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Wednesday, 6 December 2023

To All Councillors:

As a Member of the **Council**, please treat this as your summons to attend a meeting on **Thursday, 14 December 2023 at 6.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN**

Yours sincerely,

Helen Mitchell
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. 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.

3. PART A) LAND AT BAKEWELL ROAD MATLOCK: OUTCOME OF OPTIONS ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSED APPROACH (Pages 7 - 22)

To receive a summary of and conclusions from the economic and financial assessment completed by external consultants on development options for the site and consider an initial package of works to be commenced during the remainder of 2023/24.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

At this point the meeting will consider excluding the public and press from the meeting in order to consider the exempt information contained within Part B of the Report relating to the Land at Bakewell Road. The reasons for this exemption are detailed below, as per paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

5. PART B) LAND AT BAKEWELL ROAD MATLOCK: OUTCOME OF OPTIONS ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSED APPROACH (Pages 23 - 42)

To receive the Addendum (November 2023) to the Updated Business Case (February 2022) assessing the development options for the project and consider the conclusions regarding each option.

This report is exempt under the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding the information.

6. 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.

7. LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements of the Leader of the Council.

8. CIVIC CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements of the Civic Chair, Councillor David Burton. Rector Stephen Monk of St Helen's Church Darley Dale has been invited to provide words of reflection.

9. COMMITTEES (MINUTE BOOK TO FOLLOW)

To receive the non-exempt Minutes of the Committees shown below:

Non-exempt Minutes to be received:

Date:

Biodiversity Sub-Committee	13 September 2023
Governance and Resources Committee	14 September 2023
Local Plan Sub-Committee	27 September 2023
Council	28 September 2023
Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee	02 October 2023
Planning Committee	10 October 2023
Scrutiny Committee	19 October 2023
Biodiversity Sub-Committee	24 October 2023
Community and Environment Sub-Committee	26 October 2023
Governance and Resources Committee	02 November 2023
Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee	08 November 2023
Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee	14 November 2023
Planning Committee	14 November 2023
Ernest Bailey Charity Committee	28 November 2023
Local Plan Sub-Committee	30 November 2023

10. QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Questions, if any, from Members who have given notice.

11. PROPOSAL OF A NOTICE OF MOTION (RULE OF PROCEDURE 16)

Motion A

The Council will debate the following Motion, submitted by Councillor Laura Mellstrom, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 16.

“In May 2019, this Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. Since then, a number of significant actions have been taken towards achieving that goal, in terms of this Council’s Scope 1 and 2 emissions. The climate impact of the investment of the Council’s employee pension monies has not yet been addressed.

The most effective way an individual can reduce their carbon footprint is to switch their pension fund out of fossil fuels. It is estimated that this one step can be 21 times more effective than the combined effect of giving up flying, going vegetarian and switching energy provider^[1]. Pension divestment from fossil fuels is supported by UNISON which actively assists its members to campaign for divestment^[2].

This Council’s employees are members of the Derbyshire Pension Fund which is administered by Derbyshire County Council. Derbyshire is one of 8 counties in the Central area Pool of the Local Government Pension Scheme, but Derbyshire Pension Fund retains control of its own investment strategy.

This is set out in two documents written in November 2020: The Investment Strategy Statement^[3] and the Climate Strategy^[4]. The Fund’s climate strategy is weak and unambitious:

- *to achieve net zero in its portfolio by 2050,*
- *to “monitor” the relative weight of oil and gas with sustainable investments, and*

- to “engage” with the fossil fuel companies it invests in.

The strategy of “engagement” is not only of doubtful effectiveness, but it ignores (a) the ethics and morality of continuing to fund climate-damaging businesses, and (b) the financial risks of investment in fossil fuels. By staying invested in fossil fuels, the Fund risks being left holding a portfolio of “stranded assets” after other major investors have pulled out of the sector. Sustainable investments regularly outperform fossil fuel investment products in the global markets.

This Council does not control the investment decisions of the Derbyshire Pension Fund, but it has a voice and should use it now to call on DCC to divest the Fund of fossil fuel investments.

The Fund’s Investment Strategy Statement and Climate Strategy were to be reviewed after no later than 3 years. That review is now overdue, so this is the ideal moment to send a clear message to DCC that its approach to the investment of pension money needs to change, that “engagement” is not strong enough, that 2050 is not soon enough.

Divestment motions have already been passed by Derby City Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Bolsover District Council and High Peak Borough Council.

Proposed motion

1. *This Council calls upon Derbyshire County Council’s Pensions and Investments Committee and the managers of the Derbyshire Pension Fund*
 - a. *With immediate effect, to freeze any further investment into publicly traded fossil fuel companies;*
 - b. *By 31 December 2025, to divest the Derbyshire Pension Fund of all investments in fossil fuel stocks, equities, and funds that include fossil fuel related assets or projects;*
 - c. *Urgently to review and update its Investment Strategy Statement and Climate Strategy to incorporate these objectives, and to adopt a method for quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting other investments.*
2. *This Council instructs the Council’s Chief Executive to write to the Derbyshire County Council Pensions and Investments Committee with a copy of this Motion, asking them to take this action.”*

Motion B

The Council will debate the following Motion, submitted by Councillor Peter O’Brien, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 16.

“A good public transport system is a vital component of the administration’s commitment to maintaining thriving and sustainable communities, and to enable our residents to live, work and study without dependence on the private car. It is also fundamental to the Council’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions, in the context of the acknowledged climate emergency, and practically, through integration with active transport modes such as walking and cycling.

However, in many parts of the Derbyshire Dales, the reliability of local bus services has deteriorated to the point where residents are unable to rely on them and passengers are left stranded, with little or no information offered by the bus operators. At the same time, most of our rural communities are seeing little or no meaningful investment from the £47 million funding awarded to Derbyshire County Council through the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

This Council therefore:

- 1. Recognises that a sustainable, effective and integrated public transport network must serve our local communities and confirms its responsibilities to advance that network through all means possible including the planning process, advocacy and support for innovative provision including active transport.*
- 2. Seeks an urgent meeting with relevant Members of the County Council to address the issues of reliability of local bus services.*
- 3. Seeks an urgent meeting with Members of the County Council and Bus Service Improvement Plan Partnership, to advocate a reassessment of current investment proposals (including Demand Responsive Transport, rail, bus, cycle and footpath integration, Real Time Information, transport hubs, roadside shelters and environmentally friendly buses) within the Derbyshire Dales, and where these cross the authority's boundaries.*
- 4. Establishes an all-Party Transport Group of Members through which issues relating to public transport can be raised, discussed and circulated."*

^[1] <https://makemymoneymatter.co.uk/21x/>

^[2] <https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2018/01/Divest-from-carbon-campaign.pdf>

^[3] <https://www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/derbyshire-pension-fund-investment-strategy-statement.pdf>

^[4] <https://www.derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/derbyshire-pension-fund-climate-strategy.pdf>

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 43 - 56)

28 September 2023

13. GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS - UPDATE (Pages 57 - 68)

This report provides an update on the implementation of the 28th September 2023 Council resolutions and seeks specific approval of revised site search and assessment criteria to be adopted in the search for permanent and temporary tolerated Traveller sites.

14. DERBYSHIRE DALES PLAN 2024-2028 (Pages 69 - 86)

The Derbyshire Dales Plan (corporate plan) is the District Council's primary policy document. It establishes the Council's policies and priorities for the coming years and sets the framework for allocating scarce financial and human resources through the forthcoming budget and service planning process.

The report reiterates the commitments of the Council's leadership, and sets out Aims, Themes and Principles. It proposes a process and timescale for completing the detailed Derbyshire Dales Plan for the period 2024-2028.

15. REFERRED ITEM - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 87 - 102)

To consider the recommendations of the Local Plan Sub-Committee regarding the approval of a supplementary revenue budget of £13,922 for 2023/24 for a Principal Planning Policy Officer from 1st January 2024 to 31 March 2024, to be funded from the Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve, noting that the estimated annual cost of £55,688 from 1st April 2024 will be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan, financed from the Neighbourhood Planning Grant and the Custom Build Register Grant, that sit within the Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve, until exhausted.

Please find attached the minutes of the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting held on 30 November 2023 and the report considered by that Sub-Committee in providing the recommendation to Council.

16. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 2 2023/24 (Pages 103 - 118)

This report provides an update on the Council's revenue budget for 2023/24 and seeks approval for virements and the revised budget for 2023/24.

17. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 119 - 136)

This report outlines spending for each project against the approved 2023/24 capital programme as at 30 September 2023, and seeks approval for an updated capital programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 and associated financing. Two new projects are proposed for inclusion in the revised programme.

18. ASHBOURNE REBORN FINANCIAL RISK UPDATE (Pages 137 - 148)

This report summarises activity and progress related to the *Ashbourne reborn* Grant Funding Agreements for the Highways and Public Realm project and Link Community Hub project and associated financial risks.

19. PUBLIC SECTOR BIODIVERSITY DUTY - UPDATE (Pages 149 - 172)

This report provides a further update to Members about the Biodiversity Duty and sets out activities which the District Council has undertaken and is currently undertaking that contribute to meeting the new requirement.

NOTE

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