

CABINET**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2015****I N D E X**

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CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2015

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor J Austen

" N Barker

" M Gordon

Councillor Mrs E A Hill

" P R Kerry

" Mrs L Robinson

131 Apology for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Miss T Williams.

132 Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillors N Barker and Mrs E A Hill declared non significant other interests in item 7(a), Rykneld Homes Regeneration and Development Scheme – Update, and item 12, Regeneration Options Currently Under Consideration, arising from their membership of the Rykneld Homes Board.

133 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

134 Proposed Overview & Scrutiny Work Programmes for 2015/16

Cabinet considered a report of the Scrutiny Chairs and the Overview and Scrutiny Manager advising of the Scrutiny Work Programmes for 2015/16.

Scrutiny members developed their work programme for 2015/16 having regard to suggestions from elected members and officers at the Council. The Monitoring Officer had also been provided with a copy for consideration.

It was important that the work programme remained realistic and manageable and there needed to be capacity to respond to new issues and developments throughout the year. It was therefore suggested that each committee undertake no more than one review during the year. In addition to this, committees would undertake policy and strategy development work and assess the performance of the Council overall.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet supports the work programmes attached as appendices to the report.

Reason for Decision

Scrutiny was required to keep Cabinet informed of its work programme and communicate its work to other members of the Council. The work programmes were live documents that would change during the year as issues arose.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

135 Parish and Town Councils Scrutiny Review

Cabinet considered Report No GBXR/04/15-16/MK of Councillor G Baxter MBE which set out the action plan in response to a recent scrutiny review into parish and town councils.

Cabinet had considered a report of the Economic Regeneration, Skills and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15 April 2015 into working with parish and town councils. Seven recommendations had been put forward by the review that were accepted by Cabinet.

The lead officer's response to the review was set out as an appendix to the report in the form of an action plan and this would be taken forward by the Governance Manager who was designated as lead officer for the review.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet endorses the proposed actions set out in the action plan which was attached to the report as an appendix to address the recommendations arising from the Working with Parish and Town Councils Scrutiny Review.

Reason for Decision

To comply with the requirement to address scrutiny recommendations that have been approved by Cabinet within two months of their approval.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Governance Manager)

136 Update on Emergency Planning

Cabinet considered Report No GBXR/05/15-16/PH of Councillor G Baxter MBE which advised Cabinet on emergency planning activity during 2014/15.

The report set out the Council's work in respect of emergency planning over the past year. Local authorities were defined within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as Category 1 responders and emergency planning was a statutory function. The

Council had a Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Division to provide support for the emergency planning service on behalf of the District.

Activities highlighted within the report included:-

- A review of the Strategic Alliance Emergency Plan;
- A review of the Strategic Alliance Business Continuity Plan;
- Business Continuity Awareness Week which took place between 16 and 20 March 2015;
- A review of the Community Risk Register which highlighted high risks around local fluvial flooding and an influenza pandemic;
- Publication of the National Capabilities Survey.

A Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principle (JESIP) exercise would take place later in the year alongside Bolsover District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council.

Members briefly debated the report exploring issues around the Council's preparedness for a terrorist attack and the recent bomb scare at Marx Court in Clay Cross. Emergency planning training for members was emphasised and it was noted that Derbyshire County Council would be coming to a Council meeting in September 2015.

RESOLVED – That the work undertaken on emergency planning during 2014/15 be noted.

Reason for Decision

To note the work undertaken on emergency planning during 2014/15.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Transformation)

137 Community Use of Facilities on the Avenue

Cabinet considered Report No GBXR/06/15-16/LH of Councillor G Baxter MBE, which sought approval to develop options for the provision and funding of community facilities within the Avenue site.

As part of the outline planning application granted to the Homes and Communities Agency in 2013, 1.8 hectares of land was identified for a primary school and a further one hectare of adjacent land was identified for community facilities provided by the Council. This land was to be handed over to the Council and the County Council on detailed planning approval to be submitted by Kier. There was no Section 106 funding allocated to the community facilities but an expectation that it would be funded by external grant and collaboration with partners.

The Council's Leisure Services Team had subsequently been asked to become involved in the project centred largely around the potential for the school/community facilities planned for the site. As part of one of the Avenue workstreams, the Council's Leisure Services Team had prepared a discussion paper which was attached to the report as an appendix detailing the importance, effective management and effective mix of such facilities and how the juxtaposition with the school might effectively work.

By working collaboratively and in line with the school build programme it was envisaged that efficiencies and savings could be generated to such a degree that very little additional investment would be required to realise the build of the community facilities by ensuring these were integrated into the school design with relatively minor changes being made to accommodate community needs. Costs could be kept to a minimum and resources used to their maximum potential both as part of the design and build stages but also from a future operation perspective. The report therefore proposed an options appraisal be commissioned outlining costs, risk and wider implications of providing a joint facility as opposed to a stand alone community facility.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Cabinet supports ongoing dialogue with Derbyshire County Council with a view to providing a joint community and primary school facility within the Avenue.
- (2) An options appraisal be presented to members outlining cost, risk and any wider implications of providing:-
 - A joint facility built at the same time;
 - A joint facility but where the community facility is built first;
 - A stand alone community facility is built.
- (3) The options appraisal include proposals regarding the sustainability and management model for the facility.

Reason for Decision

To provide an understanding of all aspects of providing a stand-alone and joint community facility.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Not to provide the community facilities which were rejected for the reasons set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

(Assistant Director – Leisure)

138 Code of Corporate Governance

Cabinet considered Report No GBXR/07/15-16/BM of Councillor G Baxter MBE, which sought approval for a revised Code of Corporate Governance which had previously been considered and recommended to Cabinet by the Council's Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee.

The Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and approved by members on an annual basis. The importance of good governance to an organisation was highlighted through the CIPFA and SOLACE publication *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* which established the national corporate governance framework. A copy of the Code had been to Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee on 25 June 2015. It was proposed that consideration of the issue of corporate governance be taken as part of the Member Development Programme later in the year.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance attached as Appendix 1 to the report and request that it be published on the Council's website.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the Council has a revised and up-to-date Code of Corporate Governance in place.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Operations/
Governance Manager)

139 A61 Growth Corridor Strategy

Cabinet considered Report No MG/01/15-16/BH of Councillor M Gordon, which sought Cabinet approval and commitment to the County Council's A61 Growth Corridor Strategy.

The A61 Corridor had been identified as a key housing, employment and leisure growth area by the Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement (DESS), however, due to congestion and poor reliability of journey times, particularly around its major junctions at peak periods, development and inward investment opportunities were constrained.

This strategy recognised that a balanced, sustainable approach was required that not only sought road based improvements to manage traffic better but also accommodated greater use of sustainable travel modes such as walking and cycling.

The strategy identified a number of principle pinch points on the stretch of the A61 Growth Corridor that ran through North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield and where activity should be focused to reduce congestion. These included:-

- The various roundabout junctions to the south;
- Clay Cross, mainly the north-south route;
- Between Horns Bridge and Langer Lane, principally the north-south route and peripheral roads such as St Augustine's Road and Storforth Lane;
- Sheepbridge Junction, including the local road network in the vicinity;
- Whittington Moor roundabout and the adjacent road network;

- Tesco roundabout (Chesterfield), mainly the north-south route;
- Horns Bridge, all roads and the adjacent network.

Details of how the strategy would be funded and its timetable were set out in the report.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet endorses the approach proposed to deliver the objectives of the A61 Growth Corridor and notes the Council officers' collaboration with Derbyshire County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council colleagues.

Reasons for Decision

To lever in funding to address transport challenges along the A61.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

To do nothing which would increase congestion and stall development on key sites.
(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

140 Mill Lane Options Appraisal/SCRIF Bid

Cabinet considered Report No MG/02/15-16/BH of Councillor M Gordon, which sought approval to commission an Options Appraisal and Development Brief for the Council's Mill Lane site and to approve an allocation of a maximum of £25,000 from the Invest to Save budget for the cost of the commission. The report also informed Cabinet of progress on an application to the Sheffield City Regional Infrastructure Fund to provide and improve access to the Mill Lane site and wider development land and sought approval for the payment of Sheffield City Region fees of up to £10,000 in order to take forward a bid to be paid from the Invest to Save fund.

Officers had been considering future options for the land and property secured to facilitate and enhance the wider Avenue development. Any proposals should be in line with the Avenue Area Strategic Framework. To facilitate the delivery of this vision, together with maximising capital receipts generated by future development, officers had prepared a brief to commission an options appraisal and development brief for the site. It was proposed that a firm of consultants recently procured competitively, Tibbalds, be commissioned to carry out the work. The consultant would be required to cover three broad areas:-

- Infrastructure options (for example a new access road) to facilitate development in the short term and for the wider site;
- Technical information to support the SCRIF bid;
- A development brief to consider issues such as land use, deliverability, demand, and which will be used to market the site.

A copy of the proposed brief was attached as an appendix to the report.

In addition, the Council had recently bid for monies from the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund (SCRIF) to deliver the southern access point into the Avenue

area development which would unlock and bring forward development land owned by the Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Members were advised that the bid had been appraised favourably by consultants appointed by Sheffield City Region and had been invited to go forward to the next stage which involved the proposal being tested through a transportation and economic model to assess value for money and contribution to the City Region's Gross Value Added (GVA). The Sheffield City Region required a commitment from local authorities to pay the appraisal costs of up to £10,000.

If the modelling was successful and the proposal invited to progress then further project development would be required. This would include evidence of demand (from potential occupiers and from developers), more detailed and accurate costing for the construction of the new road and calculation of the impact on GVA. This would require external resources and technical expertise and as such the work was included in the brief attached.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Cabinet approves the commissioning of an options appraisal and development brief for the Mill Lane, to include feasibility of social housing and to maximise Council employment.
- (2) The brief for the options appraisal/development brief be approved.
- (3) Allocation of a maximum of £25,000 from the Invest to Save budget for the cost of the commission be approved and a contribution sought from the County Council.
- (4) The application by the Council to Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund to provide/improve access to the Mill Lane site and wider development land be approved.
- (5) Payment of the Sheffield City Region fees of up to £10,000 from the Invest to Save Fund be approved.
- (6) A contribution from the County Council to the highways element of the brief be sought by officers.

Reasons for Decision

In order to progress the development of the Mill Lane Regeneration Scheme and to progress the SCRIF bid process.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

To do nothing and wait for developers to come forward. However, this proactive approach could see the development happening sooner and an earlier return on the Council's investment in the site.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

141 Rykneld Homes' Regeneration and Development Schemes – Update Report

Cabinet considered Report No EAH/02/15-16/NC of Councillor Mrs E A Hill (supported by Councillor Mrs J Austen) which advised members of current regeneration projects in progress.

Work highlighted within the report included:-

- Work on replacing the defected prefabricated bungalows at Keats Way, Grassmoor and provision of an additional 25 family homes on the adjacent garage site had reached practical completion through the Council's registered provider, Rykneld Homes.
- The construction of four houses in Dronfield was fully complete with all units let.
- Phase 2 of the Tarrans project in Eckington was complete with 34 Council owned bungalows occupied. Phase 2 would deliver 77 units in total.
- All the original Tarran bungalows had been demolished with the final road layout and infrastructure under construction with a scheduled completion date of September 2015.
- Phase 2 of the Tarrans project in Killamarsh was in progress with a total of 28 Council owned bungalows completed. Phase 2 would include 52 units in total.
- No further progress had been made on the construction of the section associated with the Killamarsh site following the departure of Dr Coles from the Chesterfield Canal Organisation. It was anticipated that the land set aside for the canal be reinstated to grass with future maintenance undertaken by the Council.
- The programme of works to undertake external wall insulation to 323 Reema Council homes in North Wingfield, Tupton, Pilsley, Unstone and Holmesfield had commenced.
- The refurbishment of 40 flats at Stevenson Place, Holmgate, was nearing completion with only five units not yet handed over. Attracting new tenants to the vacant flats had been more challenging as the area had previously been perceived as a problem area.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Cabinet acknowledges the information regarding the current regeneration projects as detailed within the report.
- (2) Cabinet receives a further regeneration update report in Autumn 2015.

Reason for Decision

To keep members up-to-date with latest regeneration projects.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Council could decide to do nothing further but this would result in potential health and safety issues, disrepair claims and reputational damage.

(Managing Director, Rykneld Homes)

142 Creation of an Urban Design Academy Social Enterprise

Cabinet considered Report No EAH/MG/03/15-16/AWC of Councillor Mrs E A Hill (supported by Councillor Mrs J Austen) and Councillor M Gordon which sought member approval to create a social enterprise based on the Urban Design Academy covering the District of North East Derbyshire.

The Council had established the Urban Design Academy in 2010 with the aim of improving design excellence across the District and progressing the Place Shaping agenda. The Urban Design Academy had undertaken a number of initiatives, including instigating the Building for Life Scheme, the creation of the Urban Design Best Practice Group, the organisation of a regional Urban Design Best Practice event hosting national speakers and organising site visits to best practice schemes as well as organising staff and member training and mentoring.

The report examined the possibility of turning the Urban Design Academy into a social enterprise. A social enterprise was a business that traded to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances or the environment. They made their money from selling goods and services near the market but reinvested their profits back into the business or local community. Social enterprises could be formed under a number of legal structures and could be either an unincorporated or incorporated company. A social enterprise was governed by a board of trustees or directors who were usually people who had an interest in the aims and objectives of the social enterprise and who had the skills and training to be able to perform a specific role on the board.

The implications of the proposal were set out within the report. The key benefits of turning the Urban Design Academy into a Social Enterprise included the ability to access external funding streams, the ability to become self financing and to involve the local community and stakeholders in its work and governance.

RESOLVED – That the Economic Development Unit be tasked with examining the possibility of turning the Urban Design Academy into a Social Enterprise and bringing their findings and recommendations back to a future Cabinet meeting.

Reason for Decision

To examine the options in greater detail and come back to Cabinet with firm proposals.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

Various governance models would be examined and staff would report back to members with recommendations. The most viable and suitable option would be chosen and presented to a future Cabinet meeting for approval.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

143 Financial Outturn 2014/15, including impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 onwards

Cabinet considered Report No PRK/04/15-16/BM of Councillor P R Kerry, which set out the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2014/2015. As part of the report, Members were asked to note the provisional outturn position in respect of the previous financial year, note that the Chief Financial Officer had signed off the Draft Statement of Accounts prior to submission to External Audit and had published the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/2015 alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts.

The year had seen a General Fund under-spend of £1.286m which had been transferred into the Invest to Save Reserve. An amount of £259,000 had been put into the General Fund Balance which amounted to £1.8m. This under-spend has arisen due to a combination of factors including increases in National Non Domestic Rate income, Housing Benefit and other grant, planning fees together with under-spends on certain budget heads. The outturn on the Housing Revenue Account was £0.371m better than anticipated meaning that Housing Revenue Account reserves were increased to £2.798m. A total of £30.250m was invested on capital schemes during the year.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Members note the report and in particular the financial outturn position in respect of 2014/15 which showed an underspend of £1.286m in respect of the General Fund, together with a net favourable variance on the HRA of £0.371m.
- (2) Members note the outturn position on the General Fund and the level of General Fund balances at 31 March 2015 of £1.8m.
- (3) Cabinet notes the transfers to Earmarked Reserves as outlined in Appendix C to the report.
- (4) Members request the Accountancy Section undertake a review of the underspend position of 2014/15 with a view to determining where budget changes may be made to the 2015/16 and future budgets. The review was requested to be reported back to Cabinet by September 2015.
- (5) Members note the outturn position of the HRA and the level of HRA general balance at 31 March 2015 of £2,797,816.
- (6) Members approve the proposed carry forward of capital budgets detailed in Appendix D totalling £2.203m and approve the increase in costs of the Tarran Scheme of some £1.765m.
- (7) Members request a detailed report on the outturn of the Tarran Scheme once the programme had been completed.
- (8) The report is forwarded to the Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

Reasons for Decision

To provide Members with details of the Council's financial position 2014/15 and the impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015/16 onwards.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Operations)

144 Anti-Social Behaviour and Young People Scrutiny Review

Cabinet considered Report No LR/01/15-16/PC of Councillor Mrs L Robinson, which presented the action plan for the anti-social behaviour and young people scrutiny review.

The Safer Homes and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee completed their review of anti-social behaviour and young people in April 2015 and the recommendations were endorsed by Cabinet. The lead officer's response to the review was in the form of an action plan, which was appended to the report.

The review aimed to:-

- Examine the Council's role in this area and any interventions taking place;
- Review the effectiveness of the Council in this area including partnership working with other agencies;
- Examine what is happening locally including hotspots;
- Identify any opportunities to prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Members considered the report and endorsed the actions proposed, with the exception of recommendation (4), where they felt that funding for a feasibility study into reviewing the provision of CCTV within the District was not a priority. The cost of commissioning such a study would be around £25,000 - £40,000.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Cabinet approves the actions identified in the action plan attached to the report with the exception of the actions proposed at recommendation (4) of the review.
- (2) A feasibility study into reviewing the provision of CCTV within the District not be taken forward at this time.

Reason for Decision

To present a response to the scrutiny review into anti-social behaviour and young people.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Assistant Director – Community Safety & Head of Housing [BDC])

Councillor G Baxter MBE left the meeting at this point in proceedings. Councillor Mrs E A Hill took over in the Chair.

145 Mental Health Services Scrutiny Review

Cabinet considered Report No LR/02/15-16/PH of Councillor Mrs L Robinson, which presented the action plan for the mental health services scrutiny review.

Cabinet had considered a report of the Healthy Communities and Well Being Scrutiny Committee in April 2015 setting out their review of mental health services. The recommendations from the scrutiny review were approved for implementation.

Attached to the report was the action plan which set out details of proposals into how to address each of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee. The recommendations were as follows:-

- That the Council set up a task force with relevant partners to formulate a policy setting out a proactive approach to Mental Health within the organisation.
- That the action plan resulting from the policy sets out how the Council will achieve this, including the issues raised in the report on:-
 - Awareness of mental health conditions;
 - Training of staff and members;
 - Support available for employees.
- That a progress report on the implementation of the policy and action plan be provided to the relevant Scrutiny Committee within six months. The full scrutiny report was attached as an appendix to the report.

The scrutiny report had been considered by the Mental Health Task Force which met on 1 June 2015 and included a range of officers including Rykneld Homes.

Members considered the action plan and largely endorsed the actions proposed to be taken in respect of the recommendations with the exception of exploring a mechanism for identifying people with mental health conditions who were failing to respond to contact from the Council. This was due to concerns over resource, which included an initial £10,000 feasibility study, and concerns over data protection and confidentiality of the Council's customers.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) The actions identified in the action plan and attached as an appendix to the report be approved, with the exception of having a "mechanism for identifying people with mental health conditions failing to respond to contact from the Council".
- (2) Cabinet does not undertake a feasibility study and does not set a budget of £10,000 to progress the recommendation relating to identifying people with mental health conditions failing to respond to contact from the Council.

Reason for Decision

To agree the actions set out in the action plan.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Transformation)

146 Urgent Business (Public Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the public session at this meeting of Cabinet.

147 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006). [The category of exempt information is stated after each Minute].

148 Future Regeneration Options Currently Under Consideration

Cabinet considered Report No EAH/04/15-16/LS of Councillor Mrs E A Hill (supported by Councillor Mrs J Austen) which set out details of future housing regeneration options within the District and sought Cabinet approval to a number of them.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the schemes that are currently being considered by QSH and agrees that detailed options appraisals and recommendations be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- (2) Agrees that Rykneld Homes works with Westleigh Partnerships as their Registered Provider (RP) partner and considers the wider potential for development in North Wingfield which could address some of the issues with the non traditional properties in the area.
- (3) Agrees that Rykneld Homes negotiate with Westleigh Partnerships regarding the access to the Alma Road site as part of the wider development package.
- (4) Notes that Rykneld Homes have submitted a bid for affordable properties on the Avenue site which if successful would require Council approval for borrowing.
- (5) Agrees that Rykneld Homes progress with option appraisals for other priority regeneration schemes to be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

- (6) Notes the Council properties currently held empty as a result of structural defects.
- (7) Acknowledges the ongoing issue with the structure of the Non Traditional Council owned properties and notes the funding gap of £15.7m over the next five years.

Reasons for Decision

To build on the success of a number of recently delivered regeneration projects in the District and explore options to deal with structural issues in existing stock.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

The Council could decide to do nothing further, but this would result in potential health and safety issues, disrepair claims and reputational damage.

(Managing Director, Rykneld Homes)
(Paragraphs 1 & 3)

149 Medium Term Financial Plan

This item was withdrawn from this meeting of Cabinet.

150 Management of Corporate Debt – Write Off of Outstanding Amounts

Cabinet considered Report No PRK/06/15-16/BM of Councillor P R Kerry, which sought agreement to a proposed list of write offs of debts in respect of former Housing Revenue Account tenants.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agrees to write off the amounts in respect of former Housing Revenue Account tenants totalling £76,287.78 as detailed in an appendix to the report.

Reason for Decision

Given that all appropriate recovery actions have been exhausted in the case of these debts it is important that the Council recognises the position and approves the write off of debt given there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

None.

(Executive Director – Operations)
(Paragraphs 1 & 3)

151 Single Fraud Investigation Service

Cabinet considered Report No PRK/07/15-16/BM of Councillor P R Kerry, which set out plans for a new Single Fraud Investigation Service.

Members were advised that a Single Fraud Investigation Service was being developed by the Department of Work and Pensions which assumed many of the

roles and responsibilities previously undertaken by Local Government. While the national programme commenced in July 2014, it was planned to go live at North East Derbyshire from the end of September 2015, with the national roll out being concluded in March 2016.

The report recommended the creation of a new post to be shared by North East Derbyshire District Council and its strategic alliance partner, Bolsover District Council, to provide sufficient capacity to ensure an effective fraud service to protect both Councils and the public purse from fraudulent activity in areas of council tax and benefit payments.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Funding of a Joint Investigation Officer post be accepted along the lines set out within the report.
- (2) On the basis that the role is hosted by North East Derbyshire District Council, the Chief Executive be asked to exercise his delegated powers to include an additional post of Fraud Investigation Officer within the staffing establishment at an estimated net cost of some £20,000. Should the post be hosted by Bolsover District Council then North East Derbyshire District Council would cover 50% of the associated costs.

Reason for Decision

To maintain a limited internal fraud capacity following on from the transfer of existing staff to the Department of Work and Pensions as part of the development of a single fraud investigation service.

Other Options Considered and Rejected

To effectively tackle fraud especially in the areas of benefit payment and council tax.

(Executive Director – Operations)
(Paragraphs 1, 3 & 4)

152 Urgent Business (Private Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the private session at this meeting of Cabinet.
