



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

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about this Agenda or on the "Public Participation" initiative please call the Committee Team on 01629 761133 or email [committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## Council

**Minutes of a Council meeting held at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 25th July, 2024 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall.**

**PRESENT** Councillor Steve Wain - In the Chair

Councillors: Anthony Bates, John Bointon, Kelda Boothroyd, Matt Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Bob Butcher, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Nigel Norman Edwards-Walker, Steve Flitter, Marilyn Franks, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Joanne Linthwaite, Laura Mellstrom, Dermot Murphy, Andy Nash, Peter O'Brien, Lucy Peacock, Simon Ripton, Roger Shelley, Peter Slack and Nick Whitehead

Amanda Brown (Economic Development Manager), Julie Briggs (Interim Elections Manager), Steve Capes (Director of Place and Economy), Jim Fern (Communications Manager), Lucy Harrison (Democratic Services Assistant), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Helen Mitchell (Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services) and Paul Wilson (Chief Executive)

### **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): Robert Archer, Geoff Bond, David Burton, Peter Dobbs, Gareth Gee, Dawn Greatorex and Nick Wilton.

### **80/24 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr Phillip Sunderland (local resident) made a statement on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the district.

## **81/24 - INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **82/24 - LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Steve Flitter, Leader of the Council, gave the following announcements:

*“Chair I feel I must begin tonight proceedings by congratulating our Labour colleagues, on the election of our MP at the recent general election and we wish John Whitby a successful term in office and we have written to him to invite him to engage with this Council on several issues.*

*I must also express my delight the Liberal Democrat successes bringing 71 seats in parliament, a clear indication of a dissatisfied country with the previous government who are obviously out of touch with the electorate. I also have to reflect on the professionalism of our Elections staff and team throughout this process. We had the best turnout in Derbyshire and we were ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in turnout out of the 650 constituencies in the UK.*

*We have received a letter, an encouraging letter, from the Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner. This talks about a fundamental reset, expressing the commitment to work with local and regional authorities, built on mutual respect, genuine collaboration and meaningful engagement to improve local services through economic growth. This view was echoed at the previous EMCA meeting by Claire Ward, the new Mayor of the East Midlands and even this morning the Prime Minister in his speech about GB energy referred to a true partnership working.*

*I attended the East Midlands Council AGM on July 12<sup>th</sup> and as is normal with AGMs, there were reports electing Members on certain roles but it was particularly interesting to note that although GDP growth in the East Midlands over the last 20 years has been better than most other regions. We have to note that over many years, investment in transport per head has been the lowest in this Country. I also spoke on the recruitment and retention workstream, noting the comments of the pilot scheme in the North East and also had discussions about Travelers and the Local Plan. Surprisingly we are not alone.*

*It was also reassuring to listen to James Naish, who is the MP for Rushcliffe, raising the issue of flooding and the absence within reports and the need for further dialogue. I was also surprised over lunch to meet Councillor Edwards-Walker, who was also present. He was attending one of the one year on Councillor course, I do hope that he enjoyed it and I hope that he learnt some useful knowledge. It's nice when you can meet someone at an event that's of a different political persuasion and still have time to chat.*

*I want to thank Councillor Franks and the PA Members of the Gypsy and Traveler Working Group for their professionalism and calm consideration of a very difficult issue over previous months and the way that they have conducted themselves under pressure, especially on Monday evening. I would also like to thank Councillor Whitehead, whom I know has been under huge pressure from his own community, for the way he summed up the situation in a fair and logical manor. However, we want to take politics out of this debate and solve a very delicate and emotive subject but alas the Conservative opposition continue to feed the public with misinformation. I refer to facebook and posters that have been spread around parts of the District which referred to making a decision on sites when this was not the case. We were making a decision to go to consultation and that's what it is all about. They*

*continue to produce these negative comments, not realising there 20 years of being in control or even offering a credible alternative solution. Its because of this negativity that tonight I've decided to concentrate on some good news.*

*It is official that the Derbyshire Dales parks and garden in Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock are blooming great, after they have each won a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy. Bath gardens in Bakewell has now been awarded the Green Flag for the last 4 years and Matlock Hall Leys park is a winner for the previous 17 years. I am particularly pleased that our Ashbourne park is celebrating its Green Flag status for the first time, after narrowly missing last years. This is actually a tribute to the Clean and Green staff because the hard work and effort that they put into their daily chores. Throughout the 30 parks and gardens that we own across the district, our green spaces are a haven for the young and old alike. They are beautiful and crucially also attract visitors which is vital for this Districts economy. The Council coordinated a meeting in Bakewell, for the Bakewell Banking Hub stakeholders on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. As you know we've expressed a wish to secure a Banking Hub in Bakewell following the closure of NatWest bank. The Meeting was attended by John Whitby MP, stakeholders agreed to collaborate with preparing a business case to enable Mr Whitby to progress discussions with the government minister. It was proposed that the Bakewell Town Council coordinate this activity and we will support them.*

*Early bird tickets are on sale for this years District Council Matlock Bath Illuminations. Prices have been held for a limited time and I am delighted to report that we have sold in excess of 4,000 tickets which is a great start to the proceedings.*

*If you have visited Hall Leys Park recently you will have noticed that the old skate park has now been cleared, work will soon start, installing riding services and the facility is due to begin in September. A few people have been asking why this work is being carried out in the Summer holidays. This is due to the old skatepark no longer being fit for purpose and it was the community group that we worked with to make this happen wish that we proceed with this work as quickly as possible. We are also carrying out ground work tests in advance of the parks pathways to be resurfaced in another project which will again start in September. All these improvements are being funded by Government.*

*Also in Hall Leys and other major parks, banners have also gone up making it clear that our Public Space Protection Orders forbid BBQs. We are trying to urge residents and visitors to respect our open spaces and bring a picnic instead.*

*Coincidentally our neighborhood team organised a community safety event in the park and many are offering professional advice all things community safety wise. Thank you to everyone who helped this successful event be put together.*

*Looking forward, next month our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual green event will be taking place at the ABC on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. We will be showcasing solutions to the climate and nature crisis. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet with local suppliers of green technologies such as heat pumps, solar panels, electric vehicles, parking and charging points.*

*Just in case you missed it a land owners appeal against the Derbyshire Dales, listing Starkholmes Allotments as an Asset of Community Value was dismissed at the end of May. It was good to see our defense of designation of Starkholmes Allotment as an Asset of Community Value vindicated at the tribunal. We have always recognised the importance of allotments and in the Starkholmes community. We will continue to work with stakeholders to see a positive outcome.*

*I am delighted to see that our partnership on Hurst Farm Heritage Trail moving forward. We are securing more woodland volunteers in preparation for the busy Autumn season. All equipment and training is provided and if you'd like to get outdoors and take part, learn new skills and help nature then please find details on our Facebook page.*

*We've also joined with Erewash and Amber Valley Councils to survey a sample of private rented properties across our district to help us understand the standard of accommodation and the work required to maintain them. The surveys are being carried out by a specialist company which will work with us until the end of August. Selected properties will continue to receive letters containing further details.*

*Sadly, our condolences to one of our former Councillors, Judith Twigg and her family following the death of her husband, Leonard Twigg. Leonard himself was a former District Councillor and also served for many years on Bakewell Town Council. He loyally supported Judith as consort during her terms as Civic Chair. Leonard who was particularly supportive of the local theatre was immensely well respected within the Bakewell community and he was a true public servant who will sadly be missed."*

### **83/24 - CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Peter Slack, Civic Chair, gave the following announcements:

*"On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May I attended the blessing of the Wirksworth Well Dressing, there were many outstanding well dressings, in this age old ceremony of blessings for water in Derbyshire Dales Towns and villages tradition.*

*The following day on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> I attended the Wirksworth Well Dressings carnival parade, this was very long parade and we just managed to dodge the rain at the end of the parade.*

*On 1<sup>st</sup> June, my consort and I attended the opening of the new skateboard park in Wirksworth fanny shaws community park. This new skateboard park is constructed of concrete, which should be more durable than the wooden skateboard park it replaced. There were many young people eager to get onto the new skateboard area and it was a very well attended event.*

*On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June my consort and I attended Derby Cathedral for a service of affirmation to celebrate the Carers in the Community and all the service they give to the community. It was a very moving service conducted by Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby Cathedral.*

*Thursday morning of 6<sup>th</sup> June I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day at Matlock Park and it was quite surprising, great numbers attended this anniversary. It was a great tribute to the D-Day soldiers.*

*I was again at Derby Cathedral for the D-Day service on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The Cathedral was absolutely full with ex-service men and women, army cadets, scouts, general public and Civic Mayors and Civic Chairs from all over Derbyshire. It was a very moving service, with a gentleman from Ilkeston attending 101 veteran that was on the D-Day Beaches.*

*On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we were again at Derby Cathedral for the Lord lieutenant service for the Volunteers service. Again, the Cathedral was full and we were given a musical interlude of wonderful songs from a choir of 50 plus volunteers. It was a really wonderful event.*

*On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June, Councillor David Chapman, Vice Civic Chair attended the opening of Bradwell Land trust development.*

*My consort and I were invited to the Civic and County Leaders brunch from 10:30 till 12:30 on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. It was very interesting discussion with Derbyshire's Vice Lord Lieutenant on climate change and different sources of hydrogen energy for the future of HGVs. There was a splendid buffet put on by the Bishop of Derby, in a lovely Garden.*

*On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, my consort and I attended the American regimental pilgrimage to the Crich war memorial. We were fortunate with the weather as it to be pouring with rain in the morning but show the afternoon. This was very well attended with Mayors and Civic Chairs from Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Lancashire, parts of Derbyshire Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. With many Ex-servicemen and women attending. The American regimental was superb in playing music from the first and second World Wars. This was the 101<sup>st</sup> pilgrimage to Crich memorial which was opened after the Great War 1923.*

*On my return from Holiday on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, I attended the Local Middleton Millennium Gardens for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the garden. This was very special to myself, as I was the Chair of Middleton garden group for 10 years and I was very delighted to be asked to speak about the funding and development of the garden 20 years ago and to be part of the celebration with a local folk group and number of supported singers, which was a very entertaining afternoon."*

## **84/24 - COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Matt Buckler and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

That the non-exempt minutes of the Committees listed in the Minute Book for the period 21 March 2024 to 09 July 2024 be received.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **85/24 - QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)**

**Question from Councillor Susan Hobson to Councillor Steve Flitter, Leader of the Council:**

*"Can you explain the decision making process for granting the urgent decision to give an extra hour of free parking to residents between 3 and 4 each day?"*

**Councillor Flitter provided the following response.**

**RESPONSE:**

An urgent decision was taken by the Director of Corporate and Customer Services on 16 February 2024 following consultation with the Chair of the Community and Environment

Committee. Further consultation had taken place with the Leaders of the Progressive Alliance and the matter of offering free parking during this time had also been discussed within the Car Park Review Group and was seen very favourably.

It had been intended that the decision would be taken by Committee, as is usual practice, but delays on the progress of the car park review working group and the impending deadline associated with the production of resident concession permits, meant we needed to work at a greater pace.

The residents' survey in April 2023 highlighted the desire of local residents to see the hours of the resident concession permit extended.

The vast amount (74%) of car parking income to the Council is taken before 3pm.

Data was obtained for transactions that took place between 3pm and 4pm for a 12-month period spanning November 2021-October 2022 and the income generated was only £72,000. We estimate that between 20-25% of those transactions were made by residents.

I can report to Council that, at the end of the first quarter of this financial year, car parking income via pay and display machines and pay by phone is up almost £100,000 against budget, indicating that the extended hours for the residents' concession do not appear to have affected income levels.

In addition, income from the sales of second concession permits is up. This Council received £3,016 for the whole of last year from the sale of second resident concession permits. So far this financial year we have received £4,300, which exceeds the annual budget of £3,050, as well as last year's total income.

Very good feedback from residents at the time of promoting the scheme.

Cllr Simon Spencer, at the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board earlier this week, commended this policy change citing positive benefits to parking around school drop off time.

**Question from Councillor Susan Hobson to Councillor Steve Flitter, Leader of the Council:**

*"Please can Councillor Flitter give a commitment that the splash pad water facilities at Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock will be available for the whole school summer holidays for the benefit of all children visiting these parks?"*

**Councillor Flitter provided the following response.**

**RESPONSE:**

The Council has no plans to close any of the splash pads in Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock.

Whilst all of the water play facilities are currently operating at Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock these facilities are around 15 years old and age-related mechanical issues unfortunately may occur therefore we can't guarantee there won't be disruptions over the summer holidays. Contractors have been out to rectify problems with the splash

pads but there are still some repairs that need fixing; however, these current issues are not affecting the splash pads operating at present.

## **86/24 - PROPOSAL OF A NOTICE OF MOTION (RULE OF PROCEDURE 16)**

The Council considered a motion submitted by Councillor Peter O'Brien in accordance with rule of procedure 16, as detailed below.

*The previous Government introduced proposals to limit the increase in the number of holiday homes, through the introduction of a new Use Classes Order such that they would require planning permission.*

*This Council has welcomed the proposals, as in many of our local communities the number of holiday homes has grown to such an extent that their sustainability is being adversely affected - and in particular younger working families are being priced out of the local housing market.*

*Consultation on the proposals, and in particular the number of nights for which properties can be let before planning permission is required, ended on 7 June 2023. However, the change of Government means that there is uncertainty as to if or when the changes to planning legislation will be introduced. This uncertainty is particularly unhelpful to the Council as it was intended that our revised Local Plan would include policies to address the 'holiday homes' issue in relevant towns and villages in the District. Without the necessary changes to national planning legislation, this will not however be possible.*

It was moved by Councillor Peter O'Brien, seconded by Neil Buttle and

### **RESOLVED**

1. That this Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister, highlighting the issue of holiday homes in the Derbyshire Dales, urging her to introduce without delay the necessary secondary legislation to bring holiday homes within the auspices of the relevant Town and Country Planning Orders through a new Use Classes Order.
2. That this Council makes parallel representations to the East Midlands Mayor and to the Local Government Association, so as to engage local authorities with similar issues to the Derbyshire Dales
3. That this Council urges the Peak District National Park Authority to make similar representations to the Deputy Prime Minister, given that the holiday homes issue is particularly acute in many communities within the National Park.

### **Voting**

**24 For**

**00 Against**

**02 Abstained**

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **87/24 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Stuart Lees and

## **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of a meeting of Council held on 23 May 2024 be approved as a correct record, with the following amendment to minute number 3/24 to state that the resolution was moved by Councillor Peter Dobbs and to note that Councillor Sue Bull was in attendance.

## **Voting**

**25 For**

**00 Against**

**01 Abstained**

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **88/24 - UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF): UPDATE AND INVESTMENT PRIORITY E14 - FEASIBILITY STUDIES**

The Director of Place and Economy and the Economic Development Manager introduced a report updating Members on UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) delivery and detailed the decision of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in relation to the allocation in the Investment Plan against Investment Priority E14: Feasibility Studies. The revised approach had been agreed with partners in order to meet the spend and output requirements before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The report also sought approval to re-allocate external funding from the Council's revenue budget to its capital programme to facilitate this.

Funded by Government, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) partially replaced funding previously provided by the European Union. REPF was a rural 'top-up' to UKSPF and the combined fund was delivered as a single programme. Members were informed that the Derbyshire Dales had been allocated a total of £2.7m capital and revenue to be spent by 31 March 2025. It was noted that the Council was the Lead Local Authority for UKSPF / REPF.

Members were updated on the position regarding the UKSPF Investment Plan and details of the REPF Addendum submission at the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 Council meeting. The overall Investment Plan was on track for delivery as per the original investment plan. One full financial year of delivery had now been completed and the current programme budget being worked to was detailed in section 1.8 of the report.

The UKSPF Board recognised at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 that unforeseen delays with the development of Investment Priority E14 required revisions to the plans to meet output, outcome and budgetary targets. To meet the objectives of UKSPF, the Investment Plan focused on prioritisation of site investigations, feasibility work, master-planning and other assessments to inform the delivery of strategic development sites with a focus on sites on the edge of market town within the Derbyshire Dales.

Members were informed that Ashbourne had attracted investment of £13.4m from central government Levelling Up funding and an additional £1.8m local match funding to deliver regeneration within the town. Ashbourne Reborn was led by the Council and working with key partners, the programme was progressing. As part of the consultation, Ashbourne Town Team had identified there was a missing piece of work to ensure this unique legacy



regeneration was carried forward. Supported by the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board, and endorsed by the UKSPF Partnership Board on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Ashbourne Town Team had proposed work with an agreed contracting body to commission a feasibility study and Business Improvement District (BID) development. In order to deliver a BID Feasibility Study, an agreed contracting body would issue the tender documentation and contract on behalf of Ashbourne Town Team and would be the financially accountable body for the contract. Should the feasibility study be positive, the Council would need to formally approve taking forward a BID at the time in order for a ballot to be held.

Councillor David Hughes proposed the following motion, this was seconded by Councillor Peter O'Brien.

1. *That the update on the Derbyshire Dales UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme is noted, with progress to date and delivery risks received and agreed.*
2. *That the ongoing recruitment challenges impacting the delivery of the programme, as reported to Members on 13 July 2023 and updated in this report, are noted.*
3. *That in accordance with the decisions of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, amendments to the Investment Plan are approved as follows:*
  - i. *The extension to contract for Derbyshire Dales District Council for Voluntary Services (£105,000) as set out in section 3.1 of the report and the cap of £10,000 per study is relaxed in exceptional circumstances.*
  - ii. *The re-allocation of £64,500 (included within the £105,000) revenue funding to capital funding from E14.*
4. *That Council approves the transfer of £64,5000 in 2024/25 from the revenue budget for Economic Development Feasibility Studies to the Capital Programme Project Number 675 (Community Resilience Grant), funded by grants from UKSPF and REPF.*

During debate, the following amendment was moved by Councillor Laura Mellstrom and seconded by Councillor Nick Whitehead:

1. *That the update on the Derbyshire Dales UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme is noted, with progress to date and delivery risks received and agreed.*
2. *That the ongoing recruitment challenges impacting the delivery of the programme, as reported to Members on 13 July 2023 and updated in this report, are noted.*
3. *That in accordance with the decisions of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, amendments to the Investment Plan are approved as follows:*
  - i. *The extension to contract for Derbyshire Dales District Council for Voluntary Services (£105,000) as set out in section 3.1 of the report and the cap of £10,000 per study is relaxed in exceptional circumstances.*
  - ii. *The re-allocation of £64,500 (included within the £105,000) revenue funding to capital funding from E14.*
  - iii. *The allocation of up to £60,000 funding to deliver a Pilot Ashbourne Business Improvement District (BID) feasibility study and development as set out in section 3.2 and 7.3 of the report.*

4. *That Council approves the transfer of £64,5000 in 2024/25 from the revenue budget for Economic Development Feasibility Studies to the Capital Programme Project Number 675 (Community Resilience Grant), funded by grants from UKSPF and REPF.*
5. *That following completion of the tender process for the Ashbourne BID any residual funding (from the £60,000 allocation) is administered by the District Council to deliver E14: Feasibility Studies directly.*
6. *That should a BID feasibility study be positive, any decision whether or not to proceed to ballot will be taken by Council taking into account initial and ongoing cost recovery.*

The amendment was voted on, the results were as follows:

**16 For**  
**09 Against**  
**01 Abstentions**

The Chair declared the amendment **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion, as amended, was then voted on and it was

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the update on the Derbyshire Dales UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme is noted, with progress to date and delivery risks received and agreed.
2. That the ongoing recruitment challenges impacting the delivery of the programme, as reported to Members on 13 July 2023 and updated in this report, are noted.
3. That in accordance with the decisions of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, amendments to the Investment Plan are approved as follows:
  - vi. The extension to contract for Derbyshire Dales District Council for Voluntary Services (£105,000) as set out in section 3.1 of the report and the cap of £10,000 per study is relaxed in exceptional circumstances.
  - vii. The re-allocation of £64,500 (included within the £105,000) revenue funding to capital funding from E14.
  - viii. The allocation of up to £60,000 funding to deliver a Pilot Ashbourne Business Improvement District (BID) feasibility study and development as set out in section 3.2 and 7.3 of the report.
4. That Council approves the transfer of £64,5000 in 2024/25 from the revenue budget for Economic Development Feasibility Studies to the Capital Programme Project Number 675 (Community Resilience Grant), funded by grants from UKSPF and REPF.
5. That following completion of the tender process for the Ashbourne BID any residual funding (from the £60,000 allocation) is administered by the District Council to deliver E14: Feasibility Studies directly.
6. That should a BID feasibility study be positive, any decision whether or not to proceed to ballot will be taken by Council taking into account initial and ongoing cost recovery.

**Voting:**

**19 For**  
**06 Against**  
**01 Abstentions**

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**20:18pm - The meeting adjourned.**

**20:30pm – The meeting reconvened.**

#### **89/24 - DURATION OF MEETINGS (MOTION TO CONTINUE)**

At 20:18pm, it was moved by Councillor Neil Buttle, seconded by Councillor Martin Burfoot and

**RESOLVED** (Unanimously)

That in accordance with Rule of Procedure 13, the meeting continues till 21:30pm.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

#### **90/24 - FUTURE OPERATION OF MONSAL HEAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Director of Community and Environmental Services introduced a report which sought agreement to take back permanent operational control of Monsal Head public conveniences from the date of the Council meeting, following an urgent decision taken on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for the Council to take over temporary operation of the facility from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

In May 2018, the Council ceased operating Monsal Head public conveniences. An agreement was reached with Monsal Head Community Toilets Community Interest Company (MHCIC) in which to continue to operate those toilets via a tenancy at will. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024, the Council received notice from the sole remaining Director of MHCIC that they wished to terminate the tenancy.

Using the Council's Urgent Decision arrangements, an agreement was reached in which the toilets would be kept open by the MHCIC until 2<sup>nd</sup> June with the Council taking control on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

The toilets were closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to allow for the Council to undertake necessary risk assessments, minor repairs and put in place daily cleaning and re-stocking arrangements with the facility re-opening to the public on 7<sup>h</sup> June 2024.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Burfoot, seconded by Councillor Kelda Boothroyd and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the urgent decision to take over temporary operation of Monsal Head Public Conveniences from 3<sup>rd</sup> June is noted.
2. That the Council takes permanent operational control of the public conveniences at Monsal Head from the date of this Council meeting.

3. That the Committee thanks current and past Directors of the community interest company for their efforts.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **91/24 - PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUT-TURN 2023/24 & REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2028/29**

The Director of Resources introduced a report outlining the provisional (subject to audit) out-turn position for 2023/24 and the revised Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29.

At Council on 4<sup>th</sup> April, Members approved a revised capital programme totalling £39,501,864, covering the financial years 2023/24 to 2028/29, as summarised in table 1. A revised capital budget of £10,755,164 was approved for 2023/24. Members were informed that the actual total capital expenditure for 2023/24 was £9,427,189. Therefore, there was an overall underspend of £1,327,975.

The expenditure incurred against each project was outlined at Appendix A. Paragraph 2.4 of the report provided explanations for material under and overspends and Appendix A showed whether each project had concluded. Where projects were continuing beyond the end of 2023/24, budget underspends had been carried forward and added to the budget for 2024/25. It was proposed to carry forward £253,454 of the provisional underspend from 2023/24 into 2024/25.

The proposed changes to the capital programme for 2024/25 to 2028/9 were set out in section 3 of the report, along with the proposed financing arrangements.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Roger Shelley and

#### **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the provisional Capital Out-turn of £9,427,189 as detailed in Appendix A, is approved.
2. That the explanations regarding significant variances in planned and actual capital expenditure for 2023/24 are noted.
3. That an overall reduction of £68,745 is applied to the capital programme for 2024/25 consisting of a carried forward underspend of £253,454 at 31 March 2024 and other revisions totalling £-322,199, set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 and Appendix A be approved for inclusion into the capital programme.
4. That an additional amount of £240,000 is added to 2025/26 capital programme as set out in paragraph 3.2 and appendix A.
5. That the updated capital programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 set out in Appendix B to the report totalling £28,917,955 be approved.
6. That financing of the Capital Programme from sources summarised at paragraph 3.21 and shown in Appendix C be approved.

7. That the balance of funds available over the 5-year programme, shown at Appendix C, is noted.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**21:07pm - Councillor Dermot Murphy left the meeting.**

#### **92/24 - PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2023/24**

The Director of Resources introduced a report which provided details of the provisional financial outturn for the Council's Revenue spending for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and significant variations from the revised budget.

The provisional outturn on the revenue account for 2023/24 was a surplus of £3,469,443 against revised estimates (subject to external audit). Most of the areas contributing to the surplus arose from circumstances that were unforeseen at the time the budget was set and were one-off, rather than recurring, items. The key reasons for the surplus were detailed in the report.

In establishing the Council's final outturn position a number of movements in reserves required appropriate approval as per the Council's Financial Regulations. Approval was therefore requested for the movement in reserves as set out in Appendix 2. The movement in reserves requested relating to the year-end surplus requiring approval were detailed in section 2.4.

Subject to the approval of the recommendations as set out in the report, it was noted that the Council would have reduced general fund balances from £4.77m to £4.422m at 31 March 2024 and reduced the revenue earmarked reserves from £16.871m to £15.994m for the same period.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. To note the overall General Fund revenue budget outturn position for 2023/24 (subject to external audit) and budget variances at 31 March 2024 as set out in section 1.1.
2. To approve final required movements in reserves set out in appendix 2.
3. To approve the creation of a new reserve for Pooled Investment Fund Fluctuations as detailed in section 1.10.
4. To approve the transfer of reserves as set out in section 2.4 to achieve a balanced out-turn position.
5. That the update on Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) progress is received and agreed.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

#### **93/24 - DURATION OF MEETINGS (MOTION TO CONTINUE)**

At 21:22pm, it was moved by Councillor Steve Wain, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

## **RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Rule of Procedure 13, the meeting continue until 22:00pm.

### **Voting**

**23 For**  
**02 Against**  
**00 Abstained**

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **94/24 - INTERIM ORGANISATIONAL STAFFING RESOURCES**

The Chief Executive introduced a report informing members of a number of staffing vacancies across the organisation which were currently occupied by temporary agency staff due to an inability to recruit permanent employees. Council was requested to consider the approval of a supplementary revenue budget of £72,000 to be financed from the General Reserve in 2024/25 to provide interim officer support as outlined in the report.

In February 2024, the Chief Executive informed Members of the acute staffing challenges in the Development Management Team arising from the resignation of a number of long-serving, experienced members of staff. The Development Management Team had lost the majority of its senior and most experienced employees within a very short space of time which had placed significant organisational risk in terms of the delivery of a statutory service. Section 1.4 of the report detailed the interim appointments which had been made for an initial duration of up to 6 months to address this issue.

Outside the functions of Development Management, the Council also had a further two areas of resource pressure in the areas of Data Protection and Information Governance, and legal (contracts and procurement).

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Nick Whitehead and

## **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That Council notes the actions taken to support the continued delivery of the Council's Development Management service in response to current recruitment challenges.
2. That Council approves a supplementary revenue budget of £25,000 for 2024/25, to be financed from the General Reserve to cover the cost of retaining the Development Control Manager (up to 31st March 2025), Principal Planning Officer up to 27th October 2024), Design and Conservation Officer (up to 27th October 2024) and Enforcement Team Leader (up to 20th December 2024).
3. That Council endorses the need for additional, external data protection support to achieve compliance against the Information Commissioner's Accountability Tracker and approves a supplementary revenue budget for 2024/25 of £15,000 to be financed from the General Reserve.

4. That Council endorses the need for external legal support to strengthen the in house legal team's expertise and capacity in respect of procurement and contracts for goods and services and approves a supplementary revenue budget for 2024/25 of £32,000 to be financed from the General Reserve.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **95/24 - ORGANISATIONAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE**

The Chief Executive introduced a report which proposed improvement to organisational resources and resilience to ensure that the Council was adequately resourced to deal with existing and future priorities and challenges.

As Head of paid Service, it was the Chief Executives responsibility to inform Council of the staffing resources required to discharge the functions of the authority. It was also their responsibility to reflect upon the future ambition of the Council and advise whether there was the resources in place to deliver on the collective ambition of the Council.

At the meeting of Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Members endorsed a series of changes to the organisational structure following the retirement of the Director of Regulatory Services. These changes had now been implemented and in accordance with the Progressive Alliance Leaderships desire to ensure that the organisation was adequately resourced to deliver on the Council's ambitious programme, a review of organisational resilience and capacity had been undertaken.

The review identified several areas where capacity and resilience were currently creating corporate and operational risks. Section 2 of the report outlined each of these areas by service directorate and the proposed measures to address these concerns.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Whitehead, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That Council approves the proposals outlined in Section 2 of the report.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **96/24 - DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC LEADERS BOARD**

The Chief Executive introduced a report providing the Council with an update on the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board and the East Midlands Combined County Authority following the election of EMCCA Mayor Claire Ward on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and to nominate the Council's substitute representative on the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.

At the meeting of Council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Members considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Derby and Derbyshire Strategic Leadership Board and approved its active participation in the Strategic Leadership Board. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Flitter, was appointed as the Council's representative on the board with the then Deputy Leader, Councillor Peter Slack as a substitute. Following changes in the Councils political leadership, it was proposed that Councillor Bob Butcher be nominated as substitute for 2024/25.

The Chief Executive informed Members that at the Board meeting on 16th May, the proposed articles, procedures and terms of reference previously considered at Council in January 2024, were formally endorsed with no substantive changes, as shown at Appendix 1.

It was noted that the EMCCA Board meeting held on 17th June included Councillor Flitter as a member of the Transport Advisory Committee and also as a substitute member on the Skills and Employment Advisory Committee. Councillor Hughes had been appointed as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Buttle had been appointed as a substitute member for the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

## **RESOLVED**

1. That Council appoints the Deputy Leader of the Council – Cllr Bob Butcher, as the Council's substitute representative on the D2 Strategic Leadership Board.
2. That Council notes the final Terms of Reference for the D2 Strategic Leadership Board as set out at Appendix 1.
3. That Council notes the Derbyshire Dales member representatives appointed to the EMCCA Committees for 2024/25 as set out in Paragraph 2.8 of the report.

## **Voting**

**23 For**

**00 Against**

**01 Abstained**

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **97/24 - DERBYSHIRE DALES PLAN 2024-28**

Councillor Steve Flitter, Leader of the Council, introduced a report presenting a public version for circulation of the Derbyshire Dales District Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28, known as the Derbyshire Dales Plan. This public version could be widely circulated as the statement of the Council's priorities, aims and aspirations for the coming four years.

The Derbyshire Dales Plan (Corporate Plan) was the District Council's primary policy document. It established the Council's policies and priorities for the coming years and set the framework for allocating scarce financial and human resources through the budget and service planning process.

The plan had been carefully constructed to bring together the priorities of the Progressive Alliance in an achievable way. Residents were consulted in July 2023 to add their perspective via focus groups in Matlock and Ashbourne and Member workshops were held in September and November 2023 to feed all Members priorities and ambitions into the process.

As a result, the Aims, Themes and Principles underpinning the Derbyshire Dales Plan were approved by Council in December 2023. Cross-party working groups were then established



for each of the five Themes to develop the priorities, outcomes and delivery plans. The final Delivery Plan for each of the five Themes were developed by the Working Group and presented to Council for approval in February 2024. Progress against the corporate plan would be received by Council at half year and year end intervals.

Councillor Flitter highlighted that there was an error on page 7 of Appendix 1. This was an early draft of the outcomes of the housing stock, quality of rental stock and housing allocation. The supplementary page circulated to Councillors at the Meeting would replace this.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Roger Shelley and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. The Derbyshire Dales Plan 2024-28 be approved for public consultation.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **98/24 - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 FINAL OUTTURN**

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services introduced a report summarising the four-year outturn performance against the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24. The report also highlighted the many achievements of the 2020-2024 period and also where some challenges still remained.

Derbyshire Dales District Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 was adopted by Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It set out the Council's priorities and areas for improvement, these were people, place and prosperity.

The Plan identified a number of priority targets relating to the specific activities to be undertaken during the four-year period. These targets were assigned annually to specific teams and service areas for action. They set out how the Council would meet its long-term Corporate Plan targets. Progress against each during the 2020-2024 period was set out in Appendix 1.

The Council performance – Outturn Summary for 2020-24 was outlined in section 3 of the report. It was noted that 94% of the 33 Corporate Plan indicators for the 2020-24 period were fully or partially achieved on time or slightly later than planned. Only 6% of actions were still being progressed, as shown in Table 1. The Corporate Plan results were detailed in section 4 of the report.

It was moved by Councillor Flitter, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the outturn performance against Corporate Plan targets for 2020-2024 be noted.
2. Performance data is used to continue achievements and improvements against the Derbyshire Dales Plan 2024-28.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **99/24 - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - KEY & CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OUTTURN 2023/24**

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services introduced a report summarising the yearly outturn performance against the District Council's Corporate Plan targets and key Performance Indicators for the full year 2023/24. The report highlighted where services had performed strongly and where improvements could be made. The report also highlighted the Council's performance against waste management, finance and planning metrics recently launched by the Office for Local Government (Oflog).

The Corporate Plan 2020-24 (adopted by Council on 5th March 2020) set out the District Council's priorities and areas for improvement. The plan identified a number of priority targets relating to the specific activities to be undertaken during the relevant financial year. These targets were assigned annually to specific teams and service areas for action. They set out how the Council would meet its long-term Corporate Plan targets. Progress against each during 2023/24 was set out at Appendix 1.

In addition, there were 12 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measured the Council's general organisational health. They covered service areas such as determining planning applications in good time, paying bills on time, collecting Council Tax efficiently and paying benefits claims promptly. Appendix 2 provided detail on progress against the KPIs, on a quarter by quarter basis, throughout 2023/24.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Whitehead, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

### **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. The outturn performance against Corporate Plan targets for 2023/24 be noted.
2. The outturn performance against the Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 be noted.
3. The outturn performance for 2021/22 against the newly launched Office for Local Government finance, waste management and Planning metrics be noted.
4. That annual reports continue to be presented to Members to highlight progress, demonstrate good performance and address areas for improvement.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**Meeting Closed: 9.51 pm**

**Chair**