

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION** held on 10 October 2019 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Cabinet Member – Councillor T King

Also in attendance – Councillors G Hickton and R Mihaly

**08/19**      **MINUTES RESOLVED** (1) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member; and

(2) to receive the thanks of the Japanese Ambassador and Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK for the work being done with the Toyota City Partnership Development Board.

**09/19**      **WHALEY BRIDGE BUSINESS HARDSHIP FUND** Joe Battye presented the report which noted the further action taken in respect of support loan funding pursuant to the urgent decision taken by the Executive Director Commissioning Communities and Policy in accordance with the Council's Constitution on 7 August 2019 for the urgent establishment of a hardship fund, to support the local businesses of Whaley Bridge and New Mills affected by the financial consequences of evacuations as a result of recent events at Toddbrook Reservoir, Whaley Bridge.

On 1 August 2019, residents and businesses in the Whaley Bridge and New Mills area were evacuated following the partial collapse of the dam spillway at Toddbrook Reservoir. It was agreed that the County Council establish a hardship fund to assist small and micro enterprises coping with the immediate, short term loss of income and resulting impacts on cashflow.

A flexible fund of £100,000 was set up around two key elements of support: emergency relief to address cashflow and business rate rebate. It was recognised that additional elements of support might be required and an additional loan element was also instigated to provide slightly longer term relief over a three month period (August to the end of October). In all cases, it was expected that businesses would utilise existing insurance policies they have in place.

Around £80,000 of the hardship fund was nominally set aside to create a 'Business Emergency Support Fund' which, amongst other things, involved the creation of a fast track application process for immediate, emergency payments of £300 per business.

The nature, level and eligibility of support was subject to due diligence and appropriate, internal governance arrangements between the Economy and Regeneration Service and Corporate Finance.

Dedicated business support advisers were based in the Whaley Bridge multi-agency support hub to provide direct support and advice to businesses, supporting applications for emergency relief, assessing longer term financial impacts and considering other funding streams available to those businesses.

The application for immediate emergency financial relief was made available on the County Council's website and was administered through the Economy and Regeneration Service, with the support of colleagues from Corporate Finance. Publicity for the emergency fund was issued via the County Council, High Peak Borough Council and D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Growth Hub websites.

The emergency relief grant formally closed on Friday 13 September 2019. At that point, 158 local businesses had benefitted from the scheme and a total of £47,400 grant had been issued.

In addition to the Business Emergency Support Fund, the County Council also agreed to allocate a nominal £20,000 from the same designated reserve (hardship fund) to support non domestic rate rebate for those affected businesses. The process for assessing eligibility and amount of rebate was subject to detailed discussions and agreement with the High Peak Borough Council as the business rate billing authority. No request for business rate relief had been received.

It was also agreed to set up a discretionary local fund designed to provide flexible, unsecured, interest free loans of up to £1,500 for eligible businesses (including the £300 emergency payment) with up to 50 employees located within the exclusion zone. The purpose of the loan was to provide a bridging finance option for businesses with ongoing cash flow issues. The loan fund provision expires at the end of October 2019 and to date, only two businesses had taken up the offer – totalling £2,400 expenditure.

Loans were being managed in line with the County Council's Financial Regulations with invoices sent to recipient businesses within 30 days of loans being paid. Although considered low risk, credit checks were undertaken as part of the application process to minimise the likelihood of default.

The £100,000 cost of the hardship fund was being met from existing reserves and paid to applicants in accordance with the verified details provided through the application process. The emergency fund was now closed and a total of £47,400 grant had been awarded.

Government had also provided £100,000 'match funding' via a Section 31 grant (capital) to support the disaster recovery process at Whaley Bridge. This grant was accepted on 19 September 2019 and work was taking place with

High Peak Borough Council to ensure the appropriate allocation of capital expenditure.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet Member (1) note the action taken in respect of support loan funding pursuant to the urgent decision taken by the Executive Director Commissioning Communities and Policy on 7 August 2019;

(2) note the level of funding issued to date and confirm agreement to the receipt of the Section 31 grant from Government for £100,000 capital funding; and

(3) receive a final report, early in 2020, outlining the extent of disaster support and recovery activity.

**10/19      TRENT VALLEY VISION – NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE HORIZON AWARDS** Joe Battye presented the report to seek approval for Derbyshire County Council, on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to submit an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for its Heritage Horizons Awards.

The NLHF was looking for projects that were transformative, innovative and collaborative and met its strategic priorities of ‘landscape and nature’ and ‘heritage at risk’. Projects needed to demonstrate clear and ambitious plans that would bring about positive changes and benefits for people, places and wider heritage. In order to bid for the Award, an Expression of Interest needed to be submitted to the NLHF by 11 October 2019; shortlisted projects would be notified by December 2019, inviting them to submit an application for development phase funding by August 2020.

The report went on to outline the Trent Valley Vision and the economic, social and environmental benefits it was estimated to bring to the area. It was also expected to become an attractive setting for high quality, new housing development with direct access to new and enhanced Green Infrastructure networks, building on the natural and cultural heritage, making the Valley a desirable location in which to live, work, play and invest.

The economic assessment, commissioned by Derbyshire County Council for the Derbyshire component of the Trent Valley only, identified that by 2050, the additional economic benefits of following a coordinated Vision, over an uncoordinated approach, could be £2.8 billion per year. There could also be an additional £80 million per year in social and environmental benefits. The returns on investing in a coordinated approach were likely to be even higher for the Trent Valley across a wider project area than Derbyshire.

The NLHF’s Heritage Horizons Awards appeared to perfectly align with the aspirations of the Trent Valley Vision and the monies available through the grant scheme would be sufficient to develop a comprehensive framework/

masterplan for the Trent Valley across Derbyshire, Leicester and Nottinghamshire; develop a delivery and management structure; and identify and contribute to the delivery of the Vision's first phase.

The minimum grant application was £5 million. The NLHF required a minimum of 10% match funding, which could be cash, non-cash contributions, volunteer time or a combination of all of these, however an application was likely to be considered more favourably the greater the level of match, particularly cash match.

The proposed project boundary included Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and a small part of Leicestershire County Councils and the two city authorities of Derby and Nottingham and at least seven local authorities and the project would be over five to seven years.

The submission of an Expression of Interest at this stage would not formally commit the Council to pursuing a full application. If successful in being shortlisted, a firm match funding agreement would need to be negotiated and in place as part of the development phase application.

The Expression of Interest form had already been drafted by the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service ready for submission. If the NLHF selected the Trent Valley Vision, it would fund circa 90% of the development phase costs; likely to include at least one full time equivalent officer.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet Member approve that Derbyshire County Council submit, on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership, an expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its Heritage Horizons Awards.

**11/19**      **DELEGATED DECISION MAY-SEPTEMBER 2019** The report provided a summary of recent decisions taken by the Executive Director under delegated powers. Since 1 May 2019, three reports had been presented and approved with the agreement of Cabinet Member:

**D2 China Partnership Agreement with Yixing City (approved 1 May 2019)** Retrospective approval for the Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Regeneration to take part in a delegation to Yixing City in China between 23 -28 April 2019 with the purpose of agreeing and signing a memorandum of understanding between the Council, Derby City Council and Yixing Transport Industry Group/Haider Group. The intention was to explore joint working and potential investment in Low Carbon Transport and green tourism initiatives.

**Supporting the Operational Costs for the Derby - Japanese School (approved 26 June 2019)** Following the withdrawal of Derby College hosting the Derby Japanese School and subsequent negotiations between the school, TMUK and the Council, the School agreed to relocate to John Port Spencer Academy. As part of the discussions for hosting, the Council agreed that an

existing and long standing contribution to the host to help cover rental costs be transferred to Spencer Academy Trust as a gesture of ongoing commitment. The report approved an annual contribution of £5,000 to be paid from the Economic Regeneration budget.

**MIPIM 2020 – Flight Booking (approved 19 July 2019)** The report approved a funding envelope of £1,800 to support Council attendance at MIPIM (the world's leading conference and expo for property development and inward investment) in France between 9-12 March 2020. 2020 would mark the third year of Council representation in support of "Invest in Derbyshire" and working alongside partners in D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) as part of the Midlands Engine delegation. Early budget authorisation was required to book tickets for two delegates on the dedicated flight from Birmingham. Further preparations for the delegation were being arranged in partnership with Marketing Derby.

**RESOLVED** to note the decisions made under delegated powers since 1 May 2019 to present:

- a) D2 China Partnership Agreement with Yixing City;
- b) Supporting the Operational Costs for the Derby - Japanese School; and
- c) MIPIM 2020 – Flight Booking).