



# Doncaster Council

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday, 11th May, 2022 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday, 12th May, 2022

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Monday 23rd May, 2022. These 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 Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities
Councillor Phil Cole	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Trading Services
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

Apologies:-

Apologies were received from Councillor Nigel Ball and Councillor Joe Blackham

## PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

### Public Questions and Statements

No public questions or statements were made at the meeting.

Decision records dated 30th March, 2022 be noted.

## DECISION 1.

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Doncaster Early Help Strategy 2022-2025.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) Agreed the Doncaster Early Help Strategy 2022-2025;
- (2) will Champion and advocate for Early Help in Doncaster; and
- (3) receive an annual report on the progress and impact of the Early Help Strategy.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Lani-Mae Ball, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People seeking the ratification of the Doncaster Early Help Strategy 2022-2025.

Councillor Ball reported that the Strategy sets out a 4 pronged approach to delivering a high quality and sustainable early help system that is built on the Council's strengths and aligned to local and national approaches to early intervention and prevention. It was further noted that the focus would be on families, communities, leadership and the workforce.

The report referenced the impact that the pandemic has had and this had also shaped the final strategy. Increased demand for services and pressures on key partners that came with the pandemic identified key areas for development. However, it was noted that the key takeaway from this time was the impact that the early help system had on the wider social care system and the speed at which investment and focus translated into positive outcomes for the people of Doncaster and the services supporting them.

Councillor Ball stated that the strategy sets the direction with clear priorities and tangible products and actions which makes the strategy real for families. Sitting underneath the strategy is a robust implementation plan, which is overseen by the Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board.

Councillor Ball stated that the Early Help Strategy is underpinned by a unifying vision and a series of commitments that the partnership will be led by for the life of the document. The vision statement and commitments were outlined at paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report.

The Mayor and Cabinet endorsed the Strategy, praising its vision and encouraged support. Cabinet members emphasised the importance of prevention and early intervention. It was also recognised that it was important for people to know where support is available and signposting that support and advice was invaluable. Whilst Members noted that the challenge presented should not be underestimated, the

Strategy and implementation Plan gives confidence and sets out a clear and robust way forward.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

To do nothing and allow all elements of the early help system to act and evolve independently. This option was not recommended.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

**6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Riana Nelson, Director of Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture

**DECISION 2.**

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

7. Changing Places Grant Funding Offer.

**2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) accepted the £330,000 Changing Places Grant Funding money which has been awarded to Doncaster Council by DLUHC and to add the schemes outlined in this report to the relevant part of the Council's capital programme with budgets totalling £386,360;
- (2) delegated authority to the S151 Officer to accept and agree the terms and conditions of any associated Memorandum of Understanding and any further associated Grant Agreements;
- (3) delegated authority to the Director of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to accept any additional monies provided by Government for Doncaster schemes outlined in this report and to add these amounts to the relevant part of the Council's capital programme;
- (4) approved the implementation of the schemes as outlined in this report, in accordance with the delegation below; and
- (5) delegated authority to the Director of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders for initiation and the ongoing delivery of the programme,

to include; funding commitment and spending decisions and the amounts awarded to any outside bodies in contracts and grants, and to agree any changes necessary to the schemes, to ensure deliverability within the timescales in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

**3. REASON FOR DECISION**

Cabinet received a report introduced by Councillor Andrea Robinson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care seeking approval to accept the £330,000 Changing Places Grant awarded to Doncaster Council by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

Councillor Robinson reported that Doncaster's successful Changing Places bid consisted of seven venues which were outlined at paragraphs 13-19 of the report. The Funding will be used to install Changing Places Toilets (CPT) in the specified key areas and in doing so, Doncaster will be able to reduce inequalities and improve the health of its residents by enabling greater access to the town centre, parks, leisure and cultural opportunities across the borough. It was also noted that it will improve provisions for communities across the borough and support Doncaster's ambition to move towards a more 'Fair and Inclusive' borough.

Cabinet welcomed the report. Thanks were given to Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources for leading on the successful bid. It was reported that the proposal was forward looking and inclusive. Comments were also made in relation to the choice of location being the potential for success. It was also important to recognise that the proposal will also level up access to facilities for disabled people, providing that essential basic need that is often taken for granted. Members also thought it important to recognise the amazing work that had been carried out with Friends of Sandall Park and were pleased to see this included in the funding offer.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not accepting the Changing Places Grant Funding

**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 3.**

**1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE**

8. The All Age Carers' Strategy for Doncaster (2022 - 2025).

## **2. DECISION TAKEN**

Cabinet:-

- (1) approved the All Age Carers' Strategy for Doncaster 2022-25 with accompanying action plan for 2022-23; and
- (2) the Director of Adults, Health and Well-being, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, partners and carers produce an annual report detailing measurable outcomes to be presented to Cabinet at the end of 2022/23.

## **3. REASON FOR DECISION**

Councillor Rachael Blake, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities presented a report to Cabinet seeking the approval of the All Age Carers' Strategy for Doncaster 2022-2025. She stated that the new strategy had been developed with a number of partner organisations and staff who work both directly and indirectly with young carers and adult carers.

Councillor Blake explained that the strategy addresses key priorities identified by Doncaster Carers of all ages and is informed by national legislation, guidance, policy and emerging evidence. These key priorities have been co-produced with carers and based on engagement with over 200 carers from across Doncaster. Furthermore, stakeholders from partner organisations have endorsed the priorities set by carers and have been asked to identify key actions they can undertake to support in achieving the priorities.

The six key priority areas identified by carers as the most important were highlighted at paragraph 6 of the report along with the 3 cross cutting themes that will be identified across the plans being developed.

Cabinet noted that Carers will continue to work alongside officers in planning and undertaking actions in support of the strategy. Regular updates on the working projects will be received by the Carers' Action Group, the Carers' Steering Group will be responsible for the delivery of the emerging plans and the Carers' Strategic Oversight Group will have oversight having provided endorsement to the emerging priorities.

The report made reference to the impact of COVID 19 that had been significant for society as a whole. For many carers the pandemic presents an even greater challenge, with increased isolation, reduced or no breaks from their caring role, and further financial pressures. These were reflected in the new strategy.

Following the introduction of the report, representatives from partner organisations and carers who were in attendance were invited to share their experiences of caring and make comments with regard to the Strategy and Action Plan. Councillor Robinson thanked all for attending and agreed with their comments that the actions in the strategy should be more tightly managed and subject to more measurable and specific outcomes and targets. Councillor Robinson reaffirmed her on-going commitment to Carers and that she would continue to ensure that she attended Carers' meetings and encourage the attendance of other partners also.

Mayor Ros Jones shared her own experiences with regard to caring and assured all that the comments made today would be taken on board. Mayor Jones showed her gratitude to those who had attended and shared their experiences and thoughts on the Strategy and Action Plan and agreed that outcomes needed to be measurable.

Cabinet Members echoed the comments made and stated that the scale of the challenge could not be underestimated. Frustrations were shared and an additional recommendation was agreed requiring more detailed and specific outcomes to be agreed and reported to Cabinet at the end of 2022/23.

**4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Do nothing - Not producing a new strategy and action plan would miss an opportunity to improve support for Doncaster carers at a time when, following the Covid pandemic, the pressures on them are greater than ever.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

**6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt

**7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Phil Holmes, Director of Adults, Health and Well-Being



Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker