Our Priorities

We have set out our priorities for the Council in our corporate plan.

Doncaster Council’s purpose is to ensure Doncaster and its people thrive – ensuring value for money is at the heart of everything we do.

Our Priorities are:

1. Doncaster’s economy develops and thrives, underpinned by effective education and skills
2. Children are safe
3. Stronger families and stronger communities
4. Modernised and sustainable Adult Social Care Services with increased choice and control
5. Effective arrangements are in place to deliver a clean, safe and attractive local environment
6. The Council is operating effectively and has robust plans in place to operate within future resource allocations.

Our budget will be driven by these priorities and proposals have been put together to be tested against these.

Where we are now?

The Council is smaller than it was three years ago. We have almost 1200 (20%) fewer staff and delivered £93m (28%) savings. So having £109m less to spend represents a further 30% savings over the next 3 years, which will mean that we will have reduced our spending by £202m (50%) over the six years.

Where we need to be?

We will be a council that promotes growth and prosperity of Doncaster. We need to make the most of the finances that we have. We need to reduce any unnecessary demand for our services so they are better targeted and make a difference to those people who need them the most. We need more local people to be enabled to support themselves in their own homes. We want to empower local people by placing information and choice in their hands.
Essentially everything is up for discussion and review. We will have to look at our income and whether there are opportunities to increase it, stop subsidising services or stop providing services that we can no longer afford or are poor value for money.

We have to legally balance our books, as despite our protests, the Government will not offer any further financial help. We, like you, are facing rising costs in delivering services such as rising prices and energy and transport costs.

As part of our plan we want Doncaster Council to be:

**A Commissioning Council**

We will work better with our partners, the voluntary sector, communities and businesses to commission and procure local services that make a real difference. Services will be delivered by those who provide best value including in-house provision. We want well managed services where our residents are at the heart of what we do.

**An Empowering Council**

We want to help our communities and our residents to get the services that they really need and are right for them. That means the Council wants to know what works best for individuals and through support and advice, would want to help residents find the services that best suit their needs. We want to enable people and communities to help themselves.

For example, we will look to support more people in taking control of their care by giving more personalised budgets to vulnerable adults. By having control over what an individual spends their care budget on, that person can have more choice over the service they receive and a greater sense of personal control.

**A Community Council**

The Council has a pivotal role to play in Doncaster's future as a borough. We have strong community relationships and a leadership role and these will continue in the future. We will still be a strong advocate for the borough.

**A streamlined Council**

We have far too many buildings and running them costs us £14m a year. Most council buildings are not used enough and need maintenance work we can’t afford, whilst many do not offer the type of facilities we need.

We now have a state-of-the-art civic building in the town centre that, over time, will save the council money, and help us have more of our staff in one place rather than scattered around the borough in expensive to run buildings. We need to concentrate our services in buildings that are cost-effective, maximise the use of space and are as multi-use as possible. Our buildings have to be more customer-orientated and open at more appropriate times for our users and offer shared facilities with others, including our communities.

**A Productive Council**
We need to be as productive as possible. This means taking a detailed review of what we do and how we do it. We need to stop any duplication, confusing processes and waste. We will also look at redesigning some services and pushing for more commercial value for money processes and encouraging modern forms of service delivery.

Our people are our greatest resource and we have to ensure that they are supported to deliver the best possible services for local people.

A Council Fit for the Future

We need to look at how we can make our service delivery and processes move with the times. The use of modern technology will not only ensure that our customers get the services they need through communication, it will also save us money and speed up our response times and improve the consistency of services.

We should be ‘digital assumed’ which means customers access our services as much as possible through modern technology such as smartphones, apps and the internet.

A Preventative Council

By concentrating more on early intervention, we can take action to avoid additional future costs as problems develop. For example by helping elderly residents stay in their own homes and working with vulnerable families to tackle problems at an early stage. We will use enforcement powers appropriately and timely to protect the borough and its people.

A Dynamic Council

To help modernise and shape our services we need to encourage a culture that increases productivity, flexibility and ability to adapt to change as part of every-day business. We need to change the way we work to deliver services in a motivating and effective way, at the same time improving services for the public.