



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 8th September, 2021 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Monday, 13th September, 2021

With the exception of Decisions 1 and 2 which are subject to Full Council approval on 23rd September, 2021, the end of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd September 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	Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills and Young People
Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning
Councillor Joe Blackham	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities
Councillor Phil Cole	Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Councillor Andrea Robinson	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

Public Questions and Statements

Councillor Jane Cox submitted the following question to Mayor Ros Jones:-

'As you know, I sat on the local Climate Commission and took an active role in speaking up for residents about how we can all make small changes which, collectively, have a big impact. There was a commitment to updating residents with a regular column, in the local press, with what action DMBC has taken to address climate change. How will this be integrated into the 'new ways of working', which now make a Cleaner and Greener Doncaster a priority.'

In the absence of Councillor Jane Cox, Mayor Ros Jones asked for the following written response to be forwarded to Councillor Cox following the meeting:-

Thank you for your question Cllr Cox.

It is very important for us to take our residents along on the journey of addressing climate change and its impacts on the borough, as well as making Greener and Cleaner a priority, particularly while we are implementing new ways of working.

I will ensure you are provided with a full briefing note, which hopefully provides a more detailed response to your question but in short...

Since the declaration of the climate and biodiversity emergency in 2019 the council, in partnership, has put in place a range of projects which will contribute to our efforts to address and mitigate climate change. Some of this work includes:

- Implementation of the actions from the Environment and Sustainability Strategy by both the Council and external partners.
- Delivery of the Environment Services Improvement Plan which consists of short-term actions to achieve initial, step-change improvement in key areas of environment service delivery, including projects such as Naturalisation of appropriate green spaces and delivery of a Fly tip and Litter Action Plan.
- 6 projects focusing on flood alleviation to help the borough adapt to changes in the borough resulting from climate change.
- A number of mini programmes contained within the wider Localities work that align with efforts to address climate change.
- Application of Towns Fund accelerated grants which helped improve green spaces in the borough and the requirement for future Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund projects to demonstrate how they minimise the effect of climate change.
- Inclusion of Greener and Cleaner as a cross cutting goal and specifically 'Tackling Climate Change' as one of our 8 priorities.
- Continued engagement with residents to inform DMBC work through Doncaster Talks and other channels.

We regularly report how the Council contributes to this agenda via a number of different channels for example the Quarterly Performance Monitoring report which is publically available. In addition Team Doncaster will be reviewing its operating model in the light of an agreement on Doncaster Delivering Together over the autumn period.

I hope this provides some assurance on our progress.

Councillor Nick Allen submitted the following question to Mayor Ros Jones:-

'My question relates to the Local Plan, Item 7. How confident are you that the proposed Local Plan is fit for purpose and do you feel officers have consulted with local people adequately? There has been much negative feeling about the Local Plan in Bessacarr ward, particularly in parts of Lakeside and Rose Hill, where land has been disposed of despite significant public opposition.'

In the absence of Councillor Nick Allen, Mayor Ros Jones asked for the following written response to be forwarded to Councillor Allen following the meeting:-

I am confident that the Local Plan is fit for purpose. I can say this as the Plan has been through a robust and comprehensive process over a 7-year period to reach the milestone of now being ready to adopt, including being examined in public by a Government appointed Planning Inspector and been found to be 'sound' and 'legally compliant'. The Council undertook extensive consultation as part of the Plan's preparation; indeed the Inspector notes in his Report that there has been more stages of consultation carried out by the Council than what was required by the relevant legislation. For example, there was a full public consultation on which sites should be supported for new development in the emerging Local Plan in September 2018. There were some objections to the Rose Hill site following the close of the consultation, as well as a few objections to 2 remaining Brownfield plots at Lakeside. Council Officers considered all responses and made a number of changes to decisions around which sites should be supported in the next iteration of the Plan, albeit it was not considered appropriate or justified to remove either the Rose Hill or Lakeside plots from the Local Plan for reasons that I will come onto.

All 3 sites are existing development opportunities that have been identified for development since the last time a statutory development plan made decisions about new sites back in 1998 via the Unitary Development Plan. They could have come forward at any point since then. Indeed, one of the plots at Lakeside adjacent to the Lake was granted Full planning permission for over 300 new apartments back in 2009, albeit this scheme was not implemented and a fresh application for a much lower density housing scheme was submitted and approved more recently.

The Local Plan is retaining this status quo therefore having carried out a robust sustainability appraisal and site selection methodology process to check that they still meet the criteria as being sustainable and deliverable housing allocations. Removing sustainably located, urban, and Brownfield sites, as in the case of the 2 plots at Lakeside, would have required additional new sites to be found which, based on the choices available, would have likely needed to be more Greenfield, Green Belt and/or Countryside sites, on the periphery of the Doncaster Main Urban Area.

Objectors had further opportunity to engage in the Local Plan process when the Council published the draft Plan in August 2019. Objections to some of the housing sites in the Plan, including Rose Hill, were made and discussed in front of the Government appointed Planning Inspector. The Inspector was fully aware of local opposition to the Rose Hill site being re-allocated for housing when he considered the soundness of the Plan. This is evidenced via the Inspector's specific reference to Rosehill at paragraph 147 of his Final Report, as follows:

"The housing allocation at The Avenue / Rosehill, Cantley is owned by the Council who has, for many years, allowed public access and for it to naturally vegetate meaning that it has at least some of the attributes of Local Green Space. However, it is allocated for housing in the UDP, and it provides a rare opportunity to provide a significant number of new homes well located within the main urban area. The Council as local highway authority considers that safe and suitable access can be provided, and there is no substantive evidence to lead me to a different conclusion. I am therefore satisfied that the allocation is justified..."

Policies in the Plan (both in general and specific to the sites) require appropriate mitigation and contributions. For example, in relation to the Rose Hill site, new public open space; buffering and protection of the woodland/Local Wildlife Site to the north of the site; layout of the development will be informed by a Tree Survey and existing boundaries expected to

retain trees and hedgerows where possible, with enhancement of the planting along the railway corridor. With respect to access and highways concerns, a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan will be required and will need to assess the operational capacity of the network and identify measures required to mitigate against this.

These are some examples of what is expected by planning policy to make sure the site comes forward sustainably, including addressing some of our residents' concerns. Approval for the sale of the Rose Hill site for residential development was given at Cabinet in September 2017 and is part of the Council's disposal programme to support new housing delivery across the borough. A preferred developer has been identified following a marketing exercise and the developer has carried out usual site surveys in advance of submitting a planning application.

All of the above will of course have to be considered in detail via the subsequent planning application process before any development can take place. This stage also allows for further public consultation, and I am sure you and our residents will take the opportunity to continue to put forward your views at that point too. Thank you.

Decision Records dated 7th July, 2021, be noted.

DECISION 1.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) confirmed its support for the Doncaster Delivering Together Prospectus; and
- (2) agreed for the report to be considered at Full Council on 23rd September, 2021.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones introduced the report, which sought comments on a new Borough Strategy – 'Doncaster Delivering Together' (DDT) prospectus and delivery programme up to 2030. The Plan sets out a central mission for Thriving People, Places and Planet, which balances the well-being of people and places with the planet. The full prospectus was attached at Annex C and a summary at Annex D of the report.

The Strategy proposes new ways of working that respond to local needs and opportunities, and seeks to reduce and improve people's well-being.

There are six well-being goals that set out the vision for the future:-

- Greener and Cleaner Doncaster
- Skilled and Creative Doncaster

- Prosperous and Connected Doncaster
- Safe and Resilient Doncaster
- Healthy and Compassionate Doncaster; and
- Fair and Inclusive Doncaster

It was reported that in order to deliver the longer-term vision, eight cross cutting priorities (the 'Great 8') will drive the delivery of the work and behind each of the priorities will be an action plan that sets out some high level deliverables that can be monitored and reported upon via Council and partnership performance management mechanisms.

It was further noted that a draft Executive Summary had been developed to ensure that everyone can access and understand what is trying to be achieved.

Following the introduction of the report, Members were afforded the opportunity to make comments and ask questions as follows:-

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball sought further details about partnership monitoring and assurance about how delivery of the strategy would be monitored. In response, it was reported that paragraph 30 of the report sets out what the Council needs to do to make the Strategy a reality. This includes the reframing of the *Team Doncaster Operating Model* and further detail on partnership monitoring so the Council understands what progress has been made and rectification methods and processes to address non-delivery.

Councillor Rachael Blake welcomed the Strategy and the details of the engagement that had taken place, particularly with regard to her portfolio for equalities. She asked how the engagement took place and how it had influenced the development of the Strategy. Councillor Blake was provided with details of the surveys and forums which were held, including work with the Inclusion Fairness Forum who had provided specific feedback.

The feedback received had highlighted the need for equity to be at the heart of the strategy and this is one of the headings in the Fairness and Inclusion Strategy. A specific challenge had been identified around job creation for marginalised communities, which has resulted in a section on fair work and inclusive work. Councillor Joe Blackham requested that the word Greener be inserted, when talking about Safer, Stronger, Cleaner, Greener, as it was an imperative part of what the Council is striving to achieve.

In conclusion, the report was welcomed and the Mayor and Cabinet wished to thank all those involved with the work that has been carried out, including the whole of Team Doncaster who have had an input into the Strategy.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To not develop and update partnership strategy and delivery programme.

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. Adoption of the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) noted and considered the contents of the report; and
- (2) recommended that the Local Plan be adopted via subsequent resolution at Full Council on 23rd September, 2021. The Local Plan becomes part of the development plan for Doncaster, and its policies given full development plan weight for the purposes of determining planning applications.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning introduced the report providing Cabinet with an update on the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035. He stated that the Plan has been in preparation for seven years, including numerous rounds of full public consultation.

The draft Local Plan was approved by Full Council in July 2019 to be published for final comments before being submitted to Government for its independent Examination in Public. The Council submitted the Local Plan in March 2020 and an independent Planning Inspector was appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to examine the 'soundness' and legal compliance of the Plan.

It was reported the Council had now received the Inspector's final report, with a number of changes made to the Plan identified as being necessary through the Examination to address issues raised by the inspector. The Council can now look to adopt the Local Plan via resolution of Full Council.

Cabinet were advised that the changes alluded to had already been subject to full public consultation earlier in the year and the inspector took on board those comments when preparing his final report.

Following adoption of the Local Plan, the current development plan (consisting of the saved policies from the Unitary Development Plan 1998, and its supporting Policies Maps, and Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2012) will be replaced. It was noted that the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham Joint Waste Plan

will remain in place, and part of the development plan, until superseded by the new Joint Waste Plan in due course. Furthermore, the Council will also need to review the current suite of Supplementary Planning Documents, as they currently hang-off Unitary Development Plan, and/or Core Strategy, policies that will no longer be in place.

Cabinet welcomed the report and fully endorsed the Plan for Full Council approval and were pleased to see that the plan will be subject to review and look forward to receiving reports at future meetings.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 2 – Do not adopt the Local Plan – The Local Plan is not adopted and such a decision would essentially mean the Council would have to withdraw the Local Plan.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

The Appendix to the report is not for Publication, by virtue of Paragraph 5 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dan Swaine, Director of Economy and Environment

DECISION 3.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

8. Quarter 1 2021-22 Finance and Performance Report.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the Quarter 1 Performance and Financial information; and

- (1) approved the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix A – Financial Profile;
- (2) approved the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A – Financial Profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rule (sections A&B);
- (3) approved the payment to the Doncaster Children’s Services Trust (DCST), as part of the contract management arrangements, for the COVID funded pressures (£2.155m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council;

- (4) approved the payment to St Leger Homes, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the general fund overspend reported (£0.246m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council;
- (5) approved the payment to St Leger Homes, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the cost of additional responsive repairs and electrical testing this financial year (£0.5m), with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council; and
- (6) approved the use of Housing Revenue Account reserves to meet the cost of in-depth stock condition surveys (£0.5m).

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Phil Cole, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report, which focussed on quarter 1 of the 2021/22 financial year. The report indicated the current financial forecast position against the 2021/22 budget and performance against key service standards.

It was reported that it continued to be a challenging time for the delivery of council services as the COVID-19 pandemic impacts right across the council as public services across the country progressed through the staged reopening of the economy and society.

Government initiatives have continued to be responded to and the organisation has wrestled with the challenges of opening up services at the same time as considering staff health and safety. Performance has been impacted by changing public behaviours and through focus being on responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

Cabinet were advised that during 2020/21, the Council also went live with the unified system for Education and Adults services. However, it was pleasing to note that this had resulted in improved performance for schools admissions whilst challenging the timescales for adult service assessment and annual reviews. In addition, the following performance areas are worth highlighting:-

- Business rate collection rate is slightly above target
- Council tax collection is similar to 2019/20 levels at this point in the year
- Local spend is £37.7m against available spend of £54.2m (70%)
- The majority of customers contacting the council are served within 10 minutes and 90% of telephone calls are answered within 150 seconds.
- Recycling rates are below target at 41%
- Fly tipping is below performance target at 36%
- Land audit cleanliness is below target following 43 sites being inspected
- The average number of days to process a new housing benefit claim has increased to 30 days and Council tax support application is currently 39 against target of 21 days.
- 74.4% of Education Health Care plans are completed within 20 weeks.

- Referrals to the Domestic Abuse Hub have reduced slightly from Q4 (20-21) but still remain above target.

It was reported that at quarter 1, the Council are forecasting a balanced budget position i.e. no under/overspend for 2021/22. It is continuing to manage the financial challenges brought about by COVID through utilising the additional funding provided alongside existing resources to ensure services and cost pressures are funded this financial year. Looking ahead, the Council will be examining the cost pressures in more detail to determine the extent to which they will need to be factored into the budget setting process for 2022/23 and beyond.

Councillor Cole advised Cabinet that Mayor Ros Jones had sought a supplementary note to be circulated to Cabinet Members and Councillors on the LAMS system, which is being trialled to improve roadside cleanliness.

The Mayor stated that she was delighted that Doncaster was a borough which is very well financially managed and is delivering a balanced budget in the most extreme circumstances. However, she explained that there was still a long way to go in delivering the services to residents of the borough and the Council will continue to work extremely hard to ensure the best services are provided. She went on to state that where new systems are on trial it is important to ensure they can be monitored adequately and urges all Cabinet members to be kept informed of any trials that may be taking place within their portfolios. She stated that she had asked that Cabinet receive a report explaining what the new LAMS system was and how it will bring about the improvements that all wish to see.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

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 4.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

9. St Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd (SLHD) Performance & Delivery Update: 2021/22 Quarter One (Q1).

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of SLHD performance outcomes and the contribution it makes to supporting Doncaster Council's strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business presented the St Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd (SLHD) Performance & Delivery Update 2021/22 Quarter 1 report stating that performance is still significantly impacted by factors relating to covid, but overall continues to gradually improve.

Appendix A to the report contained the SLHD 2021/22 Performance summary for Quarter 1.

It was reported that targets and measures were reviewed with Doncaster Council officers and elected members prior to the start of the financial year. KPIs were agreed with the Council and for 2021/22:-

- There were 19 KPIs;
- Two were measured quarterly – residents supported in training and employment;
- Four were measured annually – STAR survey (2), energy efficiency and Decent Homes Standard;
- Three KPIs relating to Homelessness do not yet have a target due to ongoing Covid 19 requirements. Targets will be considered after the end of Q1; and
- The only KPI change from 2020/21 is gas servicing; the service now report properties with a valid safety certificate rather than properties attended.

Councillor Jones went on to highlight some of the KPIs that were off target which were presented in more detail within the report:-

- KPI 2 - Void Rent Loss
- KPI 3 - Average number of calendar days to re-let standard properties
- KPI 7 - Concerns complaints and in particular the percentage of complaints upheld against customer interactions; and
- KPI 10 - deals with Gas servicing, and the percentage of dwellings with a valid gas safety certificate

Councillor Phil Cole commended the report stating that St Leger Homes provided an excellent service to the borough. However, he stated that everyone would like to see the decrease in the number of voids as quickly as possible as every void is a property where somebody who could have a secured tenancy was missing out. He also commented that the turnaround time on re-letting of a property needs to be reduced. However, he noted that both of these issues had been acknowledged within the report.

In response, Councillor Jones stated that voids were a priority for the service and acknowledged that performance needs improvement to ensure it was back to an acceptable level and measures will be put in place to enable the service to achieve that. Dave Richmond, Chief Executive of St Leger Homes wished Cabinet to note

that what the report presents are the headline figures, which relate to properties without any tenants. However, some of those properties were allocated and waiting acceptance.

Mayor Jones asked that in future Cabinet receive a verbal update with regard to voids that are under offer. She stated that she would continue to press for the improvements on voids and the re-letting to ensure that these houses become homes for people.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dave Richmond, Chief Executive, St. Ieger Homes of Doncaster

DECISION 5.

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

10. Performance Challenge of Doncaster Children's Services Trust: Quarter 1, 2021/22.

2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet noted the progress of DCST performance outcomes and the contribution that the Trust makes to support the Council's strategic priorities.

3. REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities introduced the Performance Challenge of Doncaster Children's Services Trust Quarter 1 2021/22 report to Cabinet, which included the current progress of DCST's performance, including the response to the Covid local epidemic curve that may impact on the delivery of services to the people of Doncaster.

Councillor Blake stated that the Trust's performance overall remained strong across its contractual KPIs and strategic indicators. She reported that there were Covid and demand challenges for children's services nationally, regionally and for the Trust, which were as follows:-

- Caseloads were a pressure last year and continue to be, although they have now reduced and are broadly in accordance with policy.

- Out of Authority placements and Looked After Children numbers went up last year, and continue to do so this year, creating capacity, caseload and cost pressures.
- Recruiting and retaining permanent staff and trainee social workers has improved in the last six months, but the social worker agency market is competitive, which affects caseloads and finances; and
- current improvement focus is on ensuring consistency of practice quality throughout the social care system. The Doncaster Children's Partnership Recovery and Resilience programme is in place to keep children and families safe, working with strategic safeguarding partners including the Council, police, health and schools.

In addition, the Trust remained committed to the partnership Future Placement Strategy as a means of increasing local provision through growth of foster carers and the residential offer and officers are actively working with the Council in procuring homes in a "sellers" housing market.

Cabinet were advised that the financial impact of Covid was estimated at between £1.3m and £1.9m for 2020/21, with a similar amount estimated for 2021/22.

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball sought clarification with regard to the financial aspects of the report stating that there were obvious financial challenges but asked what level of modelling and forecasting of growth assumptions had been included and how confident the Trust were in the financial plan. In response it was reported that the Trust were working on reducing both the Children in care numbers which had increased significantly and which in turn had impacted on the number of adopters and foster carers. Cabinet were advised that the Trust were assuming that there would be a continued growth in demand into Quarter 2 but it was hoped that this will reduce next year and continue to reduce over the next 3 years.

Councillor Rachael Blake stated that this had been a challenging year and it is acknowledged that frontline staff have gone above and beyond to support Children and Young People. She stated that it would be good to know how staff were feeling and what support was in place for them for the challenges ahead. She also sought information on how Doncaster compared to its statistical neighbours in relation to those performance indicators that were not being met and what plans were in place to make improvements.

In response, it was stated that the impact of covid on staff could not be underestimated, they have worked incredibly hard in extreme circumstances. It was noted that the Trust were committed to its reconnect strategy with the workforce, which included details of how the Trust can bring staff back into the office safely by continuing to follow Covid secure safety procedures and guidance and staff also have access to a practitioner forum where experiences can be shared. This is reported back to senior leadership. Staff are also represented on the Trust Board.

In terms of Performance of the Trust, it was advised that where benchmarking was available, this would be demonstrated within the narrative of the report. The Trust currently have two outliers with contractual performance indicators, one relates to adoption timeliness and care proceedings, which was a national challenge. It was noted that Doncaster was performing better than its peers but performance was not

where the Trust expected to be, so work will continue with the Courts and Cafcas to make those improvements.

Mayor Ros Jones commented that the child's needs were paramount and understood that some out of authority placements were required to meet that particular child's need. Mayor Jones expressed concern that the Trust were reacting too slowly in acquiring accommodation that would facilitate some of the children remaining within the borough. She sought assurances that the Trust were moving at pace to enable children, where appropriate, to remain within the authority and that the Trust can assure that they are in contact with the child to ensure they are safe.

In response, Cabinet were advised that through the Future Placement Strategy, there was a committed partnership response on this. It was noted that securing homes in the current sellers market had been challenging. However, the Trust will continue to work closely with St Leger Homes and the private sector to seek every opportunity in order to secure properties within the borough to enable children to remain within Doncaster. In terms of contact with the child or young person, the Trust continues to be in contact with the child through various methods. It was noted that certain cohorts can be difficult to reach, as they are older children. However, the Trust are committed to exploring every opportunity to ensure they are safe.

Discussion continued in relation to out of authority placements, the future placement strategy and the sourcing of premises to enable children to remain within the borough.

Councillor Joe Blackham asked whether it was possible the Trust could embark on the development of new build properties for out of authority placements. It was noted that this had been explored previously, discussion had taken place with the strategy group with regard to modular properties but it was considered to be a high risk decision to take because of the longevity of these types of properties.

Damian Allen, Chief Executive stated that there was a national review of Children Services in Care provision in terms of residential vision. It was recognised that outcomes for children in care were better if they are close to where they live. If partners are looking at the need and pledge we have around the child friendly borough, then there is legitimate challenge in the question that a more radical approach ought to be taken. He suggested that it was time for the Council and Partners to reflect more deeply in terms of its ambition.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

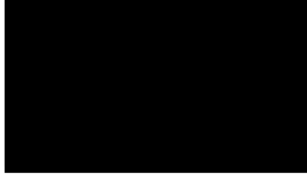
There were no declarations.

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not Exempt

7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

James Thomas, Chief Executive, Doncaster Children's Services Trust



Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker