

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION** held on 8 August 2019 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor T King

Also in attendance – Councillors G Hickton and R Mihaly

05/19 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

06/19 **REVENUE OUTTURN 2018-19** The report informed the Cabinet Member of the outturn position for 2018-19. The net expenditure was £0.682m against a budget of £0.867m, resulting in a controllable underspend of (£0.185m).

Economic Development saw an underspend of £0.232m. All efforts had been made to secure match funding where available and deliver interventions where possible. The leveraging of EU funding (notably European Regional Development Fund) had been matched since 2015 and Cabinet had secured an extra £200,000 in January 2018 to support a new and dynamic approach to economic development. It had taken up to 12 months to implement the new approach focused on delivering enterprise and investment services to business through the Derbyshire Economic Partnership. It was expected that any underspends would be reduced as interventions were developed and delivered to support the Council's economic growth ambitions in relation to targeted business support and investment and trade promotion.

Earmarked Reserves relating to this portfolio, totalling £0.832m, were currently held to support future expenditure. Details of these reserves were tabled within the report, with budget savings totalling £0.325m allocated for the year.

Performance against the savings identified:

Description	Budget Savings Target 2018-19 £m	Achieved Amount by end 2018-19 £m	Balance Not Achieved 2018-19 £m
Markham Employment Growth Zone (MEGZ)	0.325	0.106	0.219
Total	0.325	0.106	0.219

Achieving the targeted budget saving for MEGZ was dependant on increasing the level of income received through the Site Facilities Charge levied on occupiers, to meet the costs of ongoing site management and maintenance. Whilst there had been some success in attracting new occupiers to the site, the rate of take-up had been slightly lower than previously predicted, thereby the anticipated increase in income from the Site Facilities Charge was lower than expected. It was predicted that the full saving would be achieved in 2019-20.

RESOLVED that (1) the report be noted; and

(2) that an intermittent update on the project be presented to the Cabinet Member at the next meeting.

07/19 **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS UPDATE** A summary of the developing action plans for work with Anhui in China and Toyota City in Japan were presented together with a report on the current workload programmes and associated travel plans.

The Toyota City Partnership Development Board (TCPDB) had brought new partners into the international relationship including further education colleges and the University of Derby, the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Derby and Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, the National Forest and Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK. The TCPDB maximised the opportunities for local people across five themes: education, culture, the environment, the economy and sport. The five year action, started in 2018 set out planned work across each of five themes. This year the TCPDB was planning to:

- extend the opportunities for Derbyshire pupils to host Toyota City students and prepare for a return visit in 2020;
- increase collaboration between the University of Derby and Chukyo University;
- participate in the Japanese Embassy's Season of Japanese Culture and to open up access to cultural opportunities through a Derbyshire-Japanese Society;
- promote the Derbyshire/Derby-Toyota City relationship, e.g. at Chatsworth Country Fair;
- showcase Derbyshire/Derby businesses in Toyota City and promote trade by supporting local business wishing to import/export with Japan;
- collaborate on environmental issues; and
- support Toyota City in its preparations for the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Olympics and Paralympics in 2020 by creating and promoting sporting links.

In March 2020, the TCPDB intended to promote Derbyshire/Derby business at a business convention in Toyota City. The Chair of the TCPDB and

up to two officers, would attend at a cost of approximately £4,000. Attendance at the business convention would create an opportunity to showcase Derbyshire products and facilitate links between Derbyshire based and Toyota based businesses. The Department of International Trade was supporting the event by funding two preparation seminars for businesses in advance of the convention and funding the creation of short videos of Derbyshire Businesses which already export to Japan.

The County Council worked with the Midlands Engine and the Department of International Trade to promote and foster economic links in China – that was through the Derby and Derbyshire (D2) China Partnership which included partners in leisure and tourism, sport, education marketing and private enterprise. The D2 China Partnership existed to support UK/Derbyshire businesses in trade with China and encourage inward investment from China; it also provided a developmental platform for educational, sporting and cultural exchange. This year, the Partnership was planning to:

- continue its work to attract and support inward investors to the County;
- continue to identify new opportunities for economic development through an active programme of investor engagement by receiving and visiting investors;
- promote D2 businesses in China and support local businesses wishing to export to China;
- further develop tourism between China and D2; and
- promote educational collaboration between universities and between local FE colleges and technical and vocational education and training in Anhui.

In September 2019, the Midlands Engine would be presented at the World Manufacturing Conference in Hefei, Anhui Province and a D2 delegation would participate in this. The event would be preceded by international Government meetings and as international Partner to Anhui, Derbyshire County Council would be there to represent Derbyshire businesses. Two elected members and up to two officers would travel to Hefei, to take part in the conference, promote businesses and meet with investors, at a cost of approximately £6,220. The current D2 China Partnership action plan was attached to the report.

RESOLVED to (1) note the Toyota City Partnership Development Board's five year action plan;

(2) note the Derby and Derbyshire (D2) China Partnership five year action plan; and

(3) approve the budget of £12,000 for journeys and visits associated with the action plans and any variations to the proposed expenditure be determined by the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member.