

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: e.g. Directorate/Ref No/Year - LOCYP/03/19 1920026

**BOX 1****DIRECTORATE: LO:CYP****DATE: 12/09/2019****Contact Name: Saul Farrell****Tel. No.: 01302 737 627****Subject Matter: Opportunity Area Grant Funding****BOX 2****DECISION TAKEN**

**To award £106,200 of Doncaster Opportunity Area (OA) grant funding to support the development of a work experience placement support function within Opportunities Doncaster Chamber of Commerce.**

**BOX 3****REASON FOR THE DECISION**

The OA Partnership Board chair and Head of Delivery have approved the grant to the amounts set out above.

In line with the Opportunity Area Delivery Plan's Priority Three Commitment to ensure that 'No Career is out of Bounds', we have put in place a Careers Hub to bring Careers Leaders in schools together with employers and universities to develop best practice careers education information advice and guidance. Through the work of this group, the need for meaningful experiences of the world of work has come out clearly as a key need in the borough. To do this Doncaster needs a hub of willing employers on board from all sectors in order to maximise the choice and experience to school children in our borough to enable them to make the right choices about their ambitions about work.

The Chamber of Commerce's knowledge and contacts upon which it may call from its membership of movers and shakers, from start-ups to established employers is established and extensive. Using their regional contacts, know-how and experience they are uniquely placed to hit the ground running, to open doors for young people and have committed to develop an

education business partnership securely based in Doncaster, designed to be sustainable beyond the life-time of the Opportunity Area Programme sharing their membership contacts to achieve it. This function has been launched as Opportunities Doncaster.

This further grant will enable Opportunities Doncaster to build on its capacity to deliver a high quality work experience offer. The funding is for delivery in the first year and to build capacity within Opportunities Doncaster so they will be well placed to continue to offer work experience support into Doncaster schools following the cessation of funding. It is this long term capacity building that means we have taken a grant funding approach over a contracting approach.

#### **BOX 4**

##### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The Opportunity Area Programme was developed based on detailed analysis of the available performance data, extensive consultation with professionals and engagement with Doncaster children and young people.

The proposals in this note align explicitly with the commitments in the published Doncaster Opportunity Area Plan, as well as key commitments under *Doncaster Growing Together* (specifically the Mayoral commitment to ensure that more young people have experiences of the workplace). The delivery approach was determined based on analysis of the available organisation's strengths and weaknesses. We investigated the possibility of a blended approach including other organisations (such as Fairtrain) but it was without doubt that this was the most comprehensive offer which also offered outstanding VfM.

Due to the breadth of activity we need to deliver around improving careers information, advice and guidance, and the need for pace and sustainability, only the Chamber could deliver this locally given their networks. It will also support capability within and the diversification of Opportunities Doncaster, which serves to further de-risk our already substantial investment in that organisation. Therefore, this option is highly desirable in financial, operational and strategic terms, which is why we have prioritised it over other approaches.

#### **BOX 5**

##### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with the so called power of competence which allows a local authority the power to undertake whatever an individual may do.

It is a requirement of the financial regulations of the Council that a grant must be underpinned by a formal legally binding agreement to ensure the Council's interests are protected and that outputs are duly monitored.

Name: Nicky Dobson    Signature: 

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**BOX 6****FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost of this decision detailed within the main body of the report is up to £106,200 and is to be funded in full from the Social Mobility Opportunity Area Grant and the Essential Life Skills Grant.

Funding of up to £8.7m is currently being received from the DfE in the form of a Section 31 non-ring fenced grant, £5.9m for the (OA) Programme and £2.76m for the (ELS) Programme. Spend to date against the grant is currently £2.8m for the OA Programme and £2.3m for the ELS Programme and as such sufficient grant remains to pay for this decision.

A cabinet report was approved on the 31st July 2018 to agree that organisations who are successful through the opportunity area / essential life skills bidding process can be grant funded, to amounts in excess of £50k and to agree to the delegation of decision making to the Director of People and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Schools.

**Name:** Stephen Boldry    **Signature:**     **Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

**BOX 7****OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

**ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.**

**BOX 8****EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:** (To be completed by the author).

In taking this decision, the decision maker must be aware of their obligations under section 149 Equality Act 2010. This section contains the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSSSED). It obliges public authorities, when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct which the Act prohibits
- b) Advance equality of opportunity; and
- c) Foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not.

I can confirm that we have taken this decision with due regard to those with Protected characteristics under the 2010 Equalities Act. This project will intrinsically support s149(b) through offering opportunities to young people from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and without prejudice to those with protected characteristics in order to assist them with accessing work experience and eventually, employment.

**BOX 9**

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:** (To be completed by the author)

There is a risk that without taking this decision the local authority will not be able to meet requirements of the Delivery Plan (namely the delivery of 96,000 meaningful encounters in the workplace) in that we will fail to deliver on the ambition of the Education & Skills Commission (*One Doncaster*), *Doncaster Growing Together* and the intent of the Social Mobility Opportunity Area.

**BOX 10**

**CONSULTATION**

**BOX 11**

**INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

[standard line only redacting signatures please.]

**Name: Robin MacNeill Signature** [REDACTED] **Date: 8/10/2019**

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

**BOX 12**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR NO

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13  
AUTHORISATION**

**Name:** Riana Nelson

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 08/10/2019

Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills

**Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer**

**NO**

**If yes please authorise below:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of \_\_\_\_\_

**Consultation with Relevant Member(s)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation** \_\_\_\_\_

**(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)**

**Declaration of Interest YES/NO**

**If YES please give details below:**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**

**Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at [Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk) who will arrange publication.**

**It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.**