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## **COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

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

1 member of the public.

The meeting was recorded and broadcast live on YouTube.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jacqueline Allison, Paul Cruise, Elisa McDonagh, Peter O'Brien, Lewis Rose OBE and Peter Slack.

Councillor Garry Purdy, Leader of the Council, gave a brief introduction to the Agenda, acknowledging that the proposed Corporate Plan was ambitious for a Council of this size. Cllr Purdy advised that contingency plans due to the Coronavirus threat were in place and the Emergency Team were awaiting instruction from the Government and the Public Health Department.

## **320/19 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr Peter Dobbs (local resident) made a statement on Agenda Item 5: Corporate Plan 2020-2024, with particular reference to air quality assessment and management. Referring to the centre pages of the draft Corporate Plan distributed at the meeting, under the 'Clean, Green and Safe text box (replicated on p.11 of Appendix 2 to the report) Mr Dobbs requested that the word 'identify' be changed to 'implement' to read as follows:

'Publish an annual report on air quality in the District and implement any appropriate mitigation measures for areas of lower air quality.'

## **321/19 – MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Dales District  
(unanimously) Council held on 16 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## **322/19 – CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2024**

The Council considered adoption of the revised draft Corporate Plan targets for 2020-2024, setting out the District Council's strategic priorities over the next four years. The revised draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report and its targets were set out in Appendix 2 to the report. A summary of the Corporate Plan consultation process was set out in Section 2 of the report.

At the Council meeting held on 21st November 2019 it was resolved, inter alia, that the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 action plan and specific targets be developed with Member involvement for consideration by Council in March 2020 alongside the Budget. Subsequently the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) undertook an assessment of the proposals submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group against the four criteria listed in the report, to determine the extent to which each of the proposals was suitable for inclusion within the Corporate Plan. Having reviewed the assessment of the proposals, CLT prepared a revised Corporate Plan, and subjected it to the same assessment process. At the same time, a Member Task Group was established to balance aspirations with resources and work alongside CLT, as explained in the report.

Following several Task Group meetings, Leaders Advisory Group meetings and Members' Workshops, a revised version of the Corporate Plan was presented to the Leaders Advisory Group on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, when it was agreed that the Corporate Plan approach (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) be presented to Council, but that Council itself would have the final say on the Plan to be adopted. It was agreed that the Corporate Plan should be developed into two user-friendly versions: one in a single page poster format, and another incorporating images and supporting text for wider publication.

To ensure progress was made against the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, it was proposed that the Corporate Plan Targets as set out in Appendix 2 to the report were established for 2020/21.

The Head of Regulatory Services addressed Mr Dobbs' request regarding the wording in the air quality assessment and management section of the draft Corporate Plan, and advised that as the high readings for Buxton Road, Ashbourne, specifically were primarily due to traffic pollution it was incumbent on the County Council to implement mitigation measures. Therefore if the District Council were to amend the wording from 'identify' to 'implement' this would bind the County Council to remedial steps they would not be able to undertake within that timescale. However, it was proposed to amend the wording in Appendix 2, column 4, (p.11) as follows:-

'Publish an Air Quality Monitoring Report by July 2020 and where necessary commence appropriate mitigation measures and create an action plan by March 2021.'

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson, and

**RESOLVED**

That the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 set out in Appendix 1 to the report, with Appendix 2 amended by the insertion of the following:

'Publish an Air Quality Monitoring Report by July 2020 and where necessary commence appropriate mitigation measures and create an action plan by March 2021'

**Voting:**

is approved for the purposes of setting the District Council's strategic priorities over the next four years.

<b>For</b>	31
<b>Against</b>	0
<b>Abstentions</b>	2

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

**323/19 – SERVICE PLANS 2020/21**

The Council considered approval of the District Council's Service Plans for 2020/21, which included the relevant Corporate Plan targets for operational use in 2020/21 as well as approval of a revised format and structure for the Service Plans, allowing greater alignment with the Corporate Plan, prior to publication in June 2020.

Service Plans included most of the operational details for individual service areas. In line with the guidance and advice set out in the District Council's [Performance Management Handbook](#), Service Plans for 2020/21 had been prepared. These were set out in Appendix 1 to the report and identified a number of key Corporate Performance Indicators that would be reported on a six-monthly basis to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Helen Froggatt and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the Service Plans 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and which include the relevant Corporate Plan targets, are approved for operational purposes for the year 2020/21, subject to the revision of wording of the Corporate Performance Indicator on page 2 of the Appendix to mirror that of the Corporate Plan, as follows:

- Improving facilities initially in Ashbourne Recreation Ground
2. That prior to publication in June 2020, the format and structure of the Service Plans be revised, to ensure greater alignment with the Corporate Plan.

### **324/19 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 TO 2023/24**

The Council considered a report that provided members with a mid-year update on the previously approved Capital Programme; set out a plan to update the capital programme in the coming months to reflect the new corporate plan priorities; and outlined potential future liabilities not included in the Capital Programme.

The initial Capital Programme for 2019/20 approved at the Council meeting in March 2019 had subsequently been updated at the Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May following closure of the Council's accounts for 2018/19 and at the Council meeting in November 2019 to reflect new bids and progress on projects. The revised Capital Programme included new schemes as tabled in paragraph 1.2 of the report and shaded red in Appendix 1 to the report.

As Council had agreed a new Corporate Plan and priorities earlier in the meeting, the Capital Programme 2012-/20 was very much an interim one and would be reviewed and updated in the coming months to reflect the new Corporate Plan priorities. A new Capital Programme would then be reported to Council in May 2020 for approval, along with the outturn for 2019/20.

Reports on bids for the new capital programme would be brought to the next cycle of policy committees for consideration and referral to Council in May for inclusion in the updated capital programme. Examples of projects currently being considered by officers were listed in the report.

The revised Capital Programmes for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 to 2023/24 had been updated to reflect slippage and new bids, as tabled in Section 3 of the report, along with major projects where expenditure was forecast to be more than £250,000 for each period.

The overall financing packages for forecasted expenditure in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 to 2023/24 were also tabled in Section 3 of the report.

The impact on the Council's Reserves and Balances of the above proposals was set out in the report, alongside Officer comments.

A number of future capital liabilities and potential new projects that would be required in the next 1-2 years as identified by the Corporate Leadership Team had not been included in this revised Capital Programme. These projects were set out in Appendix 2 to the report. They totalled £725,500 but did not include the estimated costs of a traveller site.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum of £2,533,457 be approved;
2. That the revised Capital programme for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum of £7,342,041 be approved;

3. That the programme for years 2021/22 through to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report in the sum of £3,252,676 be approved;
4. That the potential future liabilities outlined in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

### **325/19 – REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21**

The Council was asked to approve the Revenue Budget for 2020/21, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and an updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) attached as Appendix 4 to the report, in line with the Code of Practice on a Prudential Approach to Local Authority Commitments.

The report covered the following topics, which were detailed in the relevant appendices to the report:

- Local Government Finance Settlement
- Net Spending and Council Tax Requirement
- Council Tax
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- Reserves and Balances
- Savings
- Chief Finance Officer's Statutory Report
- Town / Parish Precepts
- Consultation (It was reported at the meeting that no further responses had been received.)

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

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the level of Council Tax for 2020/21 is increased by £5.00 per band D (2.39%) from the 2019/20 level.
2. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2020/21 totalling £10,808,341 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account in Appendix 2 to the report is approved.
3. The minimum level of uncommitted working balances is approved at £1,000,000 at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, and £1,000,000 at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
4. The net sum of £548,967 is transferred from earmarked reserves in 2020/21, as shown in Appendix 2 to the report and detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.
5. The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2020/21 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 £40,495,819;
  - ii. aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £32,363,266;

- 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 2020/21 is £8,132,553.
6. That the Corporate Savings Target be confirmed as “Continue a programme to identify efficiency savings and/or additional income of £250,000 per annum by 2023/24”.
7. 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 Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman. (33)

**Against** (0)  
**Abstentions** (0)

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

**326/19 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2020/21**

Council considered a report that enabled calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2020/21, along with the Empty Homes Premium. The precept levels of other precepting bodies were included in the report together with the Empty Homes Premium.

The recommendations of the Council were set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendices A – C to the report and subject to their approval the total Band D Council Tax would be as tabled in the report.

A recorded vote was required in respect of Council Tax setting in accordance with Rule of Procedure 19e.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Richard Bright and

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Council approves the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendices A to C of the report;
  2. That the Council retains the Empty Homes Premium at 100% for homes that have been empty for more than two years.
- Voting:**

**For** Councillors Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman. (33)

**Against** (0)  
**Abstentions** (0)

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

### **327/19 – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR 2020/21 TO 2024/25**

The Council considered approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020/21 to 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Its aims and purpose were set out in section 2 of the main report.

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MFTP) contained within the MTFS indicated that a balanced budget could be set for 2020/21 but potential reductions in government grants would require corporate savings of £250,000 a year (or the use of reserves as a short-term measure) by 2023/24 if the Council were to be able to set a balanced budget. However, this might not be required if the Council's funding position for years after 2020/21 turned out to be better than forecasted. The MTFS set out the Council's approach to achieving the savings required to close the budget gaps over the coming years. Risks to the Council's approach in achieving this were set out in part 5 of the MTFS.

The MTFS also included a section on reserves and balances, necessary to meet the Council's needs, as set out in section 2.2 of the MTFS. Section 3.5 of the MTFS set out the Council's processes for setting and managing budgets. The Head of Resources, assisted by the Corporate Leadership Team, would monitor performance against the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Medium Term Financial Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

It was moved by Councillor Susan Hobson, seconded by Councillor Richard Bright and

- RESOLVED**
1. That approval is given to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020/21 to 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
  2. That Council agrees that, when setting budgets for 2020/21 and beyond, spending should be focused on the Council's corporate priorities, wherever possible;
  3. That approval is given to the approach set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for achieving the savings required to set balanced budgets i.e. that there will be a hold on any significant service reductions until the outcome of the funding / business rates reviews is known.

**Voting:**

**For** 32  
**Against** 0  
**Abstentions** 1

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

### **328/19 – CAPITAL AND TREASURY MONITORING REPORT FOR 2020/21**

The Council was asked to consider approval of the Capital and Treasury Monitoring Report for 2020/21 and to determine the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2020/21 (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

A brief explanation of Capital Expenditure was set out in the report, for information, and the Council's plan for capital expenditure of £7m in 2020/21 was detailed in the report.

Estimates of Capital Expenditure were shown in Table I in the report; Capital Financing in Table 2; replacement of debt finance in Table 3; estimates of capital financing requirement in Table 4; and capital receipts in Table 5 in the report.

The Council's approach to Treasury Management was set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report. Gross debt and the capital financing requirement was shown in Table 6 in the report; authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in Table 7; treasury management investments in Table 8; and proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream in Table 9 in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the Capital and Treasury Monitoring Report for 2020/21 is approved;
2. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, is approved.

### **329/19 – CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT FOR 2020/21**

The Council was asked to approve the Council's Capital Strategy for 2020/21.

In 2020/21, the Council was planning capital expenditure of £7.3m, prioritised as identified in the corporate plan 2015-2019.

The main sources of Capital Finance available to the Council were as listed below and detailed in the report:

- a) Capital grants and contributions
- b) Capital receipts
- c) Prudential borrowing
- d) Revenue contributions to strategic reserves
- e) Leasing

The capital funding strategy determined the order that financing would be utilised, as set out in the report, together with the Council's governance procedures of the Programme.

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Authority to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it could afford to borrow. These prudential indicators were set out in The Capital and Treasury Monitoring report (elsewhere on the agenda).

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Tom Donnelly and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

That the Capital Strategy Report for 2020/21 is approved.

### **330/19 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2020/21**

The Council considered a report on the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2020/21, as required by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) and The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in March 2010.

The external context to the Strategy was set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report, including economic background, credit outlook and general outlook, including the impact of the Coronavirus threat on the global economy, as detailed in the report. Local context was set out in paragraph 1.3, showing that at 31st December 2019, the Council held £5.5m of borrowing and £27m of investments. This was set out in further detail at Appendix B to the report. Forecast changes in the balance sheet analysis were shown in table 1 in the report.

The Council's borrowing strategy was explained in paragraph 1.3.2 of the report, and the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy was set out in Section 1.4 of the report; Treasury Management Indicators were set out in paragraph 1.5 of the report.

There were a number of additional items that the Council was obliged by CIPFA or MHCLG to include in its Treasury Management Strategy, as set out in paragraph 1.6 of the report. The Head of Resources believed that the proposed strategy represented an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, were tabled in paragraph 1.7 of the report.

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 be approved;
2. That the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2020/21 be approved.

### **331/19 – MOTION TO CONTINUE**

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Mark Salt and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

That in accordance with Rule of Procedure 13, the meeting continue beyond 2½ hours to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.

### **332/19 – CORPORATE INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2020/21**

The Council considered approval of the Corporate Investment Strategy and Commercial Investment Strategy for 2020/21.

At its meeting on 5 March 2018, the Council considered a report on the potential for operating on a more commercial basis, as set out in the report. At its meeting on 24 May 2018, the Council approved the functions for the Commercial Board and subsequently approved a Commercial Investments Strategy and a Corporate Investments Strategy for 2019/20. These strategies had been reviewed and no significant changes were recommended for 2020/21.

The Council had established an investment reserve that currently showed a balance of £564,950, which was available for commercial investment projects.

The proposed Corporate Investment Strategy for 2020/21 was included at Appendix 2 to the report in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, as well as the government guidance issued in February 2018.

The proposed Commercial Investment Strategy for 2020/21 was included at Appendix 3 to the report and summarised in paragraph 1.2.3 of the report.

During 2020/21, the Council would be considering a number of new commercial opportunities linked to projects already under consideration, including a council house building programme and the redevelopment of the Market Hall site on Bakewell Road, Matlock. In addition, it was proposed that Members would be engaged in a fundamental review of the Council's ambitions and approach to commercialisation which would set the future agenda.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Shirley, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That the Corporate Investment Strategy for 2020/21 be approved;
  2. That the Commercial Investment Strategy for 2020/21 be approved.

### **333/19 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

It was moved by Councillor Stuart Lees, seconded by Councillor Alyson Hill 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 8.35PM**

**CHAIRMAN**