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## **COUNCIL**

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 19 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, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, Paul Cruise, Graham Elliott, Helen Froggatt, Clare Gamble, Susan Hobson, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Lewis Rose, OBE, 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), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), and Jim Fearn (Communications and Marketing Manager)

The meeting was recorded and broadcast live on YouTube.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jacqueline Allison, Richard Bright, Matt Buckley, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Steve Flitter, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Michele Morley, Peter O'Brien, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw and Peter Slack

### **350/19 – BUSINESS CONTINUITY DURING PEACETIME EMERGENCY**

This Extraordinary Meeting was convened to consider the extension of delegated authority to officers, in consultation with Committee Chairs and or Ward Members where appropriate, to make urgent decisions, on a temporary basis. The aim of this was to ensure business continuity during the current Covid 19 emergency until such time as legislation was put in place to permit decision making by remote involvement of Councillors.

The Council considered a report that sought delegated authority to officers to enable the District Council to continue to exercise its functions during the Covid 19 emergency in order to enable important decisions to be made at speed to ensure the continued delivery of key public services. The Council also has a duty to protect the health of its staff and elected

## Members and not to place any individual at higher risk for the want of contingency arrangements

It was recommended that, whilst the Government considered appropriate steps to remove the legislative requirement for elected Councillors to be present in the meeting chamber, there were operational matters that could be delegated to officers, to avoid the need for public meetings and to speed up decision making generally.

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

### **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That meetings of the Policy Committees be temporarily suspended and that the Chief Executive, and/or relevant Corporate Leadership Team member, be delegated authority to deal with urgent matters within the purview of the two policy committees with immediate effect, in consultation with the appropriate Policy Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the relevant Ward Member(s) (if subject is Ward specific).
2. That meetings of the Planning Committee be temporarily suspended and that the Principal Planning Officer, Development Manager and Head of Regulatory Services be delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and relevant Ward Members to determine planning applications that would otherwise fall outside the timescale for determination, subject to the assessment of risk on significant planning applications as set out in the report.
3. That all Licensing functions except alcohol, employment and gambling be delegated as follows:

Subject	Officer
Taxi and private hire vehicle matters	Licensing Manager/Head of Regulatory Services
Tree Preservation Orders	Development Manager/Head of Regulatory Services

4. That Council continues to exercise its reserved powers until such time as legislation permits decision making by remote involvement of Councillors and that formal meetings are called only in exceptional circumstances.
5. That the Chief Executive and/or the Head of Corporate Services be delegated authority to formulate proposals to introduce alternative means of participation which may be provided to deal with the current emergency situation.
6. That any matters dealt with by officers, wholly as a result of the authority conferred by these resolutions, be reported for information to elected Members via email and published as a public record where appropriate.

**MEETING CLOSED 6.50PM**

**CHAIRMAN**