

# Public Document Pack



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PUBLIC

To: Members of Cabinet Member meeting - Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the **Cabinet Member meeting - Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism** to be held at **5.00 pm** on **Thursday, 4 February 2021**. This meeting will be held virtually. As a member of the public you can view the meeting via the County Council's website. The website will provide details of how to access the meeting, 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 and Democratic Services**

## **A G E N D A**

### **PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**

1. To receive declarations of interest (if any)
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021 (Pages 1 - 2)
- 3 (a) Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire - update (Pages 3 - 6)

- 3 (b) Culture, Heritage and Tourism Board - update and forward programme (Pages 7 - 14)
4. Urgent Decision - Derbyshire Floods Hardship Funds for Residents and Businesses (Pages 15 - 24)
5. Exclusion of the Public

(That under Regulation 4 (2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the items of business, that if members of the public were present, exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them.)

## **PART II - EXEMPT ITEMS**

6. To receive declarations of interest (if any)
7. Proposal for Derbyshire County Council to support a regional bid to create an East Midlands Freeport (Pages 25 - 42)

PUBLIC

Agenda Item 2

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 19 January 2021.

**PRESENT**

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

Also in attendance – Councillors R Flatley and P Smith

**1/21** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**2/21** **MEMBERS' COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCHEME** On 23 April 2020, Cabinet had considered and approved a report which provided an additional allocation of £3,860 to Members to support their local communities throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, assisting with the recovery and delivery of social, economic, health, environmental and cultural services to support quality of life in communities.

As 2021 was an election year, it was agreed that the additional allocations of funds would not be made after 1 December 2020 and that all members MCLS accounts would be capped at £1,000 on 1 December 2020, to ensure that all Members had an equitable amount to spend in the last quarter of the 2020-21 financial year. As at 30 November 2020, a total of 664 applications had been received and approved which were aimed at supporting local organisations and activities through the pandemic period.

The Council had recognised that communities have had a pivotal role during the pandemic and the Council Plan ambition was to ensure that the Council continued to work with communities, sharing responsibility for improving their areas and supporting each other.

In these unprecedented circumstances and with the introduction of the recent further lockdown measures, it was considered vital to continue to support residents and communities during this difficult period. It was therefore proposed that each Elected Member be provided with an additional allocation of £1,000. This would be added to the existing balance that remained in each individual Members account following the 1 December 2020 deadline. Members could continue to submit applications using the same process as was currently in place. Applications would have to be received on or before 14 March 2021. Any unspent balance as at 14 March 2021 would be returned to the General Reserve.

**RESOLVED** to approve the allocation of additional resources to the Members' Community Leadership Scheme by providing an additional £1,000 to each Elected Member.

**3/21      APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES** The list of outside body appointments was agreed by the Cabinet Member at the meeting held on 5 August 2020. Subsequently, the Council had been made aware of further changes which needed to be ratified.

**RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- (1) replace Councillor T Ainsworth with Councillor G Hickton as the Council's representative on Rail Forum Midlands;
- (2) replace Councillor G Wharmby with Councillor R Flatley on the Derbyshire Schools Forum;
- (3) appoint Councillor D McGregor (local member) to the Whitwell Works Liaison Committee;
- (4) appoint Councillor J Atkin to the Derbyshire Dales Community Safety Partnership; and
- (5) appoint Councillor G Wharmby to the High Peak Community Safety Partnership

**Agenda Item No. 3(a)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE  
AND TOURISM**

**4 February 2021**

Report of the Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**MARKETING PEAK DISTRICT AND DERBYSHIRE – UPDATE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To update the Cabinet Member on the current financial position of Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire (MPDD) and to seek approval to underwrite up to £100,000 to support cashflow issues incurred by the organisation due to the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Context**

Recovery work, in the wake of the pandemic crisis, has been co-ordinated via the Derbyshire Strategic Recovery Group (SRG) and affiliated sub-cells. The SRG draws together a broad cross sector alliance of partners to co-ordinate county-wide recovery. The Economy and Business Recovery Cell forms part of the SRG arrangements and recently published its Economic and Employment and Skills Recovery Strategies. This was endorsed by Cabinet on 19 November 2020 (Minute No.195/20 refers) and comprised a headline action plan that blended short term interventions to protect the economy with longer term actions positioned to enable the County to re-orientate and grow Derbyshire's economy to capitalise on new opportunities.

The Visitor Economy is a high level priority within the Economic Recovery Strategy. Pre-COVID-19, it was acknowledged as one of the key growth sectors within Derbyshire, demonstrating year on year growth over a decade, with the sector worth £2.49bn Gross Value Added (GVA) and supporting 31,932 jobs in 2019.

The evidence review which informed the Strategy, highlighted the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Visitor Economy and the resulting action plan identifies key interventions necessary to help the sector recover over the medium to long term (2021 to 2025). It is proposed that MPDD will lead on the implementation of a number of these interventions, including:

- Delivering a destination/staycation marketing campaign for 2021 and beyond.
- Developing a 'meet' marketing campaign.
- Building business resilience through a comprehensive business support programme.
- Developing international campaigns to attract inbound visitors.
- Developing a strategic proposal to create Tourism Action Zone.
- Lobbying for a national review of the financial structure of the UK's destination management organisations (DMOs) following the huge financial challenges faced as a result of COVID-19 and the devastating loss of commercial income.

### **Current Financial Issues**

Established in 2005, MPDD is the official Tourist Board for the Peak District and Derbyshire. MPDD works in partnership with national tourism bodies such as VisitBritain and VisitEngland to maximise the Peak District and Derbyshire's profile across the world and attract both national and international visitors to the County's attractions and accommodation.

MPDD's business model is based on a mix of public and commercial income streams with 2019-20 income being made up of 23% European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), 18% local authority funding, 18% National Heritage Lottery Fund, 12% Visit England, 1% University of Derby and 23% commercial income, via campaigns, patrons, membership fees and advertising.

As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on accommodation providers and attractions, commercial income in 2020-21 has been significantly impacted, with only £15,000 secured compared to £200,000 in 2019-20. This has caused significant cashflow issues for MPDD and reserves have had to be utilised to cover fixed costs. Reserves now stand at £140,000 but can no longer be utilised to cover fixed costs as proper financial management requires that £100,000 be retained for staff liabilities and £40,000 for potential ERDF claw back in the event that the business has to cease trading.

MPDD has been able to secure additional income of £40,000 from Visit England towards the shortfall in 2020-21 income, along with £10,000 towards business resilience planning, which again needs to be spent within the 2020-21 financial year and cannot be utilised to shore up longer term costs.

Budget planning for 2021-22 has considered four scenarios based on reduced commercial income streams, due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. All other income streams are assumed to remain constant at £417,979, although this is not without its uncertainties.

Budgets assume fixed costs remain constant at £659,020, with £251,859 of this allocated to ERDF costs (including two ERDF-funded posts). The forward budget planning scenarios are set out below:

- Scenario 1: presumes 100% (£189,500) of commercial income is achieved, and forecasts a £1,591 deficit.
- Scenario 2: 80% - forecasts a £39,491 deficit.
- Scenario 3: 70% - forecasts a £58,441 deficit.
- Scenario 4: 50% - forecast a £96,341 deficit.

MPDD is confident that it can achieve 70% (£135,620) of commercial income in 2021-22 and is considering a range of new approaches to generate income and support longer term financial viability. Business feedback suggests that once restrictions are lifted there will be a very strong staycation market during 2021-22 which should also result in returning membership and associated income.

(3) **Financial Considerations** It is proposed that the Council underwrites MPDD to the value of £100,000 against potential sustained loss of income. Based on the above scenarios and assessment of likely levels of activity during 2021-22, if MPDD is able to achieve 70% of commercial income this year, it is likely that it will need to draw down £58,441 against the support fund. It is proposed these costs are met from the Council's £15 million COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

It is important to note that the request for underwriting up to £100,000 is in addition to the £100,000/year funding MPDD receives through its Service Level Agreement with the Council and also the ERDF match funding that the Council provides, with the remaining £20,000 (from a total match of £70,000) due in April 2021.

(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** Derbyshire Economic Partnership Economic and Employment and Skills Recovery Strategies. MPDD Budget Planning 2021-22

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

- 8.1 Notes the update on the current financial position of Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire.
- 8.2 Approves the proposal to underwrite up to £100,000 against loss of income incurred by Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire due to the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**



**Agenda Item No. 3(b)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE  
AND TOURISM**

**4 February 2021**

Report of the Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM BOARD – UPDATE AND  
FORWARD PROGRAMME**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to proposals to support the economic recovery of Derbyshire's creative and cultural industries through the development of a Cultural Framework, acceptance of £20,000 grant for the Art Council and new proposals for a revised Festival of Derbyshire, in light of Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Council has provided a robust and dynamic response to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 through its leadership of the Strategic Recovery Group (SRG) and associated workstreams, specifically the Economy, Business and Transport (EBT) Cell. This Cell, chaired by the Director - Economy and Regeneration, has corralled a wide range of strategic delivery partners, including representatives from further and higher education, local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, bus and rail transport operators, district/borough authorities, Government departments and many others.

The Cell has focused its efforts in developing a shared Strategy and associated Action Plan that will guide economic recovery in the County over the short to long term. An evidence-based approach has been adopted that embeds the Government's principles to 'Build Back Better' by creating a more circular economy, leveling up economic and social disparity and accelerating work on climate change through a carefully crafted programme of interventions based on: 'Rescue – Resume – Revive – Regenerate - Renew'. Diagram 1 below provides an outline of the five stage approach to recovery.

Also, strong governance has been put in place not only to drive development of the Strategy, but deliver the necessary interventions that have been identified. The governance arrangements include a 'high level' Economic Recovery Board, chaired by the Leader of the County Council, with membership taken from all Derbyshire local authorities and industry leaders, such as Chatsworth House. Diagram 2 on the following page illustrates the governance arrangements.

## Approach to Recovery

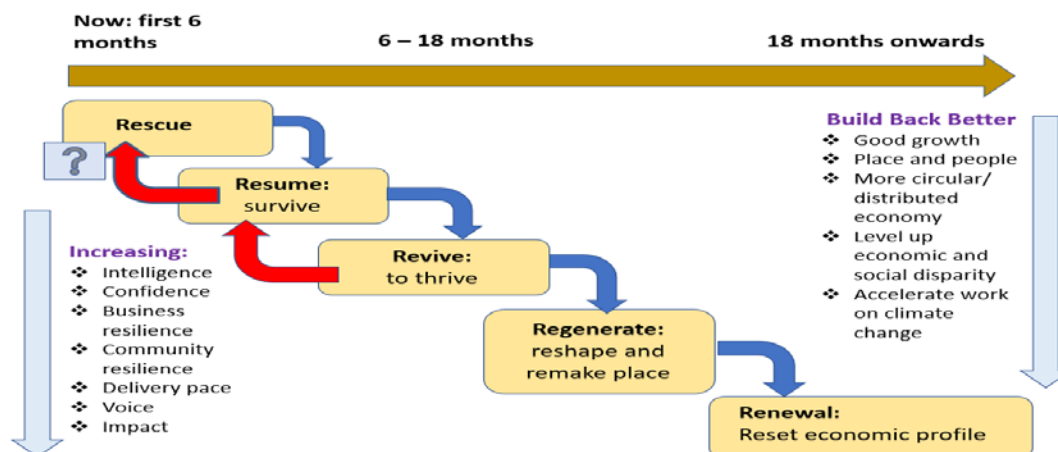
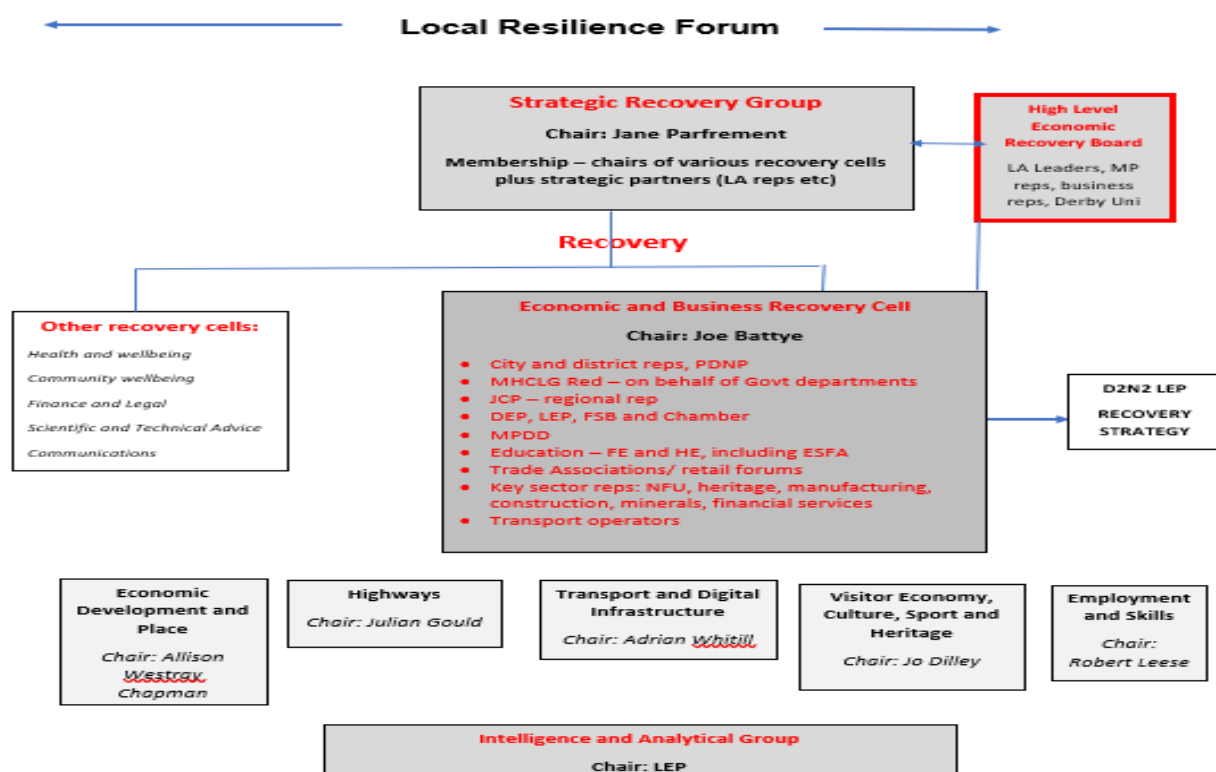


DIAGRAM SHOWING RECOVERY GOVERNANCE



The Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in November 2020 and is a blend of immediate and longer term interventions to be delivered across a wide range of partners, one of which is the County Council. Very few of the proposed interventions are the sole responsibility of an individual partner; the resulting Action Plan identifies a lead partner and those other agencies key to successful delivery.

The evidence review which informed the Strategy, highlighted the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on creative and cultural industries and also recognised the significant placemaking impact of the sector.

The Strategy Action Plan identifies a number of interventions across key themes such as Place, Industry and Visitor Economy which supports the development of a cultural framework. These are:

#### Place

- Market town renewal : Support diversification of town centres including focus on creative workspace and maker space.
- Harness, culture and creativity to build sense of place and celebrate the distinctiveness of our towns.
- Reuse iconic buildings at the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site as living and workspace and ensure they fulfil role in heritage-led regeneration.

#### Industry

- The creative industries are identified as one of five priority sectors to protect, retain and grow. Pre-COVID-19, the sector showed strong growth, with 45% growth in creative employees between 2015-18 and almost 7,000 employed across Derbyshire.

#### Visitor Economy

- Use campaigns such as the Festival of Derbyshire to build cultural identity.
- Harness creativity and culture to build product, fuel growth and drive staycation demand.

### **Cultural Framework Proposal**

At the meeting on 12 November 2020, the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Board (CHAT) agreed to develop a Cultural Framework for Derbyshire to support cultural and creative industries, as one of the interventions of the Economic Recovery Action Plan.

Following a dialogue initiated by the County Council, Arts Council England has made an award of £20,000 for £10,000 towards development of the Framework and a further £10,000 to support delivery of immediate outcomes.

Detailed work to define the scope, methodology and project deliverables is ongoing and will continue to be refined. It is expected the process will consider the following:

- Evidence review.
- Baseline asset mapping; spaces and facilities, cultural heritage, festivals and events, creative practitioners, etc.
- Review of key strategies.
- Consultation with sector and key stakeholders.

- Prioritisation and themes.
- Development of 12-18 months Recovery and Resilience Action Plan.
- Set within the performance management framework for Economic and Employment and Skills recovery.

External support will be commissioned for research, mapping, facilitation, consultation and final production. An accompanying programme of sector support, including consultation, networking and advice sharing, will help inform this process.

Alongside delivery of the Framework, funding from Arts Council England has been requested to support the following:

### **Creative Interpretation and Presentation of Data**

A mapping process will inform the development of the Framework, this will help to tell the stories of Derbyshire's creativity and heritage, as well as marking a moment in time. An artist/designer will be commissioned to creatively interpret and present the data collected. A new section of the Arts Derbyshire website, which has recently been relaunched, will be created to house the results of the mapping.

### **Welcome Back Campaign**

A 'Welcome Back' marketing campaign will accompany the programme, highlighting the breadth and diversity of creativity and culture within the County, including greater profile of digital product. It is hoped that the previously commissioned Festival of Derbyshire brand can be refreshed and used for this purpose.

### **Timescale for Delivery**

January	Approvals of project brief – Task and Finish Group and the Council
February	CHAT Board 2 February - update and approval
	Appointment of additional support
	Artist brief agreed and advertised
	Mapping
March	Sector meetings and support starts
	Consultation with key stakeholders/sector
April	Artist commission starts
	Ongoing consultation
	CHAT Board: 26 April – Key themes and priorities agreed
May	Consultation with sector
	Shine a Light campaign starts
June	Refinement: Sign off by task force
July	CHAT Board: 22 July - Final sign off

### **Festival of Derbyshire - Next Steps**

A key priority for the CHAT Board was delivery of the Festival of Derbyshire, an 8 month campaign and programme of events aimed at celebrating Derbyshire's distinctive culture, telling Derbyshire's story, marking some key anniversaries in 2020 and attracting more visitors to the County.

In February 2020, CHAT Board members were updated on the progress of the Festival of Derbyshire, which was due to be launched in May 2020. It was agreed the Festival had to be postponed due to the impact of lockdown and ongoing restrictions, with the hope that it would be re-scheduled for January 2021 onwards, to pull in key anniversaries such as the Peak District National Park 70<sup>th</sup>, Arkwright's Mill 250<sup>th</sup> and Silk Mill/Museum of Making 300<sup>th</sup>.

From consultation with partners, it is clear that the current restrictions and ongoing uncertainty means the Festival in its previous format, is no longer feasible and that officers need to look to build a programme that supports delivery of the aims of the Festival, but that is able to flex and respond to current needs and the level of uncertainty that remains about COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Proposal 1: Shine A Light on Derbyshire**

A proposed Derbyshire-wide season of events that shines a light on the County's rich built heritage and helps tell Derbyshire's distinctive story.

#### **Key Objectives**

- To build Derbyshire's out of season offer and encourage more overnight stays during this period.
- To tell Derbyshire's story and build our distinctive place offer.
- To work collaboratively across sites and attractions, enabling partners to benefit from economies of scale and building a high profile campaign with significant reach.
- To support Derbyshire's placemaking objectives, in particular market town renewal.
- To provide a positive legacy for the Festival of Derbyshire
- Potentially dovetail and contribute to County of Culture/ 52 Weeks ambitions.

It is proposed that Shine a Light will be an annual programme of Son et Lumiere events/digital projections, taking place between September and December, on some of Derbyshire's most iconic buildings. The programme will build over a three year period, starting with a small pilot this year - the end goal of a rolling programme of up to 12 large scale evening events at key sites throughout the County, with a wrap-around programme of building illuminations and community engagement activities.

The theme to these events will be 'The Stories of Derbyshire'. A group of storytellers and story makers are currently being assembled to help unravel the Derbyshire Story and consider how they are collected and told. Mark Gwynne Jones, who is working on [Voices of the Peak](#) is part of this group.

Poet Mark Gwynne Jones has been working on Voices of the Peak to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peak District National Park through a podcast series which explores the lives, landscapes and stories of this region.

Chapter 1 – Burning Drake can be found [here](#). It tells the story of forces underground that have shaped not just the landscape but also its people. The next chapter, Kinder Scout will lead from the world's first water powered cotton spinning mill to the Kinder Trespass, to the creation of the UK's first National Park and the current battle to heal the moorlands.

To date, the project has created a lot of media interest and has broadcast potential to reach a wide audience to help tell the Derbyshire Story.

It is proposed that Chapter 3 provides the content and inspiration for the first 'pilot' events at Cromford Mill and Chatsworth House in October 2021, helping to celebrate both the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peak District National Park and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arkwright's Mill.

The Council, Cromford Mill and Chatsworth are working in partnership to scope out and deliver the 2021 pilot. Initial conversations have taken place with Luxmuralis and Illuminos, who have both worked with some of the sites identified below.

The aim is, by Year 3, to identify with partners buildings at up to 12 key sites, on which the Son et Lumiere events will take place. These will need to be assessed for technical viability and audience accessibility, along with ensuring good coverage across the County, but possibilities include:

- Hardwick Hall
- Bolsover Castle
- Chesterfield Spire
- Barrowhill Roundhouse
- Bennerley Viaduct
- Buxton Crescent
- Chatsworth
- Belper Mill
- Cromford Mill
- The Silk Mill
- Elvaston Castle
- The Avenue

It is proposed that all events will be ticketed generating income through ticket sales and on-sales. Modelling will be required to identify the target level of income generation but it is expected that at least 50%-70% of costs should be met by sales, with the remaining costs being met by fundraising and partner contribution.

It is anticipated that a target live audience of a minimum of 700 – 1,000 people per night of activity in Year 1, rising to an average of at least 1,500 by Year 3.

The key target will be family audiences with a target of 12 events in Year 3, each spread over 3 days that equates to approximately 54,000 over 36 days of activity over a 3-4 month period.

The format of the events allows for timed ticket slots, which means audience numbers can be spread over a 3-4 hour period and social distancing can be maintained.

### **Proposal 2: Derbyshire Makes**

Derbyshire Makes is significant within Derbyshire's industrial and cultural heritage, as well as its contemporary identity, so a really important part of the Derbyshire Story. The opening of the Museum of Making to coincide with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Silk Mill provides a strong focus to launch a county-wide Making Campaign over the February 2022 half term holiday, which will link across the County's museum and heritage sites, aimed at driving family audiences to them.

(3) **Financial Considerations** A grant of £20,000 has been secured from the Arts Council which will be allocated as follows:

- £10,000 for delivery of the Cultural Framework.
- £10,00 for the Immediate Framework Outcomes – this work is expected to cost a total of £20,000 so the remaining £10,000 is being allocated from the existing Festival of Derbyshire budget, held within the Economy and Regeneration Service.
- Shine a Light and Derbyshire Makes: A total budget of £90,000 was set and agreed for the Festival of Derbyshire, with £20,000 of this previously committed/expended against festival branding and marketing. It is therefore proposed the remaining funds of £70,000 are used to fund the Shine a Light Pilot in 2021, Derbyshire Makes and Cultural Framework Outcomes (already noted £10,000 expenditure above).

(4) **Human Resource Considerations** The activities outlined will be undertaken by existing staff within the Economic Development service.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The objectives of the CHAT Board is to develop Derbyshire's unique and distinctive cultural and environmental offer to promote economic growth and quality of life for people who visit, invest, live and work in Derbyshire. The outcomes of the cultural framework will contribute directly to this objective through generating jobs and investment in the local economy, facilitating placemaking and supporting the well-being of Derbyshire's communities.

(6) **Other Considerations**

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

(7) **Key Decision** No.

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

(9) **Background Papers** Derbyshire Economic Recovery Strategy and Derbyshire Employment and Skills Strategy.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

9.1 Notes the proposals to support the economic recovery of Derbyshire's creative and cultural industries.

9.2 Approves development of a Cultural Framework and new proposals for a revised approach to Festival of Derbyshire in light of Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts.

9.3 Approves acceptance of £20,000 grant for the Art Council.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**



**Agenda Item No.4**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE  
AND TOURISM**

**4 February 2021**

**Report of the Managing Executive Director, Commissioning,  
Communities and Policy**

**URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE MANAGING EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING, COMMUNITIES AND POLICY**

**DERBYSHIRE FLOODS HARDSHIP FUNDS FOR RESIDENTS AND  
BUSINESSES**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

To note the urgent decision taken by the Managing Executive Director, Commissioning, Communities and Policy in accordance with the Council's Constitution to establish hardship funds to support residents and small businesses in financial hardship in Derbyshire affected by the flooding following Storm Christoph during w/c 18 January 2021.

**2 Information and Analysis**

Significant rainfall during mid-January 2021 resulted in major flooding to regions of the county, in particular along the valley of the River Derwent and around the River Wye and feeding into the River Trent. To ensure those affected by the floods and in financial hardship do not suffer further financial difficulties, it was necessary for the Council to put in place financial support mechanisms for those at greatest risk.

Due to the urgency of the support required by both residents and local small businesses, an urgent decision was sought from the Managing Executive Director, Commissioning, Communities and Policy for permission to use the existing Derbyshire Discretionary Fund to establish a Hardship Fund for local residents and a Hardship Fund for small businesses. Together, both funds provided a package of support for those affected by the floods.

Details of the urgent decision report and Officer Decision Record are set out in Appendix One.

### **3 Financial Considerations**

The Derbyshire Discretionary Fund will be topped up by a sum of up to £10,000 to support applications from residents whilst the Businesses Hardship Fund will be established at £100,000. The total cost of £110,000 will be met from existing reserves and will be paid to applicants in accordance with the verified details provided through the application process.

Any additional or unexpected costs will be subject to a Cabinet report. At this stage it is difficult to assess the impact of residents and properties affected as data is still being collated, therefore, additional funding will be made available by the Council if necessary.

### **4 Legal Considerations**

The Council's Constitution provides that "notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution Executive Directors shall have the power, after discussion, if practicable, with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair, to take such actions deemed to be necessary and expedient in matters requiring urgent consideration and which, because of the timescale involved, or the need to safeguard the interests of the County Council, cannot be dealt by submission to the next meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committee".

### **5 Other Considerations**

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

### **6 Officer's Recommendation**

That the Cabinet Member notes the Urgent Officer Decision shown at Appendix One.

EMMA ALEXANDER

Managing Executive Director  
Commissioning, Communities and Policy

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**URGENT DECISION**

**21 January 2021**

**Report to the Managing Executive Director – Commissioning,  
Communities and Policy**

**DERBYSHIRE FLOODS BUSINESS AND RESIDENTS' HARDSHIP  
FUND**

**1 Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to establish a hardship fund to support those Derbyshire residents and businesses affected by the financial consequences of the recent flooding events in the county associated with Storm Christoph.

**2 Information and Analysis**

**Background**

Significant rainfall during mid-January 2021 has resulted in major flooding to regions of the county, in particular along the valley of the River Derwent and around the River Wye and feeding into the River Trent. To ensure those affected by the floods and in financial hardship do not suffer further financial difficulties, it is proposed that the Council put in place support mechanisms for those at greatest risk, similar to that used in previous recent flooding episodes.

**Floods Hardship Fund for Businesses**

Alongside the Council's current efforts to support affected households, it is recommended the Council establishes a hardship fund to assist businesses of up to 50 employees, directly affected by the Storm Christoph flooding event in coping with any immediate, short-term loss of income (accepting that many businesses may be currently closed due to Covid restrictions) and resulting impacts on cashflow to aid recovery whilst appropriate insurance claims are completed.

It is proposed that a flexible fund of up to £100,000 is set up to provide emergency relief (grant) to businesses. In essence, the fund will follow the same principles as those used for the Whaley Bridge Hardship Fund and the Emergency Flood Funds from November 2019 and February 2020.

Applications for funding will be required to meet agreed criteria (see below) and applications for support will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In any event, businesses are expected to ensure that they have utilized any existing insurance policies they have in place.

Applications will be made via a simple 'grant form' accompanied with relevant supporting information (see attached grant application form). Assessment of applications will be undertaken by a minimum of two officers from the Economy and Regeneration Service to ensure objectivity and transparency. In addition, the Council's finance officers will ensure appropriate processes for signing off grant applications are in place.

Having regard to medium term weather forecasts, it is possible that the impact of flooding and severe weather may increase, and additional elements of business support may be required. Relevant programmes will be worked up in conjunction with district councils.

The 'Derbyshire Floods Business Hardship Fund' requires the creation of a fast track application process for emergency payments of £500 per business. The grant is aimed to provide urgent financial support for those businesses affected by Storm Christoph. It is proposed that eligible businesses are:

- Those which have been directly affected by flooding (in the occurrence of January 2021) and the ingress of water to the property and
- Businesses of 50 employees or less

Assessment of eligibility will be based on proof of business identity and evidence of hardship accompanying the application form.

Having regard to medium term weather forecasts, it is possible that the impact of flooding and severe weather may increase, and additional element of business support may be required, having regard to any Government financial support. The situation will be assessed through the local resilience arrangements and any relevant, additional support, will be worked up as necessary. This assessment will take place in conjunction with the district councils, the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Growth Hub, the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) and the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce to ensure appropriate and proportionate responses to aid recovery and support future business resilience.

Despite this, it is proposed the Derbyshire County Council Floods Hardship Fund for Business (£500 grant per business) will be open for grant applications from w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and will remain open until midnight on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Details of the nature, level and eligibility of any wider business support programme that is deemed necessary will be developed with partners over the coming weeks and will be subject to due diligence in the setting up of

appropriate governance arrangements. This will include maximum limits to the number of applications/financial support available and any appeal processes that may be considered appropriate.

The application for emergency financial relief will be made available on the Derbyshire County Council website and will be administered through the Economy and Regeneration Service, with the support of colleagues from Finance. Wider publicity of the fund will be issued via the district council, Growth Hub and Chamber of Commerce websites. The grant application process is proposed to be made 'live' on w/c 25 January 2021.

As noted above, any additional aspects of financial support required as part of the hardship fund may be developed and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Floods Hardship Fund for Residents**

Alongside existing and to support affected households experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the Storm Christoph floods, it is recommended that the Council uses the existing Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF) to establish a Hardship Fund for Derbyshire residents. This would involve the creation of a fast track application process accessed via the existing Call Derbyshire DDF helpline and one one-off emergency payment of up to £104 per household for those experiencing financial hardship in the affected area.

The fund follows the same principles as those used for the Whaley Bridge and the floods of Winter 2019/2020.

The additional costs of topping up the DDF to establish the Derbyshire Hardship Fund are estimated to be no more than £10,000 and will be met from existing reserves.

There will be a review of the operation of both the residents and business hardships funds scheme to ensure that they remain proportionate to the requirements of demand.

## **3 Financial Considerations**

The £110,000 cost of the hardship funds will be met from existing reserves and will be paid to applicants in accordance with the verified details provided through the application process, the Director of Finance & ICT will determine the source of funding. Any additional or unexpected costs will be subject to a Cabinet report. At this stage it is difficult to assess the impact of residents and properties affected as data is still being collated, therefore, additional funding will be made available by the Council if necessary.

## **4 Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- legal and human rights, equality of opportunity, health, human

resources, environmental, transport, property, crime and disorder and social value considerations.

## **5 Officer's Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Managing Executive Director, Commissioning, Communities and Policy makes an urgent decision to approve:

- i. Approves the use of an existing reserve to create a fund of £100,000 to support the Derbyshire Floods Business Hardship Fund in line with the approach set out above
- ii. Approves a top-up of £10,000 to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund to support those residents affected by the flooding.
- iii. Approves additional funding over and above that outlined in the report in the event that applications from residents and businesses is in excess of the sums outlined in this report.
- iv. Approves the criteria of the Business Hardship Fund as set out in the report above.
- v. Delegates the assessment of the Business Hardship Fund applications to the Head of Economic Development in consultation with the Senior Economic Development Officer.



**Emma Alexander**  
**Managing Executive Director, Commissioning, Communities and Policy**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OFFICER DECISION AND DECISION REVIEW RECORD**

Officer: Emma Alexander <i>*For emergency powers, this would be the Executive Director</i>		Service: Commissioning, Communities and Policy
Delegated Power Being Exercised: Use of Earmarked Reserves greater than £100,000 <i>*The delegation detailed in the Constitution to the specified officer or emergency powers</i>		
Subject of Decision: (i.e. services affected)	An urgent decision to set up residents and business hardship funds to provide financial support to those affected by the flooding following Storm Christoph during w/c 18 January 2021.	
Is this a review of a decision? If so, what was the date of the original decision?	n/a	
Key decision? If so have Democratic Services been notified?	n/a	
Decision Taken (specify precise details, including the period over which the decision will be in place and <b>when it will be (further) reviewed</b> ):	<p>Following the floods experienced by residents and businesses as a result about Storm Christoph during w/c 18 January 2021, a hardship fund has been established to support both residents and businesses affected by the floods.</p> <p>Residents will be able to claim £104 which will be administered through the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund, whilst businesses can apply for a grant of £500. Grant applications will be processed by Economy Transport and Environment.</p> <p>Funding totalling £110,000 will be made available from existing reserves, made up of a £10,000 top-up to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund and £100,000 available for business grants.</p> <p>Additional funding over and above that outlined in the report will be made available in the event that applications from residents and businesses are in excess of the above sums.</p>	

	<p>The criteria for the Business Hardship Fund will be developed and assessed by the Head of Economic Development in consultation with the Senior Economic Development Officer.</p> <p>Applications for businesses will commence w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and will remain open until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, with the residents application process being made immediately available.</p>
<p>Reasons for the Decision (specify all reasons for taking the decisions including where necessary reference to Council policy and anticipated impact of the decision)</p> <p>Where the decision is subject to statutory guidance please state how this has been taken into consideration.</p>	<p>To ensure that immediate financial support is provided to both residents and businesses of Derbyshire affected by the floods caused by Storm Christoph, it was necessary to for the decision to be made to expedite the systems and processes required to ensure a swift application process.</p> <p>Officers in Adult Social Care and Health will utilise an application process for residents similar to that used for the Whaley Bridge and Winter 2019/20 floods, with payments to be made via the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.</p> <p>Officers in Economy, Transport and Environment will implement a similar process for applications used during the Winter 2019/20 floods.</p>
<p>Alternative Options Considered (if appropriate) and reasons for rejection of other options</p>	<p>Do Nothing – the Council has provided similar schemes in response to the Whaley Bridge incident, floods of Winter 2019/20, as well as offering financial support to businesses in Derbyshire in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, this response is consistent with previous schemes.</p>
<p>Has a risk assessment been conducted ?- if so what are the potential adverse impacts</p>	<p>n/a</p>



identified and how will these be mitigated?	
Would the decision normally have been the subject of consultation with service users and the public? If so, explain why this is not practicable and the steps that have or will be taken to communicate the decision	It is not a decision that would have been subject to consultation given the immediate response that was required.
Has any adverse impact on groups with protected characteristics been identified and if so, how will these be mitigated?	No.
Background/Reports/Information considered and attached (including Legal, HR, Financial, Equality and other considerations as required))	The costs of £110,000 will be met from existing reserves. In the event that applications exceed this balance, further funding would be made available.
Consultation with relevant Cabinet Member (s) – please note this is obligatory.	Cllr Lewis was informed of the final detail.
Approval of Chair of appropriate Improvement and Scrutiny Committee where call in is intended to be waived – please note this is obligatory in those circumstances	Cllr Kemp (Chair of Improvement and Scrutiny – Resources) has been contacted to request waiving of the call-in which he has approved.
Decision:	
Signature and Date:	

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