

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION** held on 19 March 2020 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor T King

Also in attendance – Councillors G Hickton and R Mihaly

03/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

04/20 **BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 PERIOD 9** The Cabinet Member was provided with an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2019-20, up to the end of December 2019. Despite the current pandemic, everything was currently remaining fluid and the Government were responding quickly.

The net controllable budget for the Economic Development and Regeneration Portfolio was £0.701m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement, prepared at Period 9, indicated that there was a projected year end underspend of £0.034m. The areas which made up this projection were detailed in the joint report.

There was an Economic Development underspend of £0.049m: matched funding had been successful with the leveraging of EU funding (notably European Regional Development Fund) since 2015. The implementation of the revised 'enterprise and investment' function was continuing however recruitment had not been completed resulting in some staff underspend. Business support interventions and investment/trade promotion continued to be developed.

There was an Employment and Skills overspend of £0.075m due to incurring salary costs that were not budgeted for and which were pending rationalisation of the whole Economy and Regeneration Service structure.

There was an underspend of £0.063m for Markham Vale due to a reduction in salary spend as relevant salaries were being charged to capital.

The impact of Brexit on the demand for services from the Economy and Regeneration portfolio was not yet known. Partnership working to support Brexit readiness was continuing.

Earmarked Reserves, totalling £0.691m, were currently held to support future planned expenditure. These were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member note the report.

05/20 D2EE (DE-CARBONISE) PROJECT EXTENSION AND DELIVERY The Cabinet Member accepted the late report which sought approval to endorse the grant funded D2EE project extension to October 2022, now entitled DE-Carbonise.

The D2EE project was to build on Derby City Council's 'BESPOKE' pilot project, which provided energy efficiency support and advice to local businesses. Building a Derbyshire-wide programme helped ensure the County started to develop increasing renewable and de-centralised energy capacity, and assisted businesses with reducing their carbon footprint.

The project had delivered a number of key outputs, including over 400 energy audits for D2 businesses; 168 companies had been supported with grants to assist with energy efficiency measures, resulting in 1,179 tonnes of carbon being saved. Outputs had been impressive for the County Council with over 300 energy audits being undertaken, 110 businesses obtaining grant funding and over 860 tonnes of carbon being saved.

Furthermore, the project was the local authority category winner of the East Midlands Regional Energy and Efficiency Awards 2019, as well as being a finalist in the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Energy Efficiency Awards and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Sustainability Impact Awards.

The Business Rate Retention Programme was contributing £224,904 towards staff costs up to October 2022 and ERDF was contributing £2.3m funding for business grants at a 40% intervention rate, matched with 60% from the private sector. The total funding for the project extension would be £5,172,000 for which 50% ERDF had been sought.

Direct D2 outputs for the project had been forecast as over 400 businesses supported and over 115 businesses receiving grant support. As a result of the extension and respective interventions, the project would lead to a reduction in greenhouse gases of 969 tonnes.

The additional monies were wholly reclaimable via the University of Derby, as the project accountable body for the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and ultimately the ERDF, and was paid over to Derbyshire County Council on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (1) note the success of the project in terms of the 1,179 tonnes of carbon being saved, and being the local authority category winner of the East Midlands Regional Energy and Efficiency Awards 2019, in addition to being a finalist in the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Energy Efficiency Awards and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Sustainability Impact Awards; and

(2) agree an extension to the project until October 2022 at an additional amount of £0.460m, which would be wholly reclaimed from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and ERDF via the University of Derby, on a quarterly basis.