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Wednesday, 15 March 2023

To All Councillors:

As a Member or Substitute of the **Community & Environment Committee**, please treat this as your summons to attend a meeting on **Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 6.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock, DE4 3NN**

Yours sincerely,

James McLaughlin
Director of Corporate and Customer Services

This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, on request.

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Please advise the Democratic Services Team on 01629 761133 or email committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk of any apologies for absence.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

9 February 2023

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 the time.

5. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15

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

6. SUPPORTED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (Pages 13 - 22)

Derbyshire Dales District Council have been successful in a joint bid with all Derbyshire District and Borough Councils and Staffordshire Moorlands Council to take part in the Supported Housing Improvement Program. This report sets out the arrangements for delivering the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP).

7. FEES AND CHARGES - LOCAL LAND CHARGES AND LEGAL SERVICES (Pages 23 - 28)

This report highlights the need to review the recently agreed Fees and Charges in respect of Local Land Charges in view of Derbyshire County Council's decision to increase fees for CON29 searches. It also seeks to confirm a fee that was not included in the report to the Governance and Resources Committee on 16 February 2023.

8. UPDATE REPORT OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION WORKING GROUP (Pages 29 - 36)

This update report is submitted to provide Members, affected stakeholders and the wider public with the current position on the Council's search for appropriate temporary sites for those specific homeless Traveller families with an accepted local connection to the Derbyshire Dales.

Members of the Committee - Councillors Helen Froggatt (Chair), Chris Furness (Vice-Chair), Sue Bull, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Janet Rose, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Susan Hobson, Martin Burfoot, David Hughes, Steve Wain, Matt Buckler, Neil Buttle, Mike Ratcliffe and Peter O'Brien

Substitutes – Councillors Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Sue Burfoot, Tom Donnelly, Richard FitzHerbert, Peter Slack, Alyson Hill, Jacqueline Allison and Colin Swindell

NOTE

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Community & Environment Committee

Minutes of a Community & Environment Committee meeting held at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 9th February, 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN.

PRESENT

Councillor Helen Froggatt - In the Chair

Councillors: Chris Furness, Sue Bull, Dermot Murphy, Garry Purdy, Alasdair Sutton, Susan Hobson, Martin Burfoot, David Hughes, Steve Wain, Matt Buckler, Neil Buttle, Mike Ratcliffe and Peter O'Brien

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services), Mike Hase (Policy Manager), Vikki Hatfield (Neighbourhoods Manager), Jim Seymour (DCC Transport Strategy Manager), Amanda Goodwill (Environmental Health Manager), Karen Carpenter (Environmental Health Officer) and Tommy Shaw (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Note:

“Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during the public participation part of a Council or committee meeting are not the opinions or statements of Derbyshire Dales District Council. These comments are made by individuals who have exercised the provisions of the Council’s Constitution to address a specific meeting. The Council therefore accepts no liability for any defamatory remarks that are made during a meeting that are replicated on this document.”

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor(s): Tony Morley, Janet Rose and Andrew Statham

287/22 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, Seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on 07 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

288/22 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr Peter Dobbs (Local Resident), Cllr Sue Moore (Ashbourne Town Council), Mr Dorsan Baker (Local Resident), Mr Robin Currie (Local Resident), Mr Nicholas Bishop (Local Resident), Ms Amanda Miles (Local Resident), Ms Midge Dobbs (Local Resident) and Cllr Simon Spencer (Derbyshire County Council Deputy Leader & Elected Member for the Dovedale Division) made comments regarding the Ashbourne air quality management area action plan.

289/22 - INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

290/22 - QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15

Question from Councillor Peter O'Brien to Councillor Helen Froggatt, Chair of Community and Environment Committee:

"I receive regular complaints from residents and visitors using the Council's car parks, those in Hathersage and Bakewell in particular, that the payment machines are out of order. These complaints also often refer to PaybyPhone facility - it seems that older people, those who are not familiar with phone apps, or those who simply do not have a mobile phone at hand can be confused and bewildered to the extent that their personal dignity can be adversely affected; the prominent reference on the information panels to fines for non-payment adds to their discomfort. On occasions it has also been suggested to me that expecting users to pay by phone, or receive a fine, when they are unable to do so may be discriminatory.

Whilst I am sure we all welcome the use of new technology to improve the Council's services, do you agree that the issue of the payment methods in the Council's car parks in relation to the differing needs of users and their ability to use these methods should be addressed by the Car Parking Working Group, and an early report submitted to this Committee?"

Councillor Froggatt provided a verbal response:

Other than the recent emails with Cllr O'Brien, no complaints or formal complaints have been received relating to the use of PayByPhone. If Members are receiving such reports it would be helpful if this information could be sent via the CRM portal so these can be formally logged and can be investigated further.

Since 5th October 2021 when the PayByPhone service was launched, there has been over 272,000 payments made using this service. Now 26% of all payments are made using PayByPhone across our car parks and it is now starting to overtake card payment transactions.

There isn't one system which meets everyone's requirements, the inclusion of the PayByPhone service helps those who have challenges around dexterity who can find using traditional payment machines difficult, as they tend to have relatively small buttons.

As members are aware, you do not need a smartphone to be able to use the PayByPhone service, there is a telephone number which customers can call to process their payment.

291/22 - ASHBOURNE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA ACTION PLAN

The Director of Regulatory Services introduced a report which sought Member approval of the draft Air Quality Action Plan for the purposes of public consultation prior to submission to DEFRA.

At the meeting of this Committee held on 7th April 2021 it was resolved to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within Ashbourne, this was declared due to levels of nitrogen dioxide exceeding the annual average air quality objectives in several areas of Ashbourne. Four updating reports had since been submitted to this Committee regarding the progress of the AQMA.

The report informed Members of the work undertaken since the declaration of the AQMA to develop an action plan aimed at addressing the exceedance of the air quality objective. It was noted that due to road traffic being the main source of pollution in the area, the District Council worked closely with Derbyshire County Council as the local Highways Authority. To enable greater engagement with the development of proposals, a working group consisting of representatives of Derbyshire Dales District Council's Environmental Health Team, Derbyshire County Council's Transport Strategy Team, Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team was formed.

The draft Action Plan was provided as an appendix to the report, Members were asked to note this as an evolving document presented only for information at this stage. At this time, the Action Plan contained nine proposed actions as detailed in the report. Comments received from Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team were included as appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

18:36 – During discussion of this Item Councillor Sue Bull entered the meeting.

During debate, the following amendment and was moved by Councillor David Hughes and seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle:

"2. That the consultation documents attached as appendix 5 to this report be approved for public consultation as set out in paragraph 2.10 below with the following additional actions:

- 1. A clean air zone covering the centre of Ashbourne with a charge levied on diesel commercial vehicles and taxis that are not Euro 6 compliant with an exemption for vehicles registered with keepers within the Ashbourne Civil Parish.*
- 2. An enforced 20mph zone within the centre of Ashbourne.*

The centre of Ashbourne to include Buxton Road south of Windmill Lane, the Market Place, Park Road, Belper Road between Park Road and Station Road, Station Road, and St John Street, and all roads between those perimeter roads.

Reasons:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has made recommendations concerning outdoor air quality and health. While the proposed actions cover many of the NICE recommendations, NICE recommendations concerning clean air zones and speed limits have been rejected.

The proposal of a clean air zone would encourage owners of non-compliant vehicles to invest in new vehicles and is consistent with a “polluter pays” principle. The exemption for vehicles registered in Ashbourne will mean that the measure will be focused on vehicles using Ashbourne for transit not on those that are providing an economic benefit to the town.

The proposal to introduce a 20mph zone would reduce NO2 pollution through smoother driving even when the average speed is below 30mph. A reduction in changes in vehicle speed reduces acceleration and braking, both of which add to air pollution.

A rejection of such proposals at this stage will excessively limit the ability of Ashbourne residents to make their views known and to influence policy development.”

This amendment was put to the vote as follows:

11 For
01 Against
01 Abstention

The Chairman declared the amendment **CARRIED**.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor Martin Burfoot, seconded by Councillor Steve Wain and is detailed below:

“That this Council honours its previous commitment and as part of a comprehensive and meaningful public consultation exercise lasting at least four weeks and commencing immediately, a drop in consultation session and an open public meeting will be held, with full publicity and access for all those with sensory disabilities and who are non-IT conversant. The results are to be reported back to this Committee.”

This amendment was put to the vote as follows:

11 For
01 Against
01 Abstention

The Chairman declared the amendment **CARRIED**.

It was then moved by Councillor David Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Martin Burfoot and

RESOLVED

1. That the further development of the draft Air Quality Action Plan attached as appendix 1 to the report be noted;

2. That the consultation documents attached as appendix 5 to this report be approved for public consultation as set out in paragraph 2.10 and including the following additional actions:
 1. That a clean air zone covering the centre of Ashbourne (which includes Buxton Road south of Windmill Lane, the Market Place, Park Road, Belper Road between Park Road and Station Road, Station Road, and St. John Street, and all roads between those perimeter roads) be established, with a charge levied on diesel commercial vehicles and taxis which are not Euro 6 compliant, with an exemption for vehicles registered with keepers within the Ashbourne Civil Parish.
 2. That a 20mph zone be enforced within the centre of Ashbourne (which includes Buxton Road south of Windmill Lane, the Market Place, Park Road, Belper Road between Park Road and Station Road, Station Road, and St John Street, and all roads between those perimeter roads).
3. That, in honouring the Council's previous commitment and as part of a comprehensive and meaningful public consultation exercise lasting at least four weeks and commencing immediately, a drop-in consultation session and an open public meeting be held, with full publicity and access for all those with sensory disabilities and who are non-IT conversant.
4. That the outcome of the consultation be reported back to the Committee following its conclusion.

Voting

11 For

01 Against

01 Abstained

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

292/22 - MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY

The Neighbourhoods Manager introduced a report which informed Members of the proposed revisions to the Memorial Bench Policy and sought Member approval to adopt the revised policy with effect from 1st April 2023.

The report detailed how the District Council had for several years allowed memorial benches to be donated, in memory of loved ones, and placed in locations under its responsibility such as cemeteries, recreation grounds, parks and beauty spots. The report detailed the current numbers of benches registered/situated in locations across the District, and the waiting list requests for benches in these areas.

The report also informed Members of the reasons for the review of the policy taking place, this included the rising costs resulting in the fees & charges as set in 2019 were no longer representative of the costs incurred.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, Seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED

1. That the revised Memorial Bench Policy for implementation from 1st April 2023 be approved.

Voting

11 For

00 Against

03 Abstained

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

293/22 - LEVELLING AND REGENERATION BILL - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

The Policy Manager introduced a report which summarised the proposals published by the Government for updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and potential further changes to national planning policy including the introduction of the National Development Management Policies. The report also set out a proposed response to the consultation and allowed a submission to be made to the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities by 2nd March 2023 deadline.

In February 2022 the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper which set out a commitment to making reforms to the planning system as part of its levelling up agenda and as a way of giving communities a greater say over where homes are built and what they look like. The report informed Members of the intention of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill to enable such reforms by mandating 'beautiful' new developments that meet clear design standards and reflect community views.

In order to ensure that any reforms to the planning system would be effective, the Government considered that it would also require changes to national planning policy that would provide support for local communities, local authorities and applicants. On 22nd December 2022, the Government commenced a public consultation on its proposed approach to updating the NPPF, as well as its proposed approach to preparing National Development Management Policies. The consultation text, proposed changes and consultation questions with recommended Officers responses were set out in the Appendices to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Susan Hobson, Seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

1. That the contents of the consultation be noted.
2. That the recommended Officers response to the consultation questions as set out in Appendix 3 form the basis of a submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by the deadline of 2 March 2023.

3. That any additional comments from Members following consideration of this report be sent to the Policy Manager for inclusion in the submission to the Secretary of State by no later than Friday 24 February 2023.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Policy to make the final submission to the Secretary of State on behalf of the District Council.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Meeting Closed: 8.22 pm

Chairman

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Agenda Item 6

OPEN REPORT COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Community and Environment Committee 23rd March 2023

Supported Housing Improvement Programme

Report of the Director of Housing

Report Author and Contact Details

Simon Beynon

Housing Strategy Officer – Homelessness & Inclusion

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Wards Affected

All

Report Summary

Derbyshire Dales District Council has been successful in a joint bid with all Derbyshire District and Borough Councils and Staffordshire Moorlands Council to take part in the Supported Housing Improvement Program. This report sets out the arrangements for delivering the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP). Supported housing is supposed to provide a roof to those that struggle to obtain and maintain independent living. However, since the demise of the Supporting People programme, the sector is largely unregulated. New unregistered providers of supported accommodation have set up schemes for which the councils are liable for a proportion of the rent paid by housing benefit. The cost in Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands is £1.5m per year.

Recommendations

1. Members note DDDC's successful partnership bid to the Supported Housing Improvement Programme.
2. That Members approve the expenditure of the SHIP grant.
3. That Members receive a future report on the delivery of the SHIP programme

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from Press or Public

Yes

Report Title

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will be familiar with the various forms of social housing for rent provided by the council and housing associations. Some housing associations and charities provide supported housing for specific groups such as people fleeing domestic violence or those at risk of rough sleeping. Such organisations are typically Registered Providers i.e. they are registered with the Regulator of Social Housing and Homes England. This means they are subject to monitoring and standards. Registered Providers of supported accommodation charge a rent for the accommodation and a fee for the support, referred to as Intensive Housing Management. Both the rent and the intensive housing management fee are paid for by Housing Benefit which is administered by councils. The funding to pay the Housing Benefit comes from the government.
- 1.2 Since the demise of the Supporting People programme, there has been a rapid growth of unregistered providers of supported accommodation. These are typically charities, faith groups and small businesses that have acquired property and provide varying levels of support to vulnerable clients. This can be a lucrative business because the rents and intensive housing management fee can be significant. As with Registered Providers, the rent is paid in full and covered by the government. However Housing Benefit rules mean that only a proportion of the intensive housing management fee can be covered by the government with the rest falling on councils. As the numbers of unregistered providers has increased so has the cost to councils. With no formal regulation in place, Housing Benefit teams cannot resist new applications or impose standards of support that tenants should receive.
- 1.3 Whilst there are some providers work with councils and provide both a safe place to live and the support to help people with multiple needs, there are also some that do not. The level of support can be quite basic with poor accommodation standards. When people with high support needs are housed together with limited or basic support, they can impact on other residents, neighbours and businesses. Rent arrears and evictions often result making the individual even harder to accommodate in the future. Councils rely on supported housing providers to meet the needs of people that would struggle to maintain a tenancy in a standard social housing or private rented tenancy and so have a vested interest in ensuring quality of provision.
- 1.4 A collective piece of work undertaken on supported accommodation across Derbyshire in 2021/2022 evidenced that supported accommodation continued to grow in size and cost with little input or influence from Councils. The research also demonstrated that in many cases it is not managed in terms of quality of support or accommodation, and whilst the Regulator of Social Housing regulates certain aspects of provision it does not provide an in depth assessment of service provision or standards. As it presently stands housing benefit has taken on the role of assessing whether a service provider is providing adequate care and support and how much rent they are entitled to by navigating a complex set of outdated legislation with no additional resources following the end of the Supporting People Program.

- 1.5 The issues are not unique to Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands and Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities introduced the first Supported Housing Improvement Pilot in 2020. The pilots were evaluated and demonstrated significant improvement in relation to support, accommodation standards and value for money. On the back of the success of the initial pilots DLUHC introduced a second round of pilots asking for expressions of interest for a £20m improvement program in August 2022.
- 1.6 On the basis of the work to understand the nature and extent of supported accommodation across Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands a joint expression of interest was submitted.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Supported accommodation provides a roof to those that struggle to obtain and maintain independent living. Often people who experience, mental health, drug, alcohol and or criminal behaviour. It provides safe accommodation and tailored support to address any issues and enables individuals to move-on into independent living.
- 2.2 It's important because it gives an opportunity for vulnerable individuals to achieve their full potential by concentrating on their specific (often multiple) issues rather than just one element. For example, debt, mental health and substance misuse can be addressed concurrently. Without supported accommodation there would be an increase in anti-social behaviour, crime, homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 2.3 The current position in Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands is:
- 2,642 units of supported accommodation across Derbyshire & Staffordshire Moorlands
 - £500k weekly cost to the public purse (paid by HB each week)
 - £1.5m subsidy loss per year across 9 Councils
 - No coordination of type and location of supported accommodation, within LA areas or across Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands
 - Support not contracted or scrutinized to any set standard
 - Loss of supported accommodation is the main reason for rough sleeping in Derbyshire
- 2.4 Headlines from the Supported Accommodation review findings and how Derbyshire Dales measures against the rest of Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Dales has the lowest number of supported accommodation units in the County with 99 compared to Chesterfield's 545, this is disproportionate to head of population.
 - Derbyshire Dales is the only Local Authority in Derbyshire to have a higher number of non-registered provider accommodation than registered provider accommodation.
 - Derbyshire Dales had a subsidy loss of £135k in 2020/21 (5th highest in Derbyshire) – this is money the Council has to pay towards the provision that is not covered under benefits.

Rank in Derbyshire	District /Borough	Total units	Subsidy loss 2020/2021
1	Chesterfield	545	£323,287
2	Erewash	382	£285,496
3	High Peak	266	£260,490
4	Amber Valley	390	£206,420
5	Derbyshire Dales	99	£135,990
6	South Derbyshire	450	£127,589
7	Bolsover	133	£101,612
8	North East Derbyshire	177	£63,082
9	Staffordshire Moorlands	200	£13,743

Table: Rank of subsidy loss by area

2.5 Supported Housing Improvement Program – Round 2 - Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Councils were successful in the bid to take part have been awarded a grant of £687,230 over the program period.

Year	DLUHC Allocation	Evaluation & training	Available	Per LA
2022/23	£ 176,580.00	£ 3,500.00	£173,080	£19,231.11
2023/24	£ 255,325.00	£ 3,800.00	£251,525	£27,947.22
2024/25	£ 255,325.00	£ 3,800.00	£251,525	£27,947.22
Total	£ 687,230.00			£75,125.56

2.6 The Supported Housing Improvement Program is a DLUHC funded pilot which will run from December 2022 to March 2025. The aim of the pilot is to implement a number of interventions that will improve the quality of support, the standard of accommodation and increase oversight and value for money. 26 local authorities are taking part. The interventions have been tried and tested previously in other local authority areas including Birmingham; Blackburn; Blackpool, Bristol and Hull during an earlier pilot in 2020 to 2021.

2.7 As one size doesn't fit all and, each area is different in terms of geography, the amount of supported accommodation, governance etc., Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands have adopted a combined approach based on Blackburn with Darwen and Hull's findings. Key to the success across both pilots was a shared responsibility across a multi-disciplinary approach to improve supported accommodation. The pilots will be monitored independently and data will be collated regularly. The findings will inform the future of supported housing. The interventions will include but not be limited to:

- Assessing support needs and provision of support – by conducting visits to supported accommodation and talking to residents and staff
- Assessing quality of accommodation – by visiting accommodation and identifying Category 1 and Category 2 hazards under the relevant legislation

- Collating information on whether care, support and supervision is being provided and feeding this back to Housing Benefit who may decide to suspend or cancel claims for housing benefit.
- Using the evidence across Derbyshire and Staffs Moorlands to influence or reject new provision.
- Using the evidence to set equal standards across Derbyshire and allow Councils to reflect on provision in other areas when reviewing or setting rents and service charges.

2.8 The SHIP grant allocation will allow each LA to recruit a resource for the period of the program of which the main tasks are:

- Identify and coordinate Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT's) consisting of Housing Benefit, Environmental Health, Community Safety, Planning and Housing Options
- Implement Supported Housing Improvement within existing departmental working regimes (HMO licence renewals, HB application assessments for example)
- Drive a County set standard for supported accommodation in each LA area.
- Encourage providers to take part and share good practice and deliver a program of improvement.
- Arrange visits to engage with residents to assess support and inspect accommodation.
- Produce comprehensive reports backed up by evidence for consideration by Housing Benefit

2.9 The Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands SHIP has been developed through close collaboration between the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG) & Derbyshire County Council.

2.10 The aim of the project is to deliver as standard good quality supported housing. This is vital: providing a safe, stable and supportive place to live can be the key to unlocking better outcomes for vulnerable people, from tackling poverty and disadvantage to managing crises, rehabilitation or maintaining people's independence.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Given the allocation of grant by DLUHC, the joint work across the district and borough councils and the need to improve the supported housing sector within the county and Staffordshire Moorlands, officers are recommending the SHIP is delivered.

3.2 The Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group has put considerable time and effort in to the SHIP and believe there is a real opportunity to both improve standards within the sector and reduce the subsidy loss to all of the district and borough councils.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 At this stage consultation has taken place between the key agencies involved in the SHIP, including homelessness and housing advice agencies, the Housing teams and the Housing Benefit Teams of each council. Derbyshire County Council has also been involved the preparation of the work behind the project.

5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 DLUHC announced the grant award in December 2022 and expect some expenditure of the grant in Q4 2022/23. As the host council for the project, this will involve Derbyshire Dales DC receiving the grant and passing on a proportion to each partner council at the end of Q4 2022/23. The SHIP will continue until the Q4 March 2024/25.
- 5.2 The majority of the funding will cover staff costs involved in the work outlined in para 2.8 so recruitment of staff will take place in Q1 2023/24. For the Derbyshire Dales it is proposed to use existing staff resources which have been involved in the original assessment of supported housing provision across the partner councils.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The policy implications cross several council services and partner agencies. For the Housing team, the SHIP will improve the quality of the sector and ensure the vulnerable people that need both accommodation and support actually receive it. It will also reduce the homelessness approaches from people being evicted from supported accommodation. For Housing Benefit Teams the SHIP will help ensure public money is being used effectively and should over time help Housing Benefit officers assess the benefit claims.
- 6.2 The SHIP will also have a positive impact on partner agencies such as the Police, Probation and Social Services as a disproportionate number of service requests can come from unregistered accommodation.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 As set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Councils were successful in the bid to take part in the SHIP and have been awarded a grant of £687,230 over the program period i.e. £176,580 for 2022/23, £255,325 for 2023/24 and £255,325 for 2024/25. Derbyshire Dales District Council is the accountable body for this grant and will be responsible for gathering information and evidence from partners and submitting grant claims.
- 7.2 Usually, a request would be made to Council for a supplementary revenue estimate to cover such additional expenditure, to be financed by grant. However, there isn't another Council meeting until after the election. Therefore, subject to this committee's approval of the recommendations of this report, the Director of Resources will use the delegated authority under Financial Regulation 2.14.2 to approve a supplementary budget, given that

the additional expenditure will be fully funded by a grant. This will mean that the scheme can commence without delay.

7.3 As set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report, one of the benefits of this work would be a reduction in lost housing benefit subsidy, which has amounted to over £100,000 a year for this authority.

7.4 Given the size of the grant and the need to work with other partners to deliver the scheme and to make claims, the financial risk would be assessed as low to medium, however this is mitigated by the reduction in lost housing benefit subsidy, reducing the overall financial risk to low.

7.5 The delivery of this scheme will have an impact on resources and workload in housing, benefits and financial services. However, it is considered that this can be accommodated within existing staffing structures.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

8.1 This report sets out the arrangements for delivering the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP). There are 3 recommended decisions to be taken as contained within this report.

8.2 The Legal Risk associated with these 3 decisions has been assessed as low.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 Vulnerable people housed in supported accommodation will often be a reflection of the wider society whilst also having complex and multiple needs. Improving the sector and the support provided will have a positive impact on vulnerable people.

10. Climate Change Implications

10.1 At this stage it is not considered appropriate to provide a Climate Change Impact Assessment for the SHIP.

11. Risk Management

11.1 The Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group will provide overall management of the project with the District Council's Housing Strategy Officer taking the lead within the Council. DLUHC require regular returns to be provided and will keep oversight throughout the life of the project.

11.2 Given the previous work to assess the extent and standards of supported housing provision within the partner councils and the existing officer resources that will deliver the work in the Dales, officers feel confident the project can be delivered.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive		
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	09/03/2023
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Kerry France	16/03/2023

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Agenda Item 7

Community and Environment Committee – 23 March 2023

FEES AND CHARGES – LOCAL LAND CHARGES AND LEGAL SERVICES

Report of Director of Corporate and Customer Services

Report Author and Contact Details

James McLaughlin, Director of Corporate and Customer Services
01629 761281 or james.mclaughlin@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Wards Affected

District-wide

Report Summary

This report highlights the need to review the recently agreed Fees and Charges in respect of Local Land Charges in view of Derbyshire County Council's decision to increase fees for CON29 searches. It also seeks to confirm a fee that was not included in the report to the Governance and Resources Committee on 16 February 2023.

Recommendations

1. That the fees for the Local Land Charges Service in the 2023/24 financial year be confirmed as:

(a) Official Search Fee (LLC1 + Con29R)	£179.20
(b) LLC1	£32.00
(c) Con29R	£148.20
(d) Con 29O	£32.40
(per question and where information is to be provided by Derbyshire County Council)	
(e) Con 29O (per question)	£13.20
(f) Additional Parcel of Land	£13.80
(g) Written enquiries	
(solicitors own questions)	£15.00
(h) Personal Search of the Register	£0.00
(all inclusive of VAT)	

2. That the fee for the sale of Council Land, sale of Land by Tender and sale of Land by Auction levied by Legal Services in the 2023/24 financial year be confirmed as a maximum of 1.5% of the sale price (subject to minimum of £507.47)

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

Report to Governance and Resources Committee (16 February 2023) – Fees and Charges for 2023/24

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Fees and Charges – Local Land Charges

1. Background

1.1 The Local Land Charges service provides searches and information to the conveyancing and property industry. These searches and information consist of:

- LLC1 – Search of the Local Land Charges Register
- CON29 – Enquiries of District Councils
- Personal Searches of the Local Land Charges register for which a fee cannot be charged
- Property information under the 2008 Regulations
- The inspection of property information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

1.2 Traditionally solicitors acting for the purchasers of properties have carried out CON29 and LLC1 searches. These searches can take the form of official local authority searches or personal searches which are carried out by private companies.

2. Key Issues

2.1 On 16 February 2023 the Governance and Resources Committee considered and approved a schedule of Fees and Charges to be levied by the authority in respect of a variety of functions and services. This schedule included the following provisions in respect of Local Land Charges in 2023/24:

Official Search Fee (LLC1 + Con29R)	£134.00
LLC1 only	£32.25
Con29R	£104.00
Con 29O (per question)	£13.20
Additional Parcel of Land	£13.75
Written enquiries (solicitors own questions)	£15.00
Personal Search of the Register	£0

2.2 On 21 February 2023 all district and borough councils in Derbyshire were notified by the County Council of a significant increase in charges that they would levy in 2023/24:

Con29 (Highways only) – increased from £30.80 to £76 (inclusive of VAT)
Con 29 (per question) – increased from £6.80 to £26 (inclusive of VAT)

In percentage terms, these increases are 146% and 282%.

2.3 Representations have been made to the County Council from officers at a number of district and boroughs across Derbyshire. A formal response has been provided which details the position of the County Council:

I understand the concerns you raise concerning the uplift in search fees and charges that Derbyshire County Council intends to apply from April 2023. It is regrettable that it was necessary for our search fees and charges to be

reviewed in a timescale that did not align with that of setting the budgets for your own Authority. Unfortunately this was unavoidable in this instance.

It is not disputed that the uplift represents a substantive increase over the existing fees for 2022-23. In response to your specific query, I have not been able to find a documented record of when Derbyshire County Council last increased its search fees. However, I understand that the search fees have not been significantly increased since circa 1991. Therefore, the charges have not kept pace with the Bank of England's Consumer Price Index.

I accept your comments concerning balancing the charges with the elasticity of demand, particularly given competition from private search companies. However, what individual companies charge is a commercial matter for those organisations concerned. The resulting overall cost would still appear to be relatively modest in relation to the information supplied and not be significantly in excess of what other authorities around the country charge, commercial competition notwithstanding.

Derbyshire County Council has received internal approval to apply the revised fees from April 2023. However, to ascertain if the uplift proves to be sustainable, going forwards, it is also proposed to monitor the situation in line with the points you have raised. I appreciate the difficulties this timescale may cause your Authority in seeking cabinet approval. In the meantime, I would suggest that any search enquiries concerning highways are rerouted directly to this authority.

- 2.4 The effect of the County Council's decision to increase their fees for 2023/24 is to potentially reduce the level of income that the District Council will achieve through its Local Land Charges service. The increases of 147% and 282% respectively will reduce the margin of income received and will materially impact on the budget that Members have recently set for the 2023/24 financial year. This report has been prepared to set out options for Members to consider in response to this change.
- 2.5 The report to the Governance and Resources Committee on 16 February 2023 set out a schedule of fees and charges in respect of legal services. With regard to fees and charges for the sales of Council Land, sales of Land by Tender and sales of Land by Auction the Council presently charges a maximum of 1.5% of the sale price (subject to minimum of £483.30). The report submitted in February 2023 did not detailed the minimum figure and so this report seeks to confirm the minimum figure as £507.47, which represents an increase of 5%.
- 2.6 In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution in respect of policy committees being empowered to discharge functions in respect of matters that come under the remit of either committee, this report has been submitted to ensure that Members can make a timely decision before the commencement of the new financial year in April 2023.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 Having assessed the situation, there are three options available to the District Council at the present time. The first of those options is to do nothing and keep fees and charges at the level set on 16 February 2023 whilst

continuing to offer the CON29 search enquiries in respect of highways. This is not recommended as the proportion of income that the Council will realise will be significantly reduced whilst still undertaking the same level of work.

- 3.2 In its response set out in paragraph 2.3 above, the County Council has suggested that district and borough councils should re-route search enquiries directly to the Highways Team at Derbyshire County Council. If this approach were adopted, the District Council would no longer undertake this part of the search and could choose to reduce the charges it levies accordingly. This option is not recommended.
- 3.3 It is the experience of officers that solicitors and others undertaking searches prefer a “one-stop” approach where all information is collated from a single point of contact through the District Council. This is not only efficient but also the most cost effective way of working when undertaking conveyancing. The overwhelming majority of search requests received by the District Council are submitted electronically. If a CON29 search was not offered by the authority, those solicitors may choose not use our services at all which would have a significant impact on the income generated through the Local Land Charges service. On this basis, the recommended option is to increase the fees and charges for Land Charges to reflect the percentage increase applied by Derbyshire County Council. The effect of pursuing this option would be to increase the fees as follows:

Official Search Fee (LLC1 + Con29R) - £179.20

Con29R - £148.20

Con 29O (per question where information is to be provided by Derbyshire County Council) - £32.40

Con29O (per question) - £13.20

4. Consultation

- 4.1 There has been no public consultation in the preparation of this report, but as referenced earlier, there has been ongoing dialogue between district and borough councils and Derbyshire County Council since the publication of the revised fees from the County Council.

5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 The proposed fees are due to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2023, or as soon as practicable thereafter (e.g. from Monday 3 April 2023).

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council charges fees to cover the cost of some of the services that are provided to make progress in delivering its Corporate Priorities.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The budget for 2023/24 for income from land charges search fees is £114,852.
- 7.2 The recommendations of this report seek to increase fees for land charges searches to pass on the uplift in Derbyshire County Council fees. This seeks

to recover the additional costs incurred by the Council. However, there is a risk that income might be reduced as the higher fees cause some customers to use other service providers or to go elsewhere. This financial risk is assessed as low to medium.

8. Procurement Implications

8.1 There are no procurement implications directly associated with this report.

9. Legal Advice and Implications

9.1 Councils are allowed by virtue of the Local Authorities (Charges for Land Searches) Regulations 1994 and by Section 13(A) of the Local Land Act 1975 to set fees for official enquiries concerning property transactions (CON29) and for official searches of the Local Land Charges Register (LLC1).

9.2 Councils are also allowed by the virtue of the 2008 Regulations to set fees for the provision of property information and must produce a statement each year on fee setting under the Regulations.

9.3 The legal risks associated with this report are assessed as low.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no equalities implications directly associated with this report.

11. Climate Change Implications

11.1 There are no climate change implications directly associated with this report.

11. Risk Management

11.1 There is a risk that the Council could lose business by being undercut by Personal Search Agents and requests to access information via the EIR. However, in assessing the options detailed earlier in this report, officers have had regard to the possibility of customer resistance to the revised fees. Therefore, this risk is assessed as low.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	15/03/2023
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	09/03/2023
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Kerry France	15/03/2023

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER TEMPORARY SITE PROVISION IN THE DISTRICT **Agenda Item 8**

UPDATE REPORT OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE PROVISION WORKING GROUP

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2023

Foreword by Councillor Susan Hobson, Chair of the Working Group

This update report is submitted to provide Members, affected stakeholders and the wider public with the current position on the Council's search for appropriate temporary sites for those specific homeless Traveller families with an accepted local connection to the Derbyshire Dales. It is being presented to the Community and Environment Committee as the last opportunity to be considered on at a meeting of the authority before the pre-election period commences on 24 March 2023.

The Council extended the remit of this Working Group after our previous report was considered on 24 November 2022 in order for further work to be undertaken to identify potential temporary sites and recommend those back to the Council in an open and transparent way.

As previously, I would like to thank those Members who have committed a lot of time to attending meetings, undertaking research and providing their advice and direction to inform the ongoing activity of the Working Group.

This update report reflects the concerns of one of the specific Traveller families to whom we owe a homelessness duty, as well as airing the feedback received from the parish council and businesses in Matlock Bath. The Working Group has spent a considerable amount of time trying to identify alternative solutions not only to the question of suitable sites but also in seeking to resolve the complications for local businesses and residents in Matlock Bath arising from the ongoing use of the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park by a specific Traveller family.

Some progress has been made in negotiating a potential agreement for the temporary use of a site, but this process has not concluded. Any decisions on this will be a matter for the new Council after the local elections scheduled to take place on 4 May 2023. The new Council will need to ensure that any decision making process is wholly open and transparent, with all relevant parties being able to provide their views which Members can have regard to before making any decisions.

This has not been an easy task, but I am grateful to all involved for their ongoing commitment to working through the various options available to the Council in seeking to resolve this longstanding issue. This update report is submitted in order to demonstrate what has been done and what is left to do by the new Council.

Councillor Susan Hobson
Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision Working Group
March 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This update report has been prepared by a cross party, Member-led working group to make recommendations to the Council proposing the designation of locations in the District as being suitable for temporary occupation by Gypsy and Traveller families to whom the District Council has a statutory homelessness duty. The report should be read in conjunction with the Working Group's [initial report and recommendations](#) from November 2022.
- 1.2 The working group was established by the Council at its meeting on 29 September 2022 with the following remit:
- (a) Considering the viability of options against the criteria established in Policy HC6 of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan
 - (b) Undertaking site visits to any location under consideration to gain an appreciation of the issues associated
 - (c) Recommending proposals for the development of temporary sites to the Council for approval.
- 1.3 The Council also mandated the working group to report its conclusions and recommendations back to an extraordinary meeting of the Council before 24 November 2022. [This report](#) was submitted on 24 November 2022 and the Council [agreed a number of recommendations](#) in respect of temporary site provision. At the same time, in recognition of the temporary designation of Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park until 31 January 2023, the Council extended the remit of the Working Group to identify further temporary site options for consideration by the Council.
- 1.4 The cross party working group has continued to be chaired by Councillor Susan Hobson and has the following membership representing four of the five political groups on the Council:

Councillor Jason Atkin
Councillor Sue Burfoot
Councillor Tom Donnelly
Councillor Steve Flitter
Councillor Stuart Lees
Councillor Tony Morley
Councillor Mike Ratcliffe
Councillor Alasdair Sutton
Councillor Colin Swindell

The Green and Independent Group has not formally participated with the Working Group since November 2022.

1. Engagement with the Specific Traveller Family and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group

1.1 It was noted in the initial report of the Working Group that it had not possible to meet with representatives of Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group and a member of the specific Traveller family currently camped on the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park. Members were therefore keen to make arrangements to do so and a meeting took place on 30 January 2023 attended by Councillors Sue Burfoot, Tom Donnelly and Sue Hobson.

1.2 Key points that were expressed by the family representative were:

- The family confirmed that the facilities currently on site at Matlock Bath met their basic needs, from their point of view
- The family expressed the view that whilst they would prefer a location further south in the district, in order to be closer to family support, they were comfortable enough at Matlock Bath and were not currently planning to move from the site
- The issue of moving to the other side of the coach park was discussed. The family's view was that this would not be favoured, because of an increased likelihood of complaint and increased risk to a vulnerable family member
- The family confirmed that they would use an adjoining car park leased by the Council if the coach park was no longer an option, but that they would prefer not to move if both sites were available
- The family confirmed that they would not collocate with the other homeless Traveller family, who are currently located at Matlock Station car park
- The family confirmed that they did not consider that the Woodyard site was suitable for their particular needs. Whilst they were of the view that it might provide a suitable site for another Traveller family, the vulnerabilities of one of their own family meant that they did not consider this to be suitable for them

1.3 These points were shared with the wider Working Group at a meeting in February 2023 and there was collective agreement that it would not be appropriate to require the specific Traveller family to relocate from the coach park at Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park until a suitable alternative site had been identified.

2. Engagement with Matlock Bath Parish Council and Businesses

2.1 The Working Group are especially conscious of the impact of the use of the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park as a temporary site for a specific Traveller family, especially in the context of their ongoing use of the site beyond 31 January 2023. Their presence has generated complaints to the

Council for a number of reasons and the Working Group are assured that officers have worked to address the issues and respond to those complaints.

2.2 A key consideration for the Working Group has been ensuring that there is improved communication and engagement with all stakeholders. In recognition that the specific Traveller family would not relocate from the site by 31 January 2023, officers of the Council made arrangements to meet with representatives of Matlock Bath Parish Council to provide an update and respond to concerns or issues.

2.3 The feedback from Matlock Bath Parish Council was:

- Residents will not be happy about the family staying beyond the 31 January. The village has had its fair share of encampments.
- The Parish Council is extremely concerned about the mess and human excrement which is left along walking routes residents and visitors use and in the car park itself. It is not a good advertisement for Matlock Bath.
- The Parish Council is concerned about the exposure by one member of the family which we have seen on previous occasions in front of village children together with the excessive shouting.
- The Parish Council would prefer that if the family stay beyond the 31 January, that they are moved to an adjoining car park leased by the District Council rather than stay on the coach park.
- The Parish Council is extremely concerned about the effect the Travellers on the car park will have on visitor numbers. They know from previous correspondence that some visitors will not park when they see the Travellers and have evidence that coach drivers will not stay either. The businesses in the village and the village itself cannot sustain a loss of visitors/income at the moment. Businesses are already struggling with the increase in the cost of living.
- Over the winter the Heights of Abraham have done a lot of work in trying to encourage coach companies to come. This work would benefit the village and not just the Heights.
- The Parish Council would wish to see the travellers moved no later than February half term

2.4 At the time of drafting this update report in early March, the specific Traveller family has not moved from Matlock Bath. It is recognised that the valid concerns of the Parish Council need to be addressed and the Working Group continues to work to identify potential suitable temporary sites for use by the specific Traveller family.

2.5 Prior to the publication of this update report, further correspondence was received from Matlock Bath Parish Council (dated 14 March 2023) which referenced the proximity to the Easter holidays – a time when the village will be busy – and highlighting the need for alternative arrangements for the specific Traveller family to be made in order to free up the car park for coaches to return and for visitors to park. The Parish Council also stated that *“we feel this will be a testing time for coach companies so fear that if we lose out with business at the Easter holidays, we will not see them return*

during the summer our position is that the lack, or reduction in visitors, will have an enormous effect on businesses who are still struggling from the Covid pandemic.”

- 2.6 The Working Group has been made aware of specific representations directed to the District Council from the Heights of Abraham business located in Matlock Bath in February 2023. Given the public interest in this specific issue, it is worth noting that the correspondence received set out disappointment that the District Council had not been able to reinstate the coach park at Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park at the end of January 2023. Furthermore, the correspondence set out the economic and reputational implications for this specific business. Whilst the Working Group acknowledges the impact, it has sought solutions from officers in respect of the provision of coach parking facilities as this will reduce the economic impact on all tourist related businesses in Matlock Bath.
- 2.7 Officers have prepared a number of options for consideration in respect of the issue of coach parking in Matlock Bath. Discussions are ongoing with landowners in respect of the potential use of alternative sites for coach parking during the peak tourism season. The Working Group has also asked officers to make changes to the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park that will ensure that there is some provision of coach parking at that location. This will involve the relocation of four coach parking spaces to a different part of the car park. It is also recognised that the Tinti's Yard area of the car park, which is used as overspill parking, is in need of surface improvement works. Furthermore, officers have identified that improvements to the entrance to the Artists Corner car park would enable two coach spaces to be allocated, although this would mean the loss of 45 car parking spaces.
- 2.8 The Working Group is focused on providing alternative options which ensure that the Council's obligations to all affected by the current Traveller encampment at the Matlock Bath Station Yard Car Park are met in a fair and equitable manner.

3. Alternative Temporary Sites

- 3.1 The previous report to the Council meeting on 24 November 2022 indicated that the Working Group had identified two sites in private ownership that Members wanted to explore further for potential designation as temporary sites for Travellers to whom the Council has a homelessness duty. These sites were not named due to the commercially sensitive negotiations that would be required.
- 3.2 After the Council meeting on 24 November 2022, the Working Group instructed officers to appoint a land agent and surveyor to conduct negotiations with the owners of the two plots of land which were of interest. In January 2023 it was reported that the owner of one of the sites was not prepared to enter any discussion with the Council in respect of the use of their land for the purpose of accommodating Traveller families. This was

disappointing, but the Working Group acknowledged that it could not force the landowner to come to the negotiating table.

- 3.3 The other site under consideration has seen negotiations progress well with the landowner who is open to the possibility of agreeing a temporary leasing arrangement with the Council for a period of three years. Negotiations have progressed to a point where the Council will need to make a decision whether to progress with entering into an agreement. However, as this report is submitted for information on the eve of the pre-election period, it is not appropriate to recommend that any further action be taken until a new Council is elected on 4 May 2023. However, the Working Group will be in a position to make a recommendation to Council that a site has been identified with the potential for occupation.
- 3.4 In identifying this potential site, Members will need to be mindful of the specific circumstances of those Traveller families and have regard to policy and planning considerations, as well as other matters such as safeguarding, before making any determination in respect of this site and how it may be used in future.
- 3.5 Officers have separately provided a briefing to the Working Group on the potential use of compulsory purchase powers. It is clear that this approach is not straightforward and would take considerable time for any site (should any suitable site be identified). However, Members may wish to examine this route further in respect of any potential delivery of permanent sites in the future.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.1 The Working Group has continued to undertake the task it was allocated by the Council to find temporary solutions to enable the authority to meet its statutory obligations to the two Traveller families with a local connection to the Derbyshire Dales.
- 4.2 Following the publication of this report on 15 March 2023, the Working Group held a further meeting on 21 March 2023 to discuss the updates from the independent valuer and in respect of coach parking options. Members were encouraged the progress made in both areas but recognised that further information is required before a firm recommendation can be made to the Council in respect of a potential temporary site.
- 4.3 At the present time, the Working Group is minded to make the following recommendations to the Council after the election:
 - (a) That further work be undertaken to provide a full appraisal of a privately owned site to assess its viability for the potential delivery of a temporary Traveller site in order for the Council to make an informed decision, having regard to all relevant information.

(b) That officers be recommended to make an agreement with Total Parking Solutions in respect of the provision of coach parking at Cromford Meadows as an alternative location for coaches to park during the use of the Matlock Station Bath Car Park.

4.4 This update report provides Members and the public with an interest in this matter with the latest position before the municipal elections on 4 May 2023. It will be the for the new membership of the Council after those elections to take forward the discussions and decision making process for the allocation of any sites for use by those specific Traveller families to whom the Council has a homelessness duty.

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