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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2019 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Angus Jenkins, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, 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 (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration & 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 Jennifer Bower, Richard Bright, Albert Catt, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Vicky Massey Bloodworth, Dermot Murphy, Garry Purdy, Mark Salt and Joanne Wild.

367/18 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Dales District Council held on 24 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.
(unanimously)

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

368/18 – CORPORATE PLAN 2019/20

Councillor Andrew Statham arrived at 6.02pm prior to discussion of this item.

The Council considered a report that recommended the Corporate Plan targets for 2019/20, on the basis of the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 adopted in November 2015. The report also presented performance against the Corporate Plan targets 2018/19 as at the end of the third quarter.

The three priorities set by Members of the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 adopted by Council on 19 November 2015, were set out in the report and reproduced below:

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; reducing empty homes in the private sector; and improving housing opportunities for vulnerable people)
3. Market towns (reviving stall markets; and seeking public realm improvements)

Sixteen specific Corporate Plan targets for 2019/20 were proposed, in accordance with the target areas set by Council on 5 December 2018, as tabled in the report, and performance against these targets would be reported to Council during the coming year.

For the current year's Corporate Plan, Council adopted seventeen specific targets for 2018/19. Progress to December 2018 (end of Q3) was tabled in the report and full details were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. Outturn performance would be published later this year. It was reported that ten out of sixteen targets for which data was available were on track to be achieved during 2018/19; achievement was uncertain for a further four out of sixteen; and two targets were unlikely to be achieved on schedule. The detailed position for each of the key performance indicators for 2018/19 was set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and summarised in the body of the report.

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

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Corporate Plan targets for 2019/20 are adopted as set out in Section 2 of the report;
2. That performance to date against 2018/19 Corporate Plan targets, as set out in the report, is noted.

369/18 – CAPITAL AND TREASURY MONITORING REPORT FOR 2019/20

The Council considered a report that sought approval for the Capital and Treasury Monitoring Report for 2019/20; and determined the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2019/20 (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 £3.9m in 2019/20 was tabled in the report (Table 1), alongside a summary of the Council's governance arrangements for capital expenditure. The planned financing of the 2019/20 expenditure was tabled in the report (Table 2), together with the planned minimum revenue provision (MRP) and use of capital receipts (Table 3), the capital financing requirement (CFR) (Table 4), and capital receipts in the coming financial year (Table 5).

It was noted that Table 1 on page 14 of the report should read as follows (amendments in **bold**):

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget
General Fund services	6,834	6,369	5,898	5,650	5,551
Capital investments	2,023	4,002	3,926	770	877
TOTAL	8,857	10,371	9,824	6,420	6,428

A brief explanation of treasury management was set out in the report, for information. Projected levels of the Council’s total outstanding debt compared with the capital financing requirement were tabled in the report (Table 6) together with the Council’s affordable borrowing limit and operational boundary for borrowing (Table 7). It was noted that the Indicators had been set as per 2018/19, which may be revised in future years once the outcome of the waste contract was determined.

The Council’s Treasury management investments were tabled in the report (Table 8) along with a summary of the Council’s governance arrangements for treasury management; a summary of the Council’s commercial investments, liabilities and revenue budget implications; and the proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream (Table 9). It was noted that due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years would extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Head of Resources was satisfied that the proposed capital programme was prudent, affordable and sustainable.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 That the Capital and Treasury Monitoring Report for 2019/20 is approved. 2 That the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, is approved.
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370/18 – CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT FOR 2019/20

The Council considered a report that sought approval for the Council’s Capital Strategy for 2019/20.

In 2019/20, the Council was planning capital expenditure of £3.9m. Expenditure was prioritised as identified in the corporate plan 2015-2019 elsewhere on the Agenda.

The main sources of capital finance available to the Council were as shown 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 Jacquie Stevens, seconded by Councillor Tony Morley and

RESOLVED That the Capital Strategy Report for 2019/20 is approved.
(unanimously)

371/18 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 TO 2022/23

The Council considered a report that presented Revised Programme and financing arrangements for 2018/19; determined a Revised Programme and financing arrangements for 2019/20 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and that outlined potential future liabilities not included in the Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Council approved the initial Capital Programme for 2018/19 at the Council meeting on the 5th March 2018 and this had subsequently been updated in June and December. The Revised Programme for 2018/19, together with changes for financial years 2019/20 to 2022/23, was now presented for Members' consideration and approval. The revised programme set out in the report included changes to the current capital programme. The changes were explained in the report.

The impact of the proposals on the Council's Reserves and Balances was tabled in the report, alongside Officer comments. It was reported that for a small district council, in the current economic climate, a fully-funded capital programme of £10.8m could be seen as fairly healthy; however, there would always be a need for some asset replacements and hence the need for annual contributions from revenue to capital reserves, as identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

1. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum £3,959,116 be approved;
2. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, in the sum of £3,925,893 be approved.
3. That the Capital Programmes for 2020/21 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, for the sum of £2,870,232 be approved.
4. That the potential future liabilities outlined in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

372/18 – SERVICE PLANS AND REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

The Council considered a report that sought approval for the District Council's Service Plans and Revenue Budget for 2019/20.

Details of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2019/20 were reported to Council in January; final figures were issued on 29th January and approved in Parliament on 5th February. The final settlement for the Council was in line with the provisional settlement published on 13th December 2018. The key points of the final settlement relevant to the District Council were set out in the report and the final Local Government Finance Settlement for the Council was tabled in Section 2 of the report.

Spending proposals for all the Council's General Fund services and activities were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The draft service plans were set out in the "Service Plans" booklet, circulated separately prior to the meeting. These service plans incorporated summary budget data with other service information to clarify the link between service levels and resources.

The Summary Revenue Account, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, set out the spending proposals for the Council and the precepts of the Town/Parish Councils for 2019/20 and the calculation of the Council Tax requirement, which was summarised in the body of the report.

A council tax increase of £5.00 for a band D property, equivalent to 2.45%, was proposed for 2019/20. This did not exceed referendum limits.

In addition to considering the spending proposals for the forthcoming year, the Code of Practice on a Prudential Approach to Local Authority Commitments required the preparation of a Medium Term Financial Plan (attached as Appendix 5 to the report and explained in section 8 of the report). The approach to achieving savings was set out in the Council's [Medium Term Financial Strategy](#), approved in January 2019, which included a Corporate Savings Target of £0.4m by 2020/21; this remained unchanged.

The Waste Management Contract, currently provided by Serco and the biggest single contract let by the District Council, was due to end in 2020. The project team had been working on the procurement of a new waste contract since March 2018 and an invitation to tender would be published in May 2019. The Medium Term Financial Plan included an ongoing pressure of £300,000 p.a. in future years to reflect a potential increase in the contract value.

The report included an assessment of the adequacy of reserves and balances. Details of reserves and balances were set out in Appendices 6, 7 and 8.

Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, Leader of the Council, acknowledged the Performance Plan and Revenue Budget 2019/20 and congratulated the Head of Resources on her 30 year service.

Councillor Rose recognised the ongoing challenges faced by the Council, including the provision of a permanent site for Travellers; the assignment of a new Waste Contract and funding issues, which remained a big concern for local government. However, Cllr Rose also commended the Council on its more inspiring projects, such as, inter alia: supporting new businesses; securing extra grant funding wherever possible; helping create over 100 local jobs; securing a new leisure centre management provider; maintaining Hall Leys Park's

Green Flag status; helping reduce the number of homeless families in the district; allocating over 1000 disabled facility grants; finalising Neighbourhood Plans for Wirksworth and Doveridge; and achieving Fair Trade status, for which he thanked Cllr Irene Ratcliffe for her tireless contribution.

Cllr Rose summarised by reiterating that rural communities required more funding, and that this Council would continue to fight for this. Cllr Rose confirmed that the Council's aims remained the same: to continue punching above its weight; to give more value for money; and to maintain its high standard of frontline services.

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 Jacquie Stevens and

RESOLVED

1. That the level of Council Tax for 2019/20 is increased by £5.00 per band D (2.45%) from the 2018/19 level.
2. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2019/20 totalling £9,585,690, 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 1st April 2019, and £1,000,000 at 1st April 2020.
4. The net sum of £858,398 is transferred from earmarked reserves in 2019/20, as shown in Appendix 6 to the report.
5. The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2018/19 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 £34,404,420;
 - ii. aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £26,743,608;
 - 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 2019/20 is £7,660,812
6. That the Corporate Savings Target be confirmed as "Continue a programme to identify efficiency savings and/or additional income of £400,000 by 2020/21".
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.
8. That the Derbyshire Dales District Council Service Plans circulated separately are approved.

Voting:

For

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Angus Jenkins, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce

Pawley, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham and Philippa Tilbrook. (28)

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

373/18 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2019/20

The Council considered a report that enabled calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2019/20, along with the Empty Homes Premium. The precept levels of other precepting bodies were included in the report.

The recommendations of the Council were set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendices A – C of the report. If this were approved, 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 Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens 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 sets the Empty Homes Premium at 100% for homes that have been empty for more than two years.
- Voting:**

For Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Angus Jenkins, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham and Philippa Tilbrook. (28)

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

374/18 – CORPORATE INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2019/20

The Council considered a report that sought approval of the Corporate Investment Strategy and Commercial Investment Strategy for 2019/20.

The Council currently had a corporate savings target to achieve savings of £400,000 by 2020/21. At the Council 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, as listed in the report. At the same meeting, the Council approved the Assessment Criteria for commercial investments set out in Appendix 1 to the report. A detailed Commercial Investment Strategy had now been developed to set out a framework against which projects could be assessed, reflecting the Assessment Criteria that had already been agreed.

An investment reserve that currently had a balance of £569,059 was available for commercial investment projects, in accordance with statutory guidance as set out in the report, meaning that in future the Council would need to have at least one Investment Strategy. For Derbyshire Dales District Council there would be three separate elements to the Strategy, as explained in the report.

The Council's other statements and strategies that related to Capital and Investments were set out in the report.

The proposed Corporate Investment Strategy for 2019/20 was included at Appendix 2 to the report and the proposed Commercial Investment Strategy for 2019/20 at Appendix 3 to the report. It was reported that changes to the Council's Constitution may be necessary, especially its Scheme of Delegation, to allow investments (such as the purchase of commercial property) to take place without undue delay. Officers would examine this and would reflect any proposed changes in the review of the Scheme of Delegation to be considered at the Annual Council meeting. Where there was no delegated authority and it was not possible to wait until the next Council meeting, an extra-ordinary meeting would be arranged as soon as practicably possible.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Shirley, seconded by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Corporate Investment Strategy for 2019/20 be approved;
2. That the Commercial Investment Strategy for 2019/20 be approved.

375/18 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2019/20

The Council considered a report on the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2019/20, 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 revised guidance by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose was attached at Appendix A to the report, and the Council's existing investment and debt portfolio position was attached as Appendix B to the report, with forecast changes in the balance sheet analysis shown in table 1 in the report.

The major external influence on the Council's treasury management strategy for 2019/20 would be the UK's progress in negotiating a smooth exit from the European Union and agreeing future trade arrangements, as detailed in the report. It was the view of Arlingclose that the economy still faced a challenging outlook as it exited the European Union and Eurozone growth softened.

It was moved by Councillor Jacquie Stevens, seconded by Councillor Angus Jenkins and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 be approved;
2. That the Annual Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2019/20 be approved.

376/18 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Ann Elliott, seconded by Councillor Helen Froggatt 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 7.40PM

CHAIRMAN