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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 2 March 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT Councillor Andrew Shirley - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Susan Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Angus Jenkins, Tony Millward BEM, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Jim Fearn (Communications and Marketing Manager), Ian Brailsford (Business Transformation Assistant) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, Richard Bright, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert and Vicky Massey-Bloodworth.

The Chairman advised those present that the meeting was being recorded live on YouTube.

378/16 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr Paul Siddall (local resident) asked the following questions regarding the proposed Watery Lane traveller site:

- If there were a bypass in the future, do Councillors think it would cut through the cemetery, the sewage treatment plant or through the Watery Lane site?

- Does the Council consider that spending up to £1m on a site that would not be permanent is good use of taxpayers' money?
- How many architectural firms had been asked to tender for the works to develop the proposed traveller site? (Minute 346/16 26 January 2017)

The Leader of the Council advised that it was unclear at this stage whether any other monies were available from other sources, and that notwithstanding this, the Council had a statutory duty to provide a site. Members would make a decision depending on final costs, but there was more work to be done which was currently being carried out by Officers. The Leader of the Council advised that he was not aware of how many architects had been asked to tender, and would provide a written response in due course.

Mr John Youatt, (local resident taxpayer and speaking on behalf of his clients, the owners of the Woodyard at Homesford) requested Councillors and Officers to arrange a meeting of all relevant parties in order to discuss the traveller site before the Examination in Public of the Local Plan. Mr Youatt suggested that the permanent solution would be the site at the Woodyard.

The Leader of the Council reminded Members that the site at the Woodyard had been through the assessment process and was deemed not suitable. A meeting with the County Council would not be relevant or helpful at this stage as a lot more work had still to be done.

379/16 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Joanne Wild, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Dales District
(unanimously) Council held on 26 January 2017 be approved as a correct record.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

380/16 - LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader's announcements formed part of agenda item 11 (Service Plans and Revenue Budget 2017/18).

381/16 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements carried out between Friday 27 January 2017 and Wednesday 1 March 2017 was distributed at the meeting. The Chairman particularly wished to record his thanks to the District Council staff who assisted with the annual Shrovetide event on 28 February. The Chairman also reminded Members of his forthcoming Civic Dinner on 22 April at Ashbourne Gold Club.

382/16 – COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, seconded by Councillor Chris Furness and

RESOLVED That the non-exempt minutes of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the period 26 January 2017 to 22 February 2017 be received.
(unanimously)

383/16 – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE - UPDATE

Council considered a report on the programme of work to be carried out over the next 12 – 18 months in response to the continuing financial pressures facing this Council, and that looked to prepare the Council for future challenges. It was hoped that the amount of additional work having to be undertaken by already overstretched resources was noted and appreciated.

Reports elsewhere on this meeting's agenda outlined the significant financial challenges ahead for the Council, resulting in an increasing awareness that in order to fulfil the Council's statutory obligations, the ability to continue to directly provide, or to provide at all, all services, had to be reviewed. The extent of the work being undertaken to meet the requirements of the Council's Efficiency Plan and to secure financial stability was outlined in the Medium Term Financial Strategy presented to Council in November 2016.

The report looked at four different areas:-

- ◇ work programme to stabilise and assist the Council's financial position;
- ◇ major projects;
- ◇ organisational structures to support the above;
- ◇ strategic direction.

With regard to the work programme, a number of work strands were proposed as detailed in the report. In determining the work that needed to be carried out over the next 12-18 months, deliberations by CLT had led to the prioritisation matrix (attached at Appendix 1 to the report), which detailed the area of work to be done, its priority rating, the lead CLT Officer involved and other relevant information.

Members noted that in some instances it was suggested that external support would be required in order to bring in the expertise that was not held in-house and / or to provide capacity if necessary. To this end, it was proposed that Members delegated to the Chief Executive the ability to draw on the General Reserve, up to £25000 at a time (so as to comply with Contract Standing Orders), to fund the external support after consultation with the S151 Officer and Leader and Deputy Leader and relevant Chair of Committee with a report on any Reserves used being presented to the next available Council meeting.

It was noted that certain major projects being undertaken would significantly influence the Council's ability to balance its books in the future; these were explored in the report and comprised Leisure Services, Waste Contract, arvato Contract, Local Plan and 10% / 25% Reductions in Revenue Budgets.

It was proposed that a Members' Workshop was arranged to take place during late summer / early autumn, by which time some of the major project work would have been undertaken and the future priorities in terms of some major areas of work may be clearer, giving Members a more informed position upon which to base discussion. It was also suggested that this Workshop should inform any changes to the Corporate Plan and priorities for the future.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a report be presented for discussion at the relevant Committees on the individual pieces of work covered in this report.
3. That the arrangements put in place for the interim period to deliver Environmental Services and the interim appointment of Ashley as interim Head of Service be noted.
4. That authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with S151 Officer, the Leader and Deputy Leader and relevant Chair of Committee, the ability to utilise General Reserves for external support as detailed in para.2.5 of the report, reporting back to Council on any such use made of the Reserves.
5. That a Members' Workshop be convened in late summer / early autumn to discuss the Council's future direction and review the Council's Corporate Plan and priorities

384/16 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 TO 2020/21

Members considered a report that:

- Determined the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2016/17 to 2020/21;
- Outlined potential future liabilities not included in the Capital Programme;
- Determined the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2017/18.

The Council approved the initial Capital Programme for 2016/17 at the Council meeting on the 3rd March 2016; the programme had subsequently been updated in June, September and November. A revised programme for 2016/17, together with changes for financial years 2017/18 to 2020/21, was presented for Members' consideration and approval and included changes to the current capital programme as explained in the report, including 1 new scheme - The Design Brief for the Travellers site, which was approved by council on 26th January 2017.

It was advised that the report should be read in conjunction with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Strategy, which were approved by Council in November 2016.

The recommended Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 were set out in Appendix 3 to the report, together with the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2017/18, including the estimated MRP for 2017/18. The estimated MRP for 2017/18 had been reflected in the draft revenue budget, which was elsewhere on the agenda for this Council meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)*

- 1 That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum of

£4,181,336 be approved;

- 2 That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum of £2,852,058 be approved.
- 3 That the Capital Programmes for 2018/19 to 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, for the sum of £2,374,382 be approved.
- 4 That the potential future liabilities outlined in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.
- 5 That the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.

*Councillor Tony Millward BEM wished to record that he supported the motion, with the exception of the proposed Traveller Site.

385/16 – SERVICE PLANS AND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18

Council considered a report that sought approval for the District Council's service plans for 2017/18, revised spending proposals for 2016/17 and the spending proposals for 2017/18.

Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council, acknowledged the Performance Plan and Revenue Budget 2017/18, and confirmed that Councillors had voted unanimously to increase the District Council's part of Council Tax by an average 10p a week to balance the impact of another cut in central government funding and maintain its status as one of the best performing rural districts in England. This was, however, only the second time in 7 years that Council Tax had increased. The central government cut in 2017/18 came on top of grant reductions of 21% in 2016/17, 13.8% in 2015/16 and 10.8% in 2014/15, and the District Council was trying hard to minimise service cuts, despite having to find additional ongoing savings of £1.6 million in the next three years. To this end, Councillor Rose thanked all staff for what they had done and what they were doing to achieve savings and pointed to a list of savings already banked, including the Council's administration service, discretionary grants and other areas.

Councillor Rose said social care should not be funded by taking money from one tier of local government and giving it to another and stressed that business rate retention needed to ensure that rural districts were treated fairly. Councillor Rose reiterated the significant changes faced by the District Council, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report, and encouraged Councillors to continue to lobby government and our local MP on behalf of rural areas.

Councillor Rose went on to list "significant highlights" including the Local Plan, which was on course to be examined in May this year; the introduction of hi-tech car park machines across the district and hitting economic development objectives with support from Sheffield City Region, D2N2 and the Peak Leader programme, adding: "The Council's ambition to help provide more affordable homes for local residents forms a substantial part of our capital programme and demonstrates to all concerned that the council puts its money where its mouth is!"

Statutory Legislation required a recorded vote in respect of the Revenue Budget in accordance with rule of procedure 19e.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED

1. That the level of Council Tax for 2017/18 is increased by £5 per band D, pro-rata for other bands (2.6%), from the 2016/17 level.
2. That the revised estimate of net revenue expenditure for 2016/17 of £5,465,778 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account, is approved.
3. That the net sum of £2,873,782 is transferred from earmarked reserves in 2016/17, as shown in Appendix 7.
4. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2017/18 totalling £5,659,485, as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account, is approved.
5. That the minimum level of uncommitted working balances is approved at £1,000,000 at 1st April 2017, and £1,000,000 at 1st April 2018. That the net sum of £1,904,514 is transferred from earmarked reserves in 2017/18, as shown in Appendix 7.
7. That the following amounts are calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2017/18 in accordance with Section 31A of the Localism Act 2011:-
 - i aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) thereof is £41,682,222;
 - ii aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £34,582,645;
 - iii calculation under Section 31A(4) being the amount of which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate of (ii) above, as the Council Tax Requirement for 2017/18 is £7,099,577;
8. That the Derbyshire Dales District Council Service Plans and Revenue Spending Proposals (as circulated with the agenda) are approved.
9. That progress on service reviews and progress against the 2014-2017 corporate savings target are noted.
10. That a new Corporate Savings Target, to achieve savings of £1.6m over the next three years, is approved.
11. That the Head of Resources' report on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves in accordance with clause 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 is noted.

**Voting:
For**

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Susan Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Tony Millward BEM, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacque Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham, Philippa

Tilbrook and Joanne Wild (32).

Councillor Angus Jenkins (1)

Against

(0)

Abstentions

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

386/16 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2017/18

The Council considered a report that enabled calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2017/18 as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011.

The precept levels of other precepting bodies had been received and were listed in the report, and the recommendations of the Council were set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendices A – C of the report. It was noted that if the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendices A – C were approved, the total Band D Council Tax would be as tabled in the report.

Statutory Legislation required a recorded vote in respect of the Council Tax setting in accordance with rule of procedure 19e.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED That the Council approves the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendices A to C of the report.

Voting:

For

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Susan Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Angus Jenkins, Tony Millward BEM, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild (33).

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

387/16 – CORPORATE PLAN 2017/18

Council considered a report that recommended the Corporate Plan targets for 2017/18 on the basis of the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 adopted in November 2015. The report also presented performance against the Corporate Plan targets 2016/17 as at the end of the third quarter.

The new Corporate Plan 2015-2019 adopted by Council on 19 November 2015 identified a thriving district as the priority for improvement and focussed attention. The three priority target areas set by Members, in order, were:

1. Business growth and job creation (helping new businesses to start; helping existing businesses to grow; and promoting key development sites in and around towns)
2. Affordable housing (identifying and delivering new affordable housing sites; and improving housing opportunities for vulnerable people)
3. Market towns (reviving stall markets; and seeking public realm improvements)

Thirteen specific Corporate Plan target figures for 2017/18 were proposed in accordance with the target areas set by Council on 24 November 2016, as tabled in the report. Performance against these targets would be reported to Council during the coming year. It was proposed that the Corporate Plan be reviewed during 2017/18 in light of the District Council's tightening financial position.

For the current year's Corporate Plan, Council on 3 March 2016 adopted thirteen specific targets for 2016/17. Progress to December 2016 (end of Q3) was tabled in the report, with full details set out in Appendix 1 to the report. Outturn performance would be published later this year.

The current end of Q3 figures indicated that 5 out of 13 targets for which data was available were on track to be achieved during 2016/17. A further 6 out of 13 were likely to be achieved later than planned and two targets were unlikely to be achieved. The detailed position for each of the key performance indicators for 2016/17 was set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Joanne Wild, seconded by Councillor Andrew Statham and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Corporate Plan targets for 2017/18 are adopted as set out in section 2
2. That performance to date against 2016/17 Corporate Plan targets is noted
3. That the Corporate Plan is reviewed during 2017/18

388/16 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2017/18

Council considered a report that determined the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 that complied with the CIPFA Code and the CLG's revised *Guidance on Local Authority Investments*. Council was asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report was based change significantly, for example, by a large unexpected change in interest rates, or in the Council's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance.

A detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by The Council's treasury adviser, Arlingclose, was attached at Appendix A to the report, and Appendix B to the report tabled the existing investment and debt portfolio position.

It was moved by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, seconded by Councillor Chris Furness and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2017/18 be approved;
2. That the Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 be approved.

389/16 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Tom Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

That the common seal of the Council be affixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to officers since the last meeting of the Council.

MEETING CLOSED 7.55PM

CHAIRMAN