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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 31 May 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Joyce Pawley, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham and Philippa Tilbrook.

Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Jim Fearn (Communications and Marketing Manager) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

3 members of the public.

The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on YouTube.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Deborah Botham, Richard Bright, Steve Flitter, Vicky Massey Bloodworth, Garry Purdy and Joanne Wild.

18/18 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Vicki Raynes (Tansley Parish Council) made a statement on ITEM 10: PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2017/18 regarding the Capital Programme funding for Social Housing in Bakewell and the contribution towards this received from the sale of social housing within the Peak District National Park, with reference to policy PD1 and materials used on social housing outside the Peak Park.

The Leader of the Council gave Mrs Raynes a written response, and advised verbally that any S106 contributions generated could only be spent in the planning area in which they were raised.

19/18 - MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Richard FitzHerbert, seconded by Councillor Andrew Shirley and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Derbyshire Dales
(unanimously) District Council held on 24 May 2018 be approved as a correct record.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

20/18 – COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED That the non-exempt minutes of the Committees listed in the Minute
(unanimously) Book for the period 12 April 2018 to 22 May 2018 be received.

21/18 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2017/18

The Council considered the Annual Governance Statement (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) that reported publicly on the extent to which it had complied with its own code of governance. The report sought approval for the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18, which was consistent with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government”, and met the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

It was noted that Section 5 of the Annual Governance Statement, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, identified significant governance issues and provided an action plan to show how they would be addressed.

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

RESOLVED 1. That the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 is approved.
(unanimously) 2. That the significant governance issues, and the action plan to address them, be noted.

22/18 – PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2017/18

The Council considered a report that provided details of the provisional financial outturn for the District Council's Revenue Account and Capital Programme and advised Members of the updated Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Plan.

It was noted that the provisional outturn on the revenue account for 2017/18 was an under-spend of £247,793 against revised estimates, the key reasons for which were given in the report. It was recommended that the General Reserve be increased in case sufficient savings did not materialise by March 2020, and that the under-spending of £247,793 be transferred to reserves as follows:

- £100,000 to the Capital Programme Reserve, and
- £147,793 to the General Reserve

If the recommendations of this report were approved, the provisional outturn was that Council would increase its general fund balances from £1.9m at 31 March 2017 to £2.1m at 31 March 2018, and earmarked reserves would increase from £10.3m to £11.9m for the same period, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

The major variances against the revised budget for revenue spending were tabled in paragraph 2.3 of the report, reflected in an updated medium-term financial plan (MTFP), attached as Appendix 2 to the report. The Efficiency Plan was attached as Appendix 3 to the report, and indicated that savings would be required from 2019/20 in order to set a balanced budget.

It was noted that at the time of writing, details of the Government's Settlement Funding Assessment were not known therefore the 75% localisation of business rates had not been reflected in the MTFP.

The budget for capital spending in 2017/18 had been revised during the year to reflect progress on schemes and the addition of new schemes. The revised capital programme for 2018/19 had been updated to reflect slippage and new bids and was tabled in the paragraph 2.15 of the report, with further details set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

It was reported that although savings and efficiency gains had been achieved each year in order to set a balanced budget, the latest projection had identified that further savings of around £0.7million were required over the next two years. Furthermore, there were a number of major projects outlined in the report that were being undertaken that would significantly influence the Council's ability to balance its budget in the future.

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

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. That the provisional General Fund under-spending of £247,793 in 2017/18 is noted;
2. That the following transfers to reserves for the 2017/18 provisional under-spend are approved:
 - (a) £100,000 to the Capital Programme Reserve
 - (b) £147,793 to the General Reserve.
3. That the updated Medium Term Financial Plan, shown in Appendix 2 is approved;
4. That the updated Efficiency Plan, shown in Appendix 3 is approved;
5. That the provisional Capital Out-turn, as detailed in Appendix 4, and financing arrangements for 2017/18, in the sum of £2,022,758, are approved;
6. That the revised Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 4, and financing arrangements for 2018/19, in the sum of £5,931,232, are approved;
7. That the Capital Programmes for 2019/20 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 4 for the sum of £3,849,881, are approved.

8. That the potential future capital programme liabilities outlined in Appendix 5 is noted.

23/18 – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – KEY & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OUT-TURN 2017/18

The Council considered a report that summarised the outturn performance against the District Council's Key & Corporate Performance Indicators for the year 2017/18, demonstrating where services had been performing strongly and where improvements could be made.

The performance management process used the classification set out in the report and it was reported that overall, of the 23 performance indicators for the financial year 2017/18 for which data was available, 15 (65%) were fully or partially achieved, as shown in Table 1 of the report.

A lower proportion of Corporate Plan targets were fully achieved (6 out of 13, or 46%) as compared to Key Performance Indicator targets (9 out of 12, or 75%), as shown in Table 2 of the report.

The detailed outturn position for each of the key performance indicators for 2017/18 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and it was noted that of the 8 targets that were not achieved 5 had already been flagged as uncertain of achievement at or prior to the Q3 reporting stage, as set out in the report.

Performance highlights from 2017/18 were listed in the report.

The Corporate Plan and Service Plans approved by Council on 5 March 2018 set out the Corporate Plan targets and Key Performance Indicators for 2018/19, with proposed changes specified in the report. Service Plans were being updated to include 2017/18 outturn data and would be published on the District Council's website by 30 June 2018.

It was moved by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. The outturn performance against Corporate Plan targets for 2017/18 be noted.
2. The outturn performance against the Key Performance Indicators for 2017/18 be noted.
3. Bi-annual reports continue to be brought to Council to highlight progress, demonstrate good performance, and address areas for improvement.
4. That Council approve modifications to the performance targets detailed in Section 4 of the report.

24/18 – BUSINESS RATE DISCRETIONARY RELIEF

The Council considered an update on measures to secure funding for discretionary rate relief to support those businesses delivering additional high-quality jobs in the Derbyshire Dales, and to consult on proposals that aimed to protect local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

At the Council meeting on 12 October 2017, Members approved for consultation a set of options for a comprehensive policy on discretionary non-domestic rate relief. Members considered the results of that consultation at a Special Council meeting on 5 March 2018; however none of the options for achieving this stood out. Members therefore decided to consult on three preferred options for changing the District Council's discretionary relief policy in order to fund new rate reliefs to support better quality jobs and business growth.

Through further investigation and liaison with arvato, it had become evident that a number of not-for-profit organisations could be eligible for 100% Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) as an alternative to discretionary relief. Until recently, 100% SBRR was only offered on a year-by-year basis, but the Government had now made it permanent. Advantages to transferring eligible organisations from discretionary relief to SBRR were set out in the report, and in essence, transferring to SBRR could represent a permanent benefit for the organisation and a gain for the Council. It was noted that in most cases, transferring from 100% discretionary relief to 100% Small Business Rate Relief would be unlikely to impact upon the smaller organisations.

The report advised Members that rather than immediately consulting on the options presented at Council in March, Officers had first engaged with 42 smaller organisations to see if they could seamlessly transfer to SBRR, and if so, this could mean that instead of asking smaller organisations to pay £150 (or £300) towards their rates bill, the Council may not in fact need to ask them to pay anything. An update at the meeting revealed that 25 of the 42 organisations had responded, and 24 of those had already transferred to SBRR. The Head of Regeneration and Policy agreed to let Ward Members know of any organisations in their Wards that were yet to respond.

Members then had various options available for generating the remaining funds. It was proposed to consult with a view to capping discretionary rate relief at either £5,000 or £10,000 per annum for any one property, and would also cover representative voluntary sector and business groups. The consultation would run from mid-June to the end of July 2018, and a report would be brought to Council in September 2018 with the consultation results and proposals for a new Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy. Should consultation enable the cap on business rate relief to be applied, the policy to be brought to Council in September would continue to fully exempt all village halls and similar community venues from business rates. Similarly, it would then be the intention NOT to change the 100% discretionary reliefs currently awarded to other eligible not-for-profits and charitable organisations (by way of the 20% top-up) – not only village halls and similar community venues, but also scouts, guides, WI, playgroups, churches etc. (except where they are so large they breach the caps above) would continue to receive 100% rate relief.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Chris Furness and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. The update is noted.
2. Consultation be carried out on capping discretionary rate relief at either £5,000 or £10,000 per annum for any one property.
3. A new Business Rates Discretionary Relief policy is brought to Council in September 2018 on the basis of the further consultation results

25/18 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Helen Froggatt, seconded by Councillor Philippa Tilbrook 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 7.20PM

CHAIRMAN