



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 20th November, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 22nd November, 2018

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 3rd December, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Tuesday, 4th December, 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

No public questions or statements were made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 6th November, 2018, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. 2018-19 Quarter 2 Finance and Performance Improvement Report & 'Delivering for Doncaster' Booklet

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the Quarter 2 Performance and Financial Information; including:-

- (1) changes to the Strategic Risks as detailed in paragraphs 48 to 50;
- (2) new additions to the Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix A, Finance Profile; and
- (3) approved the new fee/charge detailed in paragraph 45.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones introduced the 2018-19 Quarter 2 Finance and Performance report stating that despite the on-going service pressures the report showed that Doncaster was moving forward and demonstrating continued good performance. However, she stressed that looking ahead, the ongoing service pressures and further reductions in funding will present significant challenges in 2019/20 particularly in relation to Adult and Children Social Care. It was noted that Doncaster was in a similar position to many similar councils who were experiencing an increasing need for social care services alongside revenue spending decreasing.

Following the introduction, members were given the opportunity to make comments as follows:-

Councillor Nuala Fennelly welcomed the report and drew Members attention to the Finance Profile for Adults Health and Wellbeing on pages 14-16 of the report stating that it was pleasing to see green and amber indicators and that budgets were being adhered to.

Councillor Rachael Blake echoed the comments made and in terms of her Portfolio for Caring, she stated that it was pleasing to see that the number of people moving to Direct Payments were above target and there was also good performance in relation to adults with learning disabilities staying within their own homes.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones stated that the Council had been innovative in the way services were delivered. She reported that even in the face of continuing difficult financial times the Council would continue to work to ensure a balanced budget was maintained.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There are no other 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

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources

DECISION 2.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Middle Tier Organisation Proposal

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved further investment of £325k over 4 years to invest in leadership and commission service transformational activities to make this new initiative a success; and
- (2) approved the delegation of a grant agreement between the Council and the Doncaster Chamber of Commerce, to the Director of People, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. This will include the governance arrangements and performance management of the grant objectives.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools presented the Middle Tier Organisation Proposal report stating that the report set out an approach to improve the quality of careers education, information, advice and guidance both now, but also crucially in the future. She reported that the priorities were identified through the One Doncaster report, the Children and Young People's Plan and the Social Mobility Opportunity Area delivery plan.

Councillor Fennelly pointed out that this was something she personally felt passionate about and the Council needed to do everything they could to raise the aspirations of young people to help them achieve their full potential.

She reported that the approach builds on work being put in place through the Social Mobility Opportunity Area programme, by adding additional Council funding to support the development of a new Middle Tier Organisation with the function of improving the links between education and business.

It was advised that the key features of the new Middle Tier Organisation will be

based on the highly successful experience of EXPECT Youth, the first such organisation the Council had put in place in Doncaster and like EXPECT Youth the new organisation will have challenging targets for generating income, as illustrated in the table on page 5 of the report to ensure that this function is not dependent on central Government funding, and can be sustained after the Opportunity Area Funding had been spent.

Councillor Joe Blackham commended the report which showed Doncaster travelling in the right direction and emphasised the need for good quality careers advice for young people. The report demonstrated that education in Doncaster was on the right track. However, he commented that there was a need for the delivery to meet expectation.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones commented that Doncaster's track record of delivering was clear and the Council had demonstrated that it can work innovatively to ensure the supply of quality service for young people within the borough. The proposal will ensure young people are provided with good information and advice in terms of their future careers and education.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing.

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 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. St. Leger Homes of Doncaster Performance & Delivery Update: 2018/19 Quarter Two (Q2)

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance outcomes and the contribution SLHD makes to supporting DMBC strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet member for Housing and Equalities presented a report on the SLHD Performance and Delivery Update for 2018/19 Quarter 2. He stated that key performance elements to note were:-

- Seven key performance indicators were on target
- Two were within acceptable tolerance levels
- Three were below target; and
- Two were currently not measured against a target (KPI 3 and KPI14)

He advised that the key areas to note within the report were:-

In relation to rent arrears the transfer rate of tenants onto Universal Credit (UC) was greater than originally forecast by Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) and SLHD would have to collect £9m additional rent this year that would previously have been paid direct to the Council through housing benefit, and 81% of tenants currently on UC were in arrears. The full roll-out of Universal Credit will eventually increase the collection target to £24m.

With regard to void rent loss, performance continued to improve and was upper quartile when compared to other providers in SLHDs peer group and a revised target had been agreed for the end of the year of 0.6%. Councillor Jones stated that this target takes into account the potential impact of the increased number of properties being used as emergency temporary homeless accommodation which will be increased to 75 to mitigate the impact of any bad weather.

Void re-let time continued to improve and was ahead of target of 23 days and was less than half what it was for the same period last year.

The use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation continued to increase in the second quarter which coincided with the implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act. Whilst there had been an increase in the number of families with children needing emergency accommodation, the most significant increase experienced regionally was with single households against the limited available commissioned supply. It was advised that the team had worked hard to reduce the figure and by the end of October there were less than 5 people in B&B.

Councillor Jones stated that performance within repairs continued to be good. However, in relation to sickness SLHD were unlikely to achieve their target of 7.9 days and were currently forecasting 8.54 days, which was still relatively good performance compared to other providers. He indicated that the Council HR team and SLHD's HR team were meeting to share best practice.

In terms of local expenditure, SLHD had adopted the council's definition but were still unlikely to hit the target of 66% for this year. However, most work was completed in house by St Leger wherever possible, keeping the expenditure within Doncaster.

In relation to anti-social behaviour cases resolved as % of those completed, Cabinet were advised that this was a new KPI this year and performance had improved in the second quarter. Based on the first 6 months performance a target of 90% had been agreed with SLHD for the remainder of the year and this would be reviewed at year end.

Following the introduction of the report, Mayor Jones sought members comments.

Councillor Joe Blackham complimented SLHD on direction of travel and their continued improvement.

Councillor Nigel Ball echoed the comments made. However, he commented on the challenging times ahead for the authority and SLHD in terms of benefit reforms such as Universal Credit and the adverse impact it is having on people within communities.

Councillor Chris McGuinness also wished to point out the work that SLHD had undertaken in relation to complex lives. He stated that a Winter Plan was in place to ensure as far as possible that emergency accommodation was available to those who needed it.

In conclusion, Mayor Ros Jones was delighted to see the continued progress of SLHD in increasingly difficult times particularly in relation to Universal Credit.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No other alternatives were 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

Paul Tanney, Chief Executive, St Leger Homes, Doncaster

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker