile of carers who provide a caring role to improve the quality of life of individuals, and stated that she was pleased and happy to endorse the Charter.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option1 – To agree the co-produced All Age Carers' Charter and endorse this and the commitment underpinning it, this will reaffirm Team Doncaster's public commitment and approach to the Doncaster's Carers Strategy (Caring for the Future 2015-2020). The expectation is that the co-produced Carers' Charter will be a vehicle, followed with a campaign to reach carers in terms of self-identification, to collectively deliver the right support at the right time. This will help reduce stigma pertaining to caring roles and raise carer awareness (Appendix 2A and c)

Option 2 – Do nothing. Good progress has been made over the last 18 months on delivery of the Carers’ Strategy, however commitment through partnership and within communities has been varied. Carers and carer support remains largely hidden and as a result can be difficult to engage with in order to identify and drive more meaningful support developments. To do nothing, would mean we continue to work with the usual partners and community members, therefore missing a huge opportunity to widen involvement and potential to bring about improvements for carers.

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

6. Development of Culture Investment Programme for 2020-22

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

1. approved the direct award of £400k across three years from the Service Transformation Fund to develop, programme and deliver an enhanced, embedded, high quality cultural programme starting in 2020-2021, through to 2022-23, creating a sustainable model from 2022 onwards; and
2. agreed that the spend would be managed and delivered within DCLT, with governance arrangements which allow reporting to, and scrutiny by, the Doncaster Growing Together Portfolio Group, managed by the Arts and Culture Programme Board, with the creative and cultural programme of activity being developed commissioned collaboratively by the Board working with DCLT to deliver it. Effective contract management will ensure that the team and spend are accountable through a number of KPIs.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture presented the report stating that the report moved Doncaster forward into the premier division in relation to recognising and promoting culture. He stated that the report outlined an approach to invest in a culture development programme to deliver increased cultural activity in Doncaster in 2020 and 2022, and stimulate a

continuous increase in the growth of a high quality cultural programme, installations and participation in the long term.

Councillor Ball stated that the report recommends an award of £400k across three years from the Service Transformation Fund; which will be used as match to unlock further significant cultural investments from external funders.

He advised that it was expected that this one-off contribution would help to build capacity and resilience in the creative and cultural sector, and progress to a self-sustaining model for inward investment in culture and arts post 2022. There will be further growth of fringe and community-based arts developments, with more residents taking part in arts and culture.

Councillor Ball commented that the investment in culture, creativity and arts is expected to produce a return on investment of £2m 2020-21, and a £5m return on investment by 2022-23.

Cabinet were advised that the project would be governed through Doncaster Growing Together (DGT) with performance reporting into the Arts and Culture Programme Board. This governance would provide the necessary overview, and effective contract management.

Councillor Ball reported that positive outcomes would follow from this investment for residents across the borough, including increased attainment by children and young people, better wellbeing outputs for the population, greater pride in place, increased social cohesion, and increased skills and productivity for people of all ages.

He also stated that Doncaster as a place would benefit from a high quality arts and culture offer, with Doncaster being identified as a great place to live, work, study and visit, and directly contribute to the visitor and skills economy in the borough.

Following the introduction of the report, the Mayor opened the report up for comment. Councillor Joe Blackham wished to emphasise that the programme was not only an enhancement but it also needed to be recognised that there would be a huge impact in relation to economy within Doncaster, stating that the economy would thrive.

Mayor Ros Jones echoed those comments and made reference to paragraph 21 of the report, stating that the Council continued to develop projects within the Civic and Cultural Quarter within Doncaster. She reported that this programme would help stimulate the economy and provide a wealth of knowledge for residents of the borough by participating in all different activities. In conclusion she commented that this in turn would also act as a catalyst for inward investment and improve what was on offer within the borough for potential investors.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 Do nothing

The Council had a culture strategy, public arts strategy, an inclusive growth

strategy, and a new Arts and Culture Programme Board, reporting into the Doncaster Growing Together Portfolio Group. Cultural organisations are performing well but by doing nothing we shall fail to capitalise on the socio-economic, place-based and wellbeing benefits of putting Doncaster onto an elevated cultural map. The LGA peer review praised our strategies and partnerships but made clear the requirement to now move into an accelerated delivery phase, as did the Hull commission. The Council would also miss out on collaborative opportunities with national organisations and cultural institutions. By not seed funding cultural development, we are at risk of failing to secure significant investment from funding agencies, including those that have identified that Doncaster could secure more external investment through more ambitious programming. Early discussions with Arts Council England have indicated that ACE are prepared and willing to back this programme. The expertise needed to make this happen is not available in house, so by not bringing this talent pool together, external funding and financing will not be secured at the pace, and to the level, which we understand is possible.

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

7. Cycle Circuit - Lease of Additional Land and Acceptance of British Cycling/Sport England Funding

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

1. agreed to lease additional land to DCLT, to facilitate the construction of a 1km Cycle Circuit and allow DCLT to manage the facility on behalf of DMBC;
2. agreed that on completion of the construction of the Cycle Circuit, that the Cycle Circuit will form part of the lease 'of additional land';
3. agreed to accept funding from British Cycling/Sport England to facilitate the construction of the Cycle Circuit and delegate to the Chief Financial Officer (in consultation with the Mayor) the decision to agree terms of any associated funding agreement; and
4. agreed that on acceptance of British Cycling/Sport England funding, construction of a Cycle Circuit (on land behind The Dome) can commence.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture introduced the report stating that the report had been brought forward for approval to enable Doncaster to be in a position to accept funding and construct a closed road cycle circuit for the residents of Doncaster.

He reported that Doncaster had some of the lowest levels of physical activity, impacting on residents health and wellbeing and through the Get Doncaster Moving strategy, which was approved by Cabinet, we are resolutely working hard to make a step change in this position and increase physical activity across our population.

Councillor Ball commented that cycling was identified within the strategy as a key component to make this change, and the Council were investing in a number of schemes and programmes to work towards establishing Doncaster as a cycle friendly borough. Recent investments into the Trans Pennine Way had seen significant growth in cyclists along this section and the Hallgate redesign will give an increased opportunity for the public to cycle safely using existing routes.

He reported that Doncaster's Tour de Yorkshire stages in 2016,2018 and next year's stage, had inspired large numbers of communities particularly young people, to take up cycling recreationally and competitively. He stated that the development of the Closed Road cycle circuit, whilst not only being a mayoral priority, would provide a fitting legacy to these and future events such as the UCI Road World Championships.

In conclusion, Councillor Ball reported that the report would provide approvals needed to enable the Council to swiftly accept funding once made available and construct the circuit providing a safe traffic free environment where the public can learn to ride, confident that they are safe, enjoy recreational riding and compete at the highest levels. He indicated that the circuit would provide a hub for activities which through aligned programmes will reach out to all corners of the Borough.

Following the introduction of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to make comments. Councillor Joe Blackham welcomed the report stating that it was encouraging to see the commitment for the project. He commented that Doncaster couldn't afford to sit back and stagnate, the Council need to be seen as delivering the best for the people of the borough.

Mayor Ros Jones commented that she was delighted to see this project and was pleased to see the proposal for the draw-down of funding to provide facilities such as this which would improve the health and wellbeing for all Doncaster residents. She also stated that with the growing interest in cycling it had helped to stimulate the economy, for example, the Tour de Yorkshire crowds.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 – To not lease additional land to DCLT, and not to accept funding from British Cycling/Sport England. This would prevent the Council from building the Cycle Circuit which has been identified as a mayoral priority.

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 4.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Community Engagement Framework: Strategy 2018 - 2021

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Community Engagement Strategy and associated appendices for implementation.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment introduced the report stating that the aspirations set out in Doncaster Growing Together (DGT) and the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/19; all involve engaging with local people, communities and businesses.

He stated that approval of the Community Engagement Strategy today would provide the Council and Team Doncaster with a clear way forward to improve and make consistent how we engage with people and communities, with a clear commitment to deliver the actions identified within the strategy.

Councillor McGuinness reported that the Community Engagement policy sets out the Council's four policy commitments and using these commitments consultation had taken place with a range of people and organisations in order to identify the actions the Council believe will make a difference. He commented that these actions can be seen on page 45 of the document.

Councillor Rachel Blake welcomed the report and framework indicating that it was pleasing to see that in Appendix A it demonstrated 6 different approaches for engagement in order to support communities. She stated that real opportunities can be seen to provide a role for people to develop what they feel was most appropriate for their community.

Councillor Joe Blackham indicated that this report represented an upgrading on previous procedures. He stated that it had been recognised that previous processes were not fit for purpose. However, through the introduction of this new engagement strategy the process was now robust, fit for purpose and there was genuine community partnership.

Councillor Nigel Ball agreed with the comments made and endorsed the recommendations within the report.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones reported that the document demonstrated that the strategy delivers for borough; it shows that the Council are listening and acting with purpose. She indicated that improvements can always be made but the strategy showed what can be achieved by listening and working together.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1: Do nothing

This option is not recommended as it not allow the co-ordination and improvement of engagement activity consistently across the Council, potentially minimising what we can achieve in the long term.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources.

DECISION 5.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. Children's Services Funding

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved:-

1. £6.0m one-off funding paid to Doncaster Children's Services Trust in 2018/19 via a contract variation to cover the forecast overspend;
2. £6.0m budget virement for 2018/19 from Council wide budgets to LOCYP to pay Doncaster Children's Service's Trust; and
3. that any further changes to the Doncaster Children's Services Trust forecast overspend be agreed via the quarterly Finance and Performance Improvement report.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones introduced the report highlighting that Children's Services budget pressures were a national issue, not just a local issue impacting on Doncaster's finances. National Children's services cost local government in excess of £8 billion

every year. In 2017/18 official figures showed that Councils overspent by £816m on Children's services alone. Mayor Jones suggested that funds needed to be made available from Government to local authorities so that essential services could be provided as needed.

She indicated that the contract variation of £6m can be viewed as a positive for the Council, as it provides the funding for Doncaster Children's Services Trust to enable them to get back on an even keel financially in 2018/19.

Councillor Nigel Ball reported that whilst demand had increased, it was important that the Council do the right thing for Children in Doncaster. He pointed out that Doncaster wasn't unique in this situation, each local authority was in the same position. He went on to say that Government should ensure that authorities are adequately funded.

Councillor Joe Blackham echoed the comments.

In conclusion, Damian Allen, Director of People and in his capacity as Statutory Officer for Children's Services, stated that it was important that the Council do the right thing for the welfare of the children. However he appreciated the challenges associated with the report. He wished to state that the quality of care within the Doncaster Children's Services Trust was good. However wished to point out there were increasing demands, particularly in relation to Looked After Children.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Council has statutory responsibility for children's social services, and the Trust do not have any reserves, and therefore do not have the funds to cover any of the forecast variance to the contract. It is prudent to provide adequate funding for this overspend.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Steve Mawson, Chief Financial Officer.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker

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