

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **COUNCIL** held on Wednesday, 2 November 2022 (which was reconvened from 14 September 2022) in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor T Ainsworth (in the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, R Ashton, K S Athwal, N Atkin, J Barron, B Bingham, J Bryan, S Bull, S Burfoot, A Clarke, D Collins, C Cupit, A Dale, C Dale, J Dixon, R Flatley, M Ford, E Fordham, M Foster, R George, A Gibson, K Gillott, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, L Grooby, A Hayes, G Hickton, S Hobson, N Hoy, R Iliffe, J Innes, T Kemp, T King, G Kinsella, B Lewis, W Major, R Mihaly, P Moss, D Muller, G Musson, J Nelson, P Niblock, R Parkinson, J Patten, L Ramsey, 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.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor A Foster, C Hart, D Murphy and R Redfern.

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

69/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

70/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Joel Bryan, the new Member for Long Eaton Division following the recent by election, to his first meeting of the Council.

The Chairman referred Members to the car stickers that had been distributed onto desks in the Chamber. He explained that these were to promote the "Foster for Derbyshire" Campaign being run by Children's Services and asked that they were displayed in the hope of attracting interest.

The Chairman congratulated two members of staff, Jess Jones and Jess

Burke, who were nominated for a national award. On the 27 October Jess Jones won the award for the National Leaving Care Personal Assistant of the Year. Another care leaver, Emily Statham, who is also a member of the Corporate Parenting Board was congratulated for her part in helping to organise and facilitate the national event.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Alan Griffiths, who sadly passed away in July. Alan was the councillor for Long Eaton Division and a number of Members spoke to share their memories and pay their respects. Council stood for a period of silent reflection.

71/22 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Leader of the Council spoke about the Queen's Green Canopy project, which was to commemorate the Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council was lucky enough to be asked to "host" a number of trees that were part of the "Tree of Trees" installation outside Buckingham Palace. Each of these was dedicated to one of six local charities or groups which were Alfreton Park School, Buxton Mountain Rescue Team, Derbyshire Children's Homes, Derbyshire Federation of Women's Institutes, the Landmarks College in Eckington and the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby. The trees were planted at the newly dedicated Queen's Memorial Copse at Shipley Country Park at a ceremony in October. Thanks to staff in the Countryside Service for what was a wonderful day attended by members of the Lieutenancy and Colonel Dan Rex the Chief Executive of The Queen's Green Canopy.

The Leader next touched on the cost-of-living crisis being experienced currently, the subject of a Motion later on the agenda, and the support the Council had in place. This involved:

- A £50,000 fund to support initiatives to provide community warm spaces had been established.
- An additional £80,000 had been provided to Locality Health Partnerships to provide cost of living support to people in their local communities.
- £100,000 provided to Marches Energy Advice which is working alongside foodbanks to supports people in crisis with emergency heating measures.
- £100,000 given to Foundation Derbyshire to support the work of foodbanks
- £67,000 to support the work of Citizen's Advice Bureau in providing wrap-around support to people using its services.

Additionally, a bulletin had been issued recently to Councillors detailing

what support measures were in place locally as well as across the County area. There were a large number of local support measures in place such as:

- An additional £42,000 for the Derbyshire Law Centre to support its work with people living in secure housing and £22,000 to support people facing eviction.
- £54,000 to support the Winter Rough Sleeping project coordinated by the Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group
- £20,000 to Royal Action Derbyshire to support its Hardship Fund.

There was also support from, central government including the £400 energy bill discount with an additional £650 for benefit recipients, £300 for pensioner households, £150 for disability benefit recipients, a reduction to National Insurance contributions, and a Council Tax rebate. Energy bill support for businesses was also in place which would provide much needed support.

In response to a question from Councillor Fordham, the Leader agreed to meet him, along with representatives of the Chesterfield Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, to discuss what further specific support could be provided.

72/22 **CREATION OF A TRANSFORMATION AND STRATEGY DIVISION AND RECRUITMENT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSFORMATION AND STRATEGY**

The Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating Council on the creation of a Transformation and Strategy division which sought agreement of the salary package for the role of Director of Transformation and Strategy.

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

RESOLVED:

To approve the salary package for the role of Director of Transformation and Strategy as Grade 18 and therefore, up to £103,169 per annum.

73/22 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVENUE OUTTURN 2021-22**

The Managing Director introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting Council Plan performance and the Council's final revenue outturn position for 2021-22.

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

RESOLVED to note:

- 1) Council Plan performance and the revenue outturn position for 2021-22;
- 2) The position on General and Earmarked Reserves;
- 3) The allocation of underspend amounts and commitments to Portfolios as set out in paragraph 4.41 of the report;
- 4) The release of all the sum of £14.000m held in the earmarked reserve as a contingency against potential funding losses during the Covid-19 recovery period as set out in paragraphs 4.42 of the report;
- 5) The allocation, from the release of earmarked reserves and from underspends, of £10.000m to the Budget Management Earmarked Reserve, £10.000m to a reserve for inflation risks, £5.251m to a reserve for business rates risks and £4.000m to a reserve for cyber security as set out in paragraphs 4.42 to 4.45 of the report; and
- 6) Contributions from the Finance and ICT budget of £0.010m to an earmarked reserve to support the modernisation of the ICT Traded Services team and £0.200m to provide temporary agency resources for the Operations team as detailed in paragraph 4.32 of the report.

**74/22 GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/22**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting the annual report of the Chairman of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee.

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

RESOLVED:

To note the annual report of the Chairman of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

75/22 REVISIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENTS

TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE APPOINTMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE COMMITTEE AND OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval to amend the terms of reference of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee and Officer Employment Procedure Rules for inclusion in the Constitution.

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

RESOLVED:

To approve the proposed amendments to the Officer Employment Rules and terms of reference of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee, as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 to the report respectively, for inclusion in the Constitution.

76/22 DPB - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

The Director of Finance and ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, seeking approval for the appointment of a new member of Derbyshire Pension Board.

On the motion of Councillor D Wilson, duly seconded it was

RESOLVED:

To approve the appointment of John Sadler as a Member Representative on Derbyshire Pension Board for a term of four years.

77/22 DECISIONS TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AND KEY DECISIONS AND SPECIAL URGENCY

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

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

RESOLVED to note:

- 1) The key decisions taken where special urgency provisions were

agreed as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and

- 2) The urgent decisions taken where the call-in procedure was waived under the Improvement and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

78/22 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

79/22 **PETITIONS**

None received.

80/22 **ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS**

1. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor C Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

“The Government have indicated that it will be possible to move between the application channels by Ukrainians who are seeking residence in the UK. Can the Council be updated on whether this is in place and if there are any concerns about homelessness for any Ukrainians not within the Home for Ukraine scheme?”

Response from Councillor Lewis (in Councillor Hart's absence):

"There are two routes through which Ukrainian nationals are able to apply for a visa for UK residence, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Family Visa Scheme. The current guidance does not allow for the movement between the two schemes and we are not aware of any plans for this guidance to change. As we do not have any data or information on the numbers of Ukrainian nationals in Derbyshire under the Family Visa Route we would only become aware of them should they present to services. As such we are not able to comment on the potential homelessness issue for this cohort.

In relation to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme we are working closely with District and Borough Councils to develop a package of support to assist Ukrainian individuals and families to secure accommodation when their hosting arrangements come to an end."

Councillor Fordham asked the following supplementary question:

So it is quite possible that there are Ukrainians in Derbyshire who are not under the scheme with whom our staff are working who do have

homelessness issues and unless they present we will be unaware of them at a statutory or a governmental or local government level. That is a contradiction to my understanding of what Home Office and Foreign Office Ministers have said.

Can I just ask the Leader if he would consider working with Councillor Hart to perhaps get the reassurances from Government that they will follow through what has been said in the Commons and indeed repeated in the Lords (and I can get the precise chapter and verse if necessary) which is that it would be possible to move between the two application schemes? As someone who is working with Ukrainians in the community (and Councillor Sutton will know much of this as well) being homeless is a real risk in rural Derbyshire and I think we have a responsibility to be proactive where we can. I hope the Leader will share my concerns and rise to that proactive occasion.

Councillor Lewis responded as follows:

"I will come back to you with a fuller written response on that particular topic. There are concerns and I think they are real enough within Derbyshire. I know from my own experience working with individuals in the Erewash area that this has been highlighted as a particular issue. It would cause us concern as a local authority but as I say I will come back with a fuller answer to your question."

2. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

"Would the Council support road and cycle route signage that indicated the cycle times between destinations within and immediately around Chesterfield? Such signage would inform the cyclist not just of the distance of the approximate cycle time as well. This is prevalent across the continent and if implemented here would assist with our declared intention to reduce car journeys and encourage sustainable and healthy travel."

Response from Councillor Athwal:

"This Council is keen to provide information in the most appropriate format to encourage walking and cycling. We have considered the idea of providing times, as well as distances, as part of a strategy covering Chesterfield. However, we have taken the view that because our network serves a wide variety of journey purposes from commuting to family rides it is difficult to provide information on distance so users can interpret these themselves. We will always keep this issue under review and consider the evidence and guidance

available, but we have no current plans to alter our approach."

Councillor Fordham asked the following supplementary question:

"Can I ask the portfolio holder to reconsider that decision and whether or not he would meet with community groups, residents, Borough and County Councillors in particular in the Loundsley Green area of Chesterfield where there is some considerable demand and indeed support for such measures?"

Councillor Athwal responded as follows:

"As you are aware this Authority is doing a considerable amount of work in promoting walking and cycling across our county. In Chesterfield itself, the area that Councillor Fordham alludes to, we have the East-West cycling/walking lane which hopefully will be open early next year. It has gone through its process etc. We are looking at Staveley and various other walking/cycling lanes across the county itself, so I think this administration, this Council is well committed towards walking and cycling to encourage more and more people to do that. I don't think I need to meet anybody at this moment in time, I meet enough people at this stage."

3. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

"The Council has spoken positively and optimistically about bus service enhancements and how investment could benefit residents in Derbyshire. Given the grant the Council has received from the Government that appears to be resulting in a reduction of services across Derbyshire and in villages and towns in particular, was the Council right to be positive and optimistic?"

Response from Councillor Athwal

"This Council is absolutely committed to making improvements for Derbyshire's bus services. The £47m grant funding which we successfully secured through our Bus Service Improvement Plan, I might add, is the second highest in the country and it is an important part of the investment that we are making in the future of these bus services. We are working closely with our newly established enhanced Partnership Board to make this happen. Although there are challenges for a number of services we are working hard in partnership with bus operators to minimise the impact of this and we, together with existing contracted network and the support provided through our Concessionary Fare Scheme, will provide both short and

long-term support for our bus network in Derbyshire. Therefore, this Council is absolutely both positive and optimistic about our future bus services."

There was no supplementary question.

4. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor A Dale, Cabinet Member for Education

"What measures is the Council taking in and with schools to encourage access to, exploration of and appreciation of the Peak District National Park and does the Council agree that we could do more to promote this jewel, not just to visitors, but to Derbyshire residents?"

Response from Councillor Dale

"Every State funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based. The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. It provides an outline and core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum. Teachers can use the national curriculum programmes of study in many subjects to make excellent use of the Peak District and its resources. Subjects such as geography; art; history and PE lend themselves most readily to this purpose. The Education Improvement Service has recently worked in partnership with the Chatsworth Estate to promote professional development for teachers using the annual sculpture exhibition to inspire pupils with their studies across the curriculum. As a result, teachers had free access to the exhibitions which they then followed up with visits by students. Within Derbyshire County Council both the Derbyshire Environmental Study Service and the White Hall Outdoor Centre in Buxton are part of the Peak Educators' Group. This Group meets regularly throughout the year to share best practice and developments with organisations across the Peak District delivering educational services to schools, as well as Youth Groups and families. The Group includes representatives from the Peak District National Park Learning and Engagement Team; the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust; the National Trust; the Eastern Moorlands Partnership; Sheffield City Council's Outdoor Service and link environment and farming education as well as a number of other freelance independent educators. The Group works together to promote outdoor learning for teachers, learning visits for students and to share best practice. The Group also compiles teaching resources and packs hosted online for schools to access for free. The Group has organised joint events such

as the 2015 and 2016 Derbyshire Learning Outside the Classroom Conferences and they deliver externally funded projects such as Play Wild which looks at increasing nature connections and access to the Park for a wider diversity of visitors and schools. You will be aware of White Hall and Lea Green which are part of our County Council's Sport Outdoor Recreation Service. We obviously have those two Centres and they have a combined total of 130 years of promoting Derbyshire and the Peak District and our natural resources for recreation and leisure to Derbyshire young people. White Hall itself is located within the Peak District and in its 71 years it has had over one million young people on its outdoor education courses. Both Centres pride themselves on utilising the natural crags; the rivers; the hills that Derbyshire is so fortunate to have in abundance and allowing young people to have their first opportunity to do things like caving; rock climbing; mountain biking; canoeing and hill walking. White Hall has also become a Peak District Park Ambassador Centre working with the Park to educate Derbyshire young people in the positive use and care of the countryside as well. I would also encourage you to watch the recent film that we produced under White Hall with the support of Heritage Lottery Grant Funding which is called 'The People's History of White Hall'. It is on YouTube and it really, really well documents from the perspective of the people who have been there over the past 70 years what it has meant to them and how it really broadened out their education and their appreciation for the countryside and the Peak District. I think in summary what I would say is essentially it is the school's responsibility to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum and to ensure that that curriculum can incorporate some of the jewel in the crown if you like of the Peak District. Our role is more of a supportive and facilitating role but we are doing a lot of work around this. There are lots of different groups and organisations that we feed into to help support schools in the appreciation of the Peak Park."

There was no supplementary question.

5. Question withdrawn.

6. Question from Councillor J Barron to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

"Recently, during a full council meeting, Elected members voted in favour of amending the longstanding pay policy that prevented Derbyshire County Council from making retention payments to its frontline care workers.

Given this significant policy change, are there now plans for retention payments to be made to our hardworking frontline care staff?"

Response from Councillor Hoy

"I am delighted to inform colleagues that from the 1 November existing and new Derbyshire County Council community care worker colleagues will receive up to £500 and a further £500 in twelve months' time which means up to £1,000 for our incredibly hardworking frontline community care workers."

There was no supplementary question.

7. Question withdrawn.

8. Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

"Do the Council consider that the notice to residents and quality of work on the A6 at Furness Vale and from Bridgemont to Newtown is satisfactory and if not, then what action has the Council taken?"

Response from Councillor Athwal

"As Councillor George is aware the A6 Furness Vale is a very busy main road with lots of residential properties that do not have off-street parking. There are parking bays which are full of residents' cars for long periods and unfortunately our contractor did not give sufficient notice to residents of the impending works, but I am grateful to Councillor George for assisting both in informing residents of the works and for assisting in finding alternative car parking provision. Council officers with responsibility for contract management considered that the quality of the actual surface dressing on the A6 Furness Vale is satisfactory. Unfortunately, what has been more challenging is the aftercare, primarily sweeping, and the timeliness of the ancillary works such as road markings. The Council did secure more appropriate plans from our contractor Kier to resolve these issues and I understand that most of these works are now complete.

Councillor George asked the following supplementary question:

"There were a number of issues identified as the works took place. Will the Council look into these issues for future works?"

Councillor Athwal responded as follows:

"I have already alluded in my answer beforehand that we have had meetings with the contractor. We have a 'lessons learnt' exercise that

has taken place and we are moving forwards in addressing some of these issues, but the actual quality of the work itself was good and satisfactory, as our officers said. The issue arose from the fact that HGVs drove at a higher speed than the 20 mph guidance levels that were put out at that stage so there was an issue of drivers not adhering to the speed limit signs not the quality of work. The contractors did go back in; they did suppress the dust issues which you have referred to by spraying over the surfacing works that were done, but as I said lessons have been learnt for better quality work in future."

81/22 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion One

Councillor S Swann proposed a motion that was duly seconded, in the following terms:

"That Council supports a total ban on HGV drivers using standard car sat navs, and requests that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Transport calling on the Government to take urgent action by using its forthcoming Transport Bill to legally require all HGVs to employ specialist sat nav devices.

Council also asks the Department for Transport to review legislation to allow Highway Authorities to deploy more effective signage to deter HGVs from using unsuitable roads.

The support of all MPs in the County is sought in tackling the blight caused by HGVs to numerous local communities as well as the impact this issue has on the safety, health, and general wellbeing of residents."

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

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Council supports a total ban on HGV drivers using standard car sat navs, and requests that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Transport calling on the Government to take urgent action by using its forthcoming Transport Bill to legally require all HGVs to employ specialist sat nav devices;
- 2) Council also asks the Department for Transport to review legislation to allow Highway Authorities to deploy more effective signage to deter HGVs from using unsuitable roads; and
- 3) The support of all MPs in the County is sought in tackling the blight caused by HGVs to numerous local communities as well as the impact this issue has on the safety, health, and general wellbeing of residents.

Motion two

Councillor R George proposed a motion that was duly seconded, in the following terms:

To call upon the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council to:

- 1) declare a cost-of-living crisis in Derbyshire
- 2) lead the way in acting with partner organisations, including the voluntary sector, to develop an anti-poverty strategy
- 3) revise its Corporate Plan to reflect this situation and reallocate the use of reserves to match this commitment
- 4) lobby the government to urgently put in place measures to help households throughout the oncoming Winter crisis
- 5) make extra funding available, as it did during the pandemic, via the Community Leadership scheme to specifically help groups who are taking initiatives to help communities with the cost-of-living crisis
- 6) ensure residents have the information and support they need to access all the assistance available to them via a "Quids In" type campaign.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor G Hickton, which was duly seconded, in the following terms:

To call upon the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council to:

- 1) ~~In recognition of the international and national~~ ~~declare a cost-of-living crisis~~ ~~crises, in Derbyshire~~ ~~continue acting in meaningful ways to support the people of Derbyshire and reaffirm its determination that local residents are protected from the financial challenges driven by the combined effects of the Covid pandemic and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.~~
- 2) ~~Carry on leading~~ lead the way in acting with partner organisations, including the voluntary sector, to develop an anti-poverty strategy.
- 3) ~~Consider, if necessary, revisions to~~ ~~revise~~ its Corporate Plan to reflect this situation and reallocate the use of reserves ~~as appropriate.~~ ~~to match this commitment~~
- 4) ~~Ensure all Councillors are encouraged to make full use of the~~ extra funding ~~made available by the Council's Conservative administration,~~ just as it did ~~very successfully~~ during the pandemic, via the ~~Members' Community Leadership s~~Scheme to specifically help groups who are taking initiatives to help communities with the cost-of-living crisis.

5) Outline the significant package of support the Council's administration is making available in Derbyshire, including:

- A new £50,000 fund to support warm spaces in community venues for residents and their families who are struggling to heat their homes.
- An additional £80,000 to Locality Health Partnerships to provide cost-of-living support to people in their local communities.
- £100,000 to Marches Energy Advice which, working alongside foodbanks, supports people in crisis with emergency heating measures.
- £100,000 to Foundation Derbyshire to support the work of foodbanks plus £67,000 to support the work of Citizens' Advice in providing wrap-around support to people using them.
- Derbyshire Law Centre receiving an additional £42,000 to support its work with people in secure housing, and £22,000 to support people facing eviction.
- £54,000 to support the Winter Rough Sleeping project co-ordinated by the Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group.
- £20,000 to Rural Action Derbyshire for its Rural Hardship Fund.
- This is all in addition to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund which can provide grants or emergency cash payments for residents in urgent need of financial help following a crisis or disaster along with £5.4 million from the Government to continue our support to families under the Household Support Fund.

6) Acknowledge the significant measures the Government has introduced to support the residents of Derbyshire including the energy price guarantee; the help the £400 energy bill discount will give every household along with equivalent support for those not on the mains energy grid; the additional support of the £650 cost of living payment for those in receipt of means-tested benefits; £300 for pensioner households; £150 for recipients of disability benefits; reductions to National Insurance payments in July and November; the £150 Council Tax rebate; and the safeguarding of local jobs that the six-month protection for businesses will provide.

7) Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers the extensive package of support to the residents of Derbyshire as quickly as possible, especially as it is noted that some councils within the County, such as South Derbyshire, have been very slow in enacting the Government's measures to help local people. ~~lobby the government to urgently put in place measures to help households throughout the oncoming Winter crisis~~

8) Ensure residents, particularly those most in need of support in Derbyshire, have access to the information about the local and Government assistance for which they are eligible. ~~have the information and support they need to access all the assistance available to them via a "Quids In" type campaign~~

The Chairman agreed to an adjournment to give members the opportunity to read the amendment to the motion.

The meeting adjourned between 3.51 pm and 4.08 pm.

Following debate, the amendment was put to a vote and the Chairman declared that the amendment was CARRIED so the amendment became the substantive motion.

The proposition, as amended, was put to a named vote and declared to be WON.

It was therefore

RESOLVED to call upon the Cabinet of Derbyshire County Council to:

- 1) Carry on leading the way in acting with partner organisations, including the voluntary sector, to develop an anti-poverty strategy.
- 2) Consider, if necessary, revisions to its Corporate Plan to reflect this situation and reallocate the use of reserves as appropriate.
- 3) Ensure all Councillors are encouraged to make full use of the extra funding made available by the Council's Conservative administration, just as it did very successfully during the pandemic, via the Members' Community Leadership Scheme to specifically help groups who are taking initiatives to help communities with the cost-of-living crisis.
- 4) Outline the significant package of support the Council's administration is making available in Derbyshire, including:
 - A new £50,000 fund to support warm spaces in community venues for residents and their families who are struggling to heat their homes.
 - An additional £80,000 to Locality Health Partnerships to provide cost-of-living support to people in their local communities.
 - £100,000 to Marches Energy Advice which, working alongside foodbanks, supports people in crisis with emergency heating measures.
 - £100,000 to Foundation Derbyshire to support the work of foodbanks plus £67,000 to support the work of Citizens' Advice in providing wrap-around support to people using them.
 - Derbyshire Law Centre receiving an additional £42,000 to support its work with people in secure housing, and £22,000 to support people facing eviction.
 - £54,000 to support the Winter Rough Sleeping project co-ordinated by the Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group.
 - £20,000 to Rural Action Derbyshire for its Rural Hardship

Fund.

- This is all in addition to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund which can provide grants or emergency cash payments for residents in urgent need of financial help following a crisis or disaster along with £5.4 million from the Government to continue our support to families under the Household Support Fund.

- 9) Acknowledge the significant measures the Government has introduced to support the residents of Derbyshire including the energy price guarantee; the help the £400 energy bill discount will give every household along with equivalent support for those not on the mains energy grid; the additional support of the £650 cost of living payment for those in receipt of means-tested benefits; £300 for pensioner households; £150 for recipients of disability benefits; reductions to National Insurance payments in July and November; the £150 Council Tax rebate; and the safeguarding of local jobs that the six-month protection for businesses will provide.
- 10) Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers the extensive package of support to the residents of Derbyshire as quickly as possible, especially as it is noted that some councils within the County, such as South Derbyshire, have been very slow in enacting the Government's measures to help local people
- 11) Ensure residents, particularly those most in need of support in Derbyshire, have access to the information about the local and Government assistance for which they are eligible.

The meeting finished at 5.00 pm