



Doncaster Council

Report

28 February, 2022

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution requires those key decisions that can be implemented immediately without a call-in period (usually referred to as "Rule 16 Special Urgency Decisions"), to be reported to Council on an annual basis. This report outlines such decisions taken between the period 19th February, 2021 and 28 February, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. The Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance and ensuring that the decision making process is open and transparent. By reporting the key decisions taken under 'Special Urgency' provisions over the past year, the Council is ensuring that the public are well informed with regard to the democratic processes undertaken. The report demonstrates that the Council has effective processes in place to respond to urgent situations and events.

BACKGROUND

4. The Council's Constitution requires that decisions taken using Special Urgency provisions are reported to Council on an annual basis. The ability to take decisions under Special Urgency are provided for in legislation and reflected in the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution. Rule 16 decisions are decisions which require immediate implementation and therefore, the usual requirements of placing upon the Council's Forward Plan 28 days in advance and not being implemented during the 7 working day "call-in" period, cannot be followed. In each instance, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny was asked to confirm acceptance of urgency before the decision was taken.

5. This report reflects decisions taken from 19th February, 2021, to 28 February, 2022, to coincide with the production of this report. Any decisions taken between this date and the Council meeting, will be reported orally at the meeting.
6. Historically the Council's has made limited use of Rule 16's Special Urgency procedure (e.g. between 2015 to 2020 a total of 6). However, in 2020-21, the Council reported 32 Rule 16 decisions, this was a significant increase resulting from the need to take decisions quickly in response to the Pandemic. During 2021-22 the need to respond quickly and urgently to the pandemic has continued and there have been 33 Rule 16 decisions. Those decisions are listed in detail below, and were mainly directly related to the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any delay in decision making or implementing would have delayed the provision of grants or services to the people of Doncaster.
7. Rule 16 Special Urgency Decisions (2021-22):-

- (i) Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, taken by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture Jones on 19th February, 2021

The decision was urgent as the Council was expected, upon receipt of the grant offer, to accept the grant offer within 5 days. The funding offer was made to the Council on the 17th February 2021.

- (ii) Distribution of the Workforce Capacity Fund for Adult Social Care, taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 23rd February, 2021

The decision was urgent due as the local authority being required to utilise the Workforce Capacity Fund for Adult Social Care to fund the sector and initiatives between the 16th January 2021 and 31st March 2021.

- (iii) Unable To Re-Open & Further Business Support Grants, taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 24th February, 2021

The decision was urgent in nature due to the need to make these payments as soon as possible.

The Unable to Re-Open scheme was created to support businesses that would otherwise have qualified for grants for closed businesses, but were unable to re-open after the initial lockdown from March 2020 ended, or that they did re-open but then closed again before local or national restrictions came into force on the 24th October 2020.

- (iv) Acceptance of the Extended Winter Grant taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 9th March, 2021

This decision was urgent as the Council needed to ensure it had the necessary resources and plans in place to provide a delivery plan to administer the scheme. Additionally, the Council needed to have the logistical resource in place to ensure that arrangements were in place for extended free school meal provision. The additional grant was be

paid in two instalments to ensure that Councils were meeting the criteria.

- (v) One Public Estate (OPE) Funding: Acceptance of Funding and Accountable Body Role, taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 9th March, 2021

The decision was urgent in nature due to the need to return signed agreements to the managing authority accepting the grant. The deadline was 3rd March, but an extension was given. The revised deadline was 10th March.

- (vi) Proposals for Expanded Retail Discount 2021/22 taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 11th March, 2021

In response to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the decision was urgent in nature due to the need to award the relief and issue annual bills for 2021/22 as soon as possible.

- (vii) Approval of Business Rates Nursery Discounts for childcare nursery businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 15th March, 2021

In response to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the decision was urgent in nature due to the need to award business rates discounts to affected businesses as soon as practicable.

- (viii) Safe Accommodation Duty – Acceptance of Grant Funding, taken by Councillor Chris McGuinness Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment on 16th March, 2020

Additional funding had been allocated for safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse that was available to Doncaster Council to fulfil its new Statutory Duties as required in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Bill.

The decision was urgent as the Council had been awarded and needed to accept the monies before 17 March 2021.

- (ix) Department for Education Holiday Activities and Food Programme taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 19th March, 2021

The decision was urgent as the Council needed to ensure it had the necessary resources in place to accept the first payment, which was due in March 2021 from the Department for Education. This ensured that the team were able to mobilise their plans and implement an effective programme over the Easter Holidays for vulnerable children and young people.

- (x) National Leisure Recovery Fund, taken by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture on 19th March 2021

The decision was urgent as the Council had been awarded and had to accept the monies within specified timescales. The terms of the grant Agreement also required an immediate payment to be made to the provider 'DCLT' for the period prior to the date of the Agreement.

- (xi) Covid-19 Business Support, Restart Grant & Self-Isolation Scheme Payments, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 29th March, 2021

In response to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the decision was urgent in nature due to the need to make these payments as soon as possible.

- (xii) One year allocation of funds to Doncaster from Public Health England, for improving treatment and pathways into treatment for criminal justice client drug users, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 30th March, 2021

On 10 March 2021 Public Health England formally invited the Director of Public Health Dr Rupert Suckling to submit a grant application in respect of a £486K Section 31 local authority grant for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity in 2021/22 – Universal funding component.

The decision was urgent as the Council had to accept the monies within specified timescales. The provider Aspire also needed to be paid for the service development for 21/22.

- (xiii) One year allocation of funds from Public Health England to Doncaster as lead Local Authority/Banker, on behalf of 11 local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber, for inpatient detoxification, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 12th April, 2021

On 11 March 2021, Doncaster Council was invited by Public Health England to submit a grant application for a Section 31 local authority grant for inpatient detoxification 2021/22 of £853K.

The decision was urgent as the Council had to accept the monies within specified timescales.

- (xiv) One year allocation from Public Health England (PHE) for a Tier 2 weight management service in Doncaster, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 23rd April, 2021

The decision was urgent as the Council had to accept the monies within specified timescales. The LA public health team needed to explore options for a suitable provider in view of the absence of a Tier 2 Weight Management Service. The grant had to be spent by end March 2022.

- (xv) Acceptance of Covid Local Support Grant, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 29th April, 2021

This decision was urgent as the Council needed to ensure it had the necessary resources and plans in place to provide a delivery plan to administer the scheme. Additionally, the Council needed to have the logistical resource in place to ensure that arrangements were in place for extended free school meal provision.

- (xvi) Covid-19 21/22 Local Council Tax Reduction, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 30th April 2021

The decision was urgent in nature due to the need to apply this reduction as soon as possible so the eligible Doncaster citizens on low incomes were not struggling unnecessarily to make these payments.

- (xvii) Distribution of the Infection Control and Testing Fund for Adult Social Care taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 4th May, 2021

The decision was urgent due to the local authority being expected upon receipt of the funding, wherever possible, to take no longer than 20 working days to pass the providers allocation on to those who met the grant conditions.

- (xviii) Local Authority Delivery Scheme – Phase 2 Funding Enhancement, taken by the Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Housing and Business on 28th May, 2021

With government seeking confirmation of acceptance by the 31st May 2021, the decision was urgent in nature due to the need to secure this funding and deliver within the agreed timescales

- (xix) Prevention and Promotion of Better Mental Health Fund taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 28th June, 2021

The Prevention and Promotion of Better Mental Health fund had been allocated by Public Health England to the 40 most deprived Local Authorities. An urgent decision was required as the funds were only available for use in 2021/22, and for project delivery until May 2022.

- (xx) Acceptance of the Covid Local Support Grant taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 2nd July 2021

This decision was urgent as the Council needed to ensure it had the necessary resources and plans in place to provide a delivery plan to administer the scheme. Additionally, the Council would need to have the logistical resource in place to ensure that arrangements were in place for extended free school meal provision.

- (xxi) South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) ARG Capital Investment Support Grant 2, taken by the Mayor, Ros Jones on 12th October, 2021

In response to the on-going Covid Pandemic, the decision was urgent in nature due to the need to make these payments as soon as possible. The grants had to be allocated to businesses by the end of March 22.

- (xxii) Household Support Fund taken by the Mayor on 12th October, 2021

The decision was urgent due to the fact that half term started for most schools on 18th October so the food vouchers needed to start being issued to parents in the relevant households this week. The government have also asked all authorities to complete a submission by 29th October to inform them of how the funding would be used.

- (xxiii) ARG Cultural & Creative Recovery Grant Funding taken by the Mayor on 21st October 2021

The decision was urgent due to the need to make these payments as soon as possible. Following an application process, the grants need to be allocated to businesses by December 2021, with funds spent by March 2022.

- (xxiv) Distribution of the Adult Social Care Extension to Infection Control and Testing Fund: Round 2 and Round 3 Ring-Fenced Grant 2021, taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 8th November, 2021.

On the 2nd July 2021 and the 21st October 2021, the Government released the guidance for the continuation of the funding for Infection Control measures and Rapid Testing in Adult Social Care services. For the Infection Control and Testing Fund the local authority was expected upon receipt of the funding, wherever possible, to take no longer than 20 working days to pass the providers allocation on to those who meet the grant conditions.

- (xxv) Distribution of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 9 December 2021

In relation to the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care the local authority was expected upon receipt of the funding, to take immediate steps to address the current workforce capacity issues within its geographical area including passporting of funds where appropriate to CQC registered providers

- (xxvi) Improving rates of pay for Care Staff in the Adult Social Care Workforce taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 9 December 2021

The ICS had identified additional funding to support the adult social care market with the current workforce pressures from the 1st December 2021 with the early implementation of the increase to

National Living Wage. Implementing this decision quickly supported the stability and sustainability of providers, increasing their ability to offer a competitive pay rate and offer employment opportunities to the people of Doncaster. This also supported adult social care providers in responding quickly to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures through recruitment and retention activity this winter.

- (xxvii) HGV Driver Retention bonus for the Waste and Recycling contractor taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 23 December 2021

This decision was taken under special urgency provisions to ensure continuity of household waste and recycling collection services.

- (xxviii) Distribution of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 24 December 2021

This decision was urgent as the local authority was expected upon receipt of the funding, to take immediate steps to address the current workforce capacity issues within its geographical area including pass-porting of funds where appropriate to CQC registered providers.

- (xxix) Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 4 January 2022

The decision was urgent in nature due to the need to make the payments as soon as possible.

- (xxx) Doncaster Omicron Hospitality, Accommodation, Leisure & Travel Additional Restrictions Grant taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 26 January 2022

The decision is urgent in nature due to the need for the scheme to be launched as soon as possible so businesses can apply for the grant by 28th February and it can be verified and paid so all funds are spent by 31st March 2022.

- (xxxi) Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund 21/22 taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 26 January, 2022

The decision was urgent in nature due to the need to apply the rate relief in the 21/22 financial year to enable Doncaster businesses to benefit as soon as possible.

- (xxxii) Protect and Vaccinate Funding 2021-22 taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 27 January, 2022.

The decision was urgent in nature for the following reasons:

- a. the funding notification was only received from DLUHC on 20th December 2021; and
- b. the funding allocation needed to be spent by 31st March 2022.

(xxxiii) Distribution and Receipt of the Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund taken by Mayor Ros Jones on 27 January, 2022.

The decision was urgent due to the funding needing to be spent by the 31 March 2022 and spend reported to the Department of Health and Social Care. Any funding made available to third parties must be done so immediately.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. This report is for noting only and therefore, no options were considered.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 9.

Connected Council: Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance.	 By publicly reporting all key decisions taken under special urgency procedures, the Council is ensuring that its governance arrangements are open, transparent and in accordance with statutory requirements.
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. There are no identified risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: NC Date: 28/1/22]

11. The content of this report complies with Rule 16.02 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, which requires the submission of an annual report to the Full Council at its last ordinary meeting of the Municipal Year, on the Executive Decisions taken in the preceding twelve months under the Special Urgency provisions contained within those Rules. The report must include the number of decisions taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 10/02/22]

12. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SH Date 28/01/22]

13. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 27/01/2022]

14. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS Date 09/02/2022]

15. Many of the decisions in this report relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some had direct health impacts, including resources to support people to self-isolate, to establish local support services, and provide funding for infection prevention and control. Other decisions had indirect health impacts on health, including support to the local economy and other decisions increased the Council's ability to respond to the pandemic. Increasingly a number of decisions relate to securing one-off short term funding, in these cases the health benefit from accepting or applying for the grant was felt to outweigh the risk of taking an urgent decision.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials AT Date 26/01/22]

16. There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Special Urgency Key Decision (Rule 16) Reports and Executive Decision Records:-

- Decision taken by Councillor Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=16949&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Distribution of the Workforce Capacity Fund for Adult Social Care
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17036&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Unable To Re-Open & Further Business Support Grants
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17038&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Acceptance of the Extended Winter Grant
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17147&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - One Public Estate (OPE) Funding: Acceptance of Funding and Accountable Body Role
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17148&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Proposals for Expanded Retail Discount 2021/22.
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19046&Opt=0>

- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Approval of Business Rates Nursery Discounts for childcare nursery businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak.
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17159&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Councillor Chris McGuinness - Safe Accommodation Duty – Acceptance of Grant Funding
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17158&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Department for Education Holiday Activities and Food Programme
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17177&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Councillor Nigel Ball - National Leisure Recovery Fund
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17176&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - One year allocation of funds to Doncaster from Public Health England, for improving treatment and pathways into treatment for criminal justice client drug users
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17272&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Covid-19 Business Support, Restart Grant & Self-Isolation Scheme Payments
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17271&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - One year allocation of funds from Public Health England to Doncaster as lead Local Authority/Banker, on behalf of 11 local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber, for inpatient detoxification
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17381&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - One year allocation from Public Health England (PHE) for a Tier 2 weight management service in Doncaster.
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17462&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Acceptance of Covid Local Support Grant
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=19047&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Covid-19 21/22 Local Council Tax Reduction
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=17477&Opt=0>

- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Distribution of the Infection Control and Testing Fund for Adult Social Care
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19048&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Deputy Mayor Councillor Glyn Jones - Local Authority Delivery Scheme – Phase 2 Funding Enhancement
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17589&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Prevention and Promotion of Better Mental Health Fund.
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19049&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Acceptance of the Covid Local Support Grant
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=17871&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) ARG Capital Investment Support Grant 2
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18527&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Household Support Fund
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18530&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - ARG Cultural & Creative Recovery Grant Funding
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18527&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Distribution of the Adult Social Care Extension to Infection Control and Testing Fund: Round 2 and Round 3 Ring-Fenced Grant 2021
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19050&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Distribution of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18917&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Improving rates of pay for Care Staff in the Adult Social Care Workforce
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=18918&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - HGV Driver Retention bonus for the

Waste and Recycling contractor

<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19034&Opt=0>

- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones – Distribution of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care Round 2
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19044&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19032&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Doncaster Omicron Hospitality, Accommodation, Leisure & Travel Additional Restrictions Grant
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19142&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund 21/22
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19141&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones – Protect and Vaccinate Funding 2021-22
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19150&Opt=0>
- Decision taken by Mayor Ros Jones - Distribution and Receipt of the Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund
<https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=19151&Opt=0>

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