

## DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11 July 2019

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

#### PETITION - SAVE DERBY LODGE TEAROOMS AT SHIPLEY PARK

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of investigations carried out following the receipt of a petition requesting that the tearooms at Derby Lodge, Shipley Country Park are kept open.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 18 April 2019, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition requesting that The Lodge Tearooms located at Derby Lodge, Shipley Country Park be kept open (Minute No. 16/19 refers). The petition contained 2,254 signatures (1,374 ipetition and 880 paper) and read as follows:

*“On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 The Lodge Tearooms, Shipley Park is due to close, making the people who work there redundant and leaving the local community and regular daily customers without a place to relax, socialise etc.*

*For many of our customers the Tearoom is a lifeline as it is the only place some of our customers get to see other people and are supported and get to see or make friends. We are petitioning Derbyshire County Council to keep The Lodge Tearooms at Shipley Park open.”*

Derby Lodge Café has been operated by a charity since 1 April 2004, paying an annual rent of £500. This annual rent was a subsidised/supported rent agreed through a Cabinet report on the basis that the specific charity ('Re-think') operated from the premises. The terms of the licence included that the tenant was responsible for the fixtures and fittings of the café, and the Council for the maintenance of the building and grounds.

This charity then transferred its interest to another charity (United Response) and the same subsidised/supported rent was honoured by the Council. In March 2019, United Response surrendered its lease and, since then, a number of interested parties have come forward through informal enquiries and expressed interest in running the facility. To comply with Council policy and procedures, any new lease/licence requires formal market testing.

A tendering exercise was held between 5 April and 26 April 2019. The opportunity was advertised and the Council advised all interested parties of the tendering process. Three compliant submissions were received and evaluated on rental income and social value proposals.

A successful bid has been selected that offers best value in terms of the selection criteria. The Director of Property is to finalise a lease with the successful party with a view to Derby Lodge reopening as soon as possible.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

### **Other considerations**

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

(4) **Key Decision** No.

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

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

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the:

7.1 Cabinet Member notes the successful tendering process undertaken to select a suitable bidder to take on the lease for Derby Lodge Café to ensure it remains a facility for users of Shipley Country Park.

7.2 Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**