

Public Document Pack



Helen Barrington
Director of Legal Services
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Extension
Direct Dial 01629 538394
Ask for Juliette
Normington

PUBLIC

To: Members of Cabinet Member meeting - Clean Growth and Regeneration

Thursday 25 March 2021

Dear Councillor

Please attend a meeting of the **Cabinet Member meeting - Clean Growth and Regeneration** to be held at **9.00 am** on **Thursday, 8 April 2021** virtually; the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal Services

AGENDA

PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1. Declarations of Interest (if any)
2. To confirm the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Regeneration held on 11 February 2021 (Pages 1 - 2)
3. To consider the non-exempt reports of the Executive Director for Economy, Transport and Environment on I Step Up Request for Reserve Fund (Pages 3 - 6)

This page is intentionally left blank

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **CABINET MEMBER MEETING - CLEAN GROWTH AND REGENERATION** held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 virtually on MS Teams

PRESENT

Councillor T King – Cabinet Member

Also in attendance: Councillor G Hickton and R Mihaly.

1/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 19 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

2/21 PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET MONITORING/FORECAST OUTTURN 2020-2021 AS AT QUARTER 3

The Cabinet Member was provided with an update on the Council Plan performance position and the revenue budget position of the Clean Growth and Regeneration portfolio for 2020-2021 up to the end of December 2020 (Quarter 3).

The report showed that progress was "good" or "strong" for the majority of the deliverables led by the portfolio and, after the use of additional Coronavirus (COVID-19) funding, the budget forecast position for 2020-2021 was a small overspend of £0.031m. The report contained detailed tables and graphs showing an overview of progress on deliverables and measures.

Key achievements were evident against the Council's good growth ambitions which were reflected in the approved COVID Economic Recovery Strategy driven through strong partnership working, specifically in relation to:

- Level of inward investment secured into the county - the annual 2020/21 target had been achieved due to strident progress being maintained on externally funded regeneration projects;
- Progress against the adopted climate change framework – particularly in relation to further installation of electric vehicle charging points and instigation of local energy generation projects. Major strategic infrastructure proposals continued to be developed to support low carbon transport;
- Continued roll out of programmes supporting routes to employment and development of business support programmes, including business start up and green entrepreneurs grant funds.

A key area for consideration was the need to continue targeted action to support vulnerable young people into positive destinations such as employment, training or learning (NEET). This remained a cross-departmental priority and interventions such as development of Careers Hub and Youth Hub had been included in the Employment and Skills COVID-19 Recovery Strategy. Further information on the portfolio's performance were included in Appendix A.

The net controllable budget was £0.803m, an additional £0.471m COVID-19 funding gave a total of £1.274m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement forecasted a year-end overspend of £0.368m; this would be supported by £0.471m additional COVID-19 funding giing a forecasted underspend of £0.103m.

Economic Development saw an overspend of £0.300m due to COVID-19 hardship grant payments and an Employment and Skills overspend of £0.069m, due to there being no established budget for the Employment and Skills post.

Earmarked reserves totalling £0.695m were held to support future expenditure. These were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member note the report and consider whether there were any further actions that should be undertaken to improve the budget position moving forwards or to address performance, where it had not met the desired level.

3/21 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting under Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the items of business, exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them.

4/21 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 19 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – CLEAN GROWTH AND
REGENERATION****8 April 2021**

Report of the Director - Economy Transport and Environment

I-STEP UP - REQUEST FOR CREATION OF RESERVE FUND

(1) **Purpose of Report** To update the Cabinet Member on the successful I-Step Up programme, and to request that outstanding funds be allocated to a reserve account to enable spend on this programme of work in future years.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

Background

The I-Step Up programme was developed by Derbyshire County Council to address a gap in existing provision for young people transitioning to work, learning or training at the end of Year 11 by providing young people with the skills and knowledge they need to make a positive progression. The programme has been featured by the Local Government Authority (LGA) recently as an area of best practice and has generated interest from outside Derbyshire.

Eligibility for the programme remains that the 'provision is organised to be delivered in the locality/district/borough where there is highest number of young people at risk of being not in employment, education and training (NEET)'. Eligibility criteria for individuals also remains 'those who are identified within schools as being at risk of NEET and having no identified destination at end of years 11 and 13'.

Provision of I Step Up is delivered by the Council's Adult Community Education Service (DACES) and aims to encourage young people to identify positive destinations for themselves through a mix of activities, including links with private sector businesses. It is delivered over a three/four-week period with young people being required to attend for three days each week, for five hours per day. With Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacting delivery in 2020, the programme has piloted an online format and was run on that basis during the last 12 months.

One of the unique features of the programme is that it is tailored to the needs of the cohort and individuals attending the course. The high tutor: young person ratio means meaningful relationships are developed throughout the programme; tutors' help participants not only navigate the work but support them to address wider issues that are impacting on the prospect of them remaining NEET, e.g. family dynamics, substance misuse, engaging in anti-social behaviour. The course develops a range of skills, including teamwork and communication, financial planning and budgeting, CV writing and interview skills. It also provides participants with actual experience of work through employer visits, work experience days or an employer challenge.

From 2020, Employment and Education Officers (EEOs) have worked with schools in their designated district/borough areas to identify appropriate young people without a known destination across the County. Having regard to this information, final delivery localities have been determined based upon need. However, with the advent of online delivery from 2021, there will no longer be restrictions on geographical locations, thereby making the programme more flexible and more widely accessible. The offer from 2021 will, therefore, include both face to face and online delivery opportunities to ensure we cover as many young people as possible, especially those in more isolated parts of the County where transport has been a barrier to attendance in previous years.

Traditionally, the I-Step Up programme started with an initial information session at the end of June for all interested participants. Full programme delivery usually takes place in July. Again, moving to online provision has meant the course can be offered over more months and in multiple locations simultaneously, extending its reach.

In March 2019, the Employment and Skills Board received an evaluation of the I-Step Up programme and made the decision the programme should be continued (and potentially expanded) and asked officers to seek ways to ensure this could happen. On 9 January 2020, the Board received a further report and agreed that the programme be funded and expanded for a period of three years at the cost of £50,000 per annum.

Current Position

As a result of COVID-19, delivery of the programme has had to respond to the challenges of online delivery and has done so on a pilot basis – particularly seeking to assess whether the programme could achieve the same outputs as the face-to-face programme.

To confirm, the 2020 I-Step Up programme was successfully redesigned and delivered to a cohort of young people. A number of additional challenges were experienced though in relation to connectivity; young people either did not have access to a computer or broadband, which necessitated the purchase of appropriate equipment to be loaned out to participants. Despite this, the

programme supported 17 young people (average participation on face to face was 12), with 69% positively progressing; this compares well to the face-to-face version (the average for positive progress over the previous five face-to-face courses was 71%).

Learning and evaluation from the programme has resulted in further adaptation of the course materials which will inform future provision from 2021 onwards.

Due to the challenges of the pandemic, course redesign and equipment procurement, it was possible to run only one course during 2020-2021 and this has resulted in an underspend of £50,000. Some monies have been committed in financial year 2020-21 for further hardware purchases, but delays in delivery have meant the total available funding will not be spent by the year end. It is therefore proposed this funding be rolled over into a reserve account for use in future years and could provide the additional benefit of being able for use as match if external funding becomes available.

In addition, whilst it is planned and expected that funds will be fully spent in future years (including the reserve fund), it is also requested that any underspends from 2021-2022 onwards be rolled forward into the same reserve.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The current underspend is £50,000 in 2020-2021, a request is therefore made to move this underspend into a reserve to enable it to be drawn upon and spent during the lifetime of the i-step up project, as the impact of COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the overall timing and delivery of the project.

Similarly, the commitment to a further £50,000 in 2021-2022 and 2022-23 should be maintained, with a further request that any additional underspends be placed in the reserve in future years to enable the funds to be used as necessary throughout of the lifetime of the project.

(4) **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member

8.1 Notes the success of the I-Step Up programme.

8.2 Approves the request to create a reserve fund I-Step Up to carry forward the underspend from 2020-21 and support continued delivery of the programme over the coming years.

8.3 Approves that any underspends from 2021-2022 onwards be rolled forward into the same reserve.

Tim Gregory
Director – Economy, Transport and Environment