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15 February 2022

To: All Councillors

As a Member or Substitute of the **Community & Environment Committee**, please treat this as your summons to attend a meeting on **Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 6.00pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James McLaughlin'.

James McLaughlin
Director of Corporate and Customer Services

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Please advise the Committee Team on 01629 761133 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk of any apologies for absence and substitute arrangements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

17 November 2021

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To enable members of the public to ask questions, express views or present petitions, **IF NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**, (by telephone, in writing or by email) **BY NO LATER THAN 12 NOON OF THE WORKING DAY PRECEDING THE MEETING**. As per Procedural Rule 14.4 at any one meeting no person may submit more than 3 questions and no more than 1 such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

4. INTERESTS

Members are required to declare the existence and nature of any interests they may have in subsequent agenda items in accordance with the District Council's Code of Conduct. Those interests are matters that relate to money or that which can be valued in money, affecting the Member her/his partner, extended family and close friends.

Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings may be declared at that time.

5. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15.

To answer questions from Members who have given the appropriate notice.

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| The report outlines a proposal for the District Council to support local communities via local Town / Parish Councils in order to celebrate Her Majesty the Queens Platinum Jubilee. | |
| 7. AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA, ASHBOURNE – UPDATING REPORT | 9 - 14 |
| This report updates Members on the actions taken following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Ashbourne at the meeting of this Committee on 7 April 2021. | |
| 8. DERBYSHIRE DALES ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN – LEVELLING UP FUND | 15 - 25 |
| In the context of the approved Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, to agree the process and parameters for making a bid to Round 2 of the Government's <i>Levelling Up Fund</i> . | |
| 9. D2N2 BUSINESS GROWTH HUB – FUNDING EXTENSION TO JUNE 2023 | 26 - 29 |
| To extend the Derbyshire Dales Business Advice service to June 2023. | |
| 10. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND | 30 - 48 |
| In the context of the approved Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, to agree the District Council's investment priorities for the Government's <i>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</i> . | |
| 11. MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS REVIEW | 49- 59 |
| This report details the outturn of the 2021 event and seeks agreement to the general format of the 2022 event. | |

Members of the Committee - Councillors: Sue Bull, Matthew Buckler, Martin Burfoot, Neil Buttle, Helen Froggatt (Vice Chair), Chris Furness (Chair), David Hughes, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Peter O'Brien, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Substitutes – Councillors: Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Sue Burfoot, Tom Donnelly, Richard Fitzherbert, Clare Gamble, Susan Hobson and Peter Slack.

Community and Environment Committee
23 February 2022

Report of the Chief Executive

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report outlines a proposal for the District Council to support local communities via local Town / Parish Councils in order to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the District Council approves a 'one-off' grant scheme to Town and Parish Councils to support the celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in accordance with the schedule outlined at Appendix 1.
2. That, subject to the approval of recommendation 1, £38,000 required to fund the scheme be included in the proposed Revenue Budget for 2022/23, to be considered at Council on 3 March 2022.

WARDS AFFECTED

District-wide

STRATEGIC LINK

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. To mark the Queen's historic 70 year reign, Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be taking place throughout the UK and commonwealth as part of a year-long programme of events.
- 1.2 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is encouraging organisations to work with their local communities to make sure that this momentous occasion is marked fittingly. A series of national events are being encouraged and promoted with local authorities requested to provide appropriate support and advice, including:
 - **Street Parties** – supporting residents who want to organise parties in their neighbourhoods.
 - **'The Big Jubilee Lunch'** – encouraging communities to come together in the period 2nd to 5th June 2022, to celebrate their connections and get to know each other better.
 - **Beacon Lighting** – in keeping with the long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations, councils are encouraged to light beacons across the UK on the evening of 2nd June 2022.

- **The Queen's Green Canopy** – everyone from individuals to community groups, towns, villages and schools are encouraged to plant a tree for the Jubilee when the planting season begins throughout 2022.

1.3 The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a Platinum Jubilee website, which includes useful related resources. The website includes an interactive map, for people and organisations to contribute to and to search for information on activities taking place near to them. The district council also has a dedicated webpage on its corporate website.

2 REPORT

2.1 This historic occasion is deserving of widespread celebration, in a manner which maximises diversity and inclusion, and reflects the views of local communities. In this regard, rather than the district council seeking to adopt a single unifying event of celebration for all communities, it is considered that Town and Parish Councils are best placed to determine an appropriate form of celebration in their particular locality.

2.2 It is therefore proposed that in order to encourage and assist local communities in meeting the costs of local events, the District Council considers the award of a 'one-off' grant of £1,000 for Town Councils and £500 for Parish Councils, upon receipt of a Platinum Jubilee celebration / commemoration proposal. Such proposals may include (but are not limited to):

- Street parties;
- Jubilee lunches;
- The Queen's Green Canopy;
- Beacon lighting;
- Village fetes;
- Cultural performances;
- Permanent commemorations.

2.3 The Town / Parish Council can utilise the grant to support a single event or a series of events at their discretion. The relevant Town / Parish Council can also allocate the funding in whole or part, to support the activities of other local groups who may be planning an event, provided the event is clearly linked to Platinum Jubilee celebrations or commemorations.

2.4 A list of qualifying Town / Parish Councils and the proposed grant award is outlined at Appendix 1.

2.5 In the interests of expediency and, subject to Member approval, a simple form of application will be devised and publicised on the Council's website and via the Town / Parish council network as soon as possible, and funding will be issued from 1st April upon approval of the event by the Council's Events Manager.

2.6 A schedule of events supported by the District Council will be published.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

- 3.1 This report is to enable Town and Parish Councils the ability to apply for a “one off” grant to assist them with Platinum Jubilee celebration.

At the current time the Legal risk connection to this report has been assessed as low.

Financial

- 3.2 The award of a ‘one-off’ grant of £1,000 for Town Councils and £500 for Parish Councils for the councils shown in Appendix 1 will require a revenue budget of £38,000. Subject to the approval of this committee, £38,000 will be included in the proposed Revenue Budget for 2022/23, to be considered at Council on 3 March 2022. The financial risk is assessed as low.

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 4.2 A full climate change impact assessment has not been carried out on the recommendations of this report as at this stage the approval is for the principal and funding only. As part of the application process Towns and Parishes will be asked to consider the climate change and environmental impacts of any project proposals. As these come forward to the Council the proposals will be evaluated, with due consideration given to these impacts.

5 CONTACT INFORMATION

- 5.1 Paul Wilson, Chief Executive
01629 761125 or paul.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Secretary of State - Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (January 2022)

7 ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 : Town and Parish Council Allocations

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
PROPOSED TOWN / PARISH COUNCIL GRANT ALLOCATIONS

TOWN COUNCILS	AMOUNT
Ashbourne	£1,000
Bakewell	£1,000
Darley Dale	£1,000
Matlock	£1,000
Wirksworth	£1,000

PARISH COUNCILS	AMOUNT
Alkmonton & Hungry Bentley	£500
Ashford In The Water	£500
Ballidon and Bradbourne	£500
Baslow and Bubnell	£500
Beeley	£500
Birchover	£500
Bonsall	£500
Boylestone	£500
Bradley	£500
Bradwell	£500
Brailsford	£500
Brassington	£500
Calver	£500
Carsington and Hopton	£500
Chelmorton	£500
Clifton	£500
Cromford	£500
Cubley	£500
Curbar	£500
Doveridge	£500
Eaton & Alsop & Newton Grange	£500

PARISH COUNCILS	AMOUNT
Edlaston & Wyaston	£500
Elton	£500
Eyam	£500
Fenny Bentley	£500
Flagg	£500
Great Longstone	£500
Grindleford	£500
Hartington Middle Quarter	£500
Hartington Nether Quarter	£500
Hartington Town Quarter	£500
Hathersage	£500
Hognaston	£500
Hollington	£500
Hucklow (Great Hucklow) Little Hucklow and Grindlow	£500
Hulland Ward	£500
Kirk Ireton	£500
Kniveton	£500
Litton	£500
Longford	£500
Mappleton	£500
Marston Montgomery	£500
Matlock Bath	£500
Middleton by Wirksworth	£500
Middleton and Smerrill	£500
Monyash	£500
Norbury and Roston	£500
Northwood and Tinkersley	£500
Offcote and Underwood	£500
Osmaston and Yeldersley	£500
Over Haddon	£500
Parwich	£500
Rodsley and Yeaveley	£500
Rowsley	£500

PARISH COUNCILS	AMOUNT
Shirley	£500
South Darley	£500
Stanton in Peak	£500
Stoney Middleton	£500
Sudbury	£500
Taddington	£500
Tansley	£500
Thorpe	£500
Tideswell	£500
Tissington and Lea Hall	£500
Winster	£500
Youlgreave	£500

Community and Environment Committee

23 February 2022

Report of the Director of Regulatory Services

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA, ASHBOURNE – UPDATING REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report updates Members on the actions taken following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Ashbourne at the meeting of this Committee on 7 April 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That members note the actions taken in progressing the action plan process.

WARDS AFFECTED

Ashbourne North

STRATEGIC LINK

Protecting and improving air quality supports the District Council's priority of Place and directly addresses the Corporate Plan indicator CP20/PL14 to carry out a Detailed Assessment and progress to an Air Quality Management Area and Action Plan as necessary.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on 7 April 2021 it was resolved to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in respect of the following area:
 - Buxton Road from the junction with Windmill Lane and North Avenue, to the junction with St John's Street;
 - St John's Street from number 22 St John's Street to the junction with Cokayne Avenue and Park Road.
- 1.2 The AQMA was declared in relation to exceedances of the annual average air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide ($40\mu\text{g}\text{m}^{-3}$) and the area was defined to include all areas in which levels of nitrogen dioxide came within 10% of the air quality objective (ie that

were likely to exceed 36µgm⁻³). The AQMA is formally known as the Derbyshire Dales District Council Air Quality Management Area (No 2; NO₂) Order 2021 and came into effect on 5 May 2021.

- 1.3 At the 7 April 2021 meeting it was agreed that quarterly updating reports would be submitted to further meetings of this Committee. A first update was provided at the meeting of this Committee on 23 June 2021 and a second update was given on 17 November 2021. This report is the third update.

2 REPORT

2.1 Following the meeting on 7 April 2021, Officers contacted Derbyshire County Council's Transport team and began the process of progressing an action plan. This conversation had been ongoing for some time, as liaison had been necessary to obtain the traffic figures necessary to undertake the Detailed Assessment. However, it was agreed that it would now be appropriate to hold an Action Plan inception meeting. This meeting was held on 13 May 2021 and it was agreed that the team would follow the model used for the creation of other AQMA Action Plans in Derbyshire, that is that a long list of all possible options would be devised and that this would then be evaluated to determine which of these options might be suitable for Ashbourne. It was also agreed that representatives from Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team would be involved in the Action Plan process. A series of meetings would be needed in order to produce the final approved Action Plan and to monitor the actions agreed as part of the Plan.

2.2 In order to manage the Action Plan process, officers have set up a simple action log to record progress. This action log is a live document and will become of more use as the Action Plan process develops. However, it is reproduced below in order to provide Committee with an update at this stage:

Number	Date	Action
001	05/05/21	AQMA formally declared
002	12/05/21	AQMA accepted by DEFRA
003	TBC	AQMA uploaded to DEFRA website – problems with DEFRA website have prevented immediate uploading
004	13/05/21	Inception meeting with DCC Highways – agreed to creation of long list for action plan, involvement of interested parties and allocated staff resources
005	19/05/21	Publication of DDDC webpage – https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/pollution-noise/air-pollution/air-quality-management-areas/buxton-road-ashbourne
006	25/05/21	Contact made with Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team
007	25/05/21	Date agreed for creating long list.
008	18/06/21	Proposed date for action plan working group to discuss long list
009	18/06/21	Meeting with DCC, ATC and ATT. Discussion of general principles. Agreement of approach to be taken – long list to short list to implementation
010	06/07/21	Email from Buxton Road residents requesting involvement
011	26/07/21	Email from Buxton Road residents with suggestions for actions

012	27/07/21	Email to DCC requesting update and forwarding Buxton Road residents information for DCC to assess
013	27/07/21	Response from DCC – long list not yet ready, general ideas mooted. September suggested for working group meeting
014	29/07/21	Contact from Chris Webster ATT update on current status as requested
015	02/09/21	Email to DCC to look to set up a further stakeholder meeting
016	02/09/21	Reply from DCC suggesting an internal catch up meeting after 9 th September when they were having an internal workshop re: Ashbourne.
017	02/09/21	Reply sent offering dates.
018	02/09/21	Interagency meeting agreed for 16/09/21
019	16/09/21	Meeting undertaken with DCC and proposed wider meeting for end of October –Jim Seymour availability after 18 th .
020	22/09/21	Email to DCC for dates for stakeholder meeting
021	22/09/21	Email to stakeholders with proposed dates for next meeting
022	20/10/21	Email to DCC to request the long and short lists to send out prior to the next Stakeholder meeting - reply back advising it is not yet available, due to not having sign off by senior managers
023	27/10/21	Chasing email to DCC officers for the lists. Still not available as it is going through the governance process at DCC. Jim to update us.
024	28/10/21	Email to DCC as no update yet asked them to update Amanda in my absence
025	01/11/21	AG Email DCC for an update response is that the lists can't yet be released as governance process not complete. Meeting to go ahead for update.
026	02/11/21	Proposed Stakeholder meeting
027	12/11/21	Date confirmed for possible next meeting with the proviso of the lists being released by DCC. Due to availability 15 th December earliest date available.
028	17/11/21	Email from TJB to DCC requesting update.
029	17/11/21	Response from DCC – expect to complete assessment of long list today or tomorrow
030	17/11/21	Second update to C&E Committee
031	24/11/21	Letter from Cllr Purdy to Cllr Lewis <i>et al</i>
032	08/12/21	Email DCC for update
033	14/12/21	Email DCC again for update
034	14/12/21	Update from DCC – lists are not yet available but the scheduling of the meetings for the relevant permissions are being arranged. Work on the Capital Programme is still being worked on to contribute towards the Action Plan
035	11/01/22	Update from DCC all work complete and scheduling of a meeting is with the member's secretariat. Considerable work been undertaken up to now and just need the sign off to release the information.
036	13/01/22	Update from DCC Councillor meeting is booked for 25 January 2022.
037	27/01/22	Email to DCC for an update

038	28/01/22	Email from DCC advising that proposals will need to be considered by Cabinet meeting on 22/02/22
039	10/02/22	Email to DCC for update
040	10/02/22	Confirmation from DCC that course of action as per point 38 is being followed

- 2.3 At the time of writing officers are still awaiting receipt of the proposed shortlist of actions from Derbyshire County Council.
- 2.4 In the meantime officers have progressed the source apportionment exercise using the most recent available traffic data (2019). A graphic illustrating this work is included at Appendix 1. In summary this indicates that the largest contributor to NO₂ emissions in the area of the AQMA is from heavy diesel vehicles, especially during the working week. During the weekend emissions from this source reduce and there is a consequent increase in the proportion of emissions due to diesel cars. Appendix 1 gives more information on this matter.
- 2.5 A verbal update will be given on actions taken after the publication of this report.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal

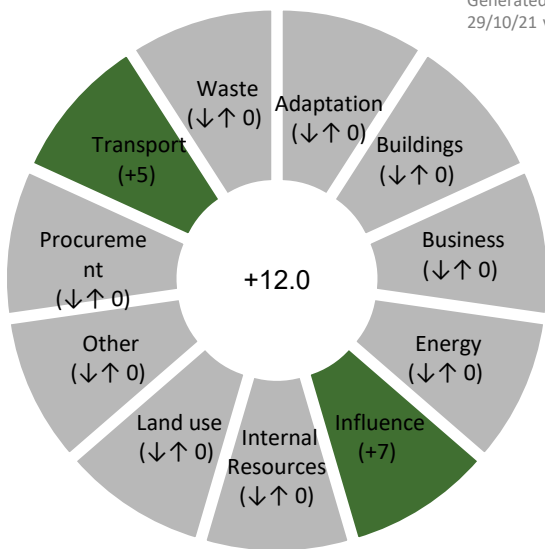
This report is the 3rd update for members on the progress officers have made on implementing the Air Quality Management Plan as per its statutory obligations. The legal risk at this time has been assessed as low.

3.2 Financial

The costs of monitoring air quality can be accommodated from the existing budgets. The financial risk is, therefore, assessed as low.

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.
- 4.2 The approved Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool has been completed for this report and is reproduced below. This identifies that the AQMA action plan has the potential to decrease emissions from vehicles travelling through the area. However, since the action is aimed at reducing emissions in one particular area it may not result in an overall reduction in vehicle use, so much as a shift to other routes. However, it is suggested that progressing and publicising this work could result in raising awareness around the impacts of travel on emissions that impact on climate change.



DDDC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 2 months away).

5 CONTACT INFORMATION

5.1 Tim Braund, Director of Regulatory Services, Tel: 01629 761118, Email: tim.braund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Amanda Goodwill, Environmental Health Manager, Tel: 01629 761316, Email: amanda.goodwill@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Karen Carpenter, Environmental Health Officer, Tel: 01629 761227, Email: karen.carpenter@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

6 BACKGROUND PAPER

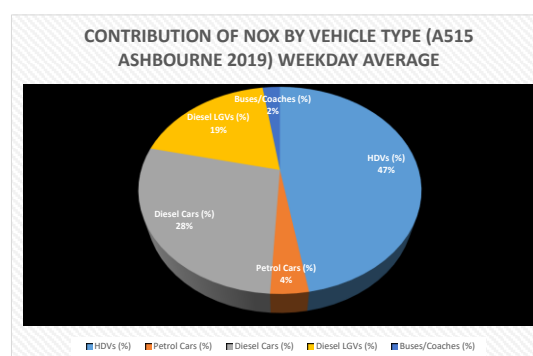
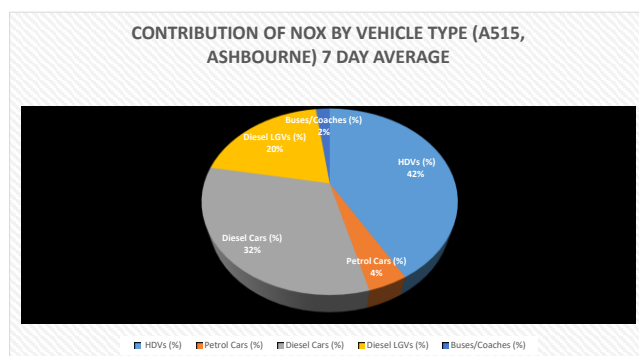
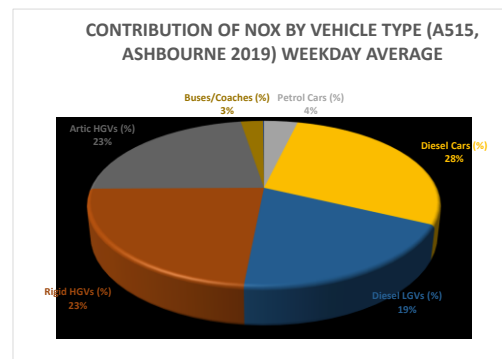
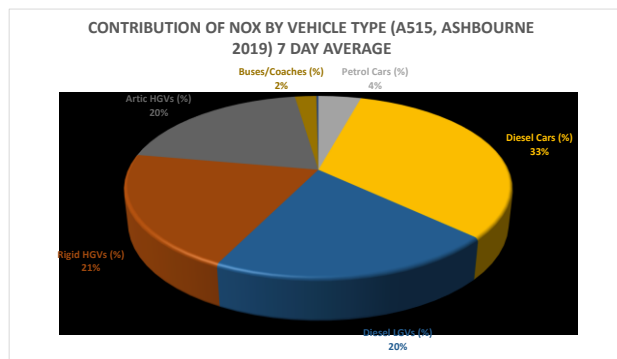
6.1 None

7 ATTACHMENTS

7.1 Appendix 1 – Source Apportionment

Annual Average Weekday Vehicle Classification A515							Percentages					
	Vehicle Numbers							Percentages				
	Cars	Motorbikes	Buses	LGVs	HGVs	Total		Cars	Motorbikes	Buses	LGVs	HGVs
2015	4865	75	39	899	1074	6952	70.0%	1.1%	0.6%	12.9%	15.4%	
2016	4940	74	36	990	1078	7118	69.4%	1.0%	0.5%	13.9%	15.1%	
2017	4951	70	33	1010	1129	7193	68.8%	1.0%	0.5%	14.0%	15.7%	
2018	4577	74	28	1006	1042	6727	68.0%	1.1%	0.4%	15.0%	15.5%	
2019	4907	82	33	1127	1128	7277	67.4%	1.1%	0.5%	15.5%	15.5%	

Annual Average 7 Day Vehicle Classification A515							Percentages					
	Vehicle Numbers							Percentages				
	Cars	Motorbikes	Buses	LGVs	HGVs	Total		Cars	Motorbikes	Buses	LGVs	HGVs
2015	4991	109	35	819	829	6783	73.6%	1.6%	0.5%	12.1%	12.2%	
2016	5070	107	32	903	831	6943	73.0%	1.5%	0.5%	13.0%	12.0%	
2017	5098	108	30	930	867	7033	72.5%	1.5%	0.4%	13.2%	12.3%	
2018	4709	110	25	930	817	6591	71.4%	1.7%	0.4%	14.1%	12.4%	
2019	4997	117	29	1041	873	7057	70.8%	1.7%	0.4%	14.8%	12.4%	



Results from Defra tool

All LDVs (%)	All HDVs (%)	Petrol Cars (%)	Diesel Cars (%)	Taxis (%)	Petrol LGVs (%)	Diesel LGVs (%)	Rigid HGVs (%)	Artic HGVs (%)	Buses/Coaches (%)	Motorcycles (%)	
57.6%	42.4%	4.3%	32.6%	-	0.0%	20.3%	20.4%	19.8%	2.1%	0.2%	7 day average
51.7%	48.3%	3.7%	28.3%	-	0.0%	19.4%	23.3%	22.6%	2.4%	0.1%	Weekday average

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
23 FEBRUARY 2022

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Policy

DERBYSHIRE DALES ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN – LEVELLING UP FUND

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In the context of the approved Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, to agree the process and parameters for making a bid to Round 2 of the Government's *Levelling Up Fund*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The District Council will develop Levelling Up infrastructure projects in Ashbourne and Matlock, working with both Ashbourne Town Team and Matlock Community Vision, subject to Round 2 guidance and timescales being announced
2. A final decision on which project(s) to submit for Levelling Up Fund round 2 is not made until further project development has taken place
3. If a package does not go forward to Levelling Up Fund round 2 (or does go forward but is not awarded Levelling Up Fund funding by the Government), the District Council will support putting it to appropriate future Government infrastructure funds.
4. The receipt of £125,000 capacity funding is noted
5. The expenditure and procurement of consultants as exercised by Urgent Decision is noted
6. The expenditure of up to £300,000 and its funding from Capacity Grant (£125,000) and the Economic Development Reserve (£175,000) be referred to Council for approval (as part of the revenue budget to be considered at Council on 3 March 2022).
7. The likely involvement of various council departments is noted
8. The proposed project governance arrangements are approved

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

'Prosperity' is highlighted in the Corporate Plan 2020-24 as a District Council priority due to low local wages and high local house prices. With regard to the recommendations in this report, the District Council specifically aims to: *Support businesses to encourage productivity, growth, and higher wage jobs in rural and urban locations; and to Promote investment to stimulate the economy of our market towns.*

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Council in November 2020 adopted an Economic Recovery Plan with three priorities:
 1. Invest resources in regenerating housing and employment sites
 2. Re-invest in the Bakewell Road Matlock site
 3. Re-shape Regeneration Services to drive investment in brownfield and other key housing/employment sites
- 1.2 It adopted the principle of Council intervention in regenerating brownfield sites for housing and employment, and building such costs into the revenue budget. The Bakewell Road Matlock regeneration has progressed since then, and is to be the subject of a report to a Special meeting of this committee on 1 March 2022.
- 1.3 Council in April 2021 gave approval to prepare a District Council bid to the *Levelling Up Fund* (LUF) round 2, for a “coherent, strategic package of capital schemes to regenerate Derbyshire Dales market towns”. Council noted that to prepare Green Book compliant business cases, work must be undertaken to develop bid-ready schemes with officer time, technical consultancy and other costs expended ‘at risk’. With the completion of (most) COVID business grant programmes in autumn 2021, capacity finally became available to progress this important work.
- 1.4 LUF is only the start of the regeneration proposals to be developed by the Council. LUF alone will not meet in full the aspirations of our towns to regenerate. Nevertheless, a successful LUF round 2 bid is an essential starting point.
- 1.5 Timescale for LUF round 2 bidding (perhaps 3 to 4 months) and scheme delivery (perhaps 30 months) is relatively discrete. It is distinct from the longer term regeneration programme, funds for the longer-term staffing of which were approved at Council on 27 January 2022.
- 1.6 In the prospectus for LUF Round 1, Derbyshire Dales was identified as a Tier 1 priority area. The LUF prospectus focused on infrastructure investment, with the emphasis on priority capital schemes of a scale able to achieve a visible impact in local areas. Each area is allowed only one LUF bid.
- 1.7 A Government announcement about LUF round 2 is expected “later in the spring”, and it is likely this will set a bid deadline of late spring / early summer 2022. A one-off sum of £125,000 was provided by the Government on 19 October 2021 as capacity funding to facilitate a LUF bid.

2 LUF BID CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 LUF is for infrastructure that has a visible impact. The three themes in round one (which are expected to be broadly similar in round two) were: town centre regeneration, transport, and culture. LUF round 1 (which took place in 2021) saw most bids for town centre regeneration.

2.2 Schemes are understood to be required to complete spend by March 2025, and are likely to require spend starting in 2022/23.

2.3 Learning from successful LUF round 1 bids includes the following:

- Key success factors in winning bids are:
 - **STRATEGY** - projects must fit together into a coherent story that meets proven strategic needs
 - **DELIVERABILITY** - land publicly owned, permissions in place, contracts specified and costed
 - **VALUE FOR MONEY** - match funding (10% or greater) secured, strong benefit/cost ratio.
- Most winning bids were for single towns (i.e. most successful bids were not for a package of two or more towns).
- One weak element pulls down the score for the bid as a whole (i.e. value for money, strategic fit and deliverability must be strong across all parts of the bid).
- Successful LUF bidders in round 1 spent considerable sums to develop their bids.
- Awards were typically between £5m and £20m.
- In line with Green Book appraisal requirements, submissions were required to summarise the strategic, commercial, financial, economic, and management case for schemes. Projects were also encouraged to demonstrate alignment with net zero carbon goals.

2.3 The implications of this for the Derbyshire Dales is that LUF ambitions are to a degree limited by

- a) lack of council-controlled land
- b) need for scale/coherence (i.e. one big impactful project, not a collation of small community based projects, which is a key consideration in a district with more than one market town)
- c) a shortage of schemes near to 'bid readiness' (i.e. developed to a point whereby the Government can be certain they will be delivered to budget and on time).

2.4 To have a chance of success a LUF bid will need MP and County Council support. Evidence of other stakeholder support is also vital, but these two are pre-requisites.

2.5 It must be acknowledged that a successful LUF bid would not transform the Derbyshire Dales by itself. Furthermore a successful bid is not guaranteed. However, a bid that can clearly demonstrate that it meets evidenced ministerial and local priorities (through need, intervention and outcome) has the best chance of success.

3 POTENTIAL BID FOCUS

3.1 Detailed guidance and timescales for LUF round 2 are yet to be announced by the Government. However, in preparation, and using the Round 1 criteria as a basis, the District Council is in the process of identifying potential strategic

interventions within its market towns to help determine the potential for a LUF2 submission of the scale and impact required, and strongest potential proposal from the Dales. The final decision on any LUF submission by the District Council and focus of its bid will be made by Members.

- 3.2 As part of this process, the Director of Regeneration and Policy wrote to Ashbourne, Bakewell, Matlock and Wirksworth Town Councils on 18 November 2021 to seek to establish realistic interest in the District Council's LUF bid. The letter made clear the tough LUF criteria, but also emphasised that LUF is just one step: while immediate ambitions are constrained by LUF rules, the District Council's longer term ambitions are not.
- 3.3 Proposals have been received and acknowledged from Matlock Community Vision and Ashbourne Town Team. Bakewell and Wirksworth have indicated they are not making LUF proposals; although both have longer term infrastructure aspirations, ONLY projects that can meet short LUF bid and delivery timescales are able to be considered at this time.

Matlock

- 3.4 The Matlock proposals are anchored on the existing 'western gateway' Bakewell Road regeneration scheme. This project is well advanced, and is coherently focused on converting the former market hall to a cinema and related food and beverage unit. However the project lacks funding for desirable public realm improvement and maintenance, and the proposed community space is also unfunded. LUF might be able to help fund both these gaps.
- 3.5 This has a strong strategic fit (it is a corporate priority for the District Council); it uses Council owned land (so is highly deliverable); has the benefit of planning permission (which also gives assurance of deliverability); has match funding in place (in the Council capital programme); and has a full Treasury business case (demonstrating value for money).
- 3.6 Other enhancements on or near to the Bakewell Road site might be worked up to be included in a bid, but these are not worked up to bid-ready stage currently.

Ashbourne

- 3.7 Ashbourne's proposals include multiple projects. All are less advanced than the Matlock former market hall regeneration scheme, but they have much to commend them, and given time some could potentially be worked up into a sound bid with a coherent strategic case.
- 3.8 The projects in Ashbourne include pedestrian safety and related highways works in the town; public realm and walking routes; and potential community space. Since producing an initial list of projects, Ashbourne Town Team has more recently formed them into a package under three themes:
 - A safe and healthy town centre
 - Public realm and connectivity
 - Performing arts and community hub.

3.9 The Ashbourne proposals are helpfully backed by partial match funding. However, the projects are at various stages of planning and involve multiple landowners – overall deliverability is therefore uncertain. Treasury business cases have not been started, so demonstrating value for money requires additional work. Ashbourne Town Team now recognises that further work is needed to get the projects ‘bid-ready’.

Progress to date

3.10 Site visits were arranged to both Ashbourne and Matlock, and took place on 1st February 2022. Grateful thanks are due to both Ashbourne Town Team and Matlock Community Vision for hosting the visits. Following the site visits, officers and consultants held a workshop session to review both sets of projects.

3.11 The workshop was not able to produce a clear recommendation for a round 2 LUF bid. Projects in Ashbourne were packaged coherently and a number should be capable of being developed to bid-readiness in time for a LUF submission. There is clearly strong local support and political support. However, each of the three themes requires a significant amount of further work and costs had risen since the initial proposals were made. The Matlock proposals benefit from a clear and well-developed ‘anchor’ in the former market hall, which offers the prospect of a number of enhancements should LUF be available. However, the package would also need to include further elements that are at an early stage.

3.12 A two-town bid would appear to have merits, not least in realising the ambitions of both communities and ensuring significant funding is secured. However, it remains challenging to construct a coherent package based on existing guidance (although this could change for round 2). Whilst there are strong thematic linkages, the council would still be putting together projects that span different geographies with different evidence bases, VFM and delivery challenges.

3.13 Given that a number of the projects considered are at an early stage of development, it is not yet possible to make a recommendation on a LUF package for Derbyshire Dales. Instead, further rapid project development in both towns is needed to allow a more informed recommendation to be made. Supporting the development of projects in both towns will keep all options open, as well as helping to build a longer term pipeline for future funding opportunities beyond LUF.

3.14 It is therefore recommended that, for the time being, the District Council continues to develop Levelling Up infrastructure projects in BOTH Ashbourne and Matlock, working with both Ashbourne Town Team and Matlock Community Vision, subject to Round 2 guidance and timescales being announced. A final decision on which project(s) to submit for LUF round 2 should not be made until some further project development has taken place.

3.15 Consultant support has been engaged to conduct this initial project development work alongside the local teams (see next section) over the coming weeks.

3.16 If a package does not go forward to LUF round 2 (or does go forward but is not awarded *Levelling Up Fund* funding by the Government), the District Council will support putting it to appropriate future Government infrastructure funds by offering further development input from our consultants: LUF is just one step in our regeneration work.

4 RESOURCING

4.1 Participation in open competitions is a time-consuming and skilled commitment for councils who are often resource constrained. It is anticipated that the LUF round 2 bid process will have a 3-6 month timescale, with scheme delivery looking towards 30 months. With reference to bidding (without consideration of delivery should a bid be successful), there are a number of resource bottlenecks identified.

4.2 Specialist technical expertise. It is clear that to develop a successful bid, specialist consultancy help is required. This might include:

- Regeneration consultant
- Architect / urban designer
- Cost consultant / quantity surveyor
- Green Book economic consultant for the business case
- Engineers for lighting, street works, digital etc.
- Data gathering and analysis
- Graphic designers / PR consultants for bid documents
- Procurement knowledge to ensure the delivery and cashflow plan is realistic
- Project management consultant to pull all the above together (a clear bid project plan, risk matrix, procurement plan, and evaluation plan),



4.3 Consultant availability, given the preponderance of Government funding announcements at present, is limited. It is also evident that a tender exercise to procure consultants might take many months yet LUF bids are likely to be required to be submitted in 3-6 months. Help is needed immediately and the District Council knows existing consultants who have delivered successfully for us and partners in the recent past.

4.4 Project development. It was noted in section 3 of the report that local schemes are, in the main, not 'bid ready' (i.e. not developed to a point whereby the Government can be certain they will be delivered to budget and on time). However there is plenty of ambition. In order to support Matlock and Ashbourne develop proposed schemes to a point where they can be put into a strong bid, there is a present need for a temporary resource to help scheme development.

4.5 The internal economic development team is more than fully committed on the existing Bakewell Road scheme, as well as delivering the day to day economic development and 'Invest in the Derbyshire Dales' function, so it is necessary to look outside the organisation. Given the need to work up schemes immediately (to be ready for a spring bid), there is no time to recruit conventionally to a temporary role. The requirement is to work up schemes now, alongside towns, and at risk, so that whether for LUF or for a future fund comes that along, they will be bid-ready

4.6 Bid management and coordination. Even with all the above in place, management and coordination of the bid requires consideration. It is noted that another successful LUF round 1 bid required both the service director and an interim corporate director – one as project sponsor and the other as bid director. This took a large proportion of their time for the bid period.

4.7 To engage relevant, experienced consultants and interims, and following consultation with and agreement from the Corporate Leadership Team (approved 14 December 2021) and the Chair of Council (approved 19 December 2021), the Director of Regeneration and Policy exercised a waiver within Contract Standing Orders to appoint consultants to facilitate the District Council's bid to the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 and subsequent delivery. The consultants chosen have experience in LUF from Round 1, experience with the Derbyshire Dales, and technical specialisms necessary for an infrastructure funding bid compliant with Green Book requirements.

4.8 This urgent decision was in compliance with Contract Standing Orders

6.4.1	Where the purchase of supplies or the execution of works or services involve specialist or unique skills or knowledge
6.4.6	In relation to time-limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this

4.9 The source of funding is existing: the £125,000 capacity funding provided by the Government in October 2021; and up to £175,000 from the Economic Development Reserve. Council approval is normally required to spend where a budget has not been set, even where funds are already available (existing Economic Development Reserve) or have been newly provided by an external source (Capacity Funding). Therefore the Chairman of the Council was consulted to give an Urgent Decision to approve spend from these two sources (in order to facilitate the LUF Round 2 bid that the Council had previously resolved to make), and gave approval on 19 December 2021.

4.10 As a result, Members are asked to note that:

- an Interim Bid Director has been engaged, currently on a part time basis (1-2 days per week approx.) for an initial six month period. The individual engaged (Michael Rich) is an experienced corporate director, who was instrumental in leading a successful LUF round 1 bid in a nearby council and securing over £25m for a Town Deal in its area. As well as arranging the site visits and workshops on 1 February, he is coordinating bid development and submission, and currently drafting a strategic case and managing the bid process overall

- a Project Development resource has been engaged, initially for a four week period starting mid-February, to work up Ashbourne and Matlock projects to a point where a decision can be made as to which are bid-ready for LUF. The consultancy concerned (Bentley Project Management) also has cost management and project management expertise which may be required at a later date, and it project managed a successful LUF round 1 bid for a nearby council
- consultants already working for the District Council on related projects have agreed to extend the scope of their work to include wider LUF projects where appropriate. The expertise thus available includes architecture and design (Lathams), commercial property surveying (Thomas Lister), and economists (Amion). They are working alongside Bentley Project Management to support initial project development as required.

4.11 Internal cross-departmental bid support. For a bid to succeed that involves District Council property, there is likely to be a requirement for involvement from the Finance, Estates, Development Management, Neighbourhoods and Legal teams (possibly others too). Whilst involvement at the bid stage should be relatively manageable, the need for full participation at the delivery stage would be rather more onerous. However, all these teams are busy. Additionally, as a Council we lack recent experience with Government project finance requirements, subsidy control, managing works directly, or acting as client on construction projects. This increases risks.

4.12 Members are asked to note the involvement of other Council departments/teams, and be mindful of the resource constraints entailed. In particular to be aware that by prioritising LUF within the timescales set by Government, Members may for a period impact on delivery of other priorities.

4.13 A further resourcing issue lies with Derbyshire County Council. Any scheme involving the public highway, street furniture, street lighting, paving, flood alleviation, county-owned buildings etc. will require considerable engagement, support and officer involvement from Derbyshire County Council. However, County Council officer capacity is limited and geared towards their existing schemes. It will be necessary for Members and officers to simultaneously engage with County Council contacts to ensure their resources are also dedicated to Derbyshire Dales LUF projects when needed.

5 GOVERNANCE

5.1 As well as overseeing progress and managing risks, successful project management entails involving those affected (e.g. services and organisations that periodically play a part in the project) sufficiently early so they are knowledgeable and prepared. It also involves engaging those that are involved, in particular local communities and Ward Members. Finally, communicating proactively with the wider community and other stakeholders is also essential.

5.2 Initial project governance is as set out below. This structure aims to provide confidence to those directly and indirectly involved that LUF is being managed efficiently, fairly and transparently. It is modelled on the Bakewell Road

Regeneration Project governance structure, as established by the Community and Environment Committee at its meeting on 5 July 2021, and in the interim the Bakewell Road Project Management Group is leading on LUF.

Project Management Group

- Meets – every two weeks, moving to weekly as bid progresses
- Comprises – internal officers
- Membership -
 - Economic Development Manager (Bakewell Road project lead)
 - Estates and Facilities Manager (internal technical lead)
 - Director of Regeneration and Policy (project sponsor)
 - Interim Director (bid director)
 - Chief Executive
 - Others internal services to join when needed, e.g. Legal, Finance, Development Management, Procurement
 - Lead consultants (to join as and when needed, for example project management and project development)
- Purpose – to project manage the project including responsibility for operational decisions
- Reports to – Project Board

Project Board

- Meets – every two months, moving to every month as delivery progresses
- Comprises – Project Management Group plus consultants and key stakeholder representatives
- Membership -
 - Project Management Group
 - Communications & Marketing
 - Stakeholder representatives
- Purpose – to oversee engagement including communications strategy and risk management
- Reports to – Community & Environment Committee

Stakeholder liaison

- Meet – every three months or more frequently as required
- Comprises – tbd
- Purpose – consultation and engagement with key stakeholder groups

Community and Environment Committee (public meeting)

- Meets – every three months approx. Meets in public unless confidential matters need to be exempted (by exception)
- Comprises – elected district councillors
- Purpose – to provide public accountability, strategic risk management, and make strategic and budget decisions

6 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 Legal.

This report set outs the process and parameters for making a bid to Round 2 of the Government’s Levelling Up Fund

At the current time, this report does not specifically raise any legal issues therefore the legal risk has been assessed as low.

6.2 Financial.

Financial implications have been included in the report. Spending on consultancy will take place over two financial years and is summarised in the table below, which also sets out the funding arrangements.

The expenditure of up to £300,000 and its funding from Capacity Grant (£125,000) and the Economic Development Reserve (£175,000) will be referred to Council for approval (as part of the revenue budget to be considered at Council on 3 March 2022).

The financial risk is assessed as medium.

	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Spending on Consultancy	£20,000	£280,000	£300,000
Funded By:			
LUF2 Capacity Grant	£20,000	£105,000	£125,000
Transfer from Economic Development Reserve	-	£175,000	£175,000
Total Funding	£20,000	£280,000	£300,000

6.3 Corporate.

Corporate Plan priority actions for 2022/23 include both “Prepare a Levelling Up Fund bid for submission to Government” and “Progress development of the Bakewell Road town centre site, Matlock.”

6.4 Climate Change.

To be assessed when specific projects are progressed. Previously, a climate change checklist was completed for Matlock’s Bakewell Road redevelopment

7 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

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ATTACHMENTS

None

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
23 FEBRUARY 2022

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Policy

D2N2 BUSINESS GROWTH HUB – FUNDING EXTENSION TO JUNE 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To extend the Derbyshire Dales Business Advice service to June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Members note the work of the Derbyshire Dales Business Advice service and extension of European Regional Development Fund support for the D2N2 Growth Hub to 30 June 2023
2. Members approve an increase of £34,063.50 in the District Council's match funding contribution to extend full time, locally delivered business support services from 1st April 2022 for a further 15 months, utilising funding from the Economic Development Reserve, and extend the Derbyshire Dales Business Advisor post accordingly.
3. Subject to the approval of recommendation 2, the additional spending of £34,063.50 and its funding from the Economic Development Reserve be referred to Council (as part of the Revenue Budget report) for approval.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

'Prosperity' is highlighted in the Corporate Plan 2020-24 as a District Council priority due to low local wages and high local house prices. With regard to the recommendations in this report, the District Council specifically aims to: *Support businesses to encourage productivity, growth, and higher wage jobs in rural and urban locations*; and to *Promote investment to stimulate the economy of our market towns*.

1 D2N2 GROWTH HUB 2

- 1.1 In 2016, working in partnership with the D2N2 LEP, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support was secured to deliver additional business support services within the district. Delivered as part of the D2N2 Growth Hub, ERDF funding has enabled the District Council to develop Derbyshire Dales Business Advice (established initially as a part-time / two day a week service at the end of 2011, fully funded by the District Council) into a full time / five day

a week advice service funded 50:50 by the District Council and ERDF. The enhanced local service is delivered by the Council's experienced Derbyshire Dales Business Advisor based within the Council's Economic Development Team.

- 1.2 The initial round of European funding ran until 31 March 2019 and a second tranche was then secured to continue and expand the service – Growth Hub 2 – for a further three years from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022.
- 1.3 During 2020/21 and 2021/22 the business advice service has been redirected to support COVID business survival and recovery. Hundreds of businesses have been signposted to available support, provided with initial advice or supported through the discretionary business grant schemes put in place by the Economic Development Team. In addition, with the support of the Business Advisor, a number of Dales businesses have also been supported to access grants from D2N2 and/or Government funding sources to enable business growth (beyond COVID support). Progress against corporate targets has been reported to Council through the service planning process and performance management framework adopted by the Council, and the service continues to be well received by clients.
- 1.4 With regard to performance against ERDF Growth Hub 2 output targets, alongside COVID work, progress was as follows for the current contract period as at 31 December 2021:

Output Indicator	Target	Actual
C1 No. of enterprises receiving min 12 hrs support	36	40
C5 No. of new enterprises supported for min 12 hrs	1	3
C8 Employment increase in supported enterprises (jobs)	6	8
P13 No. of enterprises receiving Information, Diagnostic and Brokerage (min 3 hrs)	59	30*
*The significant volume of additional contacts/engagement generated by COVID have not been recorded / claimed in order to maintain focus on delivering business support		

- 1.5 The service has exceeded the job creation target and anticipates claiming other additional outputs by year end. The Growth Hub as a whole has achieved its overall target for 3hr Information, Diagnostic and Brokerage support so focus has been maintained on delivering intensive (12hr+) support as required.
- 1.6 Following submission of proposals by the core Growth Hub in Autumn 2021, partners were advised by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 21/12/21 that an extension of ERDF funding had been agreed, enabling the Growth Hub to provide its current services, including enhanced local provision in those districts partnering in the scheme, until June 2023. This is good news considering the ongoing impacts of COVID and continuing demand for business advice and support in the Derbyshire Dales.
- 1.7 To draw down further ERDF funding, each Growth Hub partner is required to 'match fund' the available ERDF contribution for the part of the service they

deliver. With regard to the Derbyshire Dales, this requires increasing the (agreed) contribution to Growth Hub 2 from £74,205 to £108,268.50 (inclusive of FTE salary (inc. pay award), on costs and indirect costs associated with the service) i.e. a net increase of £34,063.50 for the period 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2023. The additional District Council funding contribution is based on the agreed 50 / 50 ERDF funding split to meet the cost of the service.

- 1.8 Funding provision will be made within the District Council's approved Economic Development Reserve as part of the budget setting process for 2022/23. Subject to Member approval, a formal letter confirming District Council funding will be issued.

2 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Legal.

This report is to seek an extension to the Derbyshire Dales Business Advice service to June 2023.

At the current time this report does not specifically raise any legal issues therefore the legal risk has been assessed as low.

2.2 Financial.

Financial implications have been included in the report. Subject to this committee's approval of the increased spending of £34,063.50 in 2022/23 and its funding from the Economic Development Reserve, this will be referred to Council (as part of the Revenue Budget report) for approval. The financial risk is assessed as low.

2.3 Corporate.

Corporate Plan priority actions for 2022/23 include "Continue to provide a high quality, free, 1:1 business advice service to small and medium sized businesses."

2.4 Climate Change.

[Green Entrepreneurs](#) grants are among those available to businesses advised by the Growth Hub.

3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

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ATTACHMENTS None

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
23 FEBRUARY 2022

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Policy

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In the context of the approved Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, to agree the District Council's investment priorities for the Government's *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund pre-launch guidance and indicative timescales are noted
2. The Derbyshire Dales Investment Plan priorities be drawn from the approved Economic Recovery Plan 2020-2033, the Rural Economy Position Statement approved in November 2020, supported by the Economic Plan 2019-2033
3. Engagement with local partners takes place to draft an Investment Plan for future consideration and agreement.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

'Prosperity' is highlighted in the Corporate Plan 2020-24 as a District Council priority due to low local wages and high local house prices. With regard to the recommendations in this report, the District Council specifically aims to: *Support businesses to encourage productivity, growth, and higher wage jobs in rural and urban locations; and to Promote investment to stimulate the economy of our market towns.*

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the same time as publishing its Levelling Up White Paper on 2 February 2022, the Government also published pre-launch guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 1.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is intended to replace EU funds (from which the Derbyshire Dales continue to benefit). It will provide £2.6 billion of funding for investment over the three years to March 2025, and sits alongside the Levelling Up Fund.

- 1.3 In order to access the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), each local authority must develop and agree an Investment Plan.
- 1.4 Members will recall that, in anticipation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the District Council in November 2020 adopted an Economic Recovery Plan for 2020-2033 with three priorities:
1. Invest resources in regenerating housing and employment sites
 2. Re-invest in the Bakewell Road Matlock site
 3. Re-shape Regeneration Services to drive investment in brownfield and other key housing/employment sites
- 1.5 Council also approved a Rural Economy position statement (Appendix 1), setting out its priorities for what new funding and funders should focus on for the Derbyshire Dales. It noted that small scale manufacturing and engineering is the lifeblood of rural communities. The statement reiterated that better local incomes are the key to make rural communities thrive, but that growth was being stifled by the slow pace of development. The five key messages are:
- funding should focus on smaller-scale activity
 - there should be dedicated funds for rural economic growth, that are managed in and by rural areas themselves
 - stalled rural housing and employment development sites need to be state-funded to unlock market failure
 - ultrafast broadband in the most isolated rural areas should be prioritised ahead of urban fringes
 - better quality visitor attractions and accommodation are needed, and should be sold together as single easy-to-book packages.
- 1.6 It is recommended that the Economic Recovery Plan and this Rural Economy Position Statement, supported by the Economic Plan 2019-2033, form the basis of the Derbyshire Dales Investment Plan for UKSPF, to be submitted later in 2022.

2 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund pre-launch guidance, published on 2 February 2022, is attached at Appendix 2. It was the subject of a Government webinar for local authorities in England on 8 February 2022. It is the Government's intention that local authorities should **start initial preparations now**, ahead of the Fund's launch "later in the spring".
- 2.2 **All areas of the UK will receive an allocation** from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. This recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support. The funding formula will be set out, along with a full UKSPF Prospectus, later in the spring. However, recognition that all areas have funding requirements is, in principle, a step forward.
- 2.3 UKSPF will be **allocated to district and unitary councils**, which are the lead authorities for UKSPF. The recognition that district councils are the principal

place-shaping agencies, and have the lead role in driving economic recovery for their localities, is welcome. However an expectation of collaboration between councils where local needs dictate is also rightly highlighted.

- 2.4 The focus of UKSPF is “pride in place”. The Fund is planned to operate over the next three financial years (to end in March 2025.) There are three investment priorities, of which the first two are the focus in years 1 and 2:
- **Communities and Place** – e.g. town centres, neighbourhoods
 - **Supporting Local Businesses** – e.g. jobs and businesses; innovation and growth
 - **People and Skills** – to replace European Social Funding from 2024/25, and focussing in particular on basic skills

Investment Priority	Summary of objectives
Community and Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging. • To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods.
Supporting Local Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses. • Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth. • Targeted support to help businesses grow - e.g. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.
People and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work. • Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need. • Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision. • Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.

- 2.5 The Fund will run alongside other funds (such as the Levelling Up Fund), and it will comprise **both revenue and capital funding**. The Government has emphasised its wish to see **visible, tangible results**, stating: “UKSPF will enable noticeable investment in the places people live, as well as support individuals and businesses fostering local pride in place. Initially, we will focus on communities and place and local business interventions in 2022-23 and 2023-24”.
- 2.6 In order to access their funding allocation, lead authorities must prepare a three-year **Investment Plan** which will be signed off by the Government this summer. Investment Plans must set out measurable outcomes, state how projects/activities will be procured and delivered, and set out governance arrangements.
- 2.7 Government has indicated that the costs of developing the Investment Plan, managing funding, assessing and approving projects can be met from a lead authority’s UKSPF funding allocation. More details will be provided later in the spring.
- 2.8 **Local partnerships** must be in place (existing partnerships can be used for this purpose) to agree Investment Plans and for UKSPF governance. These are likely to include local business/employer bodies, the voluntary and community sector, as well as local authorities. It is inherent in the guidance

that lead authorities must work closely with county councils to agree and commission skills and employment activity. Partnership working with other districts may be appropriate where investment packages are common.

- 2.9 Lead authorities should involve MPs in every stage of UKSPF planning and delivery.
- 2.10 It is therefore proposed that engagement with local partners, with a view to drafting an Investment Plan for agreement and consideration by the MP, should take place.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal.

This report relates to the Economic Recovery Plan for the Derbyshire Dales and to agree the Council's investment priorities for the Government's *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*.

At the current time this report does not specifically raise any legal issues.

The Legal risk has been assessed as low

3.2 Financial.

This report seeks approval for the District Council's investment priorities for the Government's *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* and engagement with local partners to draft an Investment Plan for future consideration and agreement. The financial risk is assessed as low.

3.3 Climate Change.

To be assessed when the Investment Plan is developed. However, the pre-launch guidance states: "Interventions supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will need to take account of other local and national policies and priorities – including the government's commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 and clean growth".

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix 1 Derbyshire Dales Rural Economy Position Statement, adopted November 2020
- Appendix 2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund pre-launch guidance, February 2022

APPENDIX 1 THE RURAL ECONOMY AFTER CORONAVIRUS – POSITION STATEMENT FROM DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL

The visitor economy (although important) is not what defines rural economies. **Small scale manufacturing and engineering is the lifeblood of rural economies** – absolutely so in Derbyshire and even more so in places such as the Derbyshire Dales. (For the record, 13% of employees in the Derbyshire Dales work in manufacturing, 7% in tourism, and 2% in agriculture and quarrying – ONS UK Business Register and Employment Survey.) The Derbyshire Dales has many thriving small manufacturing businesses: Buxoplas in Bradwell, for example, supplied equipment for the NHS Nightingale hospitals.

Manufacturing and engineering, along with quarrying, tends to offer high-wage, high skill, permanent, full-time jobs. By contrast, the visitor economy is typified by **low wage, low skill, temporary, casual, part-time roles**. Hospitality roles are important as starter jobs (e.g. evening/weekend jobs for teenagers) but they do not enable strong, sustainable economic recovery and growth. Visitors are of course important, but tourism is not the defining feature of rural communities, nor is it the way to lift rural incomes.

In the Derbyshire Dales, wages in some of our workplaces are amongst the lowest in England. The 2018 ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings put pay in the Derbyshire Dales at £376 per week the 289th lowest out of 326 districts in England (median gross weekly workplace pay), and well below the £393 average for Derbyshire and £417 average for the East Midlands.

Better local incomes are key to make rural communities thrive; how else can local people afford the high cost of housing, with house prices inflated by migrants from neighbouring cities, whose work and spending is largely outside the rural communities where they sleep?

The driver of the rural economy is manufacturing and engineering. Smaller manufacturing businesses, workshops and other enterprises will be what drives the economic and social renaissance of rural districts. This is the route to help lift employees out of the deprivation that so often features in rural communities.

With this in mind, Derbyshire Dales District Council has five asks.

1. In order to help on smaller manufacturing and engineering firms that will drive rural growth, policy makers (LEPs and Government) need to **adjust their funding criteria to focus on smaller-scale activity**. LEPs are currently constrained by Green Book rules that prioritise big job creation ahead of small schemes that appear on these metrics to offer less value for money to the Government. These criteria need to change.
2. Some funding needs to be ring-fenced and devolved to rural areas themselves – decision makers in national and regional cities are badly placed to manage funding schemes that should and must give small grants to small businesses;

local schemes are needed. Therefore when the Shared Prosperity Fund is rolled out to LEPs, they must **set aside a fund for rural economic growth that is to be determined and managed in rural areas**. The best example of this is the former LEADER schemes, where a rural district is devolved relatively small sum (less than £10m) to be managed by a Local Action Group (rural business leaders and local decision makers) rather than managed by LEP HQ – local management means minimal bureaucracy and good rural knowledge. Grants are relatively small, with flexible intervention criteria. Previous successful rural schemes have seen an average £11,000 cost per job created; in urban LEP terms this is always going to look expensive (D2N2 look for a cost per job of £6,000), but for rural areas that is exactly what is needed.

3. Small businesses need small sites. In the Derbyshire Dales, we have small businesses keen to expand, but a lack of sites for them to occupy. In rural areas, unlocking small employment sites is essential. However, such sites often fall below the scale and value-for-money thresholds that LEPs are told to consider. Sometimes too, such sites have been paralysed by market failure and will never progress without state interventions that represent poor value-for-money. But in rural communities these are often the **ONLY** sites, and so regardless of value-for-money they must achieve state funding - or else these sites and the communities that surround them will remain underdeveloped. So **criteria for LEP funding of rural land/property developments need to be adjusted to give far more account to their local strategic importance and take less account of value-for-money**.
4. Better rural broadband and 4G/5G is also vital. The relative cost of providing fast broadband to the most isolated communities has sadly slowed down its provision – yet arguably these are the communities that need it most. Broadband improvements in the last decade have been greatest in the urban fringe and larger rural communities, but the most isolated rural communities still struggle to get decent speeds. Ironically, knowledge-based jobs are not city-dependent, and COVID-19 has shown these do not need to be clustered in urban hubs. While the suburbs have profited from homeworking, rural areas are less able to do so because of relatively poor broadband. So **ultrafast broadband installation in the most isolated rural areas must be prioritised**. Demand is numerically lower as people/businesses are more scarce, meaning that outer rural areas do not stack up commercially for Openreach when compared to more populated areas. But the strategic need is relatively greater.
5. Finally, back to the visitor economy. The visitor economy is part of the problem for rural areas (mainly offering plentiful poor quality jobs rather than plentiful high skill, high wage jobs); but it *could* be part of the solution. COVID-19 has shown the vulnerability of hospitality jobs, many of which have been swept away. Just rebuilding the same weak visitor economy is not the answer. Instead, any intervention in the visitor economy must focus on quality. Higher skilled, better paid, higher quality jobs can come from the visitor economy, but for that to occur higher visitor spend must be generated. This in turn depends on staying visitors. Day trippers who drive in and out in a few hours, spending a few pounds on a bag of chips and a cup of tea, are never going to generate rural wealth. Instead, overnight stays are vital – staying visitors spend on accommodation, sit-down

meals, and multiple attractions. How do we generate staying visitors? Two things must come together: **more, better quality accommodation (rural hotels); AND more, better quality rural visitor attractions.** We also need the local **tourism industry to come together to create, market and sell bookable packages** that bring these two together – e.g. cycling weekends based around quality local food and drink establishments; walking holidays using existing routes staying in accommodation that offers good food. The green agenda can be captured here.

To conclude:

In order to secure vital Government and LEP funding to grow the rural economy, **local rural strategic need must outweigh straight value for money in Government and LEP decision making;** on purely commercial grounds rural areas will never offer the same scale or gain as urban interventions. But **forcing rural areas to compete for economic funding on the same playing field as urban areas is not inclusive.** It excludes the large rural economy from growth.

In fact, rural business survival rates are typically higher than for urban businesses, and as we have seen the rural economy is as technological (manufacturing and engineering) as are cities. Rural business density is high, and the skills base in rural areas is strong. Writing off rural areas as merely play areas for tourists would be a crass error. We have rural manufacturing and engineering employers that are desperate to expand. What they need is modern workspace to grow into. We have knowledge based industries craving a rural environment, but they lack ultrafast broadband here.

Rural growth is being constrained by the slow pace of employment land delivery, alongside connectivity constraints exacerbated by relatively slow broadband.

By channelling Government and LEP investment to rural economies, we can offer economic growth and resilience. However, a failure to create more high wage, high skill rural jobs risks condemning rural areas to become, in a crude and probably unfair characterisation, homes for retired executives, with no local workers to support rural town centres. **Without more good quality rural jobs, people of working age will fall to below half the Derbyshire Dales population by 2033** (whilst over 60s increase by 43%).

Recovery post-Coronavirus is an opportunity to reset thinking and policy on the rural economy. Government and LEPs need to help rural areas create the **high wage, high skills jobs** that the COVID-19 crisis has shown rural areas need for resilient economic growth.

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 4. UK economic growth (<https://www.gov.uk/business/uk-economic-growth>)
 5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund: pre-launch guidance
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance>)
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>)

Guidance

UK Shared Prosperity Fund: pre-launch guidance

Published 2 February 2022

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1. Introduction

This provides further information to local authorities and other partners across the United Kingdom on:

- the aims of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- its contribution to our shared objectives
- the delivery roles of the UK Government and local partners across the UK

It builds on the information provided at successive Spending Reviews, and in the Levelling Up White Paper. It draws on extensive engagement with over 500 representatives from a range of sectors and partners across the UK.

It will enable places to start initial preparations for the Fund's launch. We will publish a full prospectus on the Fund and how it will operate later in the spring.

For further information, you can [contact us](#) on any of the content of this guidance or via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities area team for your place.

This Pre-Launch Guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, published alongside the Levelling Up White Paper, sets out a bold new approach to improve livelihoods and opportunity in all parts of the UK.

The Fund is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious levelling up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. This recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

It seizes the opportunities of leaving the European Union, by investing in domestic priorities and targeting funding where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training and supporting pay, employment and productivity growth. It will dramatically reduce the levels of bureaucracy associated with EU funds, enable truly local decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK. It will lead to visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, giving communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of their area.

Places will be empowered to identify, and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place. Local places will be able to use the Fund in conjunction with other funding such as the Levelling Up Fund to maximise impact and simplify delivery.

The Fund's interventions will be planned and delivered by local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales, working closely with local partners. In Northern Ireland, UK Government will have oversight of the Fund; we plan to draw on the insight and expertise of local partners, including the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities, City and Growth Deal geographies, business and the community and voluntary sector to target interventions where most appropriate.

1.1 Next steps for government

During February and March, the UK Government will:

- Run a series of webinars and engagement activities with local authorities and other stakeholders across the UK starting week commencing 7 February 2022.
- Continue engagement with partners in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, including the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive, to develop arrangements that maximise Fund delivery in each nation.
- Start preparatory work with local partners on an Investment Plan for Northern Ireland.

The Department for Education will set out further details for local partners on plans to deliver Multiply, the £559m adult numeracy programme, to assist with local preparations in due course.

Later in the spring, the UK Government will publish further information on the Fund. This will include the Fund's outcomes and an interventions toolkit – guidance for how local areas should select local outcomes and a list of interventions from which places can choose. We will publish specific rules and guidance for operating the Fund. At the same time, we will commission each place to develop a local Investment Plan for UK government sign off.

1.2 Next steps for local places

Local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales with responsibility for the Fund, set out in the [Delivery Geographies \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies), can use this document to start preparing for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by:

- Starting early conversations about how the Fund can best support the people and businesses in their community to thrive and grow. This should take account of the Fund's objectives and investment priorities and focus on the specific outcomes they want to achieve for their area.
- Identifying local partners and stakeholders who can provide advice and insight on local needs.
- In Scotland and Wales, working with neighbouring authorities to consider how accountable arrangements over strategic geographies could be implemented – including interim arrangements where needed.

The UK Government will engage with Northern Ireland partners. They may use this document to start preparing for the launch of the Fund by considering how the Fund can best support the people and businesses in their community to thrive and grow.

Note - the Department for Education will provide more details on delivery of the Multiply component in due course.

2. Setting out the vision: Objectives of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and its investment approach

2.1 Vision and objectives of the Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the four parts of Levelling Up:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards, especially in those places where they are lagging.
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.

- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The primary goal of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Alongside economic pull and push factors, people's lives are shaped by the social and physical fabric of their communities. The local mix of social and physical capital is what gives local areas their unique character and shapes where people choose to live, work and invest. Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic, this Fund will enable improvements to the places people live, as well as support individuals and businesses. It will drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities and foster local pride in place.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund forms part of a suite of complementary Levelling Up funding. It builds on the competitive Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund through long term, stable funding, allocated to all places. Its mix of revenue and capital funding can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances. These can complement larger-scale Levelling Up Fund or Community Ownership Fund capital projects.

2.2 The investment plan approach

All places across the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. To access their allocation, each place will be asked to set out measurable outcomes they are looking to deliver, and what interventions they are choosing to prioritise in an Investment Plan. These will be submitted this summer for UK Government approval.

These Plans will need to take account of the wider funding landscape, and in particular, complementary interventions such as the Levelling Up Fund which will launch its second round this spring, or other national or local schemes, including employment and skills schemes. In the Plans, places will sign up to indicators so they, and we, can monitor improvement.

Within the context of the Fund's objectives, each place will have flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. This flexible approach represents a key shift from the previous EU system. Places will be able to choose from investment in three Investment Priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills.

2.3 Reflecting the distinct circumstances of each nation and place

Each place has a range of economic and societal relationships with other places across the UK, including their neighbours and places with common needs and opportunities. Working with other places in the delivery of the Fund interventions will be welcomed where this meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses.

The UK Government also recognises that the circumstances in which the Fund will operate differ by nation. We therefore want to work with partners in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive, to inform the most appropriate mix of interventions for each nation, for publication in the full Prospectus later this Spring.

In England, the Fund will focus on communities and place and local business interventions to boost pride in place in 2022-23 and 2023-24, alongside support for people through the Multiply adult numeracy programme. In addition, we will maintain the flexibility to fund voluntary sector

organisations delivering locally important people and skills provision, where this is at risk due to the tail off of EU funds. Further investment to support people and skills will follow from 2024-25, when the funding pot reaches its full extent.

2.4 Investment priorities

We have set out initial information on each investment priority below. More detail will be provided in a full Prospectus later this Spring.

2.4.1 Communities and place

The overall objectives of this investment priority are:

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
- To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Example interventions may include, but are not limited to, visual improvements to town centres and high streets, cultural/visitor economy interventions, litter, waste and graffiti reduction, projects to fight antisocial behaviour, and capital funding to improve neighbourhoods or community projects and initiatives.

2.4.2 Local businesses

The overall objectives of this investment priority are to:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promote networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increase private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

Example interventions may include, but are not limited to, support to increase town centre footfall, outdoor markets, the development of cultural, visitor and heritage assets, targeted business growth and innovation support.

2.4.3 People and skills

The overall objectives of this Investment Priority are to:

- Boost core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers.
- Support disadvantaged people to access the skills they need to progress in life and into work, for example the long-term unemployed and those with protected characteristics through funding life, and basic skills where this is not delivered through national or local employment and skills provision.
- Support local areas to fund local skills needs and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based.
- Reduce levels of economic inactivity and move those furthest from the labour market closer to employment, through investment in bespoke employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.

Example interventions may include technical and vocational qualifications in areas where there are skills shortages locally; and intensive, wraparound one-to-one support to address barriers to employment, supplemented by additional services. Additional services may include life skills, basic skills and specialist support including achieving basic qualifications in alternative settings, work experience, supported employment, enrichment activities, counselling and advice, and community referrals. These interventions should be additional and complementary to existing employment and skills provision in each area.

2.4.3.1 Multiply

To meet the UK Government's priority of enhancing adult numeracy, each area will be required to invest a ring-fenced amount of the Fund in local Multiply interventions. This will be managed by the Department for Education and will total up to £430m across the UK by March 2025. Further information on how this element of the Fund will be delivered will be set out in due course.

The Department for Education will also deliver a national digital numeracy platform, giving people the ability to learn at their own place (including at work, or at home), and pace. It will undertake randomised control trials and evaluation activity to test innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers, and build the evidence base on what works. Up to £129m has been allocated to the Department for Education up to March 2025 for these activities. This will complement local Multiply interventions.

2.5 Meeting other national policies and priorities

Interventions supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will need to take account of other local and national policies and priorities – including the government's commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 and clean growth, and complement other UK, national or local provision. This will make sure that funding is effectively targeted. Further details on these requirements will be provided in the prospectus later in the spring.

3. Empowering local leaders: How we will deliver the Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will establish new relationships between the UK Government, local government and local partners across the UK. We will put people that know their places best front and centre in shaping decisions, forming a new, direct relationship with the UK government.

Working to a UK-wide framework published by the UK government, local partners will influence the Fund through development and delivery of an Investment Plan for each place. This represents a fundamental shift in responsibility compared with the European structural funds that the Fund replaces.

The Fund will operate UK-wide and utilise the financial assistance powers in the UK Internal Market Act 2020 to deliver funding to places across the UK. In addition to Devolved Administrations' existing powers, this allows the UK government to complement and strengthen the support given to local people, businesses and communities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as England.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will oversee the fund at UK level, working with other departments. For example, the Department for Education will lead delivery of the Multiply element of the Fund and will play a key role in relation to wider skills interventions, working with local partners. The Department for Work and Pensions will play a key role in the planning and delivery of employment interventions supported by the Fund.

3.1 Who will deliver the Fund

In England, Scotland and Wales, local government will be given responsibility for developing an Investment Plan for approval by the UK government, and for delivery of the fund thereafter. They will receive an area's allocation to manage, including assessing and approving project applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring. This recognises that pride in place can be best achieved by delivery close to local people and businesses; by authorities that understand each place's unique local context, and with established governance.

Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund, for example they may wish to use a mix of procurement, local competitions or deliver some activity through in-house teams.

Working with other places will be welcomed in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. In particular, we strongly encourage lead local authorities to work with other district, county or unitary authorities to agree and commission skills and employment activity.

In Northern Ireland, the UK Government is considering options for development of a Northern Ireland Investment Plan. We are committed to working with local partners to ensure that the investment plan reflects the particular needs of Northern Ireland's economy and society. We want this plan to draw on the insight and expertise of local partners, including the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities, City and Growth Deal geographies, businesses and the community and voluntary sector to target interventions where most appropriate. This Plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery for Northern Ireland, working closely with local partners.

3.1.1 England

In England, the Fund will primarily operate over the strategic geographies of the Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Greater London Authority, and lower tier or unitary authorities elsewhere. The geographies and authorities we will work with are set out in the [Delivery Geographies](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies>).

The Levelling Up White Paper sets out a devolution mission for England: By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

We expect delivery responsibility for the Fund to align with these deals once up and running. We will work with places to review local delivery arrangements for the Fund as they develop devolution arrangements such as County Deals or new or expanded Mayoral Combined Authorities.

The Multiply component of the Fund will be managed differently. The Department for Education will provide more details in due course.

3.1.2 Scotland and Wales

The partnerships that surround City and Growth Deals in Scotland and Wales are strong examples of collaboration. Supported by the UK Government and devolved governments, the deals have empowered local leaders and partners to come together to drive growth and productivity across their region. The UK government is keen to build on this approach and promote partnership working where it makes sense for local leaders and can deliver good outcomes for local people and businesses.

Local authorities for each geography will be invited to collaborate in developing Investment Plans and delivering the fund. This builds on feedback from local partners and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

In Scotland, we would support delivery across strategic regional areas, such as the City and Growth Deal geographies. Where strategic regional areas overlap, we would welcome local views on the appropriate geography, how funds should be allocated and what the lead authority should be. Where City and Growth Deals do not cover multiple local authorities, we would also welcome and support collaborative proposals with other areas if they wish to do so.

In Wales, we would support delivery across strategic regional areas covering City and Growth Deal geographies. These geographies are set out in the [Delivery Geographies](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance/delivery-geographies>).

Local authorities in Scotland and Wales are invited to engage with each other to begin to consider how comprehensive, accountable arrangements could be established to administer the Fund, including any interim arrangements where they are needed.

The territorial offices, Department for Work and Pensions, Scottish Government and the Welsh Government will be invited to play a role in the development and delivery of local Investment Plans. This will maximise alignment with all related investment in each place.

3.1.3 Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, we propose to deliver at Northern Ireland scale, with lead oversight responsibility sitting with the UK government. We want to work with the Northern Ireland Executive and a wide range of local partners.

The development of the single Northern Ireland Investment Plan will include a specific role for local authorities and other partners for each City and Growth Deal geography. This means we can maximise local intelligence, insight and knowledge, in recognition of opportunities and challenges unique to Northern Ireland, and the distinct and different role that local authorities play there.

3.2 Supporting local places to deliver

We recognise that local government will require support to administer the Fund and each lead authority in England, Scotland and Wales will be able to use a proportion of their allocation to undertake necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting and monitoring.

This approach, and broader technical guidance for Fund delivery will be developed further over the Spring with further information made available to places as they are developing local Investment Plans.

Alongside existing capacity funding for complementary funds such as the Levelling Up Fund, we are also exploring the need for additional capability support for local government and other partners to maximise the opportunities that the Fund affords.

4. How places access the Fund

Every place in the UK will receive a share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund recognising that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

As set out at Spending Review 2021, the Fund is worth £2.6 billion over the period to 2024-25. It will help people access opportunity in places in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and for people in disadvantaged groups across the UK. The fund will ramp up to £1.5bn a year by 2024-25, including Multiply. Alongside commitments to support regional finance funds across the UK via the British Business Bank, this exceeds the UK Government's commitment to matching EU structural fund receipts for each nation.

The Fund will make available a mixture of both revenue and capital funding to places. This funding will be allocated by formula to invest in local priority projects. This approach responds to clear feedback from partners. It will facilitate places' planning and allow the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to act as a predictable baseline element of local growth funding.

To access their allocation, each place will be asked to set out measurable outcomes they are looking to deliver, and what interventions they are choosing to prioritise in an Investment Plan submitted for UK government approval.

Further information on the allocation formula, including local allocations, will be made available in due course.

5. Developing national governance and local partnerships

5.1 UK-wide governance

Overall implementation of the Fund will be led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, working in partnership with a range of UK government departments. It will be managed through a UK-wide ministerial forum, with the responsibility to oversee the delivery of the Fund. It will monitor investment and overall performance, and ensure coherence with wider UK government and devolved administration provision.

The UK government remains committed to working with devolved administration ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the implementation of the Fund. We are undertaking further engagement with each administration to determine the scope of this role so that we can facilitate the best possible outcomes across the UK.

5.2 Local partnerships

Throughout the UK, access to local insight and expertise is essential for each place to identify and address need and opportunity, and respond with the right solutions for each place. Comprehensive and balanced local partnerships will be a core component of how the Fund will be administered locally. Local leaders (or the UK government in Northern Ireland) will be tasked to work with a diverse range of local stakeholders, civic society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses to achieve Fund outcomes in their areas.

Local partners will support the authority leading the Fund in each place to develop an Investment Plan, which we will commission from each place later in the Spring. Once the Fund has launched, partners will provide advice to the authority leading the Fund in each place on strategic fit and deliverability. This will ensure that Fund investments complement other activities in the area and meet goals.

Lead authorities should involve MPs in every stage of UKSPF planning and delivery, and we will set out our requirements in the full Prospectus later this Spring.

5.3 Next steps

Drawing on the information set out in this Pre-Launch Guidance, each lead local authority is encouraged to start identifying a diverse range of local stakeholders, appropriate groups and organisations to represent cross-sector voices.

In circumstances where a local authority already has a group that could be used, it can designate the group for UK Shared Prosperity Fund purposes, taking care to ensure that it is fully representative and that its terms of reference meet the Fund's needs.

The UK government and devolved administrations should have a standing invite to any partnership meetings to provide advice and information about their interrelated investments and policy priorities. Broader governance, statutory and regulatory requirements will be detailed in the full Prospectus, which we expect to publish later in the Spring.

5.4 Engaging with other partners

In preparation for Investment Planning, lead authorities may wish to consider whether collaboration with other places may be appropriate in the delivery of the Fund and meet the needs of their place. For example, in achieving value for money or better outcomes for the people or businesses the Fund will benefit.

In addition, where the fund is operating over a strategic geography, lead authorities are encouraged to start engagement with their constituent authorities and other local partners to ensure that the needs of places within the strategic geography can be effectively addressed.

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COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
23 FEBRUARY 2021

Report of the Head of Community & Environmental Services

MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report details the outturn of the 2021 event and seeks agreement to the general format of the 2022 event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the achievements of the event in 2021 are noted.
2. That Officers and Members of the Committee thank the boat builders for their continued efforts and continuing after the pandemic.
3. That approval is given for the fees and charges and any promotional offers be agreed by the Working Group,
4. That the Event Organiser is again given delegated authority to make operational decisions in relation to the staging of the 2022 event, in consultation with the Working Group and Director of Community & Environmental Services.
5. That approval is given to invite Mr G E M Stevens MBE to compere the 2022 event.
6. That approval is given to invite Mrs Stevens as Mr Stevens' support.
7. That £34,155.93 from the 2021 event surplus be carried forward at the year-end to be invested into the 2022 event in order to further improve the sound system and lights.

WARDS AFFECTED

Masson and surrounding area

STRATEGIC LINK

The Matlock Bath Illuminations supports the District Council's Corporate Aim to promote quality of life and also makes a significant contribution to the communities of Derbyshire Dales. The review has reflected on the District Council's priorities whilst also seeking to ensure that we deliver value for money and work effectively with partners.

1 THE 2021 EVENT

The 2020 event was cancelled due to the pandemic and restrictions put in place by central government.

The Matlock Bath Illuminations returned in 2021 and took place between Saturday 12 September and Sunday 31 October.

The 2021 event operated slightly differently to previous years with the following changes made due to the ongoing pandemic:

- Capacity was reduced from 6000 to 4000 to allow more room in the gardens.
- Firework displays were reduced from 9 nights to 4 Saturdays in October and the final Sunday, 5 in total. This would allow people to visit the event and Matlock Bath when it was quieter, taking into consideration those visitors and residents who were more nervous about visiting busy events.
- Tickets purchased on the night were cashless, which protected staff from handling money but also reduced expenditure in regards to the fees associated with the banking of cash.
- The traditional fire and glow show was replaced by themed characters (as used on Sundays at previous events) and stilt walkers. This prevented crowds, mainly children who were unvaccinated at the time, being forced to stand too close together to watch the show. The new entertainment was able to move around the event to the crowds, rather than create a close gathering.
- Staff had to be flexible in their roles due to a number of staff not being able to attend due to Covid reasons throughout the season.

As at other years' events, there was a parade of illuminated boats, festoon lighting, lighting displays and lighting of the natural features. In addition there was a funfair, food stalls and crafts ran by local guide groups.

1.1 Weather

The 2019 season saw the first cancellation of the event for 17 years due to high river levels. In 2021 the event was fortunate with the weather and saw minimal impact from the weather. The river only became an issue on the last night with the boats having to return to the landing stage slightly before schedule.

1.2 Contracts

The only new contract for the 2021 season was the first aid provisions: following the procurement process Central Medical Services was the successful applicant. Other existing contracts were awarded a year's extension to compensate for the missed year in 2020.

1.3 Climate Change Progress

In February 2020 the Community & Environment Committee approved £14,500 to be reinvested into the Illuminations. This investment was used in the second phase of upgrading the lights used for the event and to improve the energy consumption levels. This completed the upgrade of all old lighting at the event into new more environmentally friendly lights.

The new festoon used 0.6w lamps replacing the 15w lamps used in previous years. The new lights provided an 81% reduction in energy consumption, compared to the lights they replaced. Overall calculations show a reduction of 5,049kWh; this adds to

the 6,859kWh which was achieved from the upgrade of lights in 2019.

The reduction in firework nights also had a positive impact on the environment in terms of both noise and debris from the fireworks.

1.4 Security & Police

Security during the 2021 event was provided by We Are Stadium (previously known as Stadium Traffic Management) as they had at the previous two events.

Police were present at the event each week and assisted the Illuminations team when requested throughout the night with crowd dynamics, pedlars and traffic management.

During the 2021 season, Pedlars' numbers were largely reduced, previously approx. 17 - 20 Pedlars had attended each Saturday with this year seeing an average of 3 Pedlars on Saturdays.

Trading Standards supported DDDC officers by investigating the items being sold by Pedlars and a number of items were removed from being sold.

1.5 Illuminated Boats

Visitors to the opening night of the event were asked to vote for their favourite boat by placing a token in a bucket marked with a picture of that boat. 1,071 votes were made with 239 going to the winning boat – On A Carousel.

1.6 Park & Ride

The Park and Ride service was only in place on firework nights and operated from Cromford Meadows. No service was provided from Matlock as this hadn't proven financially viable in the past.

1.7 Attendance

In 2021 attendance surpassed expectations taking into account the pandemic and reduced capacity to 4000 per night. In 2021, attendance was 53,620 up on 2019 which saw 41,155 ticketed visitors to the event.

95% of tickets were sold online, the previous highest was 80% in 2019.

The 2021 opening night saw the second highest opening night attendance (1,937) since the District Council took over the event 37 years ago.

1.8 Expenditure

The expenditure for the 2021 event was £151,760. However, £15,000 of this was funded from an amount brought forward from the last event's surplus. This leaves a net figure of £136,760, which compares to £155,860 in 2019 and against an original budget for the 2021 event of £167,547. There was a decrease in staffing costs due to the ongoing success of online payments meaning less staff were required to sell tickets and the upskilling of event staff being more adaptable in their roles.

The ongoing success of the events Facebook page and other social media channels operated internally by the Council's Communications Team, allows the event to save considerably on external marketing.

1.9 Income

There was an increase for income from ticket sales in 2021, £188,654 compared to 2019 (£143,178) and 2018 (£181,319). This is despite concerns from the pandemic, reduction in firework nights and reduction in capacity by 2000. The event saw a saving on VAT paid on ticket income as the government initiative to encourage the return of events resulted in only 5% VAT being charged in September and 12.5% VAT in October, rather than the usual 20%.

The Event Team and Illuminations working group agreed it wouldn't be suitable to visit local businesses and ask for contributions/ donations due to the impact of the pandemic on local businesses.

	Actual Income £	Original Budget £	Variance £
Tickets	188,655	181,319	+7,336
Traders' Contributions, sponsorship & donations	111	3,500	-3,389
Park and Ride	0	1,000	-1,000
Stall Concessions	28,291	24,410	+3,881
Total	217,057	210,229	+6,828

1.10 Financial Outturn

The income and expenditure attributed to Matlock Bath Illuminations 2021 event shows a surplus of £80,297, against a budgeted surplus of £42,628.

	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £
Expenditure*	136,760	167,547	-30,787
Income	217,057	210,229	-6,828
Surplus (before distribution to boat builders – see below)	80,297	42,682	+37,615
Distribution to boat builders (see below)	6,416	0	6,416
Surplus	73,881	42,682	31,199

*Net of transfer from reserve for amount re-invested from last event.

It was agreed after the 2018 season that each individual boat builder would receive 1% of the actual net income for ongoing seasons, on the 2021 figures this will equate to a total of £6,416. It's proposed to carry this agreement onto the 2022 season.

This means the final Actual Net Income for the 2021 season is £73,881, which is £31,199 more than budgeted.

1.11 Charity

In 2021 the event supported charity collections for The Air Ambulance, Royal British Legion and Macmillan Cancer. The event hosted tombolas, raffles and bucket collections throughout the season. In addition to on the night fundraising the Council also allowed those purchasing tickets online the option to make a donation to The Air Ambulance.

On 23 October the event hosted a special night in memory of Cllr Pawley. Cllr Pawley's family were invited to attend the evening as special guests. The night consisted of unveiling the arbour dedicated to Cllr Pawley which was purchased using contributions from Matlock Bath Parish Council, local businesses and residents with the ground work cost covered by DDDC. A tombola was run outside the event whilst collection buckets were going around the event.

In total over £5,300 was raised across the three charities.

1.12 Facebook and Website

Once again we adopted a no-cost marketing campaign, making good use of our dedicated Illuminations Facebook page, which now has more than 39,000 followers (and associated Instagram page). One Facebook post at the start of the season reached a record (for the District Council) half a million people - and all at no cost to the Council.

To get our tone and messaging right, the Communications & Marketing team always study Facebook analytics to make us more aware of our audience. So, for example, of the 39,000 people who follow the Illuminations page, the data indicates that 86% are female – and 62% are female aged between 25-44, which is our core audience. In terms of where they live; most follow the page from the Sheffield area (2,873), followed by Derby (1,998), Stoke on Trent (1,979), Mansfield (1,885), Nottingham (1,609) and Chesterfield (1,153). So we are talking mainly to visitors from outside the area – the first Derbyshire Dales area on the list, in 12th place, is Matlock (680).

Google analytics confirm the main Matlock Bath Illuminations webpage was the most visited of all webpages on the www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk website between 30 July and 1 November last year with 157,115 page views (compared with the website homepage in 2nd place with 47,880 visits and planning applications in third with 30,776 visits).

In total, the various Illuminations pages were viewed 201,174 times between the end of July and start of November, representing 18.42% of all visits to the website during that period.

To date, we've had 551 responses to our post event survey. Some headlines:

- 49% heard about the event on Facebook, 31% had attended previously
- More than 50% thought it was either fabulous entertainment or a good night out (27% said it was okay and 16% could do better)
- 54% thought the boats were brilliant or good (only 5.7% thought they were poor)
- 62% like the boats best of all the entertainment (16% fireworks)
- Fairground rated 5/10
- Food rated 5/10

- 70% said the event is good value for money

2 PLANS FOR THE 2022 EVENT

2.1 It is proposed to invest £34,155.93 of the surplus from the 2021 event back into the 2022 event. This would be used for the following:

Upgrade PA System	The current PA system is at end of life and extremely outdated. This includes update of speakers around the gardens.	£9,693.53
Set Pieces	Repair some set pieces and replace others.	£3,990
Bridge Tunnel	Create a tunnel of lights over New Bridge which currently is not lit up, this is something which has been requested for many years by those involved in the event and feedback from customers.	£6,560
Tree Wrapping	To wrap an additional 2 trees with lights, currently we wrap two trees and these are very popular.	£1,500
Lover Walk / Additional lighting	To add an additional 12 Spectra QX40 lights to the Lovers Walk side of the event which is often commented on as being quite dark compared to the rest of the event.	£12,412.40

2.2 The working group to review the changes which happened this year and consider which to keep in place:

- Maintain the lower number of firework nights for the Climate benefits.
- Consider capacity numbers for each night.
- Keep similar entertainment as 2021 season or return to fire and glow show.

2.4 Fees & Charges

The below table shows the prices which were charged in 2021, It is recommended that prices are considered and approved by the Illuminations working group. The proposal would be that ticket prices do not vary outside of £1 of current pricing. Consideration will take into account the change in firework nights and the impact this has on Saturday prices.

Firework nights		Non Firework nights	
On-the night	£8.00	On-the-night	£7.00
Advanced/Online/Public Transport	£6.50	Advanced/Online/Public Transport	£6.60
Concession (on-the-night)	£7.00	Concession (on-the-night)	£6.00
Concession (Advanced/Online)	£5.50	Concession (Advanced/Online)	£4.50
Child (<16yrs)	FREE	Child (<16yrs)	FREE

2.5 Proposed budget

The table below shows proposed income and expenditure for the 2022 event

Item	Proposed budget 2022
Expenditure:	£
Staff pay	10,449
Contracts	50,930
Electricity & water charges	3,191
Decorated Boats	10,660
Marketing & Promotion	5,000
First Aid Items	16,066
Firework Displays	27,173
Entertainment & Band Concerts	9,580
Stewards	23,939
Other Expenses	6,666
Total expenditure	163,654
Income:	
Tickets	186,940
Local Traders Contributions	0
Park and Ride	1,031
Stall Concessions	25,167
Sponsorship	1,547
Total income	214,685
Budgeted net income for 2022 event	51,031

The figures above do not include the amount brought forward from the 2021 event.

2.6 Delegated Powers

It is recommended that the Illuminations Event Officer is given delegated authority to make operational decisions in relation to the staging of the 2022 event, in consultation with the Working Group and Head of Community & Environmental Services.

2.7 Illuminations Staff Roles

Staff roles will remain the same as previous years with a pay increase in line with the District Council's pay increase for 2022, once agreed.

2.8 Health & Safety

Matlock Bath Illuminations must comply with recognised safety standards. The District Council is responsible under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its accompanying Regulations for the safety of everyone at the event including the public, employees and volunteers.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal

The proposals in the report are covered by the general powers of competence contained in the Localism Act 2011.

Sponsorship of the event will be in accordance with the District Councils sponsorship protocol.

The event is also comprehensively risk assessed during the planning stage to mitigate the risk of harm to visitors.

The legal risk connected to this report at this time has been assessed as low to medium.

3.2 Financial

As set out above, the 2021 event resulted in a surplus of £37,615. After the agreed payments to boat builders totalling £6,147 the final Actual Net Income for the 2021 season is £31,199.

As shown above, the budgeted net income for the 2022 event is £51,031. There is a risk that expected income might not cover expenditure. This risk is assessed as 'low'.

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Climate Impact Assessment



DDDC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (7 years and 11 months away).

A climate change impact assessment has been carried out based on the recommendations of the report – specifically numbers 4 and 7, and assuming that the 2022 event runs as outlined in the report although operational decisions are still to be taken which will determine some of the details.

Energy

The event will clearly increase energy demand – through the ‘illuminations’ themselves and the supporting infrastructure. The increased use of electricity is mitigated by the energy efficiency upgrades to the lighting as specified in 1.3 however, it is noted that recommendation 7 includes expenditure on additional lighting which will increase demand further.

At the 2022 event the Events Manager plans to require all food concessions to switch to an electrical supply rather than using generators, as in previous years, which will have a positive impact on emissions reductions. In future years this will also be an expectation of the fairground operators, when appropriate infrastructure is available.

Transport

Holding the event will lead to an increased use of private vehicles and public transport – visitors, traders, contractors and Council staff – will all need to travel to and from the site. The Park and Ride scheme goes some way to mitigate against this, and the Council encourages the use of the nearby train line in publicity. Attempts to actively encourage use of public transport by offering reduced entry prices have proved difficult to administer due to the majority of tickets now being sold online rather than in person after someone can evidence they arrived by public transport.

Waste

Additional waste will be produced by the volume of visitors at the event - both directly into the public litter bins and through trade waste. Where possible, trade waste will be minimised through the tender process as detailed below.

Influence

Increased energy use and encouraging travel could be perceived to be at odds with the Council's climate emergency declaration. However, it is clear that the event supports the District Council's Corporate Aim to promote quality of life and also makes a significant contribution to the communities and businesses of the Derbyshire Dales, particularly those in Matlock Bath. This is significant given the backdrop of the pandemic and the associated economic impacts on tourist destinations.

There have been concerns expressed over the climate change impact of fireworks used at the event. As detailed in 2.2 the working group will consider whether to maintain a reduced number of 'firework nights' in 2022 as per at the 2021 event. In terms of Greenhouse Gas emissions the impacts of fireworks are considered negligible – this is the official Government stance on the issue:

*Greenhouse gas emissions from fireworks used in public displays are not included in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory as they have been judged **not to be a significant source of greenhouse gases in the UK**. It is estimated that 10-20 thousand tonnes of fireworks are typically used in the UK each year. Even assuming the fireworks are entirely made of carbon and entirely oxidised, the greenhouse gas emissions from this level of activity would be less than 100kt CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalents). This is below the threshold of significance for including a source of greenhouse gas emissions in the inventory. The threshold was set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as being both less than 500kt CO₂e and 0.05% of the total national greenhouse gas emissions (which is 236kt CO₂e for the UK).*

The environmental impacts of the debris are mitigated by a complete clean-up of the site and the surrounded impacted areas immediately following the event.

Internal resources

There is a requirement for significant staff time, both in preparation for and at the event and clearly staff travel to the event over a number of weekends. This internal resource needs to be balanced against the wider benefits of the event. The Council Travel and Subsistence Policy sets guidance for staff in terms of minimising travel impacts.

Procurement of goods and services

Delivery of the event involves the procurement of the services of various partners including food concessions, first aid provision, security etc. As per recommendation 4, these elements of the event will be under the operational control of the Events Manager. Where possible sustainability and emissions reductions are included in every tender. For example, the food trade concessions in previous years have not used single used plastic and only biodegradable cups.

5 CONTACT INFORMATION

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6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Illuminations Report Data