



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 7th July, 2021 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Monday, 12th July, 2021.

With the exception of Decision 1, 'Youth Justice Plan 2021/22', which is subject to Full Council approval on 15th July, 2021, the end of the call in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st July, 2021. The decisions will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:-

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy)
Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Business.)

Cabinet Member for:

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball
Councillor Nigel Ball

Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People
Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning

Councillor Joe Blackham
Councillor Rachael Blake

Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities

Councillor Phil Cole
Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Councillor Jane Nightingale
Councillor Andrea Robinson

Portfolio Holder for Finance
Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions or statements submitted for the meeting.

The decision records from the meeting held on 23rd June 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.

DECISION 1

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Youth Justice Plan 2021/22.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet approved the Youth Justice Plan 2021/22, following approval from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report, introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People which proposed the Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22, covering the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

The Council is statutorily required to produce a Plan annually under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act for submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball outlined that the Plan sets out the resourcing and value for money of the service, performance against last year's Plan, structure, governance and partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery for the service. Actions, and timescales had been set to develop the service and ensure the best provision for the children and young people of Doncaster.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball spoke of how she was proud to report that the Youth Justice Plan highlighted some strong performance in relation to last year's targets, all of which had been surpassed.

She highlighted one area in particular, worthy of noting in relation to the binary re-offending rate, with an annualised rate of 25.7%, which was 12% points lower than the England average. This had placed Doncaster jointly in 11th place in terms of the lowest re-offending rates in England and Wales.

Performance in reducing first time entrants into the criminal justice system remained stable, with a marginal reduction from last year. The custody rate had once again remained very low, reducing further still in the past year.

This means that when children entered the criminal justice system they received the help they needed to lead pro-social, healthy lives in the future, and the vast majority do not go on to re-offend.

She explained that the Youth Offending Service achieved these results through the delivery of its relationship based, trauma informed practice model, which, first and foremost, recognised that these were children first and offenders second.

The YOS also benefited from a range of therapeutic services, including speech and language therapy, forensic psychology and systemic family psychotherapy, among others. This approach had ensured children were provided with treatment for the underlying issues that contributed to their offending, rather than treating the offending itself as the problem.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball spoke of how it was also important to note that the Youth Offending Service continued seeing families face to face throughout the pandemic, ensuring that children and families had the support they needed.

She added that the Plan also highlighted the Youth Offending Service's response to child criminal exploitation, through the work of the Team EPIC to support these children, which was achieved through a combination of one to one support and the work undertaken in communities to divert children from becoming involved in offending. EPIC continued to be rolled out across the Borough and delivered engaging activities for the most at risk children and young people.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball highlighted the personal testimonies contained within the report. These illustrate that the majority of children had greatly benefited from the services provided by the Youth Offending Service and valued its input into their lives. The level of feedback from the children and young people demonstrated a high engagement rate. She urged Cabinet to take on board the comments from young people who had shared their experiences. .

Councillor Rachael Blake praised the performance of the service, particularly in relation to the success dealing with re-offending rates and the emphasis on tackling Child Criminal Exploitation. Councillor Blake noted the importance of dealing with Speech & Language difficulties which some young people experienced and asked how YOS intended to continue to address this important point. In response, Andy Hood, Head of Service, YOS, acknowledged that there were many Youth Offending Services across the UK that did not have the benefit from Doncaster's level of therapeutic provision and that Doncaster had continued to fund this area, despite other Councils across the country having to reduce their financial contribution to YOS, due to financial pressures. He explained that the Council was able to deliver the results for the children and young people of Doncaster because of the very specialist services provided by the YOS and the Council's commitment to the children and young people in Doncaster in maintaining resources.

Councillor Nigel Ball commended the report, which gave a qualitative insight into how children and young people feel and acknowledged the challenges for the YOS service next year.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

There were 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

James Thomas, Doncaster Children's Services Trust and Riana Nelson, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills.

DECISION 2

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

7. Active Travel Funding: Approval to submit business cases for proposed schemes. Approval to enter into a funding agreement with Sheffield City Region to draw down funding for the delivery. Approval to deliver the schemes associated with the Active Travel Fund.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) gave approval to submit both Outline Business Cases and Full Business Cases to the Sheffield City Region;
- (2) delegated the negotiation, agreement of terms and conditions, and entering into the Active Travel programme Funding Agreement with Sheffield City Region and resolving the issues identified in this report to the Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Mayor and the Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer); and
- (3) approve delivery of schemes in general, noting the requirement for Community Consultation.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement introduced a report which sought approval to submit business cases for proposed Active Travel schemes in the Borough.

It was reported that the Department for Transport had released funding to implement segregated cycle lanes and trial low traffic neighbourhood and school streets in the Borough, to give people more opportunities to choose cycling and walking for day to day journeys in the recovery from Covid-19.

The Council, in partnership with Sheffield City Region (SCR), had been allocated indicative funding of £1.3m to be able to deliver the interventions to comply with Sheffield City Region's governance requirements to be able to draw down funding.

The schemes that formed part of the Active Travel fund bid included:-

- A630 Conisbrough to Warmsworth cycle superhighway
- Thorne Active Neighbourhood
- West Road School Street, Moorends

Councillor Blackham highlighted the benefits to residents in the west of the Borough which would mean that they have access to another form of transport to make journeys inbound towards the town centre. The scheme forms a vital link in a strategic cycle network linking the town to the Manvers employment site.

It was noted that Thorne and Moorends would receive funds to perform a community consultation on an Active Neighbourhood and School Street. The funds would be mainly revenue to gauge the opinions of locals about where rat running occurs and if this has a detrimental effect on the community. A small amount of capital investment had been included within the bid to deliver modal filters if suitable locations were identified within the consultation.

He outlined that a School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applied to school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for everyone. West Road, Moorends had been identified for this having already performed a street closure and with problems already identified outside of this school.

Councillor Blackham explained that the works would help the Council to achieve the targets laid out within the walking and cycling strategies. The Active Travel Fund needed to be committed by the end of March 2022.

In welcoming the initiative Cabinet observed that the consultation had been restricted to a limited number of stakeholders and wished to see future consultations to include all relevant stakeholders in order that they had the opportunity to engage with what the Council was doing and that the Council listened to resident's views.

Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance, welcomed the report and looked forward to seeing the outcome of the trial being carried out in relation to School Streets He welcomed initiatives, which would encourage more children to walk a safe distance to school.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing: Failure to submit business cases and enter into the Funding Agreement would result in Doncaster not benefiting from significant investment. It would also mean the Council was unable to continue to develop active travel schemes across the three areas, which provide safer, more sustainable routes for many residents travelling to employment and to local facilities.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment.

DECISION 3

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Capability Funding: To give approval to enter into the funding agreement with Sheffield City Region to allow draw down of funding to deliver the Capability Active Travel programme.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:

- (1) gave approval to accept Capability Funding by entering into the Funding Agreement with Sheffield City Region;
- (2) approved the delivery of projects in line with the Capability Funding Programme; and
- (3) gave approval to procure revenue works and appoint a contractor to deliver said works.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to enter into a funding agreement with Sheffield City Region to allow draw down of funding to deliver the Capability Active Travel programme.

Councillor Joe Blackham, in presenting the report, advised that delivery of the Capability fund meant that residents would have access to the equipment, training, and skills necessary to make a change in their travel behaviours, enabling them to shift to more sustainable modes of transport. They would also maximise potential delivered alongside the capital investments within Transforming Cities and enabling more residents to choose active travel for shorter journeys.

It was noted that the funding from the Department for Transport (DfT), via the Sheffield City Region would provide Doncaster with £405,535 of revenue funding.

Councillor Blackham highlighted that the fund was intended to:-

- support the development of infrastructure projects to the new standards set out, including updating previous plans (such as Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans) as necessary;
- promote increased levels of physical activity through walking and cycling; and
- support access to new and existing employment, education and training

Cabinet was informed that the Council had bid to deliver the following revenue activities:-

- Active Travel Hub – to loan bikes and e-bikes and deliver personalised travel planning
- Active Travel Officers – An Officer to support schools, encouraging more walking and cycling
- Adult and family cycle training – Training for all abilities, to get more people

riding bikes and give them the confidence to start making cycle journeys to work.

- Dr Bike Cycle Maintenance – Cycle maintenance sessions delivered across the Borough where capital investment has been delivered
- Scoot to School trial – scooters and storage provided to schools participating alongside the active travel officer to enable more sustainable journeys on scooter.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan development
 - A Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan is a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks and forms a vital part of the Government's strategy to double the number of cycling journeys made, and increase walking activity substantially by 2025.

Councillor Blackham spoke of how the funding would help Council Officers to design plans to bring existing infrastructure up to the new necessary standards and improve the local network. Future priority areas would be investigated using the recent City Region interactive Active Travel map, to identify areas which need to be upgraded. The map allowed users to feedback comments on the condition of current infrastructure within the Borough.

It was confirmed that an announcement was expected from the DfT in July as to whether the Council have been successful with the bid. If successful, the Council would have to enter into a funding agreement with Sheffield City Region. It was noted that the schemes needed to be delivered by March 2022, but funding was likely to be extended.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones gave his support to this initiative and praised the work of all partners and the voluntary sector across Doncaster.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing: Failure to accept the funding and enter into the funding agreement would result in Doncaster not benefiting from significant investment. It would also mean that the Council was unable to continue to develop active travel interventions across the borough, therefore, losing some of the expected uplift in active modes, following the completion of the Capital programme in 2023.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment.

DECISION 4

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. COVID-19 Control Monies 2021/22.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted the receipt of £4.066m specific COVID-19 Control Monies from central government;
- (2) agreed to allocate the £4.066m COVID-19 Control Monies against the resourcing plan for Doncaster outbreak plan in paragraph 15;
- (3) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health future decision making regarding the grants, detailed in the report and associated Doncaster Outbreak Plan;
- (4) agreed to carry forward any underspends from the specific COVID-19 Control Monies to 2022/23, detailed in the report, subject to grant conditions to continue to support containment and intervention measures.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which informed Members of the receipt of £4.66m Covid-19 Control monies from central government and sought approval to allocate the funding against the Doncaster Outbreak Plan to support those who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

In presenting the report, Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture highlighted that Coronavirus was still spreading within communities and that people must learn to live with the pandemic, whilst ensuring that the Council did all it could to limit the spread of infection, protect the most vulnerable and support residents and businesses as the economy starts to fully re-open.

It was reported that this week the Prime Minister announced that step four of the roadmap was likely to take place on 19th July as planned. However, many public health measures to control the spread and impact of cases and manage outbreaks would remain in place.

Councillor Nigel Ball advised that in 2020/21 the Council received funding to aid the response to Covid-19. For 2021/22, this included the receipt and allocation of four funding streams to help the Council's Covid response, totalling over £4 million.

He highlighted the range of legitimate categories of spend and the proposed allocation of Contain Outbreak Management Fund for 2020/21.

Councillor Nigel Ball explained that the allocations had been arrived at with partners responsible for the Covid response, by considering the needs of those groups most at risk from and impacted by Covid-19, together with a consideration of the risk areas in the Covid Control Plan, as set out at paragraph 14 of the report. These areas of the Covid Control Plan included:-

- Prevent the occurrence and spread of COVID-19
- Respond promptly to any new cases of COVID-19
- Identify any new cases of COVID-19
- Reduce the impact of any new cases, clusters or outbreaks
- Build public confidence in the local approach to COVID-19 control
- Disease surveillance

Councillor Nigel Ball drew Cabinet's attention to the allocations which included:-

- Support to increase the uptake of Covid-19 vaccines
- Emotional and practical support to those who need to self-isolate and increase financial support via the hardship fund
- Developing a second mobile testing facility
- Continuing the enhanced contact tracing service
- Continuing intelligence led and unannounced visits to local premises
- Developing further communications materials on and off line
- Continuing with additional support to the 'care sector' and school settings
- Health specific domestic abuse support for children and families to complement previous investments in domestic abuse.
- Building resilience in the voluntary, community and faith sector by developing a range of Local Solutions Partners with the aim to support their delivery
- Locality commissioning funding to support resilience and recovery with residents and communities most at risk of and impacted by Covid-19
- Support for staff at risk of 'burnout' from the pandemic, which has gone on so long.

Cabinet was asked to note the receipt of the Covid control monies and the actions contained in the report.

In commenting on the report, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones highlighted that Council staff, partners, St. Leger Homes Doncaster and Doncaster Children's Trust and volunteers across Doncaster have been at the forefront of the Town's Covid response and had worked tirelessly.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People

took the opportunity to highlight some of the great work taking place in schools by staff, parents and students and the difficulties faced by staff in managing the impact of the Pandemic. She spoke of the spirit of the people that have been working on the frontline to adapt and to make sure that no one fell through the gaps. Councillor Lani-Mae Ball also spoke about how students, children and young people had adapted really well to the changes to catch up with lessons. She spoke of the negative impact on young people's mental health.

Councillor Andrea Robinson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care highlighted that the funding would ensure that the Council could provide practical, social and emotional support to the clinically, extremely vulnerable people in the Borough who were affected by Covid. She expressed her gratitude to NHS staff, staff in care settings and volunteers who had carried out a vital role in supporting people.

Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance welcomed the funding and hoped that the funding to be utilised would be a great success. In light of the recent announcement by the government regarding the relaxation of the Covid controls from 19th July, Councillor Cole asked that a further report be submitted to Cabinet in relation to how this would be put into practice by the Council given the Governmental changes on self-isolation rules.

It was noted that national government policy was changing, but the requirement for the Council to respond, both as a local authority and public health and partners still remained. It was expected that workplaces and places that people go for entertainment still needed to be safe, therefore, health and safety work measures would still need to be in place. Currently, cases of Covid were rising and it was expected that there would be further outbreaks, due to the relaxation of the restrictions, so the Council would still have to deal with clusters and outbreaks. The allocation of funding to support Covid also remained, so there would still be a role for contact tracing of unvaccinated people. Cabinet were also advised that guidance would be updated to reflect the relaxations in restrictions and circulated to Members and Officers. Reference to the easing of restrictions would be included in the weekly update from the Director of Public Health.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to receive the Grant and fund the Outbreak control plan from existing service budgets.

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.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker