

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

5 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

**URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
COMMISSIONING, COMMUNITIES AND POLICY
WHALEY BRIDGE HARDSHIP FUND AND WHALEY BRIDGE BUSINESS
HARDSHIP FUND**

1. Purpose of the report

To note the urgent decisions taken by the Executive Director of Commissioning, Communities and Policy in accordance with the Council's constitution to: establish a Hardship Fund and a public donation telephone line to support residents in financial hardship in Whaley Bridge and; a Hardship Fund to support local businesses in Whaley Bridge and New Mills.

2. Information and Analysis

On 1 August 2019, residents and businesses in Whaley Bridge and the New Mills area were evacuated following the partial collapse of the dam spillway at Toddbrook Reservoir. To ensure those affected by the evacuations and in financial hardship, did not suffer further financial difficulties, it was necessary for the Council to put in place support mechanisms for those at greatest risk.

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

3. Financial Considerations

The additional costs of topping up the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund to establish the Hardship Fund and establishing the public donation telephone

Public

line were estimated to be no more than £100,000 and the costs of establishing the Hardship Fund for local businesses were also estimated to be no more than £100,000. The costs of both packages of support could be met from General Reserves.

4. Legal Considerations

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

5. Other Considerations

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

6. Background Papers

None

7. Key Decision No

8. Call-In

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No

9. Officer's Recommendations

That the report be noted.

**EMMA ALEXANDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – COMMISSIONING, COMMUNITIES
AND POLICY**