

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 5 September 2019 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

**13/19** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**14/19** **COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROGRAMME** In May 2016 Members agreed to establish a £2.271m Community Priorities Programme. The Programme was initially established to run for two years targeting designated geographical areas. This involved devolving funds to a local level to support community activities, particularly activity which helped communities to help themselves, supported the Council's priorities and worked alongside the Thriving Communities approach.

On 14 September 2017, Cabinet were provided with an update on the projects supported by the programme and approved changes to the programme's scope to ensure the best use of available funding. Since that date, a further 150 projects totalling £936,461 had been approved. Further details about each project was attached at Appendix A to the report. Total spend on the Community Priorities Programme to date was £2,114,484 with 285 projects supported. In addition, four projects were currently being progressed to the value of £14,541 which would bring the total spend throughout the life of the programme to £2,129,025.

The programme had now been active for a total of three years, including a one year extension to maximise the allocation of funding across all areas of the county. The programme was no longer taking applications and as such it was recommended that remaining funds totalling £141,975, not committed at this point in time, be returned to the General Reserve and the programme be formally closed.

Whilst applications to the programme were no longer being accepted, many of the funded projects would continue and, in cases where funding had recently been awarded, monitoring would commence. To ensure effective monitoring of projects, officers would continue to work on the programme over the next six months to ensure funds approved had been, or were in the process of being, spent on agreed activity.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the 150 projects totalling £936,461 that had been approved since the last update report to Cabinet on 14 September 2017 and the total programme spend of £2,129,025;

(2) approve the return of unspent programme funds totalling £141,975 to General Reserves and to confirm the formal closure of the programme; and

(3) note the work that is taking place to evaluate the programme and receive a report on the outcome of the evaluation at a future Cabinet Member meeting in due course.

**15/19      URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMISSIONING, COMMUNITIES AND POLICY – WHALEY BRIDGE HARSHIP FUND AND WHALEY BRIDGE BUSINESS HARSHIP FUND**

On 1 August 2019, residents and businesses in Whaley Bridge and the New Mills area had been 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. Details of both these decisions were appended to the report for information.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**16/19      BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 3 (AS AT 30 JUNE 2019)** The net controllable budget for the Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism portfolio was £10.720m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 3 indicated that there was a projected year-end underspend of £0.280m. The key variances were as follows:-

Communications – underspend £0.099m

The main underspend related to staffing and running expenses.

Policy and Research – underspend £0.111m

The main underspends related to staff vacancy, VCS grant to Bolsover CVP (no longer in operation) and a reduction in running costs.

Call Derbyshire – underspend £0.111m

The underspend related to staff turnover and vacancy control.

Budget reductions totalling £0.701m had been allocated for the year. It was forecast that £0.701m of savings would have been achieved by the year-end, and these were detailed in the report.

The portfolio had received the following additional budget allocations in 2019-20:

- (i) Thriving Communities £0.368m (on going)  
Funding to concentrate on three priorities in respect of rolling out the Council Plan commitment across Derbyshire: radically reshaping demand, unlocking community potential and creating an alliance for work and skills.
- (ii) Enterprising Council £0.094m (ongoing)  
Support for this programme of transformational change, which would affect the whole organisation and was a Council Plan commitment.
- (iii) Community Managed Libraries - £0.742m (one off)  
Funding for the Council Plan commitment to introduce community managed libraries.

Earmarked reserves totalling £2.384m were currently held to support future expenditure and details of these reserves were presented.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.