

**To the Chair and Members of the
SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN
DONCASTER – SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Fennelly, Lead Member for Children and Young People	All	No – Information only

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report sets out for the panel the findings and recommendations of the Independent Commission on Education and Skills in Doncaster, published on 21 October 2016. It sets out the process of consultation and the timeline for the Team Doncaster response. The panel is requested to respond to the report as part of the consultation process.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the panel note;
 - The content and findings of the report from the Independent Commission on Education and Skills in Doncaster, in particular:
 - The overarching structure of the 3 key issues and 7 characteristics which form the Doncaster Declaration – a public commitment to which stakeholders can sign up to for taking forward actions
 - The 30 recommendations made within the report (grouped within the 7 characteristics) and the phased approach for implementation – all of which will be considered/added to/amended as part of Team Doncaster's formal response in January 2017.
 - The on-going consultations with relevant stakeholders to inform the formal response in January 2017.

That the panel engages with the consultation process by providing its response to the Commission's report and recommendations.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The report from the Independent Commission on Education and Skills in Doncaster

was published on 21 October 2016 and received by a wide range of stakeholders.

Its findings derive from consultations with over 1000 local stakeholders across a variety of sectors, including from the education, business and voluntary sectors, a range of other local strategic partners, council and political leaders, and parents and young people – details of the individuals and organisations consulted with are included at the end of its report.

The report is therefore a direct product of the views taken from the citizens and stakeholders of Doncaster, as perceived by the Commissioners.

The report is likely to have a long-term impact on the citizens of Doncaster as its recommendations aim to address challenging long-standing issues, which require a co-ordinated and strategic response.

Ultimately, the report aims to improve education and skills levels in the borough that will lead directly to increased employment opportunities.

BACKGROUND

5. Team Doncaster commissioned an Independent Commission to review the education and skills provision across the borough. Its task was to analyse the existing system of education and skills provision to assess its fitness for purpose. The Commission was asked to identify barriers to development, outline how existing assets and strengths could be built upon and make recommendations for actions to be taken by a range of stakeholders.

The Commission met with over 1000 local stakeholders including 400 individuals and groups and 800 young people. It also organised a borough wide 'Open Space' stakeholder event in which 80 people took part, generating over 1000 ideas and responses. The Commission received online survey responses from 23 adults, 3 organisations and 103 young people and received written email submissions from 15 individuals and organisations.

The findings of the Commission are summarised in its ONE Doncaster report, which identifies three key messages that describe a successful education and skills system in Doncaster, These are:

1. *For Doncaster to thrive it is vital that its education and skills system enables everyone to thrive by learning and acquiring new skills throughout their lives*
2. *For Doncaster to thrive it is vital that its education and skills system educates the whole person*
3. *For Doncaster to thrive it is vital that its education and skills system is characterised by a shared vision and excellent partnership working with clear lines of communication and accountability*

To enable this to emerge the Commission recommends that Team Doncaster adopts the following seven key characteristics:

- *Demonstrate great distributed leadership*
- *Develop a whole person, whole life focus*
- *Create a local all age careers and employment and guidance system*
- *Promote ambition and aspiration*
- *Provide outstanding teacher development opportunities*

- *Foster a commitment to creativity and inclusivity*
- *Communicate and celebrate*

The Commission proposes that these three key messages and seven characteristics form the 'Doncaster Declaration' – a public pledge to which all stakeholders can commit to. The current period of consultation assesses levels of support

In order that Team Doncaster can move quickly to implement the report it sets out 30 specific recommendations. These range from establishing an Education and Skills Partnership Board, establishing Doncaster as a university city, developing new methods of benchmarking young people's achievements, adding the Arts to STEM to create a STEAM strategy and establishing a women and girls empowerment programme. .

The full findings of the report were launched at an event at the Keepmoat Stadium on Friday 21st October, presented by national education expert and the Commission's Chair, Dr Ann Limb. Dr Limb summarised that the key attributes of a model education and skills system can be found in Doncaster, together with the presence of some notable 'energy creators' and 'change makers' but that greater partnership working was key to progress.. The launch was well attended by over 100 local stakeholders including young people, representatives from the education, business and voluntary sectors, the Mayor, council and political leaders and all three Doncaster MPs.

In addition to Dr Limb's presentation of the Commission's findings, the launch event included responses from the Mayor, Chief Executive of the council, Headteachers, Doncaster's Business Chamber, the MPs and a number of young people. The event included a press briefing with numerous local newspapers covering the launch of the report, complimenting the awareness and press coverage which has grown as a result of articles, communications and social media posts since the establishment of the Commission at the start of 2016.

TIMELINE

The next steps will be focused around a timeline of consultations to inform Team Doncaster's formal response in January 2017. This will take place throughout November and December and involve, not limited to:

- Analysis of the responses from the launch event on 21st October
- Workshops at the Team Doncaster Summit on 2nd November
- Engagement with all Team Doncaster Boards
- Feedback from Headteachers at the partnership meeting on 9th November and subsequent school responses
- Engagement with young people, via a meeting with the Youth Council and wider groups
- With elected members via the scrutiny process
- 1:1 meetings with key local stakeholders
- Distribution of the report to local and regional contacts with invitations for feedback via an online survey
- Signposting of the report and online survey via the Team Doncaster and Council websites and Social Media

The consultation process and findings informs the formal Team Doncaster response

to the Commission's report which is expected to be published on 18 January 2017. Formal approval from the Council will be requested in March 2017.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. There are no options as the report is part of a process of consultation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. There are no options as the report is part of a consultation process.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Good all-age education and skills systems enable us to prepare our children and young people and adults for employment in the future, in turn helping the economy to grow and flourish.</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> 	<p>Good all-age education and skills systems enable citizens to benefit from local job opportunities and enable employers to benefit from a talent bank of skilled employees. This supports the creation of new jobs and safeguards our communities by creating and maintaining opportunity in the local area.</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Good all-age education and skills systems support families to thrive by preparing children and young people and adults for future employment.</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>Strong all-age education and skills systems will provide modern, value for money services.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Strong education and skills systems require partnership working with strong leadership and governance.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. The agreement to establish a Commission has emerged out of a strong partnership fostered within Team Doncaster. Consequently the assumption is that there is sufficient interest and engagement across stakeholders to work in partnership to effect ambitious change in the education and skills sectors in Doncaster.

The approach of the Commission was a listening one. The risks of not consulting on

its recommendations are that that the wider ownership of its recommendations is diluted. The Commission's recommendations are highly ambitious and aspirational and the job of consultation is to test the local appetite for change.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no specific financial implications relating to the recommendations in this report (which is for information purposes), however, the action plan which Team Doncaster proposes in January 2017 will require financial investment therefore it is important that the consultation phase is informed by a range of stakeholders.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no specific Human Resources implications relating to this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

13. Not applicable.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no equality implications directly arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

15. This report results from consultations made by the Commission with over 1000 local stakeholders and proposes that a further period of consultations on the Commission's findings and recommendations takes place. The report directly seeks the views of the Chair and Members of the Schools, Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, to form part of the consultation which will inform Team Doncaster's formal response.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. ONE Doncaster report by the Independent Commission on Education and Skills in Doncaster <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/one-doncaster-report>

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Lynsey Earley
Development Advisory Officer
Telephone: 01302 735313
Email: lynsey.earley@doncaster.gov.uk

Damian Allen
Director of Learning Opportunities & Skills (DCS)