

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **COUNCIL** held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at Members' Room.

PRESENT

Councillor T Ainsworth (in the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, R Ashton, K S Athwal, N Atkin, J Barron, B Bingham, S Bull, S Burfoot, Collins, C Cupit, C Dale, J Dixon, R Flatley, M Ford, E Fordham, M Foster, R George, K Gillott, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, A Griffiths, L Grooby, C Hart, A Hayes, Hobson, N Hoy, R Iliffe, J Innes, T Kemp, T King, G Kinsella, B Lewis, W Major, R Mihaly, D Muller, D Murphy, G Musson, J Nelson, P Niblock, J Patten, L Ramsey, R Redfern, C Renwick, P Rose, J Siddle, P Smith, S Spencer, A Stevenson, A Sutton, S Swann, D Taylor, J Wharmby, D Wilson, B Woods, J Woolley and M Yates.

Officers present: Emma Alexander (Managing Director), Helen Barrington (Director - Legal and Democratic Services), Carol Cammiss (Executive Director - Children's Services), Alec Dubberley (Head of Democratic and Registration Services), Peter Handford (Interim Executive Director - Corporate Services and Transformation), Chris Henning (Executive Director - Place) and Helen Jones (Executive Director - Adult Care).

1/22 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Dale, Angelique Foster, Gibson, Moss and Parkinson.

2/22 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

No declarations of interest were received.

3/22 CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman congratulated Kim Johnson, an Arts Education Consultant for the County Council's Virtual School, who had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years' Honours list for services to the arts, education, and young people.

Holocaust Memorial Day took place on 27 January and the Chairman spoke about residents being encouraged to light a candle in remembrance of solidarity against prejudice and hatred.

Tribute was paid to Freda Walker who tragically died at her home in Langwith Junction recently. The Chairman wished Ken, her husband, all the best for a speedy recovery.

The Chairman acknowledged the recent death of Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, who was the former Leader and longest serving Councillor on

Derbyshire Dales District Council.

A number of Members spoke to add their own tributes to Freda Clarke and Councillor Rose and a minute of silence was observed.

4/22 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2021

On the motion of Councillor B Lewis, duly seconded, it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

5/22 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT

The Leader of the Council spoke about the recent government announcement regarding County deals and was pleased to report that Derby and Derbyshire had been selected as one of nine 'pathfinder' areas in the country. While a lot of the detail had yet to be worked through, this was an exciting proposition for Derbyshire and would build on the existing Vision Derbyshire work. He added that he hoped that further powers and funding would be devolved to the area particularly around transport, skills and training. He also expressed the Council is keen to hear what the views of the District and Boroughs are around the County Deal process and would be meeting with them and of course continuing the discussions with Derby City around the County Deals' process as well.

In response to questions from Councillors Dixon and Fordham about how local government authorities would be organised in Derbyshire in light of the County deal, Councillor Lewis advised that as much of the detail had only just emerged, it was not possible to provide a full answer. However, the Council had always been working in the Vision Derbyshire mode which is a two-tier authority within Derbyshire and it was understood that it would not be necessary for Derbyshire to set up a combined authority or elected mayor arrangement for Tier 2 powers. Further discussions with district and boroughs may be required once more detail is known. Ultimately, it was understood that Derbyshire could decide how best to implement any new arrangements for taking more powers from government.

6/22 TO CONSIDER PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

a) Question from Ann Sheehy, Acclimatise Whaley to Councillor C Renwick, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment

“On behalf of our members I wish to raise our concerns about the continuing use of glyphosates by Derbyshire County Council.

The regulatory regime in place in the UK recognises that there are risks to the use of herbicides such as glyphosate and has set in place, for nearly a decade, measures which should limit use of such products. In March 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”. There is a live debate about glyphosate’s environmental impacts and use in gardens. Some countries and many cities across the world have banned or strongly regulated the use of glyphosate.

What is DCC’s policy on the use of glyphosate in particular and herbicides in general and is there any plan to reduce levels of herbicide used by the Council and its contractors?”

Councillor Renwick responded as follows:

Glyphosate as a weed controlled product is used in only very small quantities on Derbyshire County Council sites and by certified staff using the appropriate PPE. This includes our Countryside Service sites and other land and property assets.

Primarily it is used as a herbicide on INNS, which is invasive non-native species on our Council sites and in practice this is giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed which to be honest there is very little satisfactory alternative treatment. This is generally applied by spray but we have actually already started to use an injector to deliver a neater dose onto the plant stem which is a far more effective method of treatment and obviously reduces the amount of glyphosates that are used.

As the questioner was not present, there was no supplementary question.

b) Question from David Ingham to Councillor S Spencer Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget

The Chair permitted Mr Ingham to ask two procedural questions prior to him putting his previously submitted question.

“I have recently attended council meetings. It is beneficial for the public to see directly positive work done my members, their discussions and time committed. The other reason public should ideally attend is because minutes are not verbatim.

At the Audit Committee in September 2021, 2 particularly pertinent points

regarding the Whistleblowing procedure were raised by members but not recorded. At the Governance Committee in 2021 an individual raised matters about the chairs report – neither the matters raised or the individuals attendance were recorded.

Most meetings I have been the only member of the public present and whilst I don't feel lonely consider more can be done. The Council website detailing meetings open to the public is not correct and has been raised. On individual webpages for each committee meeting it is not clear that the public can attend - and indeed at Scrutiny Committees even submit questions.

I ask if this key information can be added as it can only help to support open government and may possibly serve to reduce the number of questions raised directly to Ward Members and in turn the number of questions at Full Council unless there is still a compelling need.”

Councillor Spencer responded as follows:

I always welcome contributions from the public at any meeting. I have to say that some of the points you raise in your question are pertinent, relevant and will be looked at very carefully in due course.

Obviously public engagement participation is part of the democratic process. It is essential for good governance and we do our best in making the public aware of the meetings that are taking place and when. I think it is fair to say, Mr Ingham, that our website is a little clunky and that is being looked at as we speak and we will continue to streamline the process of allowing people to access information on that website more freely and more easily as we move forward.

With regard to the minutes, the minutes are a record of the decisions that are made fundamentally and unless we go down the route of carrying out verbatim minutes at all meetings, which is costly I have to say, it would be inappropriate to mention some issues that were mentioned and not all, so it is a record of decisions and how those decisions were reached which is obviously confirmed at the following meeting that takes place.

Having said that the new Head of Democratic Services who started with the organisation only ten days ago is looking at how we present those minutes on the Council's website. I suspect there will be a few changes and hopefully improvements as far as you are concerned. I also think it is pertinent and appropriate that anybody in attendance at that meeting should be recorded in those minutes. I hope that answers your question.

Mr Ingham asked the following supplementary question

How quickly that work would be done? I totally take on board in relation to the minutes, even I wouldn't expect them to be verbatim. I think it is just around people's understanding that they are not verbatim and the fact, which is what I was trying to indicate, I think it is really important the public understand they can have access to public meetings.

Councillor Spencer responded as follows:

If I can just say, Mr Ingham, it isn't everybody's cup of tea to come and stand in an audience such as this and ask a question but anybody who wishes to do so is more than welcome to and hopefully we can give them a clear and distinctive answer to their question.

You did raise another point which I failed to answer in your previous question. That was about members not bringing unnecessary issues to full Council and dealing with them in the form of an email. I wholeheartedly agree, Mr Ingham, on that position. I would suggest that many of the questions today could have been answered by the appropriate Cabinet member and they would have been answered more quickly than waiting two months for the next full Council meeting, but I share your view. Thank you.

7/22 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no petitions.

8/22 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS (IF ANY)

a) Question from Councillor R Flatley to Councillor C Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

“At the last Full Council meeting Cllr Fordham asked a question regarding pre-exposure prophylaxis (prep) where he stated that Derbyshire was the worst County in the East Midlands for late diagnosis. Could the cabinet member please confirm whether this statement was correct?”

Response from Councillor Hart:

Yes, you are right, Councillor Fordham did say that Derbyshire was the worst county in the East Midlands for late diagnosis.

I am pleased to tell you that he got his facts wrong. I can confirm that the most recent data, aggregated across 2018-20 shows that Derbyshire is not the worst county. In fact in comparison with local authorities who have similar characteristics to Derbyshire (which is our six nearest neighbours) it allows us to compare our performance more reliably against similar areas. Derbyshire is the sixth best performing out of this

Group of 16 similar authorities, which includes five of the East Midlands' counties.

I think it really would help if perhaps members checked any facts that they are quoting at full Council as it can be very misleading. The problem is that the press are usually in attendance and very often they take whatever is said as fact without sometimes perhaps checking for themselves whether the facts are correct so it does lead to a lot of misinformation out in the public domain. So no, Derbyshire is not the worst but sixth best out of 16 similar authorities which does include five of the six East Midlands' counties.

Councillor Flatley asked the following supplementary question:

Councillor Fordham also stated that 50% of HIV cases in Derbyshire are recorded late. In light of your first response could you confirm whether this figure is also correct?

Councillor Hart responded as follows:

Yes, following on again I think Councillor Fordham got his facts wrong. It is not 50% of HIV recorded late but 40%. This equates to 14 people and covers the two-year period 2018-20. This is very similar to the national average of 42.4%. Of course we want this figure lower and we have worked with DCHS to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment to compare service access and uptake also before the pandemic and at various stages during the pandemic. We are involved in Public Health England, which of course is now the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, in this work for independent assessment to challenge ourselves further. This work is ongoing and highlights our commitment to reducing inequalities. A piece of work has actually been applauded by PHE and was disseminated on their National Sexual Health and HIV Commissioner's hub as good practice, so whilst it is good to put the facts right it is also good to show what good work we are doing in this area.

Following the answer, Councillor Fordham raised a point of explanation under Standing Order 11.8 stating that he had cited the statistics from the report of the Trust that is responsible for reporting PrEP and diagnosis. He had obtained the figures from a local health centre poster.

b) Question from Councillor S Swann to Councillor B Lewis, Leader of the Council

“At the last Full Council meeting, while making unverified assertions about a lack of staff within the County Council's catering service, Cllr George made some quite shocking statements about children collapsing at school

due to not getting any food.

Given the concerning nature of what was said by Cllr George, will the Leader please update Members on the findings of any investigations to establish the facts of this matter?"

Response from Councillor Lewis:

I know that Councillor Dale would be very keen to set the record straight on this one but he is unable to be here today.

Firstly, I would like to start by saying that immediately following the last meeting where the claims were made, Councillor Dale and officers were very keen to fully investigate those claims but have been hampered by any lack of engagement from Councillor George herself.

Multiple requests have been sent to Councillor George by Councillor Dale and officers to request clarity on exactly what she said and, in particular, the name of the school affected so that it could be looked into. All of these requests have been met by a wall of silence after it has triggered some alarm bells and we have been looking into it further.

As a result of this we have had to wait until the verbatim minutes were produced in order to fully investigate the matter, so for the benefit of all members in the room I will quote what Councillor George said during that last meeting. She said:

“In-school catering then the lack of staff is meaning that lunches are not served to all the children. In our local High School in Chapel we had children collapsing because they weren't able to get any food during the course of the day. Children on free school meals were not receiving the lunches that they were entitled to and which they needed in order to get by because staff had opted to work in hospitality instead because they got better pay; they got better holidays and they could work during school holidays if they wished. They are paid just £9.25 an hour at Derbyshire County Council compared to £10 an hour at Morrisons and £9.55 at Aldi and Tesco at the local alternatives to me.”

That is what Councillor George said and therefore we investigated those claims in relation to Chapel High School and there are three fundamental problems with what Councillor George said.

Firstly, despite the very clear insinuation from Councillor George, Derbyshire County Council does not even provide a catering service for Chapel High and instead they commission a private contractor.

Secondly, officers have contacted the school's headteacher who does not recognise these assertions. The headteacher has confirmed that if this had happened then free food would have been provided for the student in addition to an Early Help assessment being undertaken and signposting the student's family to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

Finally, Councillor George criticised the level of pay and holiday arrangements for DCC catering staff. In terms of pay according to the benchmarking we are significantly above our private competitors in this area. Catering staff, of course, already get good holidays based on the school terms and when you speak to many of them a lot will cite this as a reason they choose to work in our Catering Service. In the summer of 2020 the Service offered work to all 1,400 employees and, interestingly, only 39 expressed any interest.

I am sure you will agree this is deeply disappointing that Councillor George had chosen to make these claims in a public arena of a full Council meeting without first checking the veracity of their facts. In doing so she has completely unfairly besmirched the school and their contractors as well as our own Catering Service.

Councillor Swann asked the following supplementary question:

We are all aware that the Council has done a huge amount of good work to support vulnerable families during the pandemic and I am sure the Leader can provide a summary of such assistance, but would Councillor Lewis agree that Councillor George should consider both retracting the statement and offering an apology, not least to the teachers at the local school she mentioned, but also the County Council's dedicated and hard working Catering Service colleagues who on the same day Councillor George made these comments were being commended by you, Chair, and being congratulated by the members in this room for receiving two national awards.

Response from Councillor Lewis:

That is quite correct, Councillor Swann, we were indeed celebrating the successes of the Catering Services who do such a fantastic job for all our schools. Yes, I am quite pleased to be able to report the positive record that we have here in Derbyshire for supporting the most vulnerable children and their families and particularly during the pandemic.

Just to name a few of those examples, our Children's Services led cross-Council activities to secure £5.4m from the DWP funding through the Covid-19 winter and local support grants providing 160,000 vouchers to

vulnerable children and families and support to vulnerable adults during the school holiday periods between December 2020 and September 2021.

At the beginning of this winter we received an additional £5.4m for the Household Support Fund and working with partner organisations we estimate that by the end of the winter we will have helped approximately 6,000 families to receive cash grants with an average payment of £124 for a family of four and each family will be able to access two payments within the period.

27,000 children eligible for benefit related free school meals will have received a £50 food voucher in early February 2022 and we have distributed £1.2m to District Councils to support another 6,000 families with children with financial or practical housing related support.

We provided £190,000 in HSF grants to community and voluntary sector organisations which supports a significant proportion of the families out there as well and by utilising the Government's £2.8m holiday activities and food funding we have established a network of 62 community and voluntary providers to deliver over 60,000 holiday activity and food places to vulnerable children eligible to free school meals over the summer and Christmas and an additional 816 places were offered by our Sports and Outdoor Education Services.

So you can see, Chairman, we do an awful lot for the young people across Derbyshire who are in need in this way. It is incredibly disappointing to hear those comments from Councillor George last time. One doesn't like to use the word 'liar' in relation to an elected member in this Chamber, and I certainly won't use that term, but the term 'grossly misleading the Council' scarcely does this justice.

Following the answer, Councillor George raised a point of explanation under Standing Order 11.8 stating that she knew there was a child who collapsed who hadn't had lunch at school because another child ran to her house to tell her and she took that child home. She also explained the headteacher wrote to all parents, after receiving multiple complaints about children not being able to receive lunch, stating that this was because the catering provider had lost staff over the summer to the commercial catering industry. Councillor George apologised that it was not a Derbyshire County Council direct caterer at that school, but explained the issue regarding catering staff pay and leaving the employment of schools to go to the private sector has been documented.

c) Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets & Transport

“When will the landslip on the A5004 Long Hill be repaired?”

Councillor Athwal responded as follows:

I do understand there is history on this. I do understand the concerns with which you are perhaps asking this question because my colleague, Councillor Kemp, has brought this to our officers' attention on a number of occasions the concerns on behalf of the local residents, but to update you on the current situation we are currently in the detailed design stage for repairs to the A5004 Long Hill caused by the landslip. A contractor has been commissioned. The detailed ground investigations, along with geophysical and ecology service have been completed. Extensive liaison has been undertaken with all the adjacent landowners and discussions undertaken with affected statutory undertakers. Detailed investigation of the existing drainage system is currently being undertaken and it is hoped to commence advanced utility works in the spring. Once the detailed design has been completed, and the scope of all the works needed to undertake the repairs analysed, a construction programme will be prepared and communicated.

The meeting adjourned between 2:50 pm and 3:10 pm
Councillor Nelson left the meeting.

Following the adjournment, Councillor George asked the following supplementary question:

I don't know if you have seen the road in question? I have raised it many many times with your department over the last two years. It has been collapsed for longer and is collapsing more almost by the week, especially over the winter. We were assured it would be started in the autumn. The budget for it expires at the end of this financial year. Please could I get your full assurance that if the work is not commenced before the end of this financial year that that budget will be allocated in the next financial year and that it will definitely be completed then?

Councillor Athwal responded as follows:

Please be assured that officers are aware of the timespans and they are looking to action the repairs in a timely manner. As regards the budget I am sure it will be earmarked budget for the repairs in this area and I am sure they will be moved across appropriately.

As you will appreciate Derbyshire's geography is quite different to many other counties and we suffer from quite a few geological slips and various aspects, especially with climate change and the like which are particular to the geography of Derbyshire itself. I have already had a conversation with

officers and I have sort of encouraged them to work with partners say from places like Cumbria, Yorkshire which have topography like we have in Derbyshire itself to lobby Central Government to try and get some additional funds to help with these sort of issues because we do have a number of slips in there. Again I can only assure you that we will keep you informed.

d) Question from Councillor R George to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

“What are the Council’s plans to open up our Learning Disability Centres to the many people who would love to attend them again?”

Councillor Hoy responded as follows:

Firstly, I would like to thank all our amazing staff who have come forward and are helping to support our residents to provide a high level of care. I would like to reassure everybody that this is a temporary measure.

You will be aware of the current pressures that are being experienced in the health and care sector across the country and unfortunately Derbyshire is no different. The omicron variant has caused large numbers of staff to need to self-isolate and many more are absent from work unwell with Covid. This has led to resourcing difficulties in our residential homes and in providing home care for everybody assessed as needing help in the community. Consequently we are taking temporary action in order to help us direct resources to best manage the situation to help us provide the care needed for those people who are being impacted by the reduction in staff numbers.

To help us through this difficult time we needed to move some of our skilled staff from our services, including day services, to work in residential homes and home care across the county. I am aware that all people attending and their carers have been made aware of this situation and our central team of social workers are supporting people who need to find an alternative during this time. We still have three of our Day Centres open and we are supporting residents to get to these until they are able to open the ones that have been temporarily closed. This is under constant review and we will update all members when this situation changes.

Supplementary question from Councillor George:

It is not just the temporary closure or the temporary proposed closure because in some cases it has not actually happened yet that is of concern. Alderbrook Learning Disability Centre in my own Division used to cater for 83 people, it now caters for just 12 of whom all except one are on a part-

time basis. This huge and beautiful Centre supports just six or seven people per day instead of the 69 that it used to support.

There are dozens of families with loved ones who would adore to attend that Centre again. They watch the bus go by with tears running down their cheeks because they can't attend with their friends. Parents and families have heard nothing of the long-term plans to open up those Centres again and this is what my question was directed to, when and how they are going to be opened up again to all of those who need them?

Response from Councillor Hoy:

As I have said in my original answer this is under constant review. This is a temporary measure that unfortunately we have had to put in place because of the variant to ensure that we can deliver services. We have three of our Centres open and we are supporting residents. As soon as this situation changes we will advise all members.

e) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor B Lewis, Leader of the Council

“There are many heralded benefits to Vision Derbyshire regarding back office functions, HR, personnel, fleet and procurement, to name a few. One area that has been largely unspoken of is in relation to the issues faced directly by residents. As Vision Derbyshire comes into formation can attention be turned to the schemes of all Council for reporting problems and issues by residents. This might apply to all areas of the work of local authorities within Derbyshire - this the opportunity to review the formal replies around potholes and roads and public estate. This could have the effect to end replies that say 'Not the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council' and rather, where it is known that it was say Amber Valley or Chesterfield Borough Council we might a) tell the resident which authority owns the lands and b) pass on the concern or issue direct to that authority? This could have the effect of making Vision Derbyshire something for which residents might see a tangible and indeed useful benefit. Does the Council agree?”

Councillor Lewis responded as follows:

It is interesting you put this question in this way actually as part of Vision Derbyshire working. It is something that is seen as something of a potential panacea in the future for Vision Derbyshire approach, the sort of integration of complaint systems and online systems where you have a single front door almost for the county. As we know generally most people on the ground when they talk about “the Council” don't perceive there are two tiers in places like Derbyshire and therefore absolutely quite

sensible that the questions when they are asked should be dealt with and we can find an appropriate system for doing that. Other local authorities in the country, I believe there are one or two, have done this with a reasonable degree of success.

We ourselves as a local authority have moved relatively recently to the Channel Shift Programme which has meant that our own front door for the County Council has improved somewhat both for the general public and for members. I would assume that there is plenty of scope to integrate those systems in the future and as I recall from discussions I had quite early on about the Channel Shift system that we have operating here at the moment is we have that potential to upgrade and expand so we can do that. It shouldn't be something that is predicated actually on a Vision Derbyshire model it is quite a sensible system that if a member of the general public jumps onto any particular Council website, asks a question or makes a request for a particular service that they should get that answer. I think the key is working at a pace that we are at the moment with the Districts and Boroughs as part of Vision Derbyshire approach in a way that is comfortable for them to think about, talk about, look at things like integration in this way.

Councillor Fordham asked the following supplementary question:

I don't think this need be a Vision Derbyshire thing but necessarily it could just be a pilot in a small area. I just find myself personally struggling with a reply that says "We don't own the land" when in fact we know who does. I think there is something that could pilot this in a particular Borough or Town or even just Division or Ward or Parish whereby we had a joined up approach with a local authority that shared data. It doesn't even have to be Derbyshire led it could even be that local authority or that Parish Council. I wonder whether the Leader would agree?

Response from Councillor Lewis:

We will certainly consider doing that, I think. As I say there are conversations going on as part of Vision Derbyshire approaching a deal being dealt with by various Cabinet members, in here for example with Cabinet members in other local authorities as part of the Vision Derbyshire approach and I am sure that there will be some detailed plans coming forward at a point when they are developed.

f) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor C Hart, Cabinet Member for Health & Communities

"More and more groups such as Food Banks, Service User Groups in Health and Social Care and countless volunteer organisations are

increasingly the front-line (outside of families) for the support and help of those with mental health related issues. Given how many of these meet and operate from the many village halls and community centres up and down Derbyshire, is this now the time to review the level of risk and exposure these Groups are under from mental health patients who can no longer cope or who suffer from high anxiety and other conditions. Given the lethal incidents faced by MPs seeking to help troubled constituents, is now the time to provide advice, guidance and support for all such groups and venues who provide support, advice and venues in the community?"

Councillor Hart responded as follows:

I have to say from the start I do not think what you are asking is actually achievable. I am sure I do not need to point out to anybody there are literally thousands of groups and organisations, including food banks, right across Derbyshire. As pointed out they all meet in all sorts of venues but many of these organisations are not necessarily known to DCC. We of course can and do carry out our duties on our own staffing buildings though.

I can also say there is a Prevent Duty guidance which requires there is a venue hire policy covering any publicly owned buildings but I am also sure that the vast majority of the other buildings owned by other bodies such as large charities, organisations or perhaps smaller buildings owned by Parish Councils will all have their own policies and risk assessments in place.

In addition to address your concerns about mental health I have to say that our Public Health Team do an enormous amount of work in connection with mental health and they send out as much information and guidance and contacts for obtaining help as they possibly can.

I hear what you say about the fairly recent as you put it "lethal incidents" with MPs and yes, we should all be very aware, but I actually don't think that the local organisations doing good work in the community probably come under such severe threats as MPs though again we must all be aware of this.

We have, as you know, given advice and guidance to our councillors and staff but to try and do this across all the organisations and groups across Derbyshire is, as I have always said, probably an impossible task. However, having said that I will say we will always do our best to inform and give guidance in any areas of concern as best we can and we will do that not through our own websites and such like but also through our partners and stakeholders.

Councillor Fordham asked the following supplementary question:

I had an incident recently in a local community group of which I am a councillor for, or the area rather, where a resident did “explode” and it was a very difficult situation for the volunteers handling it. It is a Council owned venue and they haven’t taken steps really I would say to ameliorate it.

It is nearly 21 years to the day that I walked into the constituency office of the MP for Cheltenham to handle the aftermath of the murder of Councillor Andrew Pennington by a samurai sword. It is clear to me 21 years later that many of the lessons that we have taught MPs in their constituency offices with their volunteers have not been learnt here in Derbyshire and in our community centres. I think there is some opportunity for us to do more. I am happy that the MPs have advice and guidance. I think our volunteers deserve it too.

Response from Councillor Hart:

We will always share as much information as we can. We are always there for help and guidance but to cover every absolute organisation there must be hundreds and hundreds in Derbyshire doing various things that we don’t actually know about so all we can do is help, but we are there for any help that anybody wants. Yes, we should all be aware but hopefully these buildings anywhere and any organisations using premises should have risk assessments in place when they hire the rooms or use the rooms.

g) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor T Ainsworth, Fire Authority Chair

“I note that Dexter, the East Midlands Fire Dog is to retire with his handler and that he is not being replaced thus ending decades of loyal, successful and indeed life saving service from Fire Dogs in this area. In noting our thanks to Dexter for his services, will the Council lend its support to a review of this retrograde step of ending animal support in emergency situations?”

Councillor Ainsworth responded as follows:

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue have had a regional commitment to fire investigation which means each Service contributing funds and roles to guide how fire investigation is delivered. Each Service pays a fifth of the cost of the dog handler and the dog.

Dexter and Dave, his handler, were Derbyshire staff and still are. We are

proud of the work they have done in the past ten years. Dexter and Dave retire in the next couple of months and despite there being new technology available such as digital thermal cameras, Nottinghamshire have expressed an interest in providing a new dog and handler for this function. We will continue to contribute our portion, as will the other East Midlands' members, and we will have access to this valuable asset. There will be no loss during the term because as Dave retires he is actually going to go and work as a civilian at Nottingham Fire and Rescue until such time as they get the new dog, so they are going to take it over for the next ten years and it just goes round each area.

You have given me a nice situation in which to congratulate Dave and Dexter on reaching their retirement, thank them for the work they have done in serving the residents of the East Midlands and Derbyshire and wish them a long and happy retirement.

There was no supplementary question.

h) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

“Can the Council share any aspect of the consultation on Care Homes that has been welcomed by residents or families during the consultation process? Given this is a re-consultation, does the Council understand why many feel that this decision and consultation has been pre-determined?”

Councillor Hoy responded as follows:

We fully recognise how difficult it can be for residents, their relatives and our staff to be engaged in a consultation on the future of the care homes in which they live and work. We have been assured by the fact that being involved in the consultation process has enabled people to have the clarity they want and need about the current position and the options being consulted upon. The consultation has also given residents and their relatives an opportunity to express their views about the proposals and raise questions to seek reassurance about the process. We have been able to reassure everyone who has taken part in the process that no decisions have been made and that all the views provided to the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in due course to support future decision making.

Councillor Fordham asked a supplementary question as follows:

If I understood that answer correctly the only aspect of the consultation that has been welcomed by residents or families is clarity. The only aspect is clarity. Is that correct, there is no aspect of the consultation

regarding rewiring; moving; relocation; bus distances, no single aspect of the consultation has been welcomed except for clarity?

Response from Councillor Hoy:

It is very difficult because we are still in the middle of the consultation to give a full account of everybody's comments. All members will have future opportunities to comment on this moving forward.

i) Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets & Transport

“Cross Street in Chesterfield has, in my two and a half years as a councillor, been extensively patched, had full grit surface dressing, and then extensively patched again. It was due to be entirely replaced as none of these options has succeeded. This plan however, has been cancelled during the budget process leaving an unsatisfactory surface, threw failed repairs and a huge bill for the council and an ongoing problem for residents, cyclists, drivers and the school. Will the Council revisit this decision to cancel the works and reflect on the sums of money with three full scale repairs and a concealed fourth pending?”

Councillor Athwal responded as follows:

Our records show that apart from reactive repairs of potholes no other work has been undertaken on Cross Street. According to our officers we have no records of Cross Street having had full grit surface dressing and no staff are aware of this.

Recently yourself, Councillor Fordham, did enquire directly about any work undertaken on Cross Street and he was informed in the same manner, but if Councillor Fordham has any evidence to the contrary then I will be happy to discuss it with you if he is able to share that with me.

Mr Chairman, there is nothing concealed. No planned works have been cancelled. In the next financial year, as I stated at the September full Council meeting, we are proposing to resurface areas of Cross Street and this year we have added two adjoining streets, these are Hawksley Avenue and Tennyson Avenue which directly connect to Cross Street and this will give us the opportunity to carry out these works together to minimise cost and disruption. Thank you, Mr Chairman. I will take a supplementary if there is one.

Councillor Fordham asked a supplementary question as follows:

This has become an illustration in a difficult street of a difficult problem. I

have photographs of the surface being re-laid and we now know that that work and those men did not place that resurfacing on the electronic system.

My principal concern was that Cross Street was just an example. My principal concern is what this is costing the Authority. You have just given a commitment that you will be resurfacing Cross Street along delightfully with Hawksley and Tennyson, but that will be the fourth time in the two-and-a-half years I have been a District councillor that you will be relaying that street. My concern is not on the state of Cross Street per se but on the cost of sending people down there four times in two-and-a-half years. I use it as an example and it is not alone. As Councillor Athwal knows I raised the issue with the officer who apologised and offered a street meeting there today. I have declined that and suggested Friday instead. I am happy to report back then, Chair, but I am concerned at the briefing Councillor Athwal has been given and I am happy to take that up with him privately.

Response from Councillor Athwal:

I don't think there was really a question there but if I may elaborate further. I will be happy to have a discussion with yourself, Councillor Fordham, to look at what evidence you have and see what investigations we can make but I would like to say here and now: Mr Chairman, our roads/streets have not deteriorated over the last four or five years they have suffered from decades of under-investment in highways by the Opposition.

Mr Chairman, it is this administration who have worked hard to find a solution to this longstanding issue by putting into action a sensible and financially viable plan to improve our highways and byways by embarking on a three year capital investment programme of £120m. We are just completing the first year of a three year programme having invested close to £40m to improve our highways and there is a lot more to do. Indeed, Cabinet approved a £58m highways capital programme for 2022-23 only last month. Mr Chairman, this is by far the highest ever financial investment by this Authority to improve our roads/streets for all and I hope that Councillor Fordham, along with other members, will appreciate this.

I also want to place on record my thanks to our officers for formulating the extensive plans and the Cabinet for approving the highways capital programme.

j) Question from Councillor C Dale to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

“Now we find ourselves in crisis in recruiting staff for residential and home care throughout the County are we approaching the situation of failing as a Council in our Statutory Duty; On reflection would it have been better to increase care staff wages, provide a bonus in recognition of the sterling work they carried out throughout the Pandemic and created a proper career pathway for apprentices?”

Councillor Hoy responded as follows:

This is a challenge for us locally in Derbyshire as it is a regional and national and has been a whole market pressure for a number of years which has been consistently highlighted to Central Government by local authorities, the Local Government Association and ADASS as well as by care homes and Home Care Associations.

As the social care reform introduces a lifetime cap on the amount any individual will be required to contribute to the cost of their own personal care over their lifetime, funding will be allocated by Central Government to assist local authorities with funding the cost of this and we welcome hearing of Derbyshire’s allocation.

Going forward we will be using the Fair Price for Care model developed on behalf of ADASS and the LGA to help us understand the cost for each provider in the sector. This model will enable us to see the wages of local care workers, including whether they receive sick pay, the amount of pay training days received, and payments for travel costs.

What is already evident from the recent benchmarking exercise is that via our pay rates, which include payments for travel, Derbyshire County Council enables providers in the market to pay a higher hourly rate to care workers in the Home Care sector than neighbouring local authorities. This hourly rate is higher than the rate stipulated by the Home Care Association. Locally Derbyshire County Council is completing a wide range of activities to improve the recruitment and retention of care workers in care homes and home care and this includes collaborative work to develop and deliver a strategic work filled programme led by the Joined Up Care Derbyshire Place partnerships.

There is already collaborative working across our local system to join recruitment initiatives to mitigate against the risks of moving staff from one part of the system to another and ultimately to develop the opportunity for hybrid roles and apprenticeship schemes which enable employees to undertake a range of roles in health and social care.

Internally Adult Social Care is undertaking workforce planning for the whole of the market and has a range of initiatives to improve recruitment

and retention internally in our Direct Care Services. We work closely with providers to understand and support them in trying to resolve their workforce challenges. Our care worker workforce across the whole market is a real strength and enables Derbyshire County Council to continue to deliver its statutory duties to meet the needs of the people with care and support needs across the whole of the county. We are fully committed to ensuring that the value attached to this role reflects the skills, expertise and dedication of our care workers.

Councillor Dale asked the following supplementary question:

I understand for our Home Care clients that because of the crisis situation there has been a reduction in services for some of the clients. How long is this likely to last do you think and what if a particular client who has a reduced service their health suddenly deteriorates, what provision have we got to cover this eventuality so that they receive the services back again?

Response from Councillor Hoy:

Again this is a temporary measure which is constantly under review and should a resident require additional support then this Council would provide it straightaway.

k) Question from Councillor C Dale to Councillor B Lewis, Leader of the Council

“The Council is committed to Vision Derbyshire. How many job losses are planned for the future and how are we going to fund the redundancies? Will it mean a substantial rise in Council Tax to cover this eventuality?”

Councillor Lewis responded as follows:

This seems to have some familiar overtones from some of the rhetoric we have heard from the Leader of Bolsover District Council relatively recently, Councillor Steve Fritchley. I suppose there are a few ways I can answer this question but I suppose the most direct way is best.

One is the work that we are doing around Vision Derbyshire with Districts and Boroughs in some senses may be superseded by the process that we are going through as part of the County Deals process. We don't know that. As I say there is some detail yet to come on that but one thing we have always been clear about with regard to Vision Derbyshire is around setting pace with Districts and Boroughs that they are comfortable with and engaging with the process in terms of Vision Derbyshire again at their pace. It is theirs to control and they can opt in/opt out of whatever bits

and pieces that make up the whole as they want to, but it does make a huge amount of sense in the process of looking at what we do as local authorities together to look at joining up or rationalising some of those particular services that we have across the piece. That is for the benefit of some of the taxpayers but also for efficiency working across the piece with Districts and Boroughs. If we are all doing something that is the same then why do we all have to do it individually, can we rationalise it by bringing them together in some way and avoid that duplication? Procurement is another area indeed that we are exploring in a little bit more detail because I think there are some big wins around that in joining forces and getting more value for money in that process.

In terms of the other part of your question which is around redundancies etc etc, again that is something as part of that process that discussion can be had with individual Districts and Boroughs what they want to do and not do as part of that process. I suppose like ourselves and many other Districts and Boroughs if there were to be job rationalisations then they can be managed in much the way that we manage ours through natural wastage, voluntary redundancies, voluntary early retirement, those sorts of processes.

Indeed, I would expect that overall there would actually be a saving for local authorities and therefore a saving potentially to Council Tax payers in the long run. However, there are some services where we may see an increase in capacity, particularly around that bit where we deliver sort of joint growth. For example with Chesterfield Borough Council we have a Joint Growth Board, that utilises some of the Markham Vale business rates and as a consequence of that we have a team around that which enables us to deliver really good results around economic regen opportunities across the piece there.

I do understand where you are coming from because Bolsover is woefully under-invested with regard to regen. We don't see the pipeline projects. There isn't that sort of level of investment there that we would hope to see working with a Borough Council. I can only make the comment that if we spent as much in Bolsover on economic regeneration in the Borough than it did and it did on its own TV channel and its Leader's self-aggrandizement for vanity projects then we might be able to lower Council Tax bills a little further as well as get economic regen potential in Bolsover District.

Councillor Dale asked a supplementary question as follows:

With Vision Derbyshire are you hoping to create new job opportunities and will that still lead to an increase in Council Tax?

Response from Councillor Lewis:

I think I spelt it out quite clearly in my main answer, Chairman, I don't need to repeat myself. I thought I made that quite clear that there were opportunities for growth in areas like economic regen and potentially Council Tax reductions as a consequence of rationalising others.

I) Question from Councillor R George to Councillor B Lewis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change

“Community Arts organisations provide support to thousands of people across Derbyshire, many of whom have protected characteristics. Will an Equality Impact Assessment be prepared of any proposed cuts to these services, and what consideration will be given to the EIA and the impact on vulnerable residents before any decision is made?”

Councillor Lewis responded as follows:

A report was sent to Cabinet in December in fact regarding the current review of voluntary community sector grants and that particular review. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken against those particular proposals in the report. It confirmed that further investigation and consultation was required to fully understand the impact on particular key groups, so this consultation has commenced and will run until the 23 March at which point that EIA will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

In addition a review of the Arts Service is being undertaken and an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to understand the impacts of those proposals and this, of course, will be reported to Cabinet in due course. Full consideration of the outputs of both those EIAs will be given and appropriate mitigations developed if this is appropriate.

Councillor George asked the following supplementary question:

It is good to hear that full consideration will be given to the EIAs and appropriate mitigations will be put in place. Could I just ask to make sure that people with mental health difficulties are included properly within the EIA? It is often difficult if they don't necessarily have a full diagnosis to ensure that those difficulties are taken into account in impact assessments and I am simply asking to make sure that they are.

Response from Councillor Lewis:

I am perfectly happy to take that on board.

9/22a **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020-21 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION**

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

Council welcomed Mark Surridge from Mazar's, the Council's external auditors, who highlighted some points in the report and concluded that Members should be assured that the financial processes, controls and operations at the authority were sound.

On the motion of Councillor B Lewis, duly seconded, it was

RESOLVED:

To note the report and the approved Statement of Accounts for 2020-21.

9/22b **PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND BUDGET MONITORING/FORECAST OUTTURN 2021-22 AS AT QUARTER 2 (30 SEPTEMBER 2021) - MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION**

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, providing Members with an update of Council Plan performance and a forecast outturn for the Revenue Budget for 2021-22, as at the end of the second quarter.

On the motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded, it was

RESOLVED to note:

- 1) The update of Council Plan performance and the Revenue Budget position/forecast outturn for 2021-22 as at 30 September 2021 (Quarter 2); and
- 2) The position on General and Earmarked Reserves.

9/22c **RESERVES POSITION AND RESERVES POLICY - MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION**

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, asking Council to note the current and forecast positions for both General and Earmarked Reserves and the updated Reserves Policy.

On the Motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded, it was:

RESOLVED to note:

- 1) The current position on Earmarked Reserves.
- 2) The details of the amounts to be released from Earmarked Reserves balances.
- 3) The allocation of £3.707m Earmarked Reserves released to the Budget Management Earmarked Reserve; and
- 4) The updated Reserves Policy.

9/22d BUDGET CONSULTATION RESULTS - MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting the results of budget consultation exercises designed to assist Members in formulating budgetary proposals for 2022-23.

On the Motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded, it was:

RESOLVED:

To note the views of consultation respondents regarding the Revenue Budget for 2022-23.

9/22e REVENUE BUDGET REPORT 2022-23 - MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated advance of the meeting, proposing the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2022-23.

On the motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded and in accordance with the Local Authority (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 a recorded vote was taken as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Ainsworth, Allen, Ashton, Athwal, Atkin, Barron, Bull, Cupit, Flatley, Ford, M Foster, Gourlay, Griffiths, Grooby, Hart, Hobson, Hoy, Iliffe, Kemp, King, Lewis, Major, Muller, Musson, Patten, Redfern, Renwick, Rose, Siddle, Smith, Spencer, Stevenson, Sutton, Swann, Taylor, Wharmby, Wilson and Woolley.

Against the motion:

Councillors Allen, Bingham, Burfoot, Collins, C Dale, Dixon, Fordham, George, Gillott, Greenhalgh, Hayes, Hickton, Innes, Kinsella, Mihaly, Niblock, Ramsey, Woods and Yates

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the details of the Autumn Budget, Spending Review 2021 and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as outlined in sections 4.3 and 4.4 of the report;
- 2) Note the Government's expectations about Council Tax levels for 2022-23 in section 4.5 of the report;
- 3) Approve the precepts as outlined in section 4.5 and Appendix Four to the report;
- 4) Approve that billing authorities are informed of Council Tax levels arising from the budget proposals as outlined in section 4.5 and Appendix Four to the report;
- 5) Approve the contingency to cover non-standard inflation as outlined in section 4.7 of the report. The contingency to be allocated by the Executive Director, Corporate Services and Transformation, as S151 Officer, once non-standard inflation has been agreed;
- 6) Approve the service pressure items identified in section 4.8 and Appendix Five to the report.
- 7) Approve the level and allocation of budget savings as outlined in section 4.9 and Appendix Six to the report;
- 8) Note the comments of the Executive Director, Corporate Services and Transformation, as S151 Officer, about the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves as outlined in section 4.10 of the report;
- 9) Note the details of the Council's consultation activity as outlined in section 5 of the report;
- 10) Approve the Council Tax requirement of £369.688m which is calculated as follows:

Budget Before Pressures and Budget Reductions	579,512,75
Plus Service Pressures – on-going	27,214
Plus Adult Social Care Precept	3,554
Plus Service Pressures - one-off	17,201

Less Budget Reductions	-8,057,000
Increase in Debt Charges	7,000,000
Decrease in Risk Management Budget	-7,975,684
Net Budget Requirement	618,457,071
Less Top-Up	-94,891,733
Less Business Rates	-15,875,000
Less Revenue Support Grant	-14,231,306
Less New Homes Bonus	-1,868,167
Less General Grant	-90,396,308
Less PFI Grant	-10,503,833
Less Use of Earmarked Reserves	-21,003,051
Balance to be met from Council Tax	369,687,673

11) Approve the use of the Revenue Contributions to Capital Expenditure Earmarked Reserve to provide one-off support to the 2022-23 Revenue Budget.

12) Authorise the Executive Director, Corporate Services and Transformation, as S151 Officer, to allocate cash limits amongst Cabinet portfolios; Executive Directors will then report to Cabinet on the revised Service Plans for 2022-23.

As the time was approaching 5 o'clock, in accordance with Standing Order 4.1 an extension of the time limited for the meeting was proposed.

On the motion of Councillor B Lewis, duly seconded, it was

RESOLVED

That under rule 4.1 of the Council Procedure Rules the meeting should continue for a period of 25 minutes to enable the remaining business on the agenda to be considered.

9/22f

CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS, TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES FOR 2022-23 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval of proposals relating to the Capital Starts Programme for 2022-23 and the Treasury Management, Investment and Capital Strategies.

On the Motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded, it was:

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Approve the new Capital Starts Programme for 2022-23 set out at Appendix Two to the report;
- 2) Adopt the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-23 set out at Appendix Three to the report;
- 3) Adopt the Investment Strategy for 2022-23 set out at Appendix Four to the report; and
- 4) Adopt the Capital Strategy for 2022-23 set out at Appendix Five to the report.

9/22g **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION**

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, concerning the method of appointment for the Council's External Auditors.

On the motion of Councillor S Spencer, duly seconded it was

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the details of the requirement for the Council to procure a new external auditor for the audit of the Council's accounts for 2023-24 and the four years thereafter;
- 2) Note the options available in respect of how to make the appointment and Audit Committee's recommendation that they support the preferred option of opting-in to the sector-led body, Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), to undertake the procurement on behalf of the Council;
- 3) Approve that the Council becomes an opted-in authority, a decision which must be made by Full Council before 11 March 2022, which is the closing date to give notice to PSAA of the Council's acceptance of its invitation to participate in a sector-led approach to procurement; and
- 4) Note the recent Government Letter on Local Audit Arrangements, which instructs PSAA to progress its proposed procurement strategy for the next round of local audit contracts from 2023-24.

9/22h **DERBYSHIRE PENSION BOARD - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & TRANSFORMATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval for the appointment of a new member of Derbyshire Pension Board (the Pension Board/the Board).

On the motion of Councillor S Spencer duly seconded it was

RESOLVED to:

Approve the appointment of Susan Ambler as an employer representative on Derbyshire Pension Board for a term of four years.

9/22i

REVISIONS TO COUNCIL CONSTITUTION: REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER

The Director for Legal and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval for proposed amendments to the Council Procedure Rules for inclusion in the Constitution.

In accordance with Standing Order 19.3 Councillor B Lewis proposed the motion, which was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the motion stands adjourned without discussion until the next ordinary meeting of Council.

9/22j

DECISIONS TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AND KEY DECISIONS AND SPECIAL URGENCY - DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & MONITORING OFFICER

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, reporting executive decisions taken as a matter of urgency where 28 days' notice of the decision could not be given and where call-in was waived.

On the motion of Councillor B Lewis duly seconded it was

RESOLVED to note:

- 1) Key decisions taken where special urgency provisions were agreed as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report; and
- 2) Urgent decisions taken where the call-in procedure was waived under the Improvement and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as detailed at Appendix 3 to

the report.

10/22 MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR W MAJOR

Council considered a notice of motion, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, from Councillor W Major

Councillor Major spoke to advise Council that he wished to move an amended motion and, following a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

To accept a revised Notice of Motion from Councillor Major for debate.

Councillor Major proposed a motion, which was duly seconded, in the following terms:

This Council acknowledges:

1. Nature provides us with vital support systems, allowing life on our planet to continue;
2. The climate crisis is intimately linked to the damage to nature which is happening around the world; that nutrient cycles, such as the carbon, nitrogen, phosphate and water cycles are all regulated by nature and are linked together;
3. That we have responsibilities across the county of Derbyshire which have an impact on nature and that we will make decisions that protect and enhance it wherever possible;
4. The requirement to take action is urgent, as climate change is rapidly disrupting natural cycles and habitats in Derbyshire. Steps to address the climate crisis must be in tandem with action to help ecosystems recover and become more resilient;

The Council acknowledges:

1. The value of nature -
 - 1.1 - The findings of the Dasgupta Review which highlights that nature is an asset on which all aspects of our society depend. There has been underinvestment in our natural assets which must be reversed.
 - 1.2 - Our current demands on natural resources are unsustainable, requiring the equivalent of 1.6 Earths to maintain the world's current living standards.
 - 1.3 - Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Such declines are undermining nature's productivity and adaptability, which poses excessive uncertainty for our economies and wellbeing.

1.4 - Access to green space is a key factor in improving health and wellbeing and connection to it increases pro-environmental behaviour change.

2. The interconnection to the climate crisis -

2.1 - That the climate and ecological crises are interlinked and that nature can provide cost-effective solutions to fighting climate change.

2.2 - That climate change is displacing nature from its historic habitat ranges as average temperatures increase. To continue to help nature adapt, we need to make habitats more resilient and create and enhance wildlife corridors to allow nature to move to more suitable locations.

3. The path to rebuilding nature - The Lawton Review

4. In order to reverse this decline, four principles must be followed:

4.1 There must be more space given to wildlife;

4.2 That existing wild spaces must be expanded;

4.3 That the quality of existing wild spaces should be improved;

4.4 That the connectivity between wild spaces must be increased.

Council, therefore RESOLVES to:

1. Support the creation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that sits within the national Nature Recovery Network and underpins all planning, development and land management decisions. As part of this, we will:

1.1 Continue to improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems;

1.2 Prioritise Nature Based Solutions to flooding and extreme weather mitigation including use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), woodlands and wetlands to create nature rich habitat and connections where appropriate;

1.3 Continue to adopt a peat-free policy for all council contracts and supplies and support the restoration and protection of Derbyshire's peatlands, including taking measures to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires;

1.4 Support the restoration of tree cover in Derbyshire across suitable locations where appropriate, particularly the planting of street trees within our towns, cities and villages;

1.5 Manage council-owned land for the benefit of wildlife where appropriate;

1.6 Support robust Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) commitment across all council-owned land where reasonable;

1.7 Map and gather data on ecological networks and habitat opportunities within the region and prioritise sites within the ecological network for Biodiversity Net Gain projects (sometimes known as Nature Recovery Network mapping);

1.8 Continue to encourage a commitment for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all new developments now, rather than waiting for 2023, with the selection of sites for offsite mitigation based on the priorities identified by Nature Recovery Network mapping;

1.9 Work with stakeholders to continue to encourage the restoration of sites managed for nature to favourable condition;

2. Improve access to nature by following the Natural England 'Nature Nearby' guidance. Particular regard will be given to:

2.1 Areas with high levels of physical health problems;

2.2 Areas with high levels of mental health problems;

2.3 Areas where the amount and quality of accessible natural greenspace is below Natural England's targets.

3. Demonstrate leadership by educating and supporting businesses, communities and the wider public to take action.

4. Recognise the role of education in engendering pro-environmental behaviour change, by supporting schools and adult education programmes which value nature.

5. Acknowledge the impact of food production and food waste on the current nature and climate crisis:

5.1 By assessing the environmental impact of the food that is purchased for schools and care homes, including ensuring the provision of plant-based foods;

5.2 Supporting the production of food locally, including promoting the provision of allotments across the county;

5.3 Encouraging residents of our community to minimise food waste and ensuring that no food waste goes to landfill.

6. Request that Cabinet continues to support all relevant lead Members in tackling nature's recovery.

7. Continues to support cross departmental resources designated to lead

and coordinate the council operations in relation to nature's recovery.

8. Progress delivery of the priorities of the Council's Climate Change Strategy; achieving Net Zero Emissions which integrate the objectives and outcomes outlined in this motion
9. Continue development of a Natural Capital Strategy to inform development of a Nature Recovery Strategy.
10. Provide training and resources for councillors and council employees about the nature emergency.
11. Continue to support groups to focus on achieving the targets and objectives outlined in this motion. These groups will continue to be comprised of politically balanced cross-party representatives, council staff, and it will call upon relevant experts from external organisations, monitor progress, identify opportunities for improvement and report back to the designated Cabinet member.
12. Work with Partners to encourage the creation of a suitable group arising out of the development of the Local Nature Reserve Strategy.
13. Continue to report on the progress made with regards to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and action plan and companion strategies.
14. Continue to consider and declare Environmental Considerations in Council reports to ensure that any conflicts with nature's recovery are made apparent.

Following debate the motion was duly voted on and declared to be WON.
It was therefore

RESOLVED that:

This Council acknowledges:

1. Nature provides us with vital support systems, allowing life on our planet to continue;
2. The climate crisis is intimately linked to the damage to nature which is happening around the world; that nutrient cycles, such as the carbon, nitrogen, phosphate and water cycles are all regulated by nature and are linked together;
3. That we have responsibilities across the county of Derbyshire which have an impact on nature and that we will make decisions that protect and enhance it wherever possible;
4. The requirement to take action is urgent, as climate change is rapidly disrupting natural cycles and habitats in Derbyshire. Steps to address the climate crisis must be in tandem with action to help ecosystems recover and become more resilient;

The Council acknowledges:

3. The value of nature -
 - 1.1 - The findings of the Dasgupta Review which highlights that nature is an asset on which all aspects of our society depend. There has been underinvestment in our natural assets which must be reversed.
 - 1.2 - Our current demands on natural resources are unsustainable, requiring the equivalent of 1.6 Earths to maintain the world's current living standards.
 - 1.3 - Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Such declines are undermining nature's productivity and adaptability, which poses excessive uncertainty for our economies and wellbeing.
 - 1.4 - Access to green space is a key factor in improving health and wellbeing and connection to it increases pro-environmental behaviour change.
2. The interconnection to the climate crisis -
 - 2.1 - That the climate and ecological crises are interlinked and that nature can provide cost-effective solutions to fighting climate change.
 - 2.2 - That climate change is displacing nature from its historic habitat ranges as average temperatures increase. To continue to help nature adapt, we need to make habitats more resilient and create and enhance wildlife corridors to allow nature to move to more suitable locations.
3. The path to rebuilding nature - The Lawton Review
4. In order to reverse this decline, four principles must be followed:
 - 4.1 There must be more space given to wildlife;
 - 4.2 That existing wild spaces must be expanded;
 - 4.3 That the quality of existing wild spaces should be improved;
 - 4.4 That the connectivity between wild spaces must be increased.

Council, therefore RESOLVES to:

1. Support the creation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that sits within the national Nature Recovery Network and underpins all planning, development and land management decisions. As part of this, we will:
 - 1.1 Continue to improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems;

1.2 Prioritise Nature Based Solutions to flooding and extreme weather mitigation including use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), woodlands and wetlands to create nature rich habitat and connections where appropriate;

1.3 Continue to adopt a peat-free policy for all council contracts and supplies and support the restoration and protection of Derbyshire's peatlands, including taking measures to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires;

1.4 Support the restoration of tree cover in Derbyshire across suitable locations where appropriate, particularly the planting of street trees within our towns, cities and villages;

1.5 Manage council-owned land for the benefit of wildlife where appropriate;

1.6 Support robust Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) commitment across all council-owned land where reasonable;

1.7 Map and gather data on ecological networks and habitat opportunities within the region and prioritise sites within the ecological network for Biodiversity Net Gain projects (sometimes known as Nature Recovery Network mapping);

1.8 Continue to encourage a commitment for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all new developments now, rather than waiting for 2023, with the selection of sites for offsite mitigation based on the priorities identified by Nature Recovery Network mapping;

1.9 Work with stakeholders to continue to encourage the restoration of sites managed for nature to favourable condition;

4. Improve access to nature by following the Natural England 'Nature Nearby' guidance. Particular regard will be given to:

2.1 Areas with high levels of physical health problems;

2.2 Areas with high levels of mental health problems;

2.3 Areas where the amount and quality of accessible natural greenspace is below Natural England's targets.

3. Demonstrate leadership by educating and supporting businesses, communities and the wider public to take action.

4. Recognise the role of education in engendering pro-environmental behaviour change, by supporting schools and adult education programmes which value nature.

5. Acknowledge the impact of food production and food waste on the current nature and climate crisis:

- 5.1 By assessing the environmental impact of the food that is purchased for schools and care homes, including ensuring the provision of plant-based foods;
- 5.2 Supporting the production of food locally, including promoting the provision of allotments across the county;
- 5.3 Encouraging residents of our community to minimise food waste and ensuring that no food waste goes to landfill.
6. Request that Cabinet continues to support all relevant lead Members in tackling nature's recovery.
7. Continues to support cross departmental resources designated to lead and coordinate the council operations in relation to nature's recovery.
8. Progress delivery of the priorities of the Council's Climate Change Strategy; achieving Net Zero Emissions which integrate the objectives and outcomes outlined in this motion
9. Continue development of a Natural Capital Strategy to inform development of a Nature Recovery Strategy.
10. Provide training and resources for councillors and council employees about the nature emergency.
11. Continue to support groups to focus on achieving the targets and objectives outlined in this motion. These groups will continue to be comprised of politically balanced cross-party representatives, council staff, and it will call upon relevant experts from external organisations, monitor progress, identify opportunities for improvement and report back to the designated Cabinet member.
12. Work with Partners to encourage the creation of a suitable group arising out of the development of the Local Nature Reserve Strategy.
13. Continue to report on the progress made with regards to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and action plan and companion strategies.
14. Continue to consider and declare Environmental Considerations in Council reports to ensure that any conflicts with nature's recovery are made apparent.

The meeting finished at 5.15 pm