



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Monday 10th December, 2018

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 19th December, 2018 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Thursday, 20th 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 20th November, 2018, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. SCR New Business Start-Up (Launchpad) Programme (Phase 2).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet accepted ERDF grant of £310,409 for delivery of New Business Support in Doncaster as part of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Launchpad Programme (Phase 2) 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2022 to enable:

- a) The signing of a partner agreement with Barnsley MBC (the lead partner for Launchpad);
- b) Appointment of delivery staff;
- c) Procurement of business start-up services and contract award, and commencement of delivery; and
- d) Delegation to Director of Regeneration and Environment and Chief Financial Officer should MHCLG's appraisal of the bid not be completed prior to the Cabinet meeting taking place.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Bill Mordue, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Economic Development introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval to accept a £310,000 European funded grant, to deliver new business start-up support in Doncaster, as part of the Sheffield City Region Launchpad project (phase 2).

He reported that the project would enable new business start-up support to be continued in Doncaster, which would commence on the 1st April, 2019, following directly on from the current programme Launchpad Phase 1.

Councillor Mordue advised Cabinet that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (the funder) was currently appraising the bid, which was anticipated to be fully agreed sometime this month.

He commented that the project, like Phase 1, would be led by Barnsley MBC who contract with the Local Authority partners and the Prince's Trust for local delivery. He advised that the current programme had seen a positive impact for Doncaster and the local economy with performance provided in detail within the report.

He stated that since the programme began, SCR Launchpad had recorded 1,250 new businesses trading and with 279/22% of those businesses being in Doncaster. It was noted that Doncaster was delivering strong impact and good value for money from the 13% of the costs.

Councillor Mordue pointed out that Phase 2 of the project would ensure a more community based programme of activity in Doncaster with pre-start and start-up support to new businesses, that had been trading up to 3 years. The project would

be delivered by Business Doncaster staff and also via an external contract which will be tendered in the new year.

In conclusion, he stated that he was fully supportive of the recommendations to accept the grant for Doncaster, enabling commencement of preparation for delivery, including staffing and procurement of the external provision.

Cabinet members welcomed the report and the continuing initiative.

Mayor Ros Jones welcomed the report stating that the programme demonstrated real economic growth. It supports people starting up businesses when they most need it and the funding secured through the Council's Transformation fund will enable further economic and sustainable growth for the borough.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1: The Council does not join the SCR partnership to deliver Launchpad

- a) As a key lead authority in the SCR recognising the aspirations for New Business in the SCR, Doncaster Council could put relationships with other LAs, Partners and the LEP at risk by not being an active part and collaborating to deliver its part of this SCR wide project.
- b) Doncaster would benefit from the 60% ERDF funding and Doncaster's match funding was secured on the basis of providing match to enable ERDF funds to be drawn down.
- c) Business Start-Up support in Doncaster would be minimal and not comparable to the offer and scope available in other Local Authority areas.

Option 2: The Council invests its allocated match funding resource only, to deliver Business Start-Up activity in Doncaster

- a) By using the identified match funding only the Council and Doncaster would not draw down the ERDF external grant to enhance the scope, scale and impact on Doncaster's citizens, and businesses therefore would not benefit from £300k in external grant.
- b) Doncaster's match funding was secured on the basis of providing match to enable ERDF funds to be drawn down, therefore the approval and allocation may need to be re-assessed.

Option 3: Use all budget for procurement of external contractor

- a) The learning from previous procured activity shows that it requires strong performance management to ensure targets can be met and this requires resourcing.
- b) ERDF programmes have clawback clauses on output underperformance and therefore provide an increased risk of clawback.
- c) Without funding internal staff in Phase 2 there would be no resource to act as the contract manager.
- d) There would also be no resource to deliver development of priorities under DGT and embed mentoring and development of enterprise networks, accelerators and integration of enterprise activity.
- e) The contract would be large and would have to be an OJEU exercise and be

- fully compliant with the EU audit process.
- f) This contract would attract significant interest from bidders and therefore would require resourcing fully to ensure strong performance and contract management to obtain the best outcomes for Doncaster.

Option 4: Use all budget to fund internal staffing delivery

- a) All other launchpad partners except Derbyshire Dales deliver in house delivery of Business Start-Up Support with business coaches and advisors forming their core delivery team.
- b) Doncaster has a long legacy from 2008 of funding in house support and contract management – but also procuring its enterprise start up activity externally and has performed well following this model and met funders obligations.
- c) Phase 1 saw success with in house and external provision combined.
- d) It is felt for Phase 2, which will be the last phase of European funding – the model should not be fundamentally changed as it brought success in Phase 1 and also should aim to bring about sustainability and longevity through mentoring, post European funding.

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 7.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. 2 Year Fleet Replacement Programme.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) Approved the 2 year Fleet Replacement and Plant programmes (totalling £8.21m) and add them to the Regeneration and Environment capital programme, noting the separate approvals required to access the funding allocation;
- (2) Approved the virement £7.77m from the Corporate Resources Capital Programme, which contains the Investment and Modernisation Fund allocation, into the Regeneration and Environment Capital Programme, where these schemes will be delivered and monitored. £0.44m will be

generated from Capital receipts resulting in the £8.21m total; and

- (3) Agreed that further reports on the fleet position will be generated by Transport Services throughout the two year programme and post this period, which will be indicative of its position, including future costing and budgetary requirements, in the hope of easing any future large financial requirements.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet member for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services introduced the report detailing the proposals for initiating a two-year fleet replacement programme to support the Council's and St Leger Homes on-going service delivery. Councillor Blackham highlighted that the proposals would support the Council's intentions to reduce carbon emissions whilst also delivering a safe, reliable and cost effective fleet.

Following the introduction, Mayor Ros Jones and Cabinet Members welcomed the report and emphasised the need to provide appropriate vehicles which enabled officers to carry out their duties efficiently and safely and which ensured that services could be provided to residents.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 2 – Do nothing.

Do not replace any vehicle during 2018/19/20 by aiming to carry out maintenance and repair regardless of cost, or only replacing when vehicles become totally unserviceable. This option would result in significant additional costs for parts, short & long term hire costs, increased demand on vehicle workshop labour and vehicle downtime, which would be likely to result in an unacceptable reduction in front line service efficiency. The costs of this option are very difficult to estimate with any certainty but would lead to customer dissatisfaction.

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

