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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 March 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 7.25 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Jennifer Bower, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Angus Jenkins, Vicky Massey, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose, Andrew Statham, Jacque Stevens, John Tibenham, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

A member of Radio Derby.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Bright, Sue Bull, David Chapman, Phil Chell, Susan Hobson, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack and Colin Swindell.

338/15 – INTERESTS

Councillors Irene Ratcliffe and Joanne Wild advised that although they were Members of Derbyshire County Council, neither had voted in this capacity on this interest and were therefore able to vote at this meeting without prejudice.

339/15 – DEVOLUTION AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

Council considered a report on a final Devolution Deal for Sheffield City Region for approval. A draft Devolution Deal for the North Midlands (D2N2 area) had also been prepared for approval in principle. Alongside the two Devolution Deals, the District Council's membership status of both the (existing) Sheffield City Region Combined Authority and the (proposed) North Midlands

Combined Authority must be considered. The report set out options and their consequences for Derbyshire Dales businesses and residents.

Derbyshire Dales was currently in both the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships and the District Council has consistently stated that it would seek to work with partners in both LEP areas for the benefit of our whole district, with the following priorities:

- Financial support for micro and small businesses
- ‘Unlocking’ smaller housing and employment sites in/around market towns.

Details of the District Council’s membership status were set out in the report, together with a table of LEP schemes to date, benefitting the Derbyshire Dales.

Members were briefed on Devolution Deals at a workshop on 19 November 2015, and an explanation of the Government’s promise to devolve control over funding, responsibilities and powers away from Whitehall to the regions was set out in the report.

Details of the Sheffield City Region Devolution Deal were set out in the report, and the full text of the proposal was attached at Appendix 1 to the report, with further information available on the <http://sheffieldcityregiondevolution.org.uk/devolution> website.

The terms of the Deal required formal ratification by the SCR Combined Authority’s constituent members by the end of March 2016 and support was also sought from non-constituent members. Details of the consultation carried out on the proposals, including the main issues identified were attached as at Appendix 2 to the report, and the key trends and perspectives from the responses were listed in the report, from which it was recommended that the Sheffield City Region Devolution was supported, and that the District Council remained a non-constituent member of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority.

If the Deal was ratified by all relevant local authorities, the anticipated next steps were listed in the report.

A draft North Midlands Devolution Deal was published on 5 January 2016. It was attached as Appendix 3 to the report, with further information available at the www.northmidlands.org.uk devolution website. Local authorities wishing to be part of a North Midlands Devolution Deal would need to agree to sign a deal document in the coming days, so that the Government was clear about the proposed area that the deal would cover. The signing of the deal document would then be subject to public consultation and subsequent final ratification by each of the individual local authorities later in the year.

On the basis that the draft Deal gained agreement from local authorities, the anticipated next steps were set out in the report, together with three conditions required to be met by the Government.

The options and advantages and/or disadvantages of any Devolution Deal were analysed in section 5 of the report, from which it appeared that the issues for the District Council related less to the content of any Devolution Deal, and more to questions associated with combined authority memberships, as set out in the report.

A number of options were available to Members, as outlined below, and these were discussed in more detail in the report, together with officer comments.

Option 1: Become a constituent member of the proposed North Midlands CA, and remain a non-constituent member of the SCR CA

Option 2: Become a constituent member of the SCR CA and seek to become a non-constituent member of the proposed North Midlands CA,

Option 3: Seek non-constituent membership of both SCR and the North Midlands CAs

Option 4: Not be member of either CA

Option 5: Seek to become a non-constituent member of North Midlands CA, and leave SCR CA

Option 6: Remain a non-constituent member of SCR CA, and do not join the North Midlands CA

Option 7: Derbyshire County Council becomes a constituent member of both North Midlands and SCR Combined Authorities

Option 8: Seek formation of a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority

Subject to what was agreed by the Council at this Special Meeting, the Leader of the Council would be expected to inform partners of the District Council's position at a meeting of the 19 North Midlands authorities scheduled for Friday 4 March, which had been arranged for the purpose of inviting the local authorities to endorse the North Midlands deal in principle as potential constituent members. Given the possibility that not all Derbyshire (or Nottinghamshire) districts may choose to participate, that could potentially result in a Combined Authority geography that is weighted excessively to city areas or perhaps to Nottinghamshire. The recommendation was therefore to seek an equitable balance between the two counties, and between districts, counties and cities.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, OBE, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED

1. That the Sheffield City Region Devolution Deal is supported.
2. That the District Council remains a non-constituent member of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority.
3. That the District Council agree in principle to become a constituent member of the North Midlands Combined Authority subject to: an equitable balance of local authorities, agreement by Government, and the outcome of any public consultation.
4. The North Midlands Devolution Deal is approved in principle, subject to the North Midlands Combined Authority being created.
5. The Leader of the Council is delegated authority to agree amendments to the North Midlands Devolution Deal and Combined Authority proposals prior to submission to the Government, subject to their final approval by full Council following any amendments and public consultation.

Voting:

For

Against

Abstentions

27

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1

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

MEETING CLOSED 7.55PM

CHAIRMAN