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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Deborah Botham, Richard Bright, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, Phil Chell, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Angus Jenkins, Vicky Massey, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Mark Salt, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell and Philippa Tilbrook.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Steve Capes (Head of Policy and Regeneration), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Simon Beynon (Strategic Housing Officer) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

Paul Radcliffe, Avarto

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, David Chapman, Chris Furness, Tony Morley, Andrew Shirley and Joanne Wild.

A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the recent Paris terrorist attacks.

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL CREDITS

A verbal presentation was given by the Strategic Housing Officer and Paul Radcliffe of Arvato on the impact of Universal Credit on residents within the Derbyshire Dales District Authority, which commences on 23 November 2015. Questions were then invited from the floor.

215/15 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Tony Millward, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 September 2015
(unanimously) and the two Special Council Meetings held on 12 October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

216/15 – CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the District of Derbyshire Dales distributed a list of his engagements between 25th September and 19th November 2015.

217/15 – COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Statham, seconded by Councillor Garry Purdy and

RESOLVED That the non-exempt minutes of the Committees listed in the Minute
(unanimously) Book for the period 24 September 2015 to 5 November 2015 be received.

218/15 – QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Councillor Martin Burfoot asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:

“Will Cllr Rose encourage or commit this Council to sign up to the Mental Health Challenge, run by the Centre for Mental Health and other campaigning organisations and seek to prioritise mental health and wellbeing across all our areas of responsibility, from housing and planning to community safety, licensing and environmental health to name but a few, by :

- 1. Appointing a member as Mental Health Champion, and a member of staff as lead officer.*
- 2. Working to reduce mental health inequalities and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for improved mental health.*
- 3. Engaging with local partners, especially the County Council, but also our GP practices and hospitals, to provide effective support for people with mental health needs?”*

Councillor Rose, OBE, responded that mental health was an issue that seemed to be growing in importance and profile at the current time. The District Council was currently in the process of producing its first ever Health and Wellbeing Strategy and he knew that the issue of the District Council's approach towards supporting those with mental health problems was one that had been raised by a number of respondents to the recently completed public consultation on the Council's draft Strategy. All the comments received were being evaluated and the final proposed Strategy was due to come before Council in January.

The District Council now had a well-established Health and Wellbeing Hub that brought together officers from across the Council to work on health related issues. Cllr Rose OBE

knew that the Hub also had good links with the County Council's Public Health Team. Cllr Rose OBE would ask officers to liaise with colleagues from Public Health in relation to the Mental Health Challenge so that we could properly understand the value of committing to it – it would almost certainly be better to do this in partnership with the County Council to maximise the benefits that both organisations could bring. This year's annual report from the Director of Public Health focused on the 5 Steps to Wellbeing, so it was clear that the Public Health team was currently keen to promote awareness of mental health issues. Officers were looking at ways of helping to promote this report, and as a first step Cllr Rose OBE would ask that the issue of the Mental Health Challenge was considered in the report introducing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to Council.

Supplementary question from Councillor Martin Burfoot:

Cllr Burfoot requested a copy of Cllr Rose's response, and asked whether the Council would commit to pressing the Government to back the cross-party campaign regarding Mental Health issues.

Cllr Rose replied that the District Council made any representations through the District Council's network and Local Government Authorities; so they would collectively be pressing the Government.

Councillor Steve Flitter asked the following question of Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council:

"How does Cllr Rose view the delay in the progression of the combined authority and does he feel that an agreement of all authorities involved can be achieved when some issues do not seem to have been fully explained?"

Councillor Rose OBE said that he had nothing to add to what had been explained in the Members' briefing prior to the Council meeting; and a handout of the presentation had been distributed at the meeting.

Supplementary question from Cllr Flitter:

With regard to funding for local rural areas, in particular Amber Valley and South Derbyshire, who was responsible for the decisions taken, and who sets out the questions for public consultations?

Cllr Rose replied that he was not aware of the position with regard to Amber Valley, but Erewash and South Derbyshire maintained the same stance as DDDC – that officially they wanted to wait and see what the final situation was before putting it to Members. With regard to the setting of questions for public consultations, Cllr Rose would make further enquiries.

219/15 – CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2019

Members were asked to consider a report that set out the results of extensive consultation with Derbyshire Dales residents and proposed a completely new Corporate Plan for the period 2015-2019.

With resources shrinking, and a new Council with new aims, it was considered timely to revisit priorities and budgeting, bearing in mind the District Council's limited flexibility within its budgets and that nearly two-thirds of the District Council budget was dedicated to basic

services such as waste/recycling and regulatory services and the support services that keep the Council running.

It was not possible to allocate resources solely based on priority areas for improvement (as ascertained through public, Member and staff consultation) and, consequently, a comprehensive review of priorities had been carried out over summer 2015. This enabled a fresh Corporate Plan for the period of this administration to be adopted. A timetable of the components of this consultation was set out in the report, and alongside the consultation there had been a series of workshops for small groups of residents and two Member workshops. The results of the survey and feedback from the workshops were outlined in the report, with the top three words given by residents to describe the Derbyshire Dales they wanted to see being 'Clean, Safe and Thriving'.

Having considered the findings of the consultation, Members felt that the following prioritisation be used for Corporate Plan and budget setting:

Priority for improvement and focussed attention – a thriving district

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|--|---|
| 1. Business growth & job creation | Help new businesses to start
Help existing businesses to grow
Promote key development sites in/around towns |
| 2. Affordable housing | Identify and deliver new affordable housing sites
Improve housing opportunities for vulnerable people |
| 3. Market towns | Revive stall markets
Seek public realm improvements |

Areas for maintaining performance – a clean and safe district

Continue to seek efficiencies and innovative working practices across all areas

It was noted that specific target figures would be set at the Council meeting in March 2016 when the budget was considered and the consequences of the forthcoming local government financial settlement could be taken into account. It was noted that progress to date was broadly on track to achieve current targets, as tabled in the report. Further details were set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the results of the consultation are noted
2. That the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 is adopted
3. That progress against 2015/16 targets is noted

220/15 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 TO 2019/20

Members considered a report that determined the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2015/16; determined Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2016/17; and outlined the Capital Programme proposals for 2017/18 to 2019/20

Further to the report on the Capital Programme approved at the Council meeting on the 24th

September 2015 a revised programme was presented for consideration, which included the cost of works identified in the report to council on 12th October for the repairs to the former Co-op carpark. It was noted that the capital programme did not reflect potential liabilities for other issues, such as future work on rock faces or a replacement for Dimple Depot.

The revised Capital Programmes for 2015/16 and 2016/17 were tabled in the report, and the changes to the 2015/16 Capital Programme were identified under paragraph 1.2.3. The revised Capital Programme Proposals for 2017/18 to 2019/20 were summarised in the report and shown in detail in Appendix 1 to the report. The major items in the spending proposals where expenditure in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were estimated at £250,000 or more were listed in the report.

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 as at 29th October 2015 detailed in appendix 1 to the report for 2015/16 in the sum £ 3,283,618 be approved
2. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2016/17 in the sum of £3,044,359 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the Capital Programmes for 2017/18 – 2019/20 onwards as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted.

221/15 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Tony Millward left the meeting at 7.20pm during discussion of this item.

Members considered a report that provided:

- An economic update for the first part of the 2015/16 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2015/16;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2015/16;
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2015/16;

It was noted that there were no changes to the treasury and capital strategies.

However, with regard to credit rating methodology it was noted that in keeping with the main rating agencies' new methodologies, the credit element of the District Council's own credit assessment process now focused solely on the Short and Long Term ratings of an institution. It was stressed however that the other key elements to the District Council's process, namely the assessment of Rating Watch and Outlook information as well as the Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay, had not been changed.

It was the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which was consistent with the Council's risk appetite. Investments for the first 6 months to 30th September 2015 were tabled in the report, and the Head of Resources confirmed that the Council's budgeted investment return for 2015/16 was £46,000, and performance for the year to date was in line with the budget.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Andrew Statham and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the report and the treasury activity be noted
2. That changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings would not be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties, be approved

222/15 – DELEGATED AUTHORITY – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Council considered a report that proposed amendments to the scheme of delegation in relation to the work of the Environmental Health team in order to comply with updated legislation and allow the amendment of officers' authorisations.

The list of proposed additional delegations was set out in the report, together with a list of proposed amendments. For complete clarity a copy of the amended Scheme of Officer Delegation was included as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Statham, seconded by Councillor Angus Jenkins and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

That the scheme of delegated authority in relation to the activities of the Environmental Health and Licensing functions is amended as set out in the Appendix to the report.

223/15 – REFERRED ITEMS

Council was asked to consider approval of two recommendations by the Community and Environment Committee that met on 29 October 2015, regarding expenditure from the General Reserve, in relation to two planning appeals, and from the Economic Development Reserve in relation to the items shown in the minute.

It was moved by Councillor Richard FitzHerbert, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That expenditure of up to £45,000 from the General Reserve be authorised and that this expenditure be taken into consideration in calculating the revised budget estimates for 2015/16.
2. That the planned expenditure of the Economic Development Reserve be approved as set out in Recommendation (4) above.

Priority	Work Area	Activities	Spend	Year
Employment Sites	Ashbourne Airfield Link Road	Legal advice, prep of funding submissions, contract docs	£14,500	2015/16 to 2016/17
	Site Appraisals	Developer engagement and Growth Deal Round 3 bids		
Business Engagement	Business Forums, site promotion and investment pack	Venues, design & printing	£1,000	2015/16 to 2016/17
Business Advice	Full time DDBA service, Start-up support, Growth Hubs	One to one business advice, one to many events, Growth Hub products and services for businesses (details TBC)	£70,800* to be matched with ERDF	2015/16 to 2018/19
Enterprise Peak District Package	Inspired by the Peak District	Marketing materials and brand development	£12,500* to be matched with ERDF	2015/16 to 2018/19
	Broadband	Potential extension of Broadband Connection Voucher scheme Match funding contribution to help tackle harder to reach areas	£50,000 (est) £90,000* (est) to be matched with EAFRD	
Visitor Economy	Pedal Peak Business Initiative, Eroica signage	Contribution to establish cycle friendly business clusters; and permanent signage and marketing of Eroica route	£55,000* to be matched with ERDF and EAFRD (or LEADER)	2016/17 to 2018/19
Other	Support for local Market Town initiatives	Market town health checks and enabling support	£6,200	2015/16 to 2016/17
Total			£300,000	

224/15 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Jean Monks, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly 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 7.31PM

CHAIRMAN