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Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Tuesday, 18th December, 2018 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 20th December, 2018

The end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 3rd January, 2019 and therefore, the decisions can be implemented on Friday, 4th January, 2019.

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 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:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nuala Fennelly.

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 4th December, 2018, were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Big Picture Learning – Update.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the progress of the programme;
- (2) endorsed future developments ready for the opening of the school in January 2019; and
- (3) noted the delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation and agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools to take all strategic decisions pertinent to the BPL project.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Further to its meeting on 10th April, 2018, Cabinet considered a report introduced by the Mayor, Ros Jones, which updated Members on the delivery of the Big Picture Learning school that was due to open in Bentley in the New Year.

Members were informed that Doncaster Council was a trail blazer for Big Picture Learning (BPL) in the UK. The Council had the opportunity to test innovation through the use of an outcomes based contract, which made funding for services conditional on achieving results.

The Mayor explained that the BPL school supported the Council's Education Inclusion Programme by offering a model of education to children who have become disengaged in mainstream schools or other alternative provision. BPL is an innovative education model which has the mantra of educating one student at a time.

The BPL philosophy provides individualised learning for each student who work closely with and are supported by a teacher (known as an advisor who works with a small group of students). Students are engaged in a new way and their own personal interests are at the heart of their learning. Students also spend up to 2 days a week in an internship, working alongside business mentors in a real world setting. This individualised learning approach makes everything they do relevant and authentic.

The Mayor was delighted to report that the Council had officially contracted to deliver the Big Picture Learning School in Doncaster with all legal contracts between Doncaster Council, Big Picture Learning UK and Big Issue Invest agreed and signed. The Council are now focused on the school opening in the New Year.

The intake of children will be staggered to allow the school to establish itself and new children to settle in. The first cohort of 8 children will start in January 2019, followed by an additional 7 after February half term, and a further 15 after Easter. In September 2019, 30 more students will join the school which will mean that the school will be at full capacity of 60 young people.

To conclude, the Mayor stated that the Council was now looking forward to disengaged children becoming re-invigorated with learning, which is centred around them and their interests, which really makes a difference in the outcomes for young people whose current outlook was poor.

Councillors Bill Mordue, Glyn Jones, Joe Blackham and Rachael Blake all endorsed the report and welcomed the scheme which will provide new opportunities for young people in Doncaster and will give them better chances to thrive in the future.

Mayor Ros Jones welcomed the report which demonstrated that Doncaster was forward thinking.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Previous cabinet reports had indicated the risk of doing nothing or not pursuing a Social Impact Bond for this purpose. Cabinet had previously agreed that both these options were not viable and therefore provided the mandate to progress.

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).

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker

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