

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021

Present:

Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP (Chair)
Councillor Diana Ruff (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Nigel Barker	Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor William Armitage	Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Charlotte Cupit	Councillor Alex Dale
Councillor Lilian Deighton	Councillor Peter Elliott
Councillor Michelle Emmens	Councillor Angelique Foster
Councillor Mark Foster	Councillor John Funnell
Councillor Roger Hall	Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Lee Hartshorne	Councillor Anthony Hutchinson
Councillor Maggie Jones	Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Barry Lewis	Councillor Heather Liggett
Councillor Jeff Lilley	Councillor Paul Parkin
Councillor Stephen Pickering	Councillor Maureen Potts
Councillor Alan Powell	Councillor Tracy Reader
Councillor Oscar Gomez Reaney	Councillor Carolyn Renwick
Councillor Jacqueline Ridgway	Councillor Michael Roe
Councillor Kathy Rouse	Councillor Ross Shipman
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Kevin Tait
Councillor Richard Welton	Councillor Nick Whitehead
Councillor Pam Windley	Councillor Brian Wright
Councillor Philip Wright	

Also Present:

K Apps	Head of Economic Growth, Regeneration & Housing Delivery
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer
N Calver	Governance Manager
J Dethick	Head of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer
M Handley	Strategic Sites Project Manager
K Hanson	Joint Director of Environment and Enforcement
L Hickin	Joint Director of Corporate Resources and Head of Paid Service
S Sternberg	Joint Head Of Service - Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer
D Stanton	Governance Officer

COU Apologies for Absence

/18/2

1-22 Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Barry, C Cornwell, B Hill, C D Huckerby, P Holmes and J Kenyon.

COU **Declarations of Interest**

/19/2

1-22

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

COU **Public Participation**

/20/2

1-22

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 members of the public were allowed to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15 minutes. The replies to any such questions will be given by the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

No questions from the public had been submitted.

COU **Joint Whistleblowing Policy**

/21/2

1-22

Council considered a report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, which provided an annual update to Members on use of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

Members heard that the Whistleblowing Policy had been reviewed in February 2021, and no changes were recommended other than housekeeping amendments which were outlined in Appendix 1. Council noted that no instances of Whistleblowing had been made since the 2020 Annual Review of the Policy.

RESOLVED – That Council:-

- (1) Agrees the current Joint Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose; and
- (2) Note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made since the 2020 Annual Review of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.
(Monitoring Officer)

COU **Growth Strategy**

/22/2

1-22

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Councillor C Renwick, presented a report which outlined the North East Derbyshire Draft Growth Strategy 2021-2024.

Council heard that the strategy recognised the importance of economic growth to the overall wellbeing and prosperity of the District. There were a number of priority areas which included employment and skills, the visitor economy, and town centre regeneration.

Councillor N Barker was supportive of the Strategy, and argued that some of the work had been initiated by the previous administration.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A Dale congratulated Councillor C Renwick and officers on the Strategy. He stated that it was a comprehensive document that covered all aspects of growth in the District, and that previous Strategies had focused on growth in respect of housing.

Councillor A Hutchinson also thanked the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth for her work in producing the Strategy, and that it set a prosperous vision for North East Derbyshire and its residents.

Councillor J Birkin enquired about consultancy costs and what could be done to involve local universities.

Councillor J Funnell considered the costs of the Growth Strategy and how funding was going to be delivered.

Councillor R Shipman commented that the Strategy contained little in regards to the environment.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Council notes the contents of the report.
- (2) That Council note the North East Derbyshire Growth Strategy 2021-2024.
- (3) That Council note that delegated authority has given to the Director of Growth and Economic Development to make none substantive amendments to the documents in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Economic Development subject to approval at Cabinet on the 22nd April 2021.

(Director of Growth and Economic Development)

At this point, Councillor P Elliott left the meeting.

COU Independent Person Recruitment

/23/2

1-22

Council considered a report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer that advised Members of the outcome of the recent recruitment exercise and appoint Amanda Orchard and David Richardson to the position of Independent Persons to assist the Standards process for a period of four years.

Members noted that the Monitoring Officer was of the opinion that an additional two Independent Persons were required, and that the additions would add resilience and flexibility to the Standards process. Council heard that a letter of thanks would be sent to Stuart Hooton who had stated his intention to resign.

RESOLVED – That Council agrees to appoint Amanda Orchard and David Richardson as Independent Persons to assist with the Standards process until the end of May 2024.

(Monitoring Officer)

At this point, Councillor P Elliott returned to the meeting.

COU **To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2**

/24/2

1-22

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 to allow Members to ask questions about Council activities. The replies to any such questions will be given by the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

No questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule No 9.2 for this meeting.

COU **To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10**

/25/2

1-22

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 10 to consider Motions on notice from Members. Motions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

Three motions had been submitted, however motion A had been withdrawn.

Motion submitted by Councillor D Hancock

“Council notes that:

- *According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 30.2% on North East Derbyshire live in some form of poverty;*
- *According to the Office of Budget Responsibility, unemployment has more than tripled during the coronavirus pandemic, with this figure likely to rise;*
- *Results from a Finnish trial of Universal Basic Income (UBI) in 2017-18 showed improvements in employment and wellbeing for the group who participated;*
- *A network of UBI Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.*

Council believes that:

- *This year more than any other has shown that when unexpected events take place, the precarious nature of low-paid, insecure employment is a major fault-line in the resilience of our economy;*
- *A UBI could help alleviate poverty, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, and liberate people from the anxiety of job insecurity through a monthly income regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status;*
- *A UBI will prevent the need for short term emergency financial supports in moments of crisis, such as a pandemic or financial crash;*
- *There are many potential benefits to a UBI including:-*
 - *More flexible workforce and greater freedom to change jobs;*

- o *Supporting a caring economy to value unpaid work;*
 - o *Removing the negative impacts of means testing, benefit sanctions and conditionality;*
 - o *Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy*
- *This is the right time to trial Universal Basic Income.*

Council resolves to:

- *Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for a fully evaluated and fully-funded trial of basic income in our district, as a result of the effects of the Covid pandemic;*
- *Work with other local authorities to help test UBI in Derbyshire.”*

Members considered the motion submitted by Councillor D Hancock in respect of poverty in the District.

Council had a wide ranging debate on the motion, in particular, the merits of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial in North East Derbyshire.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A Dale, spoke against the motion and argued that the concept of UBI was imbalanced as public money should be reserved for those who need it most, not provided irrespective of wealth. Council heard that the scheme would be costly and add to the national debt at a time when public finances were under significant strain. Councillor A Dale argued that the Government had offered generous support to people and their families during the Pandemic. The Leader of the Council also questioned the effectiveness of UBI, referring to a number of trials that had found it to be of little benefit.

Councillor N Barker supported the motion, the principle of a Universal Basic Income, and considered that a trial would be worthwhile.

Councillor R Shipman reiterated that it would be a trial and would benefit the poorest whilst driving economic growth.

Councillors B Lewis and C Renwick also spoke against the motion, arguing that it would fail to help the poorest and be unaffordable in Derbyshire especially given the impact of the Pandemic on the economy. Council heard that the Government had provided a crucial safety net through financial support and Universal Credit.

Councillor R Shipman seconded the motion.

On being put to a vote, the motion was defeated.

Motion submitted by T Reader

“Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

Council notes that:

- *This Council has declared a climate and ecological emergency;*
- *There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:*
 - a. *requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;*
 - b. *ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;*
 - c. *includes emissions from aviation and shipping;*
 - d. *protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;*
 - e. *restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO2 and their resistance to climate heating;*
 - f. *sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.*

Council therefore resolves to:

- *Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;*
- *Inform the local media of this decision;*
- *Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.”*

Members considered the motion submitted by Councillor T Reader in regards to climate change.

Council discussed the impacts of climate change, and the carbon reduction targets set by Government. Councillor S Pickering spoke in support of the motion, urging the Council to pressure Government to move more quickly. Councillor R Shipman urged the Council to listen and consult with residents on their views to the climate emergency that had previously been declared by Council.

At this point, Councillor N Whitehead left the meeting.

Councillor B Lewis spoke against the motion arguing that the Government's targets were based on robust evidence.

Councillor O Gomez Reaney encouraged Council to vote against the motion and to instead engage and support local actions that would reduce the District's carbon footprint.

Councillor M Jones seconded the motion.

Councillors T Reader, S Pickering and N Barker requested a recorded vote.

On being put to a vote, the motion was defeated.

For – (16)

Councillors N Barker, A Cooper, J Funnell, D Hancock, L Hartshorne, M Jones, P Kerry, J Lilley, S Pickering, T Reader, J Ridgway, R Shipman, L Stone, P Windley, B Wright.

Against – (26)

P Antcliff, W Armitage, S Clough, C Cupit, A Dale, L Deighton, P Elliott, M Emmens, A Foster, M Foster, O Gomez Reaney, R Hall, A Hutchinson, B Lewis, H Liggett, P Parkin, M Potts, A Powell, C Renwick, M Roe, K Rouse, D Ruff, K Tait, M E Thacker MBE, R Welton, P Wright.

COU **Exclusion of Public**

/26/2

1-22

The Chair to move:-

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, 2 & 3, Part 1 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 item].

COU **Councillor Dispensation**

/27/2

1-22

Council passed on its best wishes and support to Councillor C Huckerby and her family.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) Councillor Carol Huckerby is granted a six month dispensation, commencing on Monday 26 April 2021 and expiring on Tuesday 26 October 2021; and
- (2) Council requests for Councillor Huckerby to be informed of Council's decision on this matter.

(Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3)
(Monitoring Officer)

COU **Senior Management Review - To Follow**

/28/2

1-22

Council was updated on the Senior Management Review and that the Review was still in progress following a period of consultation. Cabinet at North East

Derbyshire District Council and Executive at Bolsover District Council were due to consider the response of the consultation. A further update would be provided to Council in due course.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

(Paragraph 2)
(Leader of the Council)

COU **Chair's Urgent Business**

/29/2

1-22 There was no urgent business discussed at this meeting of Council.