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## **COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Special Council Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, David Chapman, Phil Chell, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Neil Horton, Angus Jenkins, Vicky Massey, Tony Millward, BEM, Jean Monks, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, John Tibenham, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Christine Laver (Democratic Services Team Leader), Mike Hase (Planning Policy Manager) Christine Laver (Democratic Services Team Leader) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

24 members of the public + 1 member of the press.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Deborah Botham, Jennifer Bower, Albert Catt, Graham Elliott, Lewis Rose, OBE, and Mark Salt.

### **168/15 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr John Evans, Chairman Darley Dale Town Council, and Vicki Raynes, Tansley Parish Council, spoke on the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Consultation.

### **169/15 – DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION ON KEY ISSUES**

Council considered a report that summarised the background to the withdrawal of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan in October 2014 and updated Members on the extent of work that had since been undertaken in order to refresh the evidence base to support the preparation of a revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. It also outlined proposals for a six week period of public consultation on the key issues that had emerged from the evidence base as part of the process of preparation of a revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.

The Local Plan Advisory Committee at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 considered and noted the extent of work undertaken in respect of the refresh of evidence base in relation to various elements, as listed in the report.

At the same meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Committee, Members approved a timetable for the preparation of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan as set out below:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Month</b>
Initial Strategy Consultation	October 2015
Draft Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Consultation	February 2016
Submission Plan Consultation	June/July 2016
Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Submitted	September 2016
Examination in Public	November/December 2016

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015, the Minister of State for Communities and Local Government, Brandon Lewis MP, indicated in a Written Statement to Parliament that the Government would publish league tables setting out local authorities' progress on their Local Plans. In cases where no Local Plan had been produced by early 2017, the Minister indicated that the Government would intervene to arrange for the Plan to be written, in consultation with local people, to accelerate production of a Local Plan. In light of these comments it was imperative that the timetable agreed by the Local Plan Advisory Committee tabled above was met.

Subsequent meetings of the Local Plan Advisory Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 had considered the outcome of the refreshed evidence base, and the reports presented to those meetings were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

In accordance with advice contained in the NPPF, it was critical that the overall strategy to be presented in the Pre Submission Draft Plan was informed through a process of public consultation. It was therefore proposed that this be undertaken, focussing upon the key issues that the refreshed evidence base had identified, and these were set out in the report.

A proposed outline of the public consultation was set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and it was noted that a 'dalesMATTERS' type Council publication which related specifically to the Local Plan would be distributed to all 34,100 households in the District – including those in the Peak District National Park. In addition to this, public meetings would be held in Matlock, Ashbourne and Wirksworth and a Parish Council Seminar would be arranged, and there would be further opportunities for public consultation in early 2016 when the Council published a Draft Local Plan.

It was proposed that the public consultation on the key issues should commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 for a period of six weeks, ending 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Tony Millward BEM and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the key issues identified in Section 2 of the report and outlined for public consultation, as set out in Appendix 2, to the report be endorsed
2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director in conjunction with the Chairman of the Local Plan Advisory Committee to finalise the contents of the public consultation document.

3. That the consultation proposals set out in Section 2 of the report be approved.
4. That the outcome of the public consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Committee.

## **170/15 – DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Council considered a report proposing the commissioning of a study to consider the extent to which traffic and transportation matters were likely to impact upon potential future development and to identify appropriate mitigation measures to address any shortcomings in the highways network across the District.

At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Local Plan Advisory Committee considered a report on the preparation of a revised Derbyshire Dales Local Plan in respect of the Infrastructure Needs and Plan Viability and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which identified that local transport issues in the main town centres of Matlock, Ashbourne and Wirksworth needed to be considered further prior to the allocation of land for development as part of the Local Plan process. This was particularly critical in Ashbourne, where the cumulative impact of development was likely to impact upon the effectiveness of existing highway arrangements within the town. It also suggested more detailed analysis was required to establish the costs and benefits of the need (or otherwise) for a by-pass for Ashbourne.

In light of these concerns, discussions had been held with Officers from Derbyshire County Council, as Highways Authority, about how best to address them, such that they did not act as a barrier to development across the plan area. It was considered appropriate to commission consultants to undertake an assessment of the cumulative impact of potential future development and to set out appropriate mitigation measures to address any shortcomings in the highways network across the District. A brief had been prepared jointly with Derbyshire County Council and was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. At this time it was envisaged that Derbyshire County Council would, with appropriate input from the District Council, effectively act as the lead on the appointment of suitable consultants and the subsequent running of the consultant's contract, with a proposal that the District Council initially fund the cost of the study but that this be recovered through section 106 Planning Obligations which were already committed within Ashbourne for highway infrastructure works.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Andrew Shirley and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the brief set out in Appendix 1 to the report as the basis for assessing key traffic and transportation issues throughout the Local Plan area be endorsed
2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director in conjunction with the Chairman of the Local Plan Advisory Committee and Derbyshire County Council to commission suitable consultants to undertake the specification of works set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
3. That the outcome of the study be presented to a future meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Committee.

## **171/15 – DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2015**

Council considered a report on the statutory requirement to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement, and a recommendation that revisions to the Council's current Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be subject to a period of public consultation.

The District Council had a statutory requirement under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), the purpose of which was to explain to local communities and stakeholders how they would be involved in the preparation, alteration and review of Local Plans and also in the determination of planning applications. The SCI helped to ensure that local communities had greater ownership over local planning decisions and were better able to shape the places where they lived. The SCI would define the standards to be met by the District Council in terms of community involvement and stakeholder engagement.

As part of the future Examination in Public of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan, the Inspector appointed would consider whether the plan had been prepared in accordance with all the relevant legal requirements, including the Statement of Community Involvement. The Council's existing SCI was adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007, and a review had been undertaken to ensure the District Council's practices in relation to community engagement on planning matters were clearly articulated and that the contents of the SCI reflected best practice. A copy of the revised SCI was set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and the methods the District Council would adopt to ensure that as wide a range as possible of the community and stakeholders were engaged in the planning process, were listed in the report. The SCI also set out how comments could be made on individual applications, and the arrangements for public participation at Planning Committee; it outlined where community groups or individuals could get more information and assistance with the planning process, such as Planning Aid.

It was recommended that the revised SCI as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be subject to a period of 6 weeks' public consultation prior to formal adoption. Throughout the consultation period copies of the SCI would be made available for comment at the Council's offices, leisure centres and local libraries. It would also be published on the Council's website.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Joanne Wild, and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the revised Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed for public consultation.
2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director to make any necessary amendments to the final content of the Statement of Community Involvement prior to the commencement of public consultation
3. That a further report be presented to Council that sets out the outcome of the public consultation.

**MEETING CLOSED 7.11PM**

**CHAIRMAN**