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## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN at 6.00pm.**

### PRESENT

Councillor Chris Furness - In the Chair

Councillors: Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Neil Buttle, Helen Froggatt, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Peter O'Brien, Garry Purdy, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate and Customer Services), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration and Policy), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services), Mike Hase (Planning Policy Manager) Vikki Hatfield (Neighbourhoods Manager), Ros Hession (Neighbourhoods Liaison Officer), Jason Spencer (Electoral and Democratic Services Manager), Lucy Harrison (Democratic Services Assistant).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alasdair Sutton, Andrew Statham and Mike Ratcliffe.

### 348/21 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Helen Froggatt, Seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle and

#### RESOLVED

(Unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on 1 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### 349/21 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation Mr Peter Dobbs Local Resident of Ashbourne spoke regarding the action plan for Ashbourne's Air Quality Management Area.

**QUESTION from Peter Dobbs, Local Resident of Ashbourne, regarding the action plan for Ashbourne's Air Quality Management Area –**

Does this council believe that a suitably quantified and scientifically rigorous Action Plan for Ashbourne's Air Quality Management Area can be produced by November this year (18 months after the AQMA was declared), given the constraints of the Marsden Report?

**RESPONSE -**

Following the declaration of an AQMA in Ashbourne the District Council is required to produce an Action Plan for submission to Defra on how it intends to address the exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> air quality objective in Ashbourne. As the responsible authority for highways, Derbyshire County Council is legally required to work alongside Derbyshire Dales District Council to implement an action plan. This report was put forward to the relevant cabinet department at Derbyshire County Council and made public in February. This will form the basis of the submission. It should be noted that this must be agreed with Defra prior to being adopted. Working in this way we certainly hope that a suitable action can be produced and agreed in the necessary timescale.

**STATEMENT from Janet Treacher, Local Resident of Bamford, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

With regard to the proposals to be discussed this week, may I urge you to follow the example of High Peak who introduced a 'wildfires' PSPO in 2021 and ban open fires and especially disposable BBQ's. The damage caused to Bamford Edge in May 2020, with the loss of vegetation and wildlife in the nesting season was heart-breaking and meant that emergency services had to be diverted to deal with what is an easily avoidable problem.

**STATEMENT from Dave Treacher, Local Resident of Bamford, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

With regard to the proposals to be discussed this week, may I urge you to follow the example of High Peak who introduced a 'wildfires' PSPO in 2021 and ban open fires and especially disposable BBQ's. I don't live in the Dales but I do live close enough to witness the damage caused by the careless use of these polluting, disposable products.

**STATEMENT from Ann Hodgson, Keith Hodgson, Mary Hodgson Frost and Marcus Hodgson Frost, Local Residents of Bakewell, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

We consider allowing barbeques in The Peak District to be totally inappropriate and antisocial. It will result in a scarred landscape and a severe fire hazard on a supposedly protected environment. Peat and heather moors are very special and very fragile. Having tried it out at places like Carsington, they have now banned barbeques which were antisocial for other users of the area. This applies importantly also to Bakewell park, where the use of the park and play area would be totally destroyed. Picnics are one thing. Barbeques are wholly unacceptable.

**STATEMENT from Nicky Loveday, Local Resident of Great Longstone, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

The devastation caused to our countryside, land and wildlife and consequential loss to landowners and businesses from the irresponsible use of BBQs and Open Fires in the Dales could be mitigated by a PSPO making them illegal.

Whilst it will further reduce any risk of wildfires on our moorland, it would also reduce the damage to land and property, reduce the amount of harmful litter to locals, visitors, livestock and wildlife, reduce the damage to our climate and allow the Dales to be seen in all their beauty.

The use of disposable BBQs and Open Fires in our tourist hotpots such as Monsal Dale is simply out of control and landowners need the support of the District Council to reinforce their attempts to prevent them being used on their land.

The patchwork of areas within the Dales where BBQs and Open Fires are banned is unhelpful and confusing to both locals and visitors and the public would be better informed and educated by a total ban in the public spaces throughout the Derbyshire Dales.

Whilst I fail to understand why the District Council has not acted to date, I would ask the Committee to reconsider its objections to such a beneficial and positive step to protect our Dales and surrounding areas.

**STATEMENT from Suzanne Howard, Local Resident of Hathersage, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

I'm writing to urge you to issue a PSPO for the Derbyshire Dales area, to help protect our precious wild spaces from the destruction caused by barbecues and open fires.

As a resident of Hathersage, I spend every summer watching plumes of smoke rising from Stanage Edge or Padley Gorge, and my heart sinks with every siren from yet another fire engine heading out. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such beauty, from the high heather moorlands to the deep wooded valleys, with curlews and ring ouzels calling above. We owe it to our wildlife and landscape to do everything within our power to protect it as far as we possibly can.

Of course I understand that a PSPO is not a magic cure, but it would give much needed weight to the arguments of residents and authorities if we could explain to people heading out with bags of charcoal that, actually, barbecues and fires are banned on the moors here, and that they could face prosecution if they don't turn around and go elsewhere.

The place for barbecues is in a back garden or a public park. If you don't have a back garden or a park, and still want to eat al fresco in the Peak District countryside, take a picnic that doesn't require you to set fire to anything. It's not difficult. Someone's desire to eat a charred burger is simply not sufficient justification to risk the destruction of acres of moorland or woodland, the death of countless birds and mammals, and the public money spent on fighting fires.

Please, this is YOUR chance to help the community that you're here to serve, and to make a real difference to the protection of the countryside that you're surrounded by.

**STATEMENT from Phil Sproson, Local Resident, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

I'm writing to urge you to issue a PSPO for the Derbyshire Dales area, to help protect our precious landscapes from the destruction caused by barbecues and open fires. Each year, and as a resident, the correlation between good weather, weekends and moorland fires is getting stronger and stronger year on year. Tools to help stop this annual avoidable destruction will all help, and help the environment and wildlife of the National Park and Derbyshire.

**STATEMENT from Christopher Thirtle, Local Resident of Great Longstone, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

I understand that on Wednesday 6 April the Community and Environment Committee will consider proposals for new and revised PSPO's but as yet they don't propose to take the opportunity to make unauthorised BBQs and Open Fires illegal in the Derbyshire Dales. Failure to do this would be a travesty and, I believe, be contrary to the mood of local communities and landowners who are fed up with the devastation caused to our countryside, grazed land, and wildlife by the irresponsible use of BBQs and Open Fires.

The issue goes far beyond wildfires on moorland. BBQs and Open Fires damage the land and destroy the visual amenity of some of our most iconic vistas in the Derbyshire Dales. In addition, the litter that is so often associated with such BBQs and Open Fires, such as foil trays, food waste, bottles, cans and broken glass, poses a significant risk to wildlife and grazing farmed animals. Every summer there are burnt squares of grass and bare patches of scorched earth left by BBQ's and Open Fires in some of the most picturesque places in the Derbyshire Dales and there would be many, many more were it not for the intervention of local land managers and agents in places such as Monsal Dale. The damage caused is not only unsightly but demonstrates the real risk that a fire could easily spread into the surrounding Ash woodlands which now have an ever-increasing fuel load of dead wood due to the prevalence of Ash Dieback. One carelessly discarded tray of hot charcoal and a serious woodland fire threatening homes and livelihoods is not a fanciful idea but a real possibility.

Local supermarkets and shops have elected to ban the sale of disposable BBQs and this suggests that the commercial sector is more alive to these very real concerns of their local communities than public bodies such as our own District Council. This cannot be right! The Peak District National Park Authority has adopted a position, agreed with landowners, that BBQs and Open Fires are banned within the National Park unless the landowner has given their express permission. What is now needed is the legal framework to support the landowners and reinforce their ability to get this message across.

A clear, united, coherent, and unequivocal message that unauthorised BBQ's and Open Fires are illegal within Derbyshire Dales makes sense and empowers those of us on the ground trying to manage the behaviour of visitors to the area. I fail to understand why the District Council has not acted to date on this issue and ask the Committee to reconsider its objections to such a beneficial and positive step to protect a beautiful and special part of the

National Park. Please act now. Please make all unauthorised BBQs and Open Fires illegal in the Derbyshire Dales and support the wishes of your local communities.

**STATEMENT from Alison Sizer and Tim Sizer, Local Residents of Bakewell, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

We would be grateful if you would consider our comments regarding barbecues at the meeting considering new and revised PSPOs in Matlock this evening.

Barbecues and open fires should be made illegal on our moorlands and public open spaces.

1. We should NOT be encouraging single use culture at a time when a commitment to stopping climate change is essential.
2. Single use barbecues are thrown away (sometimes!), resulting in massive use of card and paper labelling and shrink wrap plastic. Cooking grills ultimately ending up in land-fill as they can't be recycled or composted.
3. There are peat moorlands in the Derbyshire Dales and it is irresponsible to allow the use of barbecues in these areas. Wildfires put a strain on emergency services and have a devastating impact on the environment, flora and fauna. We should be endeavouring to protect and preserve the peat moorlands not put them at risk of burning.
4. Single use barbecues contain charcoal which is unsustainably sourced, decimating forests at a time when we should be reducing the use of fossil fuels and nurturing our forests.
5. People inevitably leave single use barbecues behind, as they are too hot to dispose of. This litter is left behind them, scorching the ground and leaving a danger to wildlife and dogs. This has been the case In Bakewell Rutland Recreation Ground and Scott's Garden.

PLEASE DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO GREEN AND CLIMATE ISSUES BY BANNING THE USE OF SINGLE USE BARBECUES.

**STATEMENT from Andrew Critchlow, Derbyshire NFU County Adviser, regarding the Public Spaces Protection Orders – Consultation Results and Proposed New Orders:**

As a representative of most farmers in the Derbyshire Dales area I'm disappointed the proposed PSPO does not cover all land with access in the Peak National Park area. As is the case with a similar High Peak Borough Council PSPO that was introduced last year. My understanding is this wording has been used with success elsewhere in the country.

From personal experience of managing moorland in the High Peak area and speaking with fellow land managers, it is very useful to be able to say when we come across people with fires or BBQs etc that it is against the law. It takes the pressure off us and stops us looking like whinging farmers. 9 out of 10 we approach accept the point. It also allows signs to be put in vulnerable places that have a bit of power behind them rather than just requesting.

I'm very surprised that in paragraph 8.2.4 of the officers report it states: *In other areas of Derbyshire Dales where wildfires are not a major issue, PDNPA feel that existing legislation can be used effectively to control unauthorised or dangerous wildfires, rather than the use*

*of a PSPO in these other areas.* I'm not sure why it is believed wildfires are *not a major issue.* With moorland fires it is not the frequency it is the severity and size that is the issue. DDDC area includes Stanage Edge, The Eastern Moors & Chatsworth moorland. People involved in managing those areas are repeatedly asking people to put BBQ's and even open fires out. Most of these incidences don't get reported to the police or Fire Brigade. Millions of pounds have been spent on restoring the Peak District moorlands and some is within the DDDC area, we mustn't see that undone by avoidable wildfires.

After correspondence with various Councillors and Vikki Hatfield, Neighbourhoods Manager, I have come to the conclusion, the lack of official evidence does seem to be the stumbling block to widening the proposed PSPO to cover all land with access as is the case in the HPBC area. Regrettably I have decided it would be counterproductive to oppose the proposed order and futile at this stage to propose it is widened to include all access land within the PDNPA area and at the same time within the DDDC boundary, without sufficient evidence in a verifiable format.

I would ask the effectiveness of the PSPO is kept under review and the dialogue is kept open between the NFU/ land managers and DDDC whilst further work is done particularly by ourselves to collect what I think is compelling evidence for the PSPO to be broadened and if necessary the PSPO can be reviewed within the three cycle.

### **350/21 – INTERESTS**

Councillor Martin Burfoot declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Bid, due to being a member of Matlock Community Vision.

### **351/21 – PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS – CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PROPOSED NEW ORDERS**

The Director of Community and Environmental Services introduced a report which informed Members that the Council's Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) had expired on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. It was noted that before introducing, extending, varying or discharging a PSPO, there are requirements under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 with regard to consultation, publicity and notification. The report presented the findings of the consultation exercise, which took place 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, and sought to propose options for consideration to be included in the new Order.

The report noted that in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 (S59-75), PSPOs were introduced nationally for the first time. The Act introduced simpler, more effective powers to tackle localised anti-social behaviour and provided better protection for victims and communities.

The report informed Members that the Council's initial PSPO was introduced in 2015 and replaced the former Dog Control Orders. It was noted that the most recent PSPO was adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 and ran until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, covering dog control, alcohol consumption, fires and BBQs and Driving and Parking. That PSPO covered a total of 107 sites, 60% of these sites were under the Council's ownership, the others within Town/Parish's remit and responsibility.

It was previously planned for consultation exercise proposals (scheduled to be carried out from 28<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021) to be presented during the meeting of the Community and

Environment Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. This would have given officers adequate time to analyse the responses and provide options for Members to consider at the September meeting of Community and Environment. Officers would have had five weeks to produce and advertise the Order and install any relevant signage before the existing Order expired on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Unfortunately, the planned timescale was not achieved due to the rescheduling of the meeting and the deferment of consideration of the item. Due to these delays, there was not sufficient time to carry out the required consultation and feed back to the Community and Environment Committee before the expiration of the current Public Spaces Protection Order on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. This resulted in a period of time in which no enforcement could be carried out for any breaches of the Order.

The Officer recommendations 1 to 12 as set out in the report were moved by Councillor Susan Hobson and seconded by Councillor Peter O'Brien subject to the following amendments:

#### Recommendation 1

1. That the Alcohol Orders be retained in the following parks/recreational grounds and included in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025:

- Ashbourne Recreational Ground, Memorial Gardens and Fishpond Meadow
- Bakewell Recreational Ground and Scott's Garden
- Matlock Hall Leys Park
- Matlock Bath Derwent Gardens, Lovers Walk, Pavilion Park
- Wirksworth Fanny Shaws Playing Field

#### Recommendation 2

2. That, in respect of barbecues and open fires

- a) The PSPO cover Stanton Moor and the five main parks/recreational grounds:
  - Ashbourne Recreational Ground, Memorial Gardens and Fishpond Meadow
  - Bakewell Recreational Ground and Scott's Garden
  - Matlock Hall Leys Park
  - Matlock Bath Derwent Gardens, Lovers Walk, Pavilion Park
  - Wirksworth Fanny Shaw's Playing Field.
- b) That Officers work with partners, including representatives of the National Farmers Union, to monitor and record the number of open fires and barbecue incidents on moorland in the district over a 6 month period and report back to this Committee on feedback received at the end of that period.
- c) That the data collected in respect of barbecues and open fires be used as the evidential basis for future consultations on and consideration of a PSPO for moorland in the district.
- d) That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State to lobby for legislations to ban the sale and use of disposable barbecues across the UK.

## Recommendation 12

That authority be delegated to the Legal Services Manager to draft the approved PSPO and give effect to the decisions of this committee on the provisions to be included, following consultation with the Chairman of the Community and Environment Committee, and that the Order comes into force as soon as is practicable.

Councillor Wain suggested an amendment to item 65 in the site list schedule, to permit dogs on a lead in Smedley Street Park/ Sparrow Park. The mover of the motion and the seconder agreed to include this amendment in their proposal.

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the Alcohol Orders be retained in the following parks/recreational grounds and included in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025:
  - Ashbourne Recreational Ground, Memorial Gardens and Fishpond Meadow
  - Bakewell Recreational Ground and Scott's Garden
  - Matlock Hall Leys Park
  - Matlock Bath Derwent Gardens, Lovers Walk, Pavilion Park
  - Wirksworth Fanny Shaws Playing Field
2. That, in respect of barbecues and open fires:
  - a) The Protection Order 2022-2025 cover Stanton Moor and the five main parks/recreational grounds:
    - Ashbourne Recreational Ground, Memorial Gardens and Fishpond Meadow
    - Bakewell Recreational Ground and Scott's Garden
    - Matlock Hall Leys Park
    - Matlock Bath Derwent Gardens, Lovers Walk, Pavilion Park
    - Wirksworth Fanny Shaw's Playing Field.
  - b) That Officers work with partners, including representatives of the National Farmers Union, to monitor and record the number of open fires and barbecue incidents on moorland in the district over a 6 month period and report back to this Committee on feedback received at the end of that period.
  - c) That the data collected in respect of barbecues and open fires be used as the evidential basis for future consultations on and consideration of a PSPO for moorland in the district.
  - d) That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State to lobby for legislations to ban the sale and use of disposable barbecues across the UK.

3. That the proposals for No parking restrictions outlined in paragraph 8.3.3 be approved for exclusion from the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025.
4. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Dog Fouling) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 point a) be approved for inclusion in the Public Spaces Protection Order.
5. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Various) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 Appendix B be approved for exclusion from the Public Spaces Protections Order 2022-2025.
6. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Various) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 Appendix C, be approved for inclusion in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025.
7. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 point d) be approved for exclusion from the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025.
8. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Exclusion) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 point e) and the site list be approved for inclusion in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025, subject item 65 in the site list relating to Smedley Street Park/ Sparrow Park permitting dogs on a lead.
9. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Lead by Direction) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 point f) be approved for inclusion in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025.
10. That the proposals for Dog Control Orders (Lead by Direction at certain times) outlined in paragraph 8.4.13 point g) be approved for inclusion in the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022-2025.
11. That authority be delegated to the Neighbourhoods Manager to resolve any minor site issues which may arise with relevant Town/Parish Council and Ward Members.
12. That authority be delegated to the Legal Services Manager to draft the approved PSPO and give effect to the decisions of this committee on the provisions to be included, following consultation with the Chairman of the Community and Environment Committee, and that the Order comes into force as soon as is practicable.

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

## **352/21 – LANDSCAPES REVIEW NATIONAL PARK AND AONBS: CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

The Planning Policy Manager introduced a report which presented Members with the details of the Government Response to the Landscapes Review, (also known as the Glover Report). The report set out a proposed set of responses to the consultation questionnaire for submission to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The Landscapes Review led by Julian Glover and panel was published in 2019. This was a comprehensive review of designated landscapes, including the National Parks, commissioned by the Government in 2018 in response to the Governments 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'. This was a 25 year plan which set out a comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing landscapes in England for the next generation.

One of the key conclusions of the Glover Report was that despite the merit in designated landscapes, the founding mission for landscape protection had been eroded and there had not been an adequate response to changes in society, culture or diversity of the natural environment. It was determined that changes to all aspects of society, including technology and social shifts had resulted in an altered relationship between people and the countryside, and left nature and our climate in crisis. The Glover Report investigated methods to protect and improve landscapes in response to these changes and aimed to determine what society needs from these places today.

The review also concluded that key structural changes were needed, in particular bringing the 10 National Parks and 34 AONBs together under one organisation, the National Landscapes Service (NLS). The aim of this organisation would be to minimise duplication of resources, enable a bigger voice, increase ambition, and provide a new way of working to meet new challenges. It was proposed that National Parks maintain their current levels of funding and autonomy over planning. The Glover Report also addressed the diversity of the National Parks governance and the Boards. It was also proposed that AONBs would be renamed National Landscapes and there would be a wider range of non-designated systems of landscape protection that would come under the NLA.

In January 2022 the Government published a response to the Glover Report and its 27 proposals. Authorities were then invited to comment on the Government position and its recommendations for future reform. Comments were required to be submitted to DEFRA in the form of responses to a questionnaire before 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The report also detailed correspondence between Councillor Purdy and the Secretary of State for Housing RTH Christopher Pincher MP, which sought to establish the current approach to housing development within the National Park. This affirmed the known position of the Peak District National Park that Planning Policy relating to areas of importance, including National Parks, can be applied to restrict development. The report also informed Members that Local Authorities can alter national policy protections to accommodate development, however this needs to be proven through a Local Plan Examination (the National Park Local Plan) to demonstrate that all other options have been explored.

It was moved by Councillor Martin Burfoot, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

**RESOLVED**

1. That the suggested responses to the questionnaire in Appendix Two are approved and forwarded to DEFRA by the 9<sup>th</sup> April deadline

**Voting**

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| <b>For</b>       | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Against</b>   | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>Abstained</b> | <b>1</b>  |

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

**353/21 – LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 2 BID**

The Director of Regeneration and Policy introduced a report which detailed the approved Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, and aimed to determine the projects for inclusion in the District Council's bid to Round 2 of the Government's *Levelling Up Fund*.

During the meeting of Council in April 2021, approval was given to prepare a District Council bid to the *Levelling Up Fund* (LUF) round 2, for a "coherent, strategic package of capital schemes to regenerate Derbyshire Dales market towns". It was recognised within the report that the LUF alone will not meet in full the aspirations of our towns to regenerate. Nevertheless, a successful LUF round 2 bid is an essential starting point.

After seeking project proposals from all market towns across the district in November 2021, the initial sift showed potential projects in Ashbourne and Matlock. Additional resources were then appointed to explore the potential of these projects. Site visits, workshop and analysis were undertaken by early February. At the end of February 2022, the Community and Environment Committee approved a recommendation to undertake further work before making a decision on which projects to select.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Sue Bull and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. The *Levelling Up Fund* Round 2 prospectus and timescales are noted.
2. The projects for inclusion in the District Council's bid to Round 2 of the Government's *Levelling Up Fund* are determined to be Ashbourne:
  - Public Realm (Market Place/ Victoria Square/ Millennium square)
  - Highway improvements
  - Community and cultural hub (Methodist Church)
3. Authority is delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Policy to make detailed changes to the content of these three projects.
4. The District Council will develop potential core capital infrastructure projects in Matlock (working with key stakeholders including Matlock Community Vision), and potential Matlock flood resilience measures, with a view to creating a pipeline of projects for submission to appropriate future Government funds.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **354/21 - DURATION OF MEETINGS (MOTION TO CONTINUE)**

At **8:24pm**, during the discussion of **Item 8 – PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR STUDY**.

It was moved by Councillor Martin Burfoot, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

That, in accordance with **Rule of Procedure 13**, the meeting continue beyond 2 hours 30 minutes to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **355/21 – PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR STUDY**

The Director of Housing introduced a report which sought member approval to undertake a study of the private rented sector in order to support future policy approaches. The report informed Members that the Housing Department, in partnership with Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC), made a successful bid for £25,000 of grant funding from the Housing Advisors Program, delivered by the Local Government Association. The report therefore sought approval to spend the grant in 2022/23 and to appoint consultants to undertake the study on behalf of the Council.

It was noted within the report that the Council and AVBC both had complex housing issues within the private rented sector. Issues of quality, price and management had continually caused difficulty, both in terms of creating homelessness and trying to house people in suitable accommodation. Both authorities possessed limited knowledge about the extent and nature of the sector and limited capacity to intervene and make sense of the information

held. The report informed Members that officers wished to develop a strategy for understanding and engaging with the sector so that they could improve the quality of accommodation, develop good management practices, reduce the levels of homelessness coming from the sector and create desirable places for people to move in to the sector.

This project was considered to be important to both Authorities as it was recognised that change in the sector was needed. The report noted the need to reduce the number of homelessness cases coming from private rented properties. It was also noted that corporate priorities around energy efficiency and empty homes would also need to be addressed in order to move forward with energy efficiency improvements and higher premiums for long term empty homes. The report also detailed the coming challenge of trying to regenerate our market towns, stating the improvement of the quality of the private sector as a key element of wider regeneration ambitions.

Members were also informed how the Housing Advisors Programme would provide added value through bringing increased capacity and resources to both council strategic housing teams. The appointed consultants would also be able to bring workable examples from other areas with potential in the DDDC/AVBC areas. In addition the consultants would provide an independent viewpoint that senior officers and Members could consider.

It was moved by Councillor Martin Burfoot, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That Council be requested to approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £25,000 to undertake a study of the private rented sector in 2022/23, to be financed by the grant funding from the Local Government Association.
2. That Members receive a future report concerning the outcome of the study.

**MEETING CLOSED – 8.30 PM**

**CHAIRMAN**