

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on 7th November 2018 at 10.00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- Councillor T. Munro in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander, A. Anderson, P. Barnes, R.J. Bowler, P.M. Bowmer, T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, M.G. Crane, M. Dooley, S. W. Fritchley, R.A. Heffer, A. Joesbury, D. McGregor, C. Moesby, B.R. Murray-Carr, S. Peake, K. Reid, J. Ritchie, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, A.M. Syrett, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, B. Watson, D. Watson and J. Wilson.

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), L. Hickin (Strategic Director – People), K. Hanson (Strategic Director – Place), S. Sternberg (Joint Head of Service – Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer), V. Dawson - Solicitor (Contentious Team Manager), N. Calver (Governance Manager) and T. Fletcher (Chief Accountant)

0439. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.E. Bennett, G. Buxton, M. Dixey, H.J. Gilmour, S.J. Statter and E. Stevenson.

0440. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

0441. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council Councillor T. Munro, reported on the success of the Bolsover Talent showcase which raised £680 for the Council's charity - IVenture 2019.

He further reported that on 30th October the Chairman, along with the Strategic Director – People, attended the official launch of the Virtual College web-based Save a Life package at the House of Commons. The event was attended by a cross section of MP's, the Minister of State for Care (Caroline Dinenage) and Lord Andrew Mawson. Members watched a short video detailing the event and welcomed the support from Caroline Dinenage and the acknowledgement to the drive and commitment shown by Councillors Deborah Watson and Jim Clifton over the last 6 years bringing this scheme to fruition. The Chairman of the Council announced that he had taken the free Save a Life course and was the first Chairman of a Council in the UK to achieve this goal. He urged all members to gain this qualification. Councillor M. Dooley echoed the Chairman's thanks to Councillors Watson and Clifton and noted that Bolsover District Council should be proud to be leading the way again on a national initiative.

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0442. QUESTIONS

Council welcomed questions submitted by the public under Rule 8 of the Council Procedure Rules.

- i) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Graham Heasman

“HS2 finally, after a delay, have released the Working Draft Environmental Statement and the Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment Report. They have set a date of 21st December for a closing date for consultation reports. Given that there is such an enormous quantity of information to digest and the last of the HS2 Information Events for the HS2b section of the route is on Friday 7th December it leaves too little time for interested parties to respond. We have asked our M.P., the County Council and Parish Council to request a delay by a month of the closing date. Would Bolsover District Council please also request HS2 to delay the closing date by a month?”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Syrett agreed that the time scales set for consultation reports left little time to respond and agreed to request a delay by one month for the closing date.

(Chief Executive Officer)

- ii) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Kate Heasman

“With the release by HS2 Ltd. Of the working draft Environment Statement and working draft Equality Impact Assessment Report, the Council would have seen the massive amount of potential land take needed not just for construction but also permanently within the Bolsover District together with the increase number of homes to be demolished. On Alfreton Road, Newton, both HS2 and Chris Grayling have previously stated (Grayling during a Parliamentary Transport Debate) that only 5 homes would be demolished, this has now been increased to 18 and also within Blackwell Parish an additional 4 homes, 1 commercial business, part of a playing field and several outbuildings.

What have been the Council’s reactions to these statements and how do they plan to challenge these statements and previous untruths in their consultation responses?”

The Leader of the Council confirmed that a letter of query in regards to accuracy and honesty of numbers affected had already been submitted to HS2. She assured members of the public that issues were raised with HS2 at every opportunity and the public are supported wholeheartedly on the position.

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SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Mrs K. Heasman exercised her right to ask a supplementary question of the Leader of the Council.

It was noted from recent Freedom of Information request submitted that the cost of an upgraded route for HS2 was only 10% higher than that of budgets currently set. Given that there was a 40% contingency built in within the budget, surely it was time to pursue this alternate option which would have less impact on local communities.

The Leader of the Council agreed wholeheartedly with Mrs Heasman's sentiment and the Council were aware of this fact and were taking steps to highlight this option. The Leader of the Council undertook to respond to Mrs Heasman in writing to her original question.

(Chief Executive Officer)

iii) Question submitted to Cllr Ann Syrett, Leader of the Council by Tony Mellors

"The documents published by HS2 Ltd in October show that Bolsover District is severely affected by the temporary and permanent impacts of the HS2 proposal. Listed from Pinxton to Shuttlewood are demolitions of 44 residential and 24 commercial properties, and the temporary loss of 660 hectares of agricultural land, of which more than half is to be lost permanently. Additionally Barlborough will see demolitions of 9 residential and 3 commercial properties.

Is there a mechanism whereby all elected councillors are informed of the details of discussions with HS2, which for reasons of the Non-Disclosure Agreement between BDC and HS2 Ltd, the public may not be informed about?"

Councillor A.M. Syrett confirmed that there was no information that the Council were aware of that was not currently in the public domain, therefore the non-disclosure agreement was a moot point. Information was received from HS2 on a drip feed basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Mr Mellors exercised his right to ask a supplementary question to the Leader of the Council and requested assurance that Members were aware of the impact of HS2.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that all Members of Bolsover District Council were aware of the impact of the HS2 route and a map had been drawn up and placed outside the Members Room at the District Council offices for Members clarity.

The Leader of the Council undertook to respond to Mr Mellors in writing to his original question.

(Chief Executive Officer)

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0443. REPORTS ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

There were no urgent items of business considered at the meeting.

0444. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th October 2018 as set out on pages 7 to 10 of the agenda pack.

Proposed by A. M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor D. McGregor.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

0445. MOTIONS

No motions were submitted to this meeting of the Council under Rule 10 of the Council Procedures Rules.

0446. RECOMMENDED ITEMS

A) LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2019-2024 POLICY REVIEW

Members gave consideration to a report from the Chair of Licensing Committee asking for approval of Council's revised Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024.

The Licensing Act 2003 imposes a statutory requirement upon Bolsover District Council as the statutory Licensing Authority to prepare a statement of policy. It was required for this to be reviewed every five years, and, in July 2018 the Licensing Committee approved a Statement of Licensing Policy in consultation with the public and stake holders which took place for a period of 11 weeks commencing on 30th July 2018 and concluding on 15th October 2018. No responses were received to the consultation, however Officers made one minor amendment at page 28 of the draft policy which clarified that Trading Standards were a responsible authority.

Proposed by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor J. Smith.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 to 2024 be approved and adopted.

(Contentious Team Manager)

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B) GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2019-2022 POLICY REVIEW

The Gambling Act 2005 poses a statutory requirement on Bolsover District Council as the statutory Licensing Authority to prepare a statement of principles which was the Council's tool in regulating gambling within the district.

Members gave consideration to a report of the Chair of the Licensing Committee requesting approval for the Council's revised Gambling Act – Statement of Principles 2019 to 2022. In July 2018 Licensing Committee approved a draft statement of principles in consultation with the public which commenced for a period of 11 weeks on 30th July 2018 and concluded on 15th October 2018. 2 external responses were received, the results of which were set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Proposed by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor J. Smith.

RESOLVED that the Gambling Act Statement of Principles 2019 to 2022 be approved and adopted.

(Contentious Team Manager)

0447. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was the wish of Members present that this item be referred to the forthcoming meeting of Budget Scrutiny Committee in order for due consideration to be made to the substitution appointments for the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committees. Recommendation for these appointments would be made by Budget Scrutiny Committee to the forthcoming meeting of Council on 5th December 2018 for approval.

Proposed by Councillor C. Moesby and seconded by Councillor S. Peake.

RESOLVED that the Appointment to Outside Bodies – Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committees be **REFERRED** to Budget Scrutiny Committee to make recommendations to Council.

(Governance Manager)

0448. TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Members gave consideration to the report of Councillor B. Watson, Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources and Sustainable Energy. Members noted that the 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy has been approved by Council at the meeting in February 2018. The monitoring report put before Members detailed the Treasury Management activity during the first half year.

For Members clarity it was confirmed that the Treasury Management function covered the borrowing and investment of the Council's money which included both the

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management of the Council's day to day cash position and the management of its long term debt.

At their recent conference, the Government announced that the debt cap for HRA would be removed allowing Councils more freedom to borrow in order to build new social housing. Once further details were known a review of the impact on the Council Treasury Management activities would be performed and a revised Treasury Management Strategy would be presented to a future meeting of Council for Members' consideration.

Members noted that since the HRA's Self-Finance Settlement in 2012, the strategy had recommended that a fixed annual contribution be made to the debt repayment reserve earmarked to pay HRA self-financing loans as they became due over the period 2012 to 2042. There were currently sufficient funds held within the allocated reserve to repay all loans up to 2026. There had been considerable pressure on the HRA in recent years including;

- Rent reductions;
- Cost of maintaining the existing stock; and
- The need to build new social housing

Increasing the flexibility of the approach to HRA debt repayment would generate much needed additional resources for the HRA but would still allow contributions to be made to the debt repayment reserve as funds allowed each year. It would also provide flexibility to make larger contributions to the debt repayment reserves at times when pressures on the HRA were less. Repaying HRA debt more slowly would mean that interest costs would not decrease as quickly and some loans may need to be refinanced at maturity.

In order to reflect this a proposal was made for an amendment of the Treasury Management Strategy at point 1.49-1.50 as set out in 1.11 of the report.

Members, on consideration of Appendix 1, queried the interest received on an investment of £10 million which was reported considerably lower than expected. Officers confirmed that the figure reported was for an overnight investment which meant it was put out for one night only. This was the reason it looked lower than expected.

The Strategic Director – People advised Members that the Councils Management Team would be undertaking a review of the way in which financial information was presented to them in reports and undertook to feedback Members comments.

Proposed by Councillor B. Watson and seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett

RESOLVED that

1. The Treasury Management activities undertaken during the period April to September 2018 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
2. The Government's proposal regarding removing the debt account for Local Housing Authorities be noted

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3. The amended Treasury Management Strategy (ref 1.9 – 1.50) allowing for more flexibility regards debt repayment contributions be approved.

(Joint Head of Service – Finance and Resources)

The meeting concluded at 10.50am