

Report

Date: 17th November 2020

To the Mayor and Members of the Cabinet

TO APPROVE THE REVISED ORGANISATION OF LEARNING PROVISION STRATEGY 2020

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected		Key Decision
Cllr Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Schools	All		Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020 sets out the future Learning Landscape for Doncaster and thus has a significant impact in all Wards.
2. The Strategy will be the focal point for the development of proposals for expenditure of significant amounts of capital funding with a 12-month review point for the capital programme.
3. The Strategy will ensure that:
 - We meet the demand for appropriate and varied learning provision in a range of settings over the next five years;
 - A framework is in place for planning and for generating the necessary resources to ensure the commissioning of high quality learning settings;
 - We provide a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity in Doncaster;
 - There are sufficient places to meet the needs of learners with individual needs, including those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those who have been excluded from school.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Mayor and Members of Cabinet are asked to:
 - a) approve the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020;
 - b) agree to delegate authority to The Learning Provision Organisation Board to oversee and ensure the effective delivery of the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy 2020

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. Local councils 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

7. The proposal is to approve the revised Strategy for the Organisation of Learning Provision in Doncaster.
8. The Strategy:
 - a) Captures the opportunities and challenges the Council faces within a mixed economy, multi provider infrastructure in meeting the demand for effective learning provision in a range of settings in the future
 - b) Provides a framework for planning and generating the necessary resources to ensure that we meet the requirement to commission high quality learning settings
 - c) Enables a coherent and connected response to growth and diversity in Doncaster
 - d) Enables the secure planning to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those who have been excluded from school.
9. The Strategy supports and sits within Doncaster's Strategic Vision and associated plans.
10. The Strategy sets out the main challenges that Doncaster faces in meeting demand for learning provision over the next 3 – 5 years and the way that the Council proposes to meet this need with high quality learning provision in response to local demographic pressures and demand for learning places..
11. 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.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. In order for the Local Authority and the Learning Provision Organisation Board to be best placed to take advantage of the opportunities ahead, it is essential that the Authority has a strategy in place ready to meet the demands of future learning provision.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

13. This report provides an opportunity for Members to discuss the impact of the strategy across all areas of the wider Learning Opportunities: Children & Young

People areas or responsibility.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

14. The impact of the Strategy is as follows:

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: 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">• Better access to good fulfilling work• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish• Inward Investment	Effective organisation of learning provision provides the infrastructure for improved education and skills for all people.
	<p>Doncaster Living: 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">• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage	Improved learning outcomes will enable more people to pursue safe, healthy, active and independent lives.
	<p>Doncaster Learning: 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">• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work	The proposed strategy will inform investment in the development of high quality learning settings through the associated capital strategy

	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Young people of Doncaster will be provided with high quality, appropriate provision to meet their needs within Doncaster.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The Strategy will provide a context within which there will be opportunities to access to funding from the DFE when available.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. Should the Council 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.
16. The Council has the responsibility to ensure that every child has a school place. The Strategy provides the vision and methodology for ensuring that the Council can fulfil this obligation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

[HMP – 25 August 2020]

17. The Authority has a number of legal duties under education law to provide for children in schools and Pre-school settings.
18. The Authority has school place planning duties under the Education Act 1996. This duty includes promoting high standards of education and fair access to education and securing sufficient schools in the area.
19. The Authority under the Childcare Act 2016 and the Childcare Act 2006 must ensure sufficient Pre-School provision.
20. The Authority under the Education Act 1996, the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and

the Children and Families Act 2014 has legal duties to identify and assess, and ensure provision for the special educational needs of children and young people for whom they are responsible

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

[DA & SB – 01 September 2020]

Capital

22. As part of the Councils capital budget setting process analysis has been undertaken of the Learning, Opportunities and Skills (LOCYP) estimated capital expenditure and funding options. 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 Council policy is to ring-fence these available resources to LOCYP need.
23. 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. The timing assumptions used in the model are reviewed on a regular basis and are subject to change as new information is received and project plans are amended.
24. The model also includes assumptions on academy conversions and the consequent transfer of grant funding from the Council 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.
25. 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.

LOCYP Capital Budget Plan	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Balance B/F	13,633	12,854	3,110	250	0
Annual DfE Allocation Basic Need, Maintenance, S106 and Contributions	7,355	4,302	900	800	800
TOTAL Funding Available	20,988	17,156	4,010	1,050	800
Spend Commitments Maintenance	1,575	1,305	632	500	415
Spend Commitments Other	2,107	2,157	400	550	385
Spend Commitments School Places	4,452	10,584	2,728	0	0
Net Balance C/f (+surplus/- deficit)	12,854	3,110	250	0	0

26. 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

27. The local authority must determine a budget share for all schools and academies, funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), 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.
28. Funding for significant pupil growth is currently retained centrally from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), as a growth fund before the schools funding formula is calculated. The growth fund was set up from 2014/15 with the agreement of Schools Forum on the criteria for its allocation, with the total sum top-sliced from Schools Block DSG for this purpose. 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).

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

[JC – 21 August 2020]

29. There are no specific HR implications related to the content of this report for the Council.
30. If there are HR implications for the Council arising from specific elements of the Strategy, these will be addressed at the appropriate time through the relevant governance arrangements.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

[PW – 26 August 2020]

31. There are no specific technology implications at this stage. Where there are requirements for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of the Organisation of Learning Provision Strategy, a report would need to be progressed for consideration and prioritisation by the Technology Governance Board (TGB).

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

[CW - 21 August 2020]

32. Pupils requiring specialist education provision have vulnerabilities that can often place them at a disadvantage with both educational and health outcomes. The report states the Learning Provision Strategy aims to ensure there are sufficient places to meet the need of vulnerable children, in particular those children with special educational needs and disabilities, and those who have been excluded from school. Improving accessibility and attendance to education will support the educational attainment of these children and is likely to impact positively on reducing long-term health inequalities in Doncaster.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

33. The Strategy is intended to provide equal opportunities for all children, pupils and students to access appropriate and effective learning provision, which demonstrates that we value our young people and provide them with a learning environment that will meet their needs.

CONSULTATION

34. Discussion have been held with colleagues within Finance, Property and Construction Services, Planning, Housing, Regeneration and Environment and

Asset Board regarding the need for a Strategy and its proposed content.

35. A copy of the Strategy was circulated to all Members of the School's Forum for comments.
36. Primary, Secondary, and SEND Headteachers have been consulted either individually or through pyramid heads groups. Further consultation will be carried out on individual projects.
37. Previous consultation was carried during a Consultation / Engagement session held with the Doncaster Youth Council and key issues arising from the discussion were incorporated into the previous strategy. Further engagement will be carried out during the autumn term.
38. Everyone consulted was very positive regarding the development of the Strategy. They welcomed the fact that there would be a clear statement of principles for the Organisation of Learning Provision to ensure that the Council's response to future population growth was well managed and sensitive to local needs.
39. Consultees welcomed the fact that there would be a clear and transparent strategy within which the Council would be fulfilling its responsibility to commission Early Years, School, and post 16 provision in a coherent manner so that initial placements will be sound, there will be continuity in learning, and outcomes will improve.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- **Cabinet Report covering and explaining process and rationale for the Strategy**
- **Copy of "The Draft Strategy for Organisation of Learning Provision in Doncaster 2020".**
- **Due Regard Statement "Organisation of Learning Strategy"**
- **Education Act 1996 Section 14 (responsibility to provide sufficient school places)**
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/14/enacted>
- **Childcare Act 2006 (Section 6 – duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents)**
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/section/6>

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

None

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