

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: 2024/41/PH/CityCentreStrategy

BOX 1

DIRECTORATE: CEX - PIC

DATE: 17/09/2024

Contact Name: Chris Caulton

Tel. No.: 01302 735669

Subject Matter: Developing a new City Centre Strategy: Phase 2: Masterplan Refresh

BOX 2**DECISION TAKEN**

This ODR seeks approval to allocate up to XXXXX of the Long Term Plan for Towns capacity funding to fund the appointment of a partner to support the council to undertake the second phase of the development of the new City Centre Strategy. The second phase will include the production of a refreshed City Centre Masterplan

The appointment of the partner will be undertaken in accordance with the councils contract procedure rules, working with Corporate Procurement Team.

BOX 3**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

On 17th July Cabinet approved a report on the creation of the new city centre strategy which included the approval of the recommendations:

1. "approval to proceed with a new single City Centre Strategy up to 2050. This will incorporate a new vision for the centre.
2. approval to accept £200,000 of LTPfT capacity funding and submit a LTPfT proposal to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) outlining a 10-year plan for the city, as well as a more detailed 3-year investment plan which details the immediate interventions planned for 2024-2027, and The City Centre we see today has been shaped by the Urban Centre Masterplan launched in 2016. In response to a number of Government initiatives, City of Doncaster Council also have a mosaic of additional masterplans, including the Town Investment Plan (2021), Waterfront Master planning, etc. and these are supplemented by service delivery plans and 'business as usual' work, including initiatives like Regenerative Neighbourhoods.

The landscape has changed since 2016 and the Urban Centre Masterplan: the city centre has seen the delivery of several projects, there is a new policy environment, and there have been significant challenges that are still impacting the city, including COVID and the national issues around retail. In addition, Doncaster is the North's newest city, and this calls for an evaluation of the role the centre needs to play in the success of our wider city.

To this end, it is timely to create a new city centre strategy setting out the vision to 2050, incorporating a refreshed masterplan and incorporating service plans and service-related projects, best practice, and related partner products, like the Doncaster Chamber Business Manifesto, whilst integrating new and existing government programmes and providing governance through a new City Board. The City Centre Strategy will ensure a vibrant and successful city centre that acts as a doorway to services and activities for the entirety of Doncaster and its residents.

The development of the new city centre strategy and vision will shape Doncaster's response to funding opportunities through government programmes, alongside being key to unlocking private sector investment, and will be produced early in 2025, with the refreshed Urban Centre Masterplan finalised in the summer.

BOX 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Considering the above, using the funding which has been made available for this purpose through Long Term Plan for Towns Capacity Funding, is the preferred (and only) identified option (Option 1). At this stage, it is considered that there is only one other option available, albeit it is not considered as reasonable and is rejected for the reasons summarised below:

Option 2 – Reject the use of Long Term Plan for Towns Capacity Funding. There are no other sources of funding identified.

BOX 5

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to purchase goods and services.

The procurement of a consultant to undertake the second phase of the development of the new City Centre Strategy must be procured in accordance with the Councils contract procedure rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015

Name: Nicky Dobson **Date: 26th July 2024** _____

BOX 6

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Cabinet approved a report on 17th July 24 for the creation of a New City Centre Strategy, approving the acceptance of £200k from DLUCH for Long Term Plan for Towns. A further £50k is being held in EMR (Ref: 2023-05) in relation also to Long-Term Plan for Town.

This report seeks approval to draw down XXXXXXXX of Long-Term Plan for Town capacity funding held on ML017 to fund the appointment of a partner to support the New City Centre Strategy.

Spending proposals will need to be reviewed to ensure any ongoing costs can be met from within existing budgets.as the Council has not allocated any additional funding to support the LTPfT.

Name: Amanda Gosney **Date: 30/07/24**

Name of Chief Financial Officer and Service Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7

OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS

None identified

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Service 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).

Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic. It is not considered that this decision has any direct implications with respect to this.

BOX 9

RISK IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author)

The risks of not taking this decision have already been set out in the main section of this ODR, as well as the rejected option section. In brief, the Council would not have the capacity and expertise to deliver a new City Centre Strategy.

BOX 10

CONSULTATION

As stated above the decision to create a new City Centre Strategy and the drawing down of Long Term Plan for Towns Capacity Funding was approved by Cabinet on 17th July and as a result went through the relevant council processes to make this decision.

In addition there has been consultation on the development of this work with the City Centre Board as well as through monthly engagement with cabinet, as well as regular dialogue with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive as part of Policy and Strategy conversations.

The council has taken an extensive consultation with the people of Doncaster through the recent Big City Conversation and appreciative inquiry, which has resulted in engagement with over 8,000 people. As the council develops phase 2 around the masterplan and strategy development consultation will continue to take place.

BOX 11

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION

It is in the public's interest to be aware of this decision under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, some information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) is commercially sensitive and therefore, the information in paragraph 1 and in box 2 and paragraph 2 in box 6 and the signatures are to be redacted.

Name: J.Bucknall _____ **Date:** 17.09.2024 _____

Name of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 12

**BOX 13
AUTHORISATION**

Name: Lee Tillman **Signature:** **Date:** 30.9.24
Service Director of Chief Executives

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

NO

If yes please authorise below:

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Chief Executive/Executive Director/Service 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:

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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