



**OPEN REPORT  
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Community and Environment Committee – 8 February 2024**

**DERBYSHIRE DALES CORPORATE PLAN: WORKING GROUPS**

**Report of Director of Regeneration and Policy**

**Report Author and Contact Details**

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**Wards Affected**

All Wards

**Report Summary**

The report updates Members on progress made by the four Derbyshire Dales Corporate Plan Working Groups, established by Council on 14 December 2023, which are under the remit of this committee.

**Recommendations**

1. That the report and appendices are considered and endorsed.

**List of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Corporate Plan Working Group Terms of Reference  
Appendix 2 Draft notes of Corporate Plan Working Group meetings

**Background Papers**

- Council 14 December 2023: Derbyshire Dales Plan 2024-28
- Governance and Resources Committee, 14 September 2023: Development of the Derbyshire Dales Plan 2024-28

**Consideration of report by Council or other committee**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from Press or Public**

No

## DERBYSHIRE DALES CORPORATE PLAN: WORKING GROUPS

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council, at its meeting on 14 December 2023, approved new Aims, Themes and Principles as the basis of the Derbyshire Dales Plan (corporate plan).
- 1.2 Council also established cross-party working groups. Five groups were established, one for each Theme of the Derbyshire Dales Plan, each tasked to:
  - i. **Review and agree the Priorities and Outcomes** for its Theme.
  - ii. **Agree a Delivery Plan** for its Theme, taking account of staff and financial resources – initially for the 2024/25 financial year, but taking account of future years to enable programming/prioritisation.
- 1.3 It is expected that Delivery Plans will be published alongside the 2024/25 Budget at the Council meeting on 29 February.
- 1.4 Circling Squares had identified that the current corporate plan includes too many targets, projects and actions. The current plan has 25 targets/indicators in total. In order to match ambition to resources, a challenge for working groups is to manage expectations with regard to prioritisation and resourcing.
- 1.5 The groups are task and finish groups, meeting first in January and completing their initial task in February. They each comprise one Member from each of the four political groups. The Chair of each working group was selected by its members at its first meeting. Each working group has officer support. Each working group is responsible to a 'parent' policy committee, as follows:
  - *Community and Environment Committee*
    1. Environment
    2. Housing
    3. Place shaping and Economy
    4. Community services and resources
  - *Governance and Resources Committee*
    5. Financially sound, fair and responsive Council (corporate)
- 1.6 This report updates on the four working groups under the auspices of the Community and Environment Committee.

### 2. Corporate Plan Working Group updates

- 2.1 The membership of these four working groups is as follows. The Group leaders are entitled to sit in working group meetings as observers. At each meeting, the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1 were agreed. Draft notes of meetings are attached at Appendix 2.

ENVIRONMENT	HOUSING	PLACE SHAPING AND ECONOMY	COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES
Cllr M Burfoot	Cllr Shelley	Cllr Flitter	Cllr Franks
Cllr Slack (sub Cllr Whitehead)	Cllr O'Brien ( <b>CHAIR</b> ) (sub Cllr Greatorex)	Cllr Peacock (sub Cllr Slack)	Cllr Whitehead (sub Cllr Nash)
Cllr Buckler ( <b>CHAIR</b> ) (sub Cllr Mellstrom)	Cllr Mellstrom (sub Cllr Buttle)	Cllr Buttle ( <b>CHAIR</b> ) (sub Cllr Buckler)	Cllr Boothroyd ( <b>CHAIR</b> ) (sub Cllr Mellstrom)
Cllr Chapman	Cllr Gee	Cllr Bond	Cllr Hobson
Lead Director: • Tim Braund	Lead Director: • Rob Cogings	Lead Director: • Steve Capes	Lead Director: • Ash Watts

## ENVIRONMENT

- 2.2 The Environment Working Group first met on 18 January, when Cllr Buckler was elected as chair. The group met again on 22 January and Cllr M Burfoot was elected as chair for this meeting. The Working Group was happy to use the standard agenda and quickly focussed on the main objective of preparing a final draft delivery plan to meet the aim of a thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales.
- 2.3 The core programmes considered by the Group remained as set out in the documentation previously considered by Council, with some amendment to the wording. For example, the Group considered suggestions made at Council and amended the priority relating to a carbon neutral district to refer instead to a net zero district.
- 2.4 Actions have been proposed for each of the priority areas and the updated delivery plans have been shared with those Members who sat on the Environment Working Group and with the officers who have supported that Group. It is believed that the proposed actions are achievable within the 4 year period of the plan and is also recognised that issues may arise over the lifetime of that plan which might warrant inclusion in the plan at a later date.
- 2.5 The Working Group did not see the need for a third meeting to make further adjustments to the plan at this stage but did consider that the Group should have a role in monitoring and assessing progress against the plan. In coming to this view the Group was mindful of the interactions between the existing Climate Change Working Group and the Biodiversity Sub-Committee and recognised that it would be necessary to determine which responsibilities would fall to each of these complementary bodies.

## HOUSING

- 2.6 The Housing Working group met on 3 January when Cllr O'Brien was elected as chair. The group met subsequently on 9 January and 23 January. The HWG discussions focussed on the five key priorities - homelessness, second/holiday homes, affordable housing, management of social housing and energy efficiency of the housing stock.
- 2.7 The Group endorsed the preparation of a new Homelessness Strategy for completion in Q1 2024/25, that will set out the key actions to tackle homelessness over the next 5 years. The Group wished to prioritise support for people to return to the area from which they have been made homeless. This is challenging and by a majority it was agreed that whilst this was an objective it should not feature as a firm commitment in the Strategy.
- 2.8 Second and holiday homes remain an issue for many rural communities. By a majority the Group supported a) the imposition of the 100% Council Tax premium on 2<sup>nd</sup> homes, for which work is underway to produce a report for consideration by Members, and b) working on the development of planning policies seeking to ensure the change of use of permanent homes to holiday homes requires planning permission; this would also require the cooperation of the PDNPA.
- 2.9 The Group want to see more support for social housing tenants so that they understand their rights and can raise concerns with their landlord. There is already a substantial framework of regulation of landlords post-Grenfell and the 'damp and mould' tragedy in Rochdale. Support for tenants is also available across a variety of services. Proposals were put forward for a Charter, but after discussion it was agreed to establish formal Member-led meetings on a quarterly basis with Platform Housing to review property management issues; the need for meetings with other providers will be kept under review. A proposal was put forward to review the local occupancy conditions associated with social housing, with a view to establishing a uniform policy across the district. By a majority decision it was agreed not to progress this.
- 2.10 Improving the energy efficiency of the existing stock is a significant challenge with several small programmes completed and more on the way. The Group accepted that it was not economically feasible to provide increased funding to accelerate programmes, but wished to look to influence decisions by a future Government and the new Mayoral Authority. The Group agreed that the Council should look to explore the feasibility of working with partners to seek opportunities to a) increase the capacity of the local energy efficiency assessor network and b) to assess the capacity of the local construction sector to undertake 'green energy efficiency' projects. Proposals to develop these further would, if feasible, be made in collaboration with the new Mayoral Authority and existing sub-regional energy partnerships.

- 2.11 The Council has a successful track record of delivering new affordable homes with a rolling average of 67 homes per year, but current projections indicate that the rate will fall. Overall future need (affordable rental and discounted purchase) is assessed in excess of 120 per annum. The Group noted a strong aspiration to achieve a step change in delivery, but acknowledged that there are significant challenges to this, and support from a wide variety of external partners and organisations would be required. The Group agreed that a Strategy and Action Plan should be developed, to identify barriers, review current practices, negotiate with external partners and agree ways forward; this would require the use of external consultancy support. A comprehensive Brief and costings will be prepared.

## PLACE SHAPING AND ECONOMY

- 2.12 The working group met on 8 January, when Cllr Buttle was elected as chair. At that meeting, the group agreed minor changes to the Priorities and Outcomes for the theme. The group also discussed minor changes to the draft Delivery Plan programmes and actions.
- 2.13 The second meeting of the working group was on 15 January, when the Delivery Plan programmes and actions were agreed. Core programmes for 2024-28 are proposed to be:
- (1) Work with and influence new Mayoral Combined Authority to ensure it addresses the identified needs of the Derbyshire Dales
  - (2) Unlock stalled brownfield sites in and close to market towns in order to build new homes and grow SMEs
  - (3) Facilitate town centre regeneration to improve public realm and stimulate spend and investment
  - (4) Adopt a revised Local Plan to guide land development and facilitate sustainable, thriving, resilient communities
  - (5) Provide advice and grants to support the decarbonisation of Derbyshire Dales businesses
  - (6) Provide one-to-one impartial business advice with a focus on micro and small businesses with growth potential
  - (7) Provide grant funding to support micro and SME business growth, with a focus in particular on manufacturing, engineering, knowledge-based and creative/digital industries and the rural economy (including farm diversification)
  - (8) Provide support to new-start businesses
  - (9) Revise Economic Plan
- 2.14 The group agreed targets for each action. Due to the varied nature of the actions in the plan, the targets are a mixture of dates (when an action is to be done); numerical targets; and aspirations (in connection with the Mayoral Combined Authority).
- 2.15 The targets reflect what is achievable by the Council within four years, rather than necessarily everything that is desirable. However these targets should

provide good evidence for Members to demonstrate progress against the wider Outcomes.

- 2.16 The working group felt a third meeting was not required. However, in refreshing the Economic Plan (one of the proposed actions) the working group does feel it could have a helpful role as a Member sounding board.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- 2.17 The working group met on Friday 12 January, where Cllr Boothroyd was elected as Chair. The group reviewed each of the themes and suggested minor amendments to the Priorities and Outcomes.
- 2.18 The Director of Community & Environmental Services was tasked with making the amendments and circulating them ahead of the follow up meeting on Monday 22 January.
- 2.19 The working group committed to finalising the Priorities and Outcomes at the meeting on the 22 January, and also reviewing the Delivery Plan to ensure the work programme and its requirements are manageable with the resources available. Work in progress is reflected in Appendix 2.

## **3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 3.1 It is recommended that progress is noted.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The working groups meet at the end of an extensive consultation process involving residents, partners, staff and Members. The Delivery Plan targets have involved engagement with relevant officers and teams.

## **5. Timetable for Implementation**

- 5.1 It is envisaged that the new Derbyshire Dales Plan will form the basis of budgeting and service planning, with budgets for 2024/25 and an updated Medium-Term Financial Plan being approved at Council on 29 February 2024. The new Derbyshire Dales Plan would come into force from April 2024. It will replace the current Corporate Plan which runs to March 2024.

## **6. Policy Implications**

- 6.1 The new Derbyshire Dales Plan will set the overall direction for the delivery of Council services and policies. This may result in different service areas adopting new and revised policies, depending upon the extent of changes envisaged in the Plan.

## **7. Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 The development of a new Derbyshire Dales Plan will require an appropriate level of budgetary provision to deliver the projects and proposals included therein. This may necessitate some prioritisation and redeployment of existing budgets and staff.
- 7.2 In this regard, the crucial task for Members is to select from the multitude of possible activities and projects (all of which fit within priorities) and agree a focused programme that is deliverable within available financial and staff resources. Such an approach allows for the development of a realistic and deliverable plan.
- 7.3 The working groups are expected to each develop a delivery plan for the 2024/25 financial year initially. This is likely to result in resources being re-aligned with the new Aims. This re-alignment will be reflected in the draft budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan that are due to be approved by Council on 29 February 2024.
- 7.4 The financial risk of this report's recommendations is assessed as low.

## **8. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 This report refers to the Derbyshire Dales Plan which as stated is the District Council's primary policy document and a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 2000. The legal risk of challenge associated with taking the decisions as recommended has been assessed as low.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 As the Derbyshire Dales Plan will impact all Council services, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out of delivery plans prior to the February Council meeting to ensure the Council meets its statutory duties on equalities. The EIA will also highlight and, if needed, suggest mitigation for potential positive and/or negative implications.

## **10. Climate Change and Biodiversity Implications**

- 10.1 There is a 'green thread' running through the Working Group discussions and climate change and biodiversity considerations have been integral to the development of plans. There will be a further opportunity to consider these implications when final plans are brought to Council for approval.

## 11. Risk Management

- 11.1 There will be an opportunity to consider risks when final plans are brought to Council for approval.

### Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from Statutory Officers:

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	31/01/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Gemma Hadfield	31/01/2024
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Helen Mitchell	1/2/2024



# APPENDIX 1 CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

## Role and Function

1. To arrive at a delivery plan for each theme of the corporate plan;
2. To consider the merits and/or disadvantages to continuing the group's work in respect of overseeing delivery.
3. To share the Group's work, formally, with the parent Policy Committee.

The group will have no decision-making powers but will provide progress updates to the parent policy committee for endorsement.

## Composition and Membership

Each group will have 4 Members (one from each political group/grouping on the Council). Each group will be supported by at least one Director.

The Chair of the Group will be appointed from amongst the elected Members nominated to sit on the Group by the Group Leaders. The Chair cannot be a substitute Member.

Meetings will be supported by the directorate and any other officer as required.

Group Leaders are invited to attend in an observing capacity only and can contribute on discretion of the Chair.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- Members must come to meetings of the group prepared, considering material shared in advance to allow for a productive use of Member and officer time.
- Members must work together to attempt to arrive at a consensus view of how to best plan the delivery of the corporate plan ensuring that key milestones and work to do is legally allowable, financially possible and is in firm alignment with the principles agreed to at Council in December 2023.
- Members of the working groups are responsible for keeping their political groups abreast of the work of the group, feeding in ideas or concerns for discussion and resolution at the meeting.
- Members and Officers jointly own and take responsibility for the outcomes of the Group.  
Members consider advice provided by officers which could be at variance with their own views.
- Officers must prepare and issue materials a min. of 3 working days in advance that are digestible and relevant to discussions.
- Officers must ensure that action notes are issued within 3 working days of the meeting to enable Members to share work and feed back to their appointing groups.
- Officers must work with Members to ensure that delivery plans are both achievable, stretching and in alignment with the Corporate Plan.

- Officers consider the ambitions of Members and work to find different solutions to typical issues, problems and policy even if they are a departure from existing delivery arrangements/approaches.

**ENVIRONMENT****18 January 2024**

- The meeting was attended by Cllrs Buckler and Cllr Slack
- Cllr M Burfoot sent his apologies and Cllr Flitter acted as substitute for this meeting
- Cllr Buttle attended as an observer
- Cllr Buckler was appointed as chair
- It was agreed that the working group had a role to play beyond the development of the Corporate Plan, in terms of overseeing delivery of the actions to be developed for the delivery plan
- It was agreed that further discussion was needed on the interactions between the Environment Working Group, the Climate Change Working Group and the Biodiversity Sub-Committee
- It was agreed that Tim Braund would summarise the work of the Group for inclusion in the upcoming report to Community and Environment Committee
- Cllr Buckler led the group through consideration of the draft delivery plan. Whilst the group did not complete all this work at the first meeting, significant progress was made and this is summarised in the attached document, which shows amendments and suggestions in track changes.
- The Group considered that the 2 proposed actions for recycling should be contained within the Environment theme – please see attached document
- It was recognised that a further meeting of the group was required to complete consideration of the following:
  - Future of agriculture and land management
  - Water pollution, community engagement and nutrient neutrality from the Pollution priority
  - Infrastructure
- A second meeting of the group has been organised for 16:15 on Monday 22 January – Deb Heaton to update the meeting invite

**22 January 2024**

- The second meeting of the Group was attended by Cllr M Burfoot, Cllr Chapman and Cllr Buckler
- Cllr Buttle attended as an observer
- Cllr Burfoot was appointed as Chair for this meeting
- The group confirmed that they saw an extended role for the group in relation to monitoring the outputs and outcomes from the delivery plan
- There was a recap of the notes from the first meeting of the group and there was opportunity to review the revisions to the delivery plan made by that meeting
- Cllr Burfoot led the meeting through consideration of the remainder of the draft delivery plan, which comprised the second part of the Pollution priority area, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Land Management, and Landscapes

- Further amendments were made to the draft delivery plan and these are summarised in the attached document, again using track changes
- It was recognised that the landscapes priority had not been included in the initial draft of the delivery plan and the actions relating to this issue, along with those relating to Recycling which were discussed at the first meeting, have been added to the 'Other Suggestions' section of the document for inclusion in the final delivery plan

## HOUSING

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

### **Present**

Observers: Cllr Flitter, Cllr Slack, Cllr Buttle.

Member reps: Cllr Shelley, Cllr Mellstrom, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Gee

Officers: Jo Hill, Steve Capes, Helen Mitchel, Rob Cogings

1. Helen introduced the Terms of Reference and the update to include the 3 leaders as observers.
2. Cllr O'Brien was elected as Chair of the Housing Working Group and then went on to outline the history of the HWG and the 5 priorities that had already been developed. These include, homelessness, 2<sup>nd</sup> homes, affordable housing, management of social housing and condition and energy efficiency of the housing stock. The issue of traveller sites is also a priority for housing but is the focus of the Traveller Working Group.

One aim of the HWG is to develop housing proposals for the first year of the corporate plan, for the financial year 2024/25.

3. Homelessness. Rob was asked to outline the work relating to the Homelessness Strategy. This included the statutory guidance officers follow in developing the strategy which then leads to the formulation of an action plan for delivery over the next 5 year period. The strategy starts with a review of issues and services, consultation with key stakeholders and reports to Committee and Council. The action plan will be produced by Q1 2024/25. Rob indicated the sort of items that might be included in the action plan and members asked questions about the extent of homelessness across the district. Members were keen to see more KPI information about the homelessness service and **Rob undertook to take this away and work with Simon Beynon on how this could be achieved.**

The group also discussed the desire to include an action that seeks to give people made homeless, the opportunity to be rehoused close to their original home. There was a robust discussion about this and the pros and cons of trying to achieve this. Giving homeless families an indication that the council will be able to rehouse them back in the community from which they were made homeless would cause problems in the delivery of the homelessness service. The housing team already take in to account the support needs of homeless families but there are many reasons why a public statement or policy objective would cause problems and potentially legal challenge when the council failed to meet the policy. **Rob undertook**

**to work on a form of words with Simon Beynon, that tried to respond to the wishes of the Members.**

4. 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and holiday lets. Cllr O'Brien outlined the issue of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and the 3 tools open to the Council, the premium, registration and planning. The majority of Members want to take forward the imposition of the premium, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Rob outlined how this could be achieved, commencing with a report to Council in February 2024. Cllr Gee made the point that some owners of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes may simply switch their property to a holiday let, thereby lessening the financial benefit of the premium. The HWG also wish to see the additional revenue raised from the premium invested into the delivery of affordable homes. It was discussed that a 100% premium was appropriate (i.e. double council tax for a 2<sup>nd</sup> home). Rob highlighted the issues around this and also the proportion of the extra income that is received by DCC. Cllr Gee was keen for the impact of the premium to be measured over time such that any movement from 2<sup>nd</sup> homes to holiday lets could be recorded. **The HWG supported the introduction of a Council Tax premium on second homes and agreed to seek views on ringfencing the additional sums raised for affordable housing. The Group also wished to speak to DCC about ensuring that part of the additional sum raised for DCC be dedicated to preventative work. The HWG wished to pursue registration of holiday lets.**

5. Social Housing Management; Members across all groups receive complaints from social housing tenants about the condition of their home and/or responsiveness of their landlord. Platform and to a lesser extent NCHA were identified. Members felt that communities expect the Council to find a way to address tenant problems including the production of a charter or concordat. Rob outlined the existing regulatory framework that includes, the Regulator of Social Housing, the new Social Regulation Act, Homes England, the Housing Ombudsman, the banks who lend to associations, the boards and tenant scrutiny panels that exist within housing associations. The Council has recently established a new Liaison Group with Platform with the first meeting at the end of January 2024.

The group discussed the issues involved in developing a charter but recognised the practicalities. The role of scrutiny committee was also discussed. **The HWG concluded the discussion by agreeing to pilot the Liaison Group for 1 year and then review the effectiveness of this approach. The group also felt it would like to establish a further Liaison Group with NCHA.**

6. Existing housing stock. Cllr O'Brien outlined the issues with the existing housing stock within the Derbyshire Dales (comprising 34,000 homes). The HWG recognise there are existing programmes doing good work, but these are small scale compared to the size of the problem. The HWG want to increase capacity in the construction sector to deliver more retrofit work

and also provide more advice through retrofit assessors. The HWG has previously discussed creating an incubator training centre for apprenticeships in the retrofit sector. Jo talked about the paper she is writing on the issues/opportunities in the Dales. There is a lack of EPC ratings for the existing stock. The key objective has to be the delivery of the programmes already allocated to the District. A successful track record will lead to further investment by government/MCA, when other councils are struggling to spend their allocations.

DDDC does not have inhouse training facilities or experience. Setting up a new provider from scratch will be challenging. Existing schemes through Marches and/or Nottingham Energy Partnership would be more likely to succeed. Jo has had initial conversations with providers about apprenticeships.

**The HWG target would be something around undertaking an options appraisal into the delivery of training that would develop retrofit skills via existing energy partnerships.**

7. Affordable Housing. To be discussed next Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, as well as Key Performance Indicators and Finance.

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## **Present**

Observers: Cllr Flitter, Cllr Slack

Member reps: Cllr Shelley, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Gee Cllr Buttle

Officers: Steve Capes, Helen Mitchel, Rob Cogings, Simon Beynon

Apologies: Cllr Mellstrom

8. Cllr O'Brien outlined the extent of the challenge in relation to the provision of affordable housing and the work of previous administrations in the delivery of affordable homes. The PA want to increase provision across the district given the availability of homes is one of the most pressing issues facing our communities. Whilst the PA have no specific target, there is the annual local plan number of 120 rent and 50-60 affordable dwellings to purchase. Existing new supply is running well below this local plan figure.
9. As an administration the PA want to increase delivery. The subject is a wide topic with multiple dimensions. Cllr O'Brien outlined the 4 main routes to provision including s106 from private developers, housing associations who provide through Homes England funding, community led groups and the district council, which essentially is acting as a small housing association.

10. Each of the 4 routes to delivery has a role to play in meeting supply, so the question is how can we influence provision, what are the barriers and what can we do to improve supply. Cllr Buttle asked why somewhere like Chesterfield BC achieves 17% on site provision whereas DDDC only achieves 8%? Rob explained a bit more about s106 provision, rural exception sites and how the development process works.
11. The PDNPA was discussed in relation to S106 which typically their policies tend to prevent, given there are relatively few brownfield site opportunities.
12. The group noted there is already a lot of working going on but the rate of provision needs to increase and so a fresh plan/strategy is required. This would include understanding the barriers, how these can be removed and develop a programme of 3 – 5 – 10 years with an action plan that can ramp up supply.
13. The group discussed bringing extra resources forward to tackle the issues discussed, negotiate with partners and govt agencies, Mayoral combined authority, other LA partners and communities. The result would be a delivery plan. This piece of work would take 6 to 9 months. The results could be presented at a housing summit, which would seek to get buy in from partners.
14. The group asked questions about the market and what the work would involve. There are a range of partners who could buy in to this work. The work would also involve the same approach with the private sector. The work would set out the gap in delivery and the group discussed the sorts of things that would need to happen, particularly relating to land and funding.
15. The group discussed how the work would be delivered, whilst officers have a good view they may not have the capacity and so an external consultant would be needed, potentially funded from the Corporate Priority Reserve.
16. **The key action point revolves around the development of a specification that describes what the Council wants to achieve, identifying the barriers and suggesting a way forward across social /affordable rent and low cost market housing, via s106, housing associations, community led groups and the district council. The Council would engage a consultant, to develop a strategy and action plan, from April 2024 to complete by December 2024.**

23rd January 2024

**Present**



Observers: Cllr Flitter,

Member reps: Cllr Shelley, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Gee Cllr Mellstrom

Officers: Steve Capes, Helen Mitchel, Rob Cogings, Simon Beynon

Apologies: Cllr Buttle, Cllr Slack

1. Cllr O'Brien outlined the extent of the discussions over the previous 2 meetings of the HWG and was keen to take stock of the 5 identified themes and hear views of Members and colleagues.
2. **Homelessness Strategy and the presumption that families will be rehoused back where they had been living:** Cllr Gee said this was a good aspiration but to include a geography or distances would make it very difficult. The group discussed the issues behind local connection and officers highlighted the difficulties of such a policy. Rob and Simon had discussed this policy outside the meeting and had been unable to come up with a form of words that would deliver the ambition but not leave the council open to challenge from those who had not been rehoused back to their local community. Cllr O'Brien said the Labour group was focused on families with children and wanted to see the Council adopt this policy. Cllr Shelley asked about the number of complaints in this subject and Simon advised that since 2018, there had not been a single request to review an offer of accommodation based on suitability of the property, i.e. based on the evidence to date, customers were satisfied with their offer of accommodation. Cllr Mellstrom was concerned about the point the possibility of people acting to their own detriment if they waited for a home in the location they came from. **After further discussion the group voted 3-1 to go with the officer recommendation and not include a specific policy on this issue.** Cllr O'Brien requested that the corporate plan makes reference to the work the housing team does to support people.
3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Homes:** the group reviewed progress on the Council Tax premium for 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and the planning context as a new use class for holiday lets. Cllr Gee reaffirmed his opposition to the idea of the council tax premium. Rob outlined the progress with the 2<sup>nd</sup> homes council tax report which will come to council at the end of February 2024. The group discussed holiday home registration and Steve circulated some further details about the national policy on this and how it might come forward. After further discussion on the issue, the group decided it would like to look at the benefits of a registration scheme with potential for introduction in 2025.
4. **Social Housing:** Cllr O'Brien advised that the Labour group had a preference for a charter to be established. Rob covered the existing statutory provisions that relate to social landlords and also mentioned the new Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) that had been introduced by government in the wake of the Grenfell tragedy. Simon gave further details on the 4 key areas the TSMs covered. Rob reminded the group of the

upcoming meeting with Platform and suggested that this would be a good first step to bring the strategic concerns of Members to the senior managers of Platform. The TSMs could also be collected from the local housing associations and provided for Members to consider. **Rob and Simon were asked to come up with a form of words that makes the work with Platform and the TSMs mean something to tenants and Members.**

5. Home-Options Policy: Cllr O'Brien requested a review of the local occupancy criteria and talked about the different criteria that different housing providers work to. Cllr O'Brien said this causes difficulty with communities and so it needs to be formalised. Rob outlined the different aspects of local connection as they relate to former RTBs, exception sites and other developments which have different local connection requirements. Simon outlined the social rent issues. Cllr O'Brien said that Platform has no local priority when stock is allocated and so connection should be levelled up with the other homes in the area. Simon outlined the allocation policy which was required to give reasonable preference. Allocating outside the reasonable preference would be outside of the law and would close down access for people leading to a detrimental impact. Simon also advised that households naturally look to housing in their area and so homes in Ashbourne would typically be sought by people from the area. Cllr Mellstrom said the local occupancy criteria restricts mobility.
6. Simon outlined further the issue with adopting a blanket policy in relation to allocations and the legal issues this would create. Rob also put the view of housing providers who would struggle with voids and the ultimately their lenders concerned about rents and viability. Cllr Mellstrom asked about local connection. **The majority of the group did not support adopting a uniform local connection policy that could not be delivered.**
7. **Improving the existing housing stock.** Cllr O'Brien said the focus was on increasing capacity in the assessor network and to increase capacity of the local building industry, potentially through work with the Mayoral Combined Authority and Further Education. Steve outlined the paper that had been developed by Jo Hill which included 3 proposals,
  - a. Deliver the current fuel poverty schemes (HUG and the Devolution funding)
  - b. Develop retrofit advice through the HEAT project
  - c. Pick up skills issues within the local retrofit and construction sector, undertaking a survey to identify gaps and what is needed.
8. Members of the Working Group confirmed their support for an expansion of the capacity of the retrofit and energy efficiency local assessor network. They felt that waiting for the outcome of the current regional HEAT scheme did not offer any significant progress towards this. However the

Group acknowledged that a bespoke expansion of the HEAT initiative into the District, potentially in collaboration with neighbouring rural authorities/the PDNPA and the County Council's Eco Centre, would require further development work with partners. A potential practical action is to work with partners to explore opportunities to grow the network of retrofit advisers in the district, building on the learnings from the HEAT project.

9. In the context of the proposal to increase capacity in the local energy efficiency construction sector, the Group noted officer's concerns related to capacity and expertise within the Council. The Group supported the proposal for a 'skills gap' survey and analysis, but confirmed their wish to engage with local providers of further education and training as part of this exercise. The Group agreed that they wished to retain the objective, of increased local capacity in the sector, and that early discussions should take place with the East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority and the D2 SLB. A potential practical action is to survey local businesses and speak with training providers to understand the skills gap within the local retrofit assessment and construction sector.

## PLACE SHAPING AND ECONOMY

### **Corporate Plan Working Group Meeting: Place Shaping & Economy**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Members:**

Cllr Flitter  
Cllr Peacock  
Cllr Bond - Apologies  
Cllr Buttle

**Observers:**

Cllr Slack

**Officers:**

Amanda Brown  
Steve Capes  
Giles Dann  
Mike Hase  
Helen Mitchell – Left the meeting at item 4  
Chris Whitmore - Apologies

		Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Helen welcomed all to the meeting to clarify the background behind the cross-party working party working arrangements that have been agreed to complete work on the new Corporate Plan. Dual roles for Cllr Flitter/Cllr Buttle Cllr Slack as Observer Amanda agreed to take notes.</p>	AB
2	<p>Appointment of Chair</p> <p>Cllr Buttle proposed by Cllr Flitter as Chair confirmed Chairing as a Working Group member not as Leader of the Green Party. Cllr Peacock seconded. Cllr Buttle took the Chair.</p>	
3	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Steve noted the work to date during December with specific reference to the work of Cllr Hughes. No changes to the terms of reference required.</p>	
4	<p>Corporate Plan Context</p>	

<p>Steve introduced the updated version of the Prosperous and sustainable Dales communities and businesses paper – Theme 3</p> <p>Cllr Buttle introduced the paper and the aims of the meeting: All approved reviewed overall aims.</p> <p><b>Priorities</b>  Steve noted Cllr Hughes had asked that the 1<sup>st</sup> priority be working with Mayoral Authority – incorporated into the new paper. Agreed  Cllr Peacock raised 1b for  1b. Change to facilitating education apprenticeships and training opportunities in higher value occupation and take up Linking work with Joanna Hills to explore if apprenticeships and skills can be incorporated into the bid for decarbonisation through the Marches Energy work.</p> <p>Marketing for skills/apprenticeships to highlight and improve access. Influence the combined authority.  Specific mention apprenticeships  Discussed difficulties of travel costs for young people.</p> <p>2 Change to business from commercial  3 Agreed changed wording .  No change to 4 and 5  6 Agreed revised wording</p> <p><b>Page 2: Programme and Outcomes</b></p> <p>Facilitate Town Centre Regeneration: agreed amended wording: discussed how to develop a pipeline, previously agreed Town Centre large scale projects to be prioritised, Capital projects - Steve advised recruitment of a new Regeneration Officer in progress to look at strategic sites and develop larger Town Centre development plans was in progress. Discussed how/when we respond to Govt. calls probability the MCA will focus on large scale schemes.  Cllr Flitter asked if we could bring together clusters of villages to increase impact.  Cllr Peacock asked what if any pipeline we have, is this a priority villages may not have capacity to develop plans. Cllr Flitter wants to see cluster to support developments in several smaller settlements, more development time needed.  Opportunities might arise through local infrastructure levies (MH)  MCA will invest on deprivation figures and facts as a priority.  Cllr Flitter wants the plan to represent smaller rural communities while recognising the limitations of the funding available.  Cllr Buttle - should we be looking at flood mitigation to influence the MCA - Steve will take to the Environment Working Group to look at natural mitigation measures.</p>	<p>AB/SC</p> <p>SC</p>
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MH suggested additional work between DDDC and Parish Councils to use 106 monies.  
Discussed if we are a delivery body or an enabling body.  
Work with partners to develop a scheme such as Leader mainly an enabling role to access future funding.  
Agreed delivery and day to day delivery is to reside in the community, the gap is in facilitation, a pot could be in place to supply funds to communities to access consultancy/architect support.  
£50k in reserves to deliver economic outputs. Steve confirmed the funding currently is economic but a joint working fund including, feasibility environmental impacts is possible.  
Steve highlighted there would need to be clear criteria, environmental impacts can have indirect economic activity.

Agreed to change wording to: A pipeline of other town and large villages centre regeneration enabled and readied for funding opportunities.

Discussion on Digital Derbyshire and the roll out of improved services to schools, could business hubs be developed – difficulties in sharing public/private sector access.

No change to Unlock stalled brownfield sites.

Brownfield site discussion - Cllr Peacock questioned if the quarries should be included due to bio diversity issues, MH clarified they are in the current local plan, re think during the local plan process if these are included.  
Agreed all named sites taken from Programme and Outcomes **Support small and growing businesses**,  
Cllr Peacock asked for inclusion of creative and digital industries as high value growth – agreed.  
Add in another in – in particular in manufacturing, engineering, knowledge – based and creative and digital industries.  
Take out the words high value and high growth.  
Leave in focus on businesses.

Strategic framework – marketing plan, Remove that bullet point as duplicated below

### **Corporate Plan 2024 – Place Shaping: Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration V6**

Explained RIG funding, discussed wording of hypothecated Steve explained, agreed to change to ringfenced.  
3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point change from green skills centre to through green skills.

Ashbourne Airfield current position discussed.  
Agreed to remove specific sites mention just refer to key sites.

	<p>Point 3 Facilitate Town Centre – Agreed Change limited redevelopment to phased redevelopment.</p> <p>4 Local Plan: MH 2 bullet point – asked for clarification on grey infrastructure - change from grey and brown to making maximum use of land</p> <p>MH “Action areas” undefined.</p> <p>Change final point to through joint member and officer meetings.</p> <p>MH explained design guides consultants are being recruited, bio diversity plans in progress update</p> <p>Cllr Buttle asked to see provision of allotments and common green communal space in the plan, MH confirmed the local plan can look at this further. Cllr Flitter raised the question of continued management of such spaces. Steve confirmed the Environment WG are looking at this further.</p> <p>Point 5: Agreed with de carbonisation wording.</p> <p>Point 6: Agreed with amended wording.</p> <p>Point 7: re word in line with previous wording.</p> <p>Change into one action RIG including/ farm diversification and flood resilience measures for individual businesses.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock noted there is a cross over between working groups and co ordination between group would enhance this process. Steve noted there is cross representation between groups inbuilt into membership.</p> <p>Steve noted outputs need to be included, these can be incorporated as the next stage.</p> <p>8. AB outlined the New Start business support – Giles suggested this is raised with MCA - Add bullet point promote to MCA as a way forward.</p> <p>Cllr Buttle – Noted further work on Investor Development needed.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock commented business advisers should ask what search terms have been used to ensure our marketing is correctly targeted. SC outlined current partnership working with BPD/VPD</p> <p>Cllr Buttle raised the Open Reach work in progress with local communities and if we could facilitate further engagement.</p> <p>Cllr Buttle asked if Cllr Bond should be engaged further Cllr Buttle is to follow up and ask if he wants to add in further comments.</p> <p>Updated papers to be circulated.</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>AB</p> <p>Cllr B</p>
7	Next Meeting; 15 <sup>th</sup> January – if further discussion or material changes are required. Date to be kept `on hold`	SC/Cllr B

**Corporate Plan Working Group Meeting: Place Shaping & Economy**

**Monday 15th January 2024: 1:30**

**Members:**

Cllr Flitter  
Cllr Bond  
Cllr Buttle - Chair/Teams

**Observers:**

Cllr Slack

**Officers:**

Amanda Brown / Steve Capes / Giles Dann / Chris Whitmore  
Mike Hase (Teams)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Peacock  
Helen Mitchell

Poor connection for online members.

Cllr Buttle asked Steve to work through the papers on his behalf.

Cllr Bond had been unable to attend the previous meeting and was asked for comments on the papers circulated to members - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr Bond asked for clarification on the linkages between this work and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process. Following discussion on the process of NP, SC explained that member engagement helps with the process of joint working through inputting local information both from areas with NP and those without. Planning Services facilitate neighbourhood plans, a number have these in place these are complementary with the Adopted Local Plan. The 6 in place could be encouraged to update their plans

CW outlined some of the difficulties from a planning perspective. NP focus is on design, which is incorporated into planning decisions with limitations. Cllr Slack noted Wirksworth NP is a good example. NPs involve considerable community work and long-term planning – 2/3 years.

Cllr Slack noted that whilst a large number of local queries are focused on housing and planning, there is a far wider remit to thriving communities. The local plan enables parameters to be set for housing. More difficult to evaluate if a community is thriving in the smaller, rural settlements. MH offered to meet Cllr Slack separately to discuss.

All agreed good Neighbourhood Plans are a good basis to work with communities.

MH/CllrS



<p><b>Delivery Plan – targets</b></p> <p>SC explained how the proposed targets had been developed on the paper and updated as the meeting progressed.</p> <p>Point 1 – Predominantly this work is an influencing role to be taken up with the MCA. GD and AB to consider a clearer target to improve access to FE and apprenticeship provision for Dale’s residents.</p> <p>Point 2 – brownfield sites - GD explained initial works required on feasibility work to develop next step to master planning. GD to check Homes England timings and feed into the target.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the difficulties of bringing forward plans and the resource required - a £50,000 pot was put in place in 2022 – no applications taken up. Cllr Bond asked if Parishes understand/appreciate the opportunities. Cllr Bond noted there is a piece of work to assist understanding of what is asked of Parishes/Town Councils. Smaller investment and assistance can be valued at a community level. SC noted new capacity should have an impact on this work.</p> <p>Point 3 – No change.</p> <p>Point 4 - No Change. Cllr Buttle asked about coverage of water quality in the Local Plan, MH does not believe this can be incorporated into the Local Plan and will take offline with Cllr Buttle. CW raised the length of time developing Local plans take, an interim step may be to involve communities at a Neighbourhood Planning stage, specifically those that have plans in place such as Wirksworth.</p> <p>SC suggested the next 6 months would be a good timescale to engage communities.</p> <p>Cllr Flitter suggested all communities could be engaged not just NP areas we might find communities are more receptive to small scale development rather than completing the Local Plan and then consulting.</p> <p>Cllr Flitter highlighted the problem with the current situation, there is however potential to grow at the edge of villages. Consultation should be undertaken to involve smaller communities in developing sites no matter how small, to attract new land and in fill sites. Local plan sub committee is currently discussing consultation and the methodology to be used, the comments today would be fed in. The approach has cross party support.</p> <p>Point 5/6/7/8 - Existing UKSPF targets used – no changes - re word tense to clearly identify future targets.</p> <p>Cllr Bond asked to re visit item 4 - drainage provision a problem highlighted due to recent weather events. Agreed this will remain as an action and a priority.</p> <p>Optional Programmes (when resources permit)</p>	<p>GD/AB</p> <p>GD</p> <p>MH/CllrB</p> <p>MH</p>
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<p>Point 9 – SC confirmed the arrangements in place for tourism development, Cllr Peacock is the representative on the Partnership group. The MoU will be reviewed periodically.</p> <p>Point 10 – Discussion on the importance of updating and revising the current Economic Plan. Agreed it did not require major changes to reflect the current plans being finalised. Agreed this to be moved to core programme with a timeline of June 2024.</p> <p>Point 12: Discussion on the importance of enhancing digital connectivity. Action to be: Encourage the Mayor to improve rural coverage as with skills development.</p> <p>Point 13 – Remove Strategic infrastructure as covered by the Environment group.</p>	
<p>SC asked if, now the group’s core piece of work was completed, would they consider overseeing the refresh of the Economic Plan. It was agreed this would be appropriate and the group would re convene as required.</p> <p>Cllr Buttle thanked everyone and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p>

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

### **Play Areas**

Orphaned play areas are adopted by a suitable organisation so that children's play needs are satisfied and facilities are managed, maintained and improved.

#### Amended:

Ensure that children across the district have access to safe and well-maintained District Council play areas.

#### **Outcome:**

Undertake a review of play areas; identifying gaps in provision and appropriate management plans and develop a strategy to improve the provision of play areas across the district.

### **Leisure Centres and Services**

Periodic contract review to determine value for money and focus of community based Leisure Services.

#### Amended: (section to be split)

### **Leisure Centres**

Continue to work closely with our partners at Freedom Leisure to ensure the Council's Leisure Centres are operated and maintained to a high standard and meet the needs of residents and visitors.

#### **Outcome:**

To hold regular contract performance reviews and site inspections

### **Wellbeing**

To promote and look to support the wider wellbeing offer.

#### **Outcome:**

To maintain, manage and promote a variety of physical activity and wellbeing initiative across the district and in communities

### **Parks, Open Spaces and Street Environment**

Continue to maintain and enhance the attractiveness of these places consistent with environmental policies

#### Amended:

Continue to maintain and improve District Council parks, open spaces and street environment, with a focus on enhancing community use, and where possible, have a positive impact on the environment.

#### **Outcome:**

To develop a parks and open space improvement plan, which encourages the engagement of community groups

## Events

Continue to provide attractive events with third parties that bring together the Dales' communities.

### Amended:

Continue to provide and support events that bring together Dales communities and attracts visitors.

### Outcome:

To ensure that events which take place on District Council owned land consider the impact on the local community and the environment.

To help promote community events to encourage greater attendance to events in the district.

## Markets

### New

Proposed: To review and enhance the markets offer to the local community and businesses.

Outcome: Undertake a review of markets, with the aim of increasing stall occupancy and footfall, enhancing the visitor offer and promoting sustainable communities.

## Public Toilets

Continue to identify opportunities for re-opening toilets closed in the last 5 years working with community organisations and others

Amended: To ensure good provision of public toilets across the district for residents and visitors.

Outcome: Review the provision of public toilets across the district and undertake a feasibility study to consider the reopen of toilets where there is an affordable and identified need.

## Car Parks

Maximise the benefit to the Council and the Dales' communities that car parks provide through additional sources of revenue generation while tariffing car parks to attract residents and visitors to Dales' towns.

### Amended:

To develop and implement a car parks improvement plan that supports communities and local businesses.

**Outcome:**

Explore opportunities to develop our Car Parks and consider differential charging within the district with local businesses and residents at the forefront.

## **Waste & Recycling**

Prepare a policy and strategy for the period following the end of the Serco contract

Amended:

To provide an effective waste and recycling collection service with a focus on waste reduction.

**Outcome:**

To consider alternative service delivery options and develop an implementation plan for the collection of household waste and recycling, following the end of the Serco contract.

To develop a strategy to support the reduction of waste produced and collected.

## **Emergency Planning**

Continue the excellent support provided

Amended:

Maintain the Council's high standard of response to civil emergencies and incidents.

**Outcome:**

Continue to play an active role within the wider emergency planning partnership, including the Derbyshire Resilience Forum.

## **Community Safety Partnership**

Work to reduce crime and disorder and improve community safety in the Dales

Amended:

To maintain the low levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

**Outcome:**

Continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership, including the Police, and improving communications with the community on crime and safety.