



The Arc  
High Street  
Clowne  
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the Council

Thursday, 1 April 2021

Contact: Nicola Calver  
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Dear Councillor

### **COUNCIL**

At 10am, prior to the start of Council a presentation on the Industrial Communities Alliance will be given by Professor Steve Fothergill with the formal Council meeting starting at 10:30am.

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Council of the Bolsover District Council to be held as a hybrid meeting both virtually and in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 14th April, 2021 at 10:30 hours.

Members will be sent the details on how to access the Virtual Meeting by email.

#### Virtual Attendance and Hybrid Meetings

I have provided the Leader and Deputy Leader with advice on the holding of “hybrid” meetings outlining the risks including to employees dealing with the Chamber and to Members. Hybrid meetings are those where some attendance is in person in the Council Chamber and some is virtual.

I would encourage you all to attend virtually.

Accordingly if you attend in person you will be deemed to have accepted the following disclaimer (overleaf) as applying.



**We speak your language**  
Polish **Mówimy Twoim językiem**  
Slovak **Rozprávame Vaším jazykom**  
Chinese **我们会说你的语言**

**If you require this agenda in large print  
or another format please call us on 01246 217753**

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate in or access the meeting please contact the Governance Team at least 72 hours before the meeting starts.

### Risk Assessment Disclaimer

When attending this meeting in person, I confirm that I have read and understood the contents of each of the following risk assessments and agree to act in line with its content.

- Covid-19 ARC RTW RA001
- Working in Offices At The Arc During Covid-19 Pandemic Guidance – ARC – SSW001
- Meetings – EM001 - Committee and Council Meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic

*These documents have been emailed to Members and are available on the Modern.Gov App library.*

The same advice is given to officers who are also encouraged to participate in the meeting remotely.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised from page 3 onwards.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Steuberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

## COUNCIL AGENDA

*Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 10:30 hours taking place as a hybrid meeting both virtually via Zoom and in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne*

Item No.	PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS	Page No.(s)
1.	<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:	
	a) any business on the agenda	
	b) any urgent additional items to be considered	
	c) any matters arising out of those items	
	and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
3.	<b>Chair's Announcements</b>	
	To receive any announcements that the Chair of the Council may desire to lay before the meeting.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>	5 - 11
	To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting and extraordinary meeting both held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021.	
5.	<b>Questions from the Public</b>	12 - 14
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period of up to fifteen minutes. A question may only be asked if notice of seven clear working days has been given.	
	<u>Question submitted by Tony Trafford to the Deputy Leader Councillor Duncan McGregor</u>	
	<u>Question submitted by Sarah Bister to the Deputy Leader Councillor Duncan McGregor.</u>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Questions from Members</b>	15
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, to allow Members to ask questions about Council activities. A question may only be asked if notice of seven clear working days has been given.	
	<u>Question submitted by Councillor Peter Roberts to Councillor Sandra Peake</u>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Motions</b>	<b>NONE</b>
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, to consider motions on notice from Members.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Bolsover Prospectus</b>	
	Update from Leader of the Council and Director of Environment and Enforcement	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Growth Strategy</b>	16 - 42
	Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Joint Whistleblowing Policy</b>	43 - 46
	Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer	
	<b><u>PART TWO - EXEMPT ITEMS</u></b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Public</b>	
	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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006). <i>[The category of exempt information is stated below each item].</i>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Kerbside Recycling</b>	47 - 55
	Report of Portfolio Holder – Environment and Street Scene <i>(Exempt – Paragraphs 1,2 and 3)</i>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Planning Restructure</b>	56 - 61
	Report of the Assistant Director of Development and Planning. <i>(Exempt – Paragraph 2)</i>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Chairman's Closing Remarks</b>	

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Bolsover District Council held as a Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 10:00 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Steve Fritchley, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Liz Smyth, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.

Officers: - Lee Hickin (Director of Corporate Resources and Head of Paid Service), Karen Hanson (Director of Environment and Enforcement), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Sarah Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer), Grant Galloway (Director of Development), Pam Brown (Head of Leader's Executive and Partnerships), Victoria Dawson (Head of Housing Management and Enforcement), Sara Gordon (Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager), Nicola Calver (Governance Manager), Amy Bryan (Senior Governance Officer) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

### **CL766-20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Bryson, Janet Tait and Ross Walker.

### **CL767-20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair explained that declarations of interest would not be gathered at this stage for Agenda Item 8 (Level of Council Tax 2021/22) because advice from the Monitoring Officer would be sought at the beginning of the item.

For all items apart from Agenda Item 8, Members did not declare any interests.

### **CL768-20/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reminded Members that his charitable group for the current municipal year was SSAFA Bolsover (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), and he was pleased to announce that despite not being able to fundraise as normal, he had raised £500 for the charity's vital support of ex-servicemen.

The Chair also reminded Members that the Council would be launching the Bolsover District Community Lottery Scheme in May 2021, which would mean local groups that signed up to the scheme would receive a regular source of income. He added that more information about the scheme was available on the Council's website.

## **COUNCIL**

The Chair informed Members that there would be a two week delay in collection of garden waste bins because of a change of contract for the service.

### **CL769-20/21      MINUTES**

Councillor Tricia Clough requested that an amendment be made to the minutes of the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 under Minute No. CL760-20/21 titled 'MOTIONS' (Motion b. from Councillor Nick Clarke) so the paragraph beginning "Councillor Tricia Clough stated she would support the motion and read correspondence received from residents about how hounds from the Barlow Hunt trail hunt had gone through their gardens in Scarcliffe" ends at this point.

Subject to this one amendment, the minutes were moved by Councillor Tricia Clough and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 be approved (as amended) as a true and correct record.

### **CL770-20/21      QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, Members of the Public were able to ask questions to an Executive Member about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15 minutes.

The Chair indicated that no questions had been submitted.

### **CL771-20/21      QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, Members of Council were able to ask questions about the Council's activities to either the Chair of the Council, the Chairman of a specific Committee or a relevant Portfolio Holder.

The Chair indicated that no questions had been submitted.

### **CL772-20/21      MOTIONS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Councillors were able to submit Motions on Notice for consideration at this meeting.

The Chair noted that no motions had been submitted.

### **CL773-20/21      LEVEL OF COUNCIL TAX 2021/22**

The Monitoring Officer gave assurance that each Member of Council (if declaring an interest as residents of the District, as Parish Councillors or County Councillors) had an automatic dispensation to remain in the meeting and speak and vote on the item. The Chair asked Members to indicate if they had an interest to declare in this particular fashion, and all Members indicated that they did.

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that votes on budget and Council Tax setting items would be done via recorded vote as set out by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

## COUNCIL

Members were also reminded by the Monitoring Officer that Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than 2 months must not vote in decisions on or which might affect budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements was a criminal offence under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Councillor Clive Moesby (Portfolio Holder - Finance and Community Safety) presented a report to Members recommending the approval of the Levels of Council Tax for the 2021/2022 financial year. The report recommended that demand on the Collection Fund for this Council should be £4,103,006, and because the Council had now received all of the Parish Precept demands which totalled £3,294,344, together meant the total demand on the Collection Fund in 2021/22 would be £7,397,350.

He explained that in order to calculate the Council Tax requirement for Bolsover District Council at the relevant bands, the demand of Derbyshire County Council, the Police Authority, the Fire Authority and local Parish Councils had been taken into account in the report.

Councillor Clive Moesby moved the recommendations in the report (6.1 to 6.2) to approve Council Tax for 2021/2022 as set out in the report, and to allow the officers in paragraph 1.6 to undertake the identified duties in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, and delegate to the Council's Chief Financial Officer the authority to authorise any amendments to the list of named officers that may prove necessary during the course of the financial year. This was seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

For the motion – 30

*(Councillors Derek Adams, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Steve Fritchley, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Tom Munro, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Liz Smyth, Rita Turner, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.)*

Against the motion – 1

*(Councillor Allan Bailey.)*

Abstentions – 0

On being put to a recorded vote it was **RESOLVED** that:

(i) Council formally approves the Council Tax for the Financial Year 2021/22 as set out in this report.

(ii) Council authorises the officers as set out in section 1.6 above to undertake the identified duties in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, and delegates to the Council's Chief Financial Officer the authority to authorise any amendments to the list of named officers that may prove necessary during the course of the financial year.

(Section 151 Officer)

## COUNCIL

### CL774-20/21 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Councillor Duncan McGregor (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder – Corporate Governance) presented a report to Members proposing amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendices 1 and 2. The Standards Committee and the Constitution Working Group considered and supported the amendments proposed in the review of the Constitution at its meetings held during the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

The report also recommended that delegated power be given to the Monitoring Officer to make changes to the Constitution arising from any new legislation, administrative errors or conflicts in interpretation and this be incorporated in to the Delegation Scheme

Councillor Peter Roberts referred to the ‘Standards Committee Terms of Reference’ section of Appendix 1 and expressed concerns that the bullet point “reviewing Member attendance at Committee Meetings on behalf of the Authority” could unfairly highlight Members who had legitimate reasons for not attending meetings, such as having a full-time job.

The Monitoring Officer assured Councillor Peter Roberts that this was simply a part of the Council’s checks and balances to monitor Member attendance.

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded by stating that Members had an obligation to make themselves fully accountable to the public, which included their attendance statistics for meetings. He added his belief that the transition to virtual attendance at meetings should make attending them easier.

Councillor Tracey Cannon felt that virtual attendance did not necessarily make attendance easier, because the reason for virtual meetings in the first place (COVID-19 pandemic) had vastly increased the pressures at home for all Members.

Councillor Natalie Hoy believed that monitoring attendance was necessary to make Members fully accountable to the public.

Councillor David Downes stated that Members knew that they would need to find time for meetings when they signed up to become Members, and he felt balancing a job and being a Councillor was not an excuse to miss meetings.

The two recommendations in the report to approve the amendments (Appendices 1 and 2) and delegate powers to the Monitoring Officer to make changes to the Constitution were moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The amendments to the Constitution detailed in Appendix 1 and set out in Appendix 2 be approved; and
- (ii) That delegated power be given to the Monitoring Officer to make changes to the Constitution arising from any new legislation, administrative errors or conflicts in interpretation and this be incorporated in to the Delegation Scheme.

(Monitoring Officer / Governance Manager)

## COUNCIL

### **CL775-20/21 PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Councillor Duncan McGregor (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder – Corporate Governance) presented a report to Members proposing the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22. He noted that the pay policy statement set out the Council's policy on pay for senior managers and employees and was in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 and Supplementary Guidance 2013, and agreement to the Annual Pay Policy Statement fulfilled both legal and best practice guidance for employers. It also reflected decisions previously approved at Council.

The recommendation in the report to approve the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 was moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

**RESOLVED** that Council supports the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2021/22.

(Human Resources & Organisational Development Manager/Payroll Manager)

### **CL776-20/21 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021 – 2022**

The Chair presented a report to Members proposing the Calendar of Meetings for 2021-2022. He noted that the draft Calendar had been circulated to all Members as part of a supplementary agenda.

The Chair asked why some dates in the Calendar included Member Development Sessions for the morning and afternoon on the same days. The Governance Manager explained that those days included Member Development induction refresher sessions as part of the mid-term induction programme, so Members would have the option on those days to attend either the morning or afternoon session.

The recommendations in the report to approve the Calendar of Meetings 2021/22 and delegate authority to the Governance Manager to amend the Calendar of Meetings was moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Ray Heffer.

**RESOLVED** that:

(i) The 2021/22 calendar of meetings, attached at Appendix 1, be approved and the points outlined in paragraph 2.4 and 2.5 be noted; and

(ii) Delegated authority be granted to the Governance Manager following consultation the Chairmen of the relevant Committee(s)/Working Group(s) to amend the Calendar of Meetings 2021/22 as and when required in accordance with the regulations of the Coronavirus Act 20 or any subsequent legislation that is applicable.

(Monitoring Officer/Governance Manager)

### **CL777-20/21 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair had no closing remarks.  
The meeting concluded at 10:41 hours.

## **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Extraordinary Council of Bolsover District Council held as a Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at the close of Council (10:41 hours)

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Steve Fritchley, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.

Officers: - Lee Hickin (Director of Corporate Resources and Head of Paid Service), Karen Hanson (Director of Environment and Enforcement), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Sarah Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer), Grant Galloway (Director of Development), Pam Brown (Head of Leader's Executive and Partnerships), Victoria Dawson (Head of Housing Management and Enforcement), Sara Gordon (Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager), Nicola Calver (Governance Manager), Amy Bryan (Senior Governance Officer) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

### **CL778-20/21      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Bryson, Liz Smyth, Janet Tait and Ross Walker.

### **CL779-20/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **CL780-20/21      EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chair moved 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006). This was seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

**RESOLVED** that 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

### **CL781-20/21      HONORARY ALDERMEN**

Councillor Duncan McGregor (Deputy Leader of the Council) presented a report to

## EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

Members seeking approval to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on the nominees proposed to and recommended by the Council's Honours Panel in accordance with the agreed procedures.

The Monitoring Officer advised that a recorded vote should be taken on the item because a vote to approve the recommendations would require more than a two thirds majority. As noted in the report, Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 stated "that a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered Eminent Services to the Council as past members of that Council but who are not then members of the Council."

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley (Leader of the Council).

For the motion – 26

*(Councillors Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Steve Fritchley, Ray Heffer, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Tom Munro, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Rita Turner, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.)*

Against the motion – 1

*(Councillor Peter Roberts.)*

Abstentions – 3

*(Councillor David Dixon, Maxine Dixon and Natalie Hoy.)*

On being put to a recorded vote it was **RESOLVED** that the Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on the former Councillors listed in the report.

(Monitoring Officer/Governance Manager)

The meeting concluded at 11:00 hours.

**Question submitted by Tony Trafford to Councillor Duncan McGregor**

In a recent planning committee meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Cllr McGregor said, “Trees – this council is on record that it is wanting to plant trees everywhere”, regarding trees on an applicant’s site that was being considered for development. Is the Council committed to the preservation and planting of healthy trees throughout the district?

Question submitted by Sarah Bister to the Deputy Leader Councillor Duncan McGregor.

“I’d like to refer Members to my question and answer given at the meeting of Council in September 2020 which I have included for your reference. Please can the Deputy Leader detail the planning training that Members have to undergo prior to considering applications such as this, are refreshers provided to reflect changes in laws and any Local Plan changes, and any reasons why Planning Committee members may not always take qualified officers advice?”

**COUNCIL MINUTE CL22-20/21A – September 2020**

a) Question from Sarah Bister to the Leader of the Council:

“Will the council do as the MP Mark Fletcher has suggested and send the planning decision 19/00583/OUT to an independent peer review hence demonstrating your commitment to put residents first?”

The Leader of the Council thanked Sarah Bister for her question. He explained that the Council has to build 272 houses a year, maintain a five year plan of housing supply, and plan for the future in an ever-changing world. This is all done with the aims of giving all residents somewhere to live, cater for a growing population, and ensure the houses are built to an acceptable standard.

The Leader of the Council added that he had asked the Monitoring Officer for guidance on the appropriateness of the Planning Application. The Monitoring Officer had informed him that the decision was taken by the Planning Committee in a fully transparent and accountable manner. The reasons for the decision were set out in the decision notice and were made on proper Planning grounds, and the local highway authority were satisfied that the application would give adequate access to the site via Park Avenue. For these reasons, the Monitoring Officer advised that the findings of a peer review would find that the Council took the decision correctly.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged that some residents were not happy with the decision, but this did not mean it was incorrect in Planning terms. He added that Planning decisions are taken with material Planning considerations in mind, which can cause conflict with local communities, but decisions must be taken based on Government guidance and Planning law. He added that an independent peer review would not be able to change the granting of Planning permission.

The Leader of the Council concluded by stating that he did not agree with the comments made by Mark Fletcher MP.

The Chair invited Sarah Bister to ask one supplementary question. Sarah Bister asked that if the decision was as transparent and correct as described, why not peer review it?

The Leader of the Council responded by saying he was confident the proper process had been adhered to and had full trust in the guidance given by Planning officers and the Monitoring Officer. He referred to the previously mentioned housing numbers the Council had to meet, and in particular the obligations on housing created by the developing Local Plan.

**Question submitted to Councillor Sandra Peake by Councillor Peter Roberts**

In paragraph 5.1.3 of the report on Bolsover Homes Funding to Council on 22nd July 2020 it states that there is a risk of the right to buy applying to the new properties built. It also states that the cost floor ceiling would result in these properties being protected for 15 years. However officers maintain that the protection is only for 3 years.

Can Councillor Peake explain the discrepancy?

## Bolsover District Council

### Council

14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

<b>Growth Strategy</b>
------------------------

### Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

This report is public

#### Purpose of the Report

- To seek adoption of the draft Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.

#### **1 Report Details**

- 1.1 This working draft of Bolsover District Council's Growth Strategy and the associated Action Plan are attached to this report as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

##### Ambition

- 1.2 The two documents focus on how the Development Directorate will prioritise its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition:

*To become a dynamic, self-sufficient and flexible Council that delivers excellent services, whilst adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District.*

##### Priorities

- 1.3 To maintain focus on achieving the Council's ambition, the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan are both organised around the Council's economic priorities:
- i. Making the best use of our assets;
  - ii. Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams;
  - iii. Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites;
  - iv. Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth;
  - v. Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills; and

- vi. Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism

### Building Back Better

- 1.4 The Strategy is also aligned with a shared ambition to ‘build back better’ and support cleaner and more inclusive growth following recovery from the pandemic. Therefore, this Strategy also takes into account the Council’s priorities for its customers and the environment including:
- Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same;
  - Enhancing biodiversity and developing attractive neighbourhoods that residents feel proud of and take responsibility for;
  - Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities;
  - Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people;
  - Providing good quality council housing where people choose to live; and
  - Improving health, wellbeing and increasing participation in sport and leisure activities
- 1.5 Alongside meeting the Council’s ambitions and its priorities, the Strategy and the Action Plan will help officers meet the following corporate targets:
- ECO.02      Optimise business growth (as measured by gross Business Rates) by £2m by March 2023.
- ECO.03      Working with partners to bring forward employment and development opportunities at Coalite and Clowne Garden Village strategic sites by 2023.
- ECO.05      Annually review housing delivery in the district and facilitate delivery to meet the annual target of 272 new homes
- ECO.07      Deliver 150 new homes through the Bolsover Homes Programme by March 2024
- ECO.10      Working with partners to grow the visitor economy, the number of tourists and the amount of tourism spending in the District by 2023.
- 1.6 In addition, the actions set out in this Strategy have already contributed to generating income in excess of £1.5million the Council would not have normally achieved.
- 1.7 The actions set out in Action Plan are projected to earn an additional £10million of additional income for the Council if they were all to be successfully achieved.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 In conclusion, the Growth Strategy and the actions set out in the accompanying Action Plan will support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills and makes the best use of our assets whilst supporting clean and inclusive economic growth.
- 2.2 Therefore, adoption of the Growth Strategy by the Council will help to achieve the Council's ambitions and its priorities and various activities in the accompanying Action Plan will continue to generate additional income for the Council over time.
- 2.3 In these respects, the Growth Strategy is designed to help the Council move towards self-sufficiency in uncertain times so it can continue to deliver the services the people who live and work in the District need in the future.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that the Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan are adopted by the Council.
- 2.5 However, the Strategy has been presented as a "working draft" because many of the actions are current and the Strategy and Action Plan need to be flexible to allow the Council to take emerging opportunities and to adapt to new challenges promptly.
- 2.6 Therefore, it is also recommended that authority is delegated to officers to make changes to the Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development as required and to complete the final design and layout of the Strategy document prior to publication.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 No formal public consultation has been undertaken on the Strategy or Action Plan but both have been considered by Growth Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 However, a number of projects in the Action Plan have been discussed with various key stakeholders and other interested parties and many of these projects will have been subject of public consultation or will need to be consulted on as they go forward.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 There is not a 'do less' or 'do nothing' option in this case because the adoption of a growth strategy is a corporate target and required to achieved the Councils ambitions.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 There are no direct costs attached to adopting this Strategy but further revenue and capital expenditure may be required to achieve a number of objectives in the associated Action Plan.
- 5.1.2 There are also no direct costs attached to adopting this Strategy but the activities set out in the associated Action Plan will need to be subject to their own individual risk assessments and cost benefit analysis.

## 5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications around adopting the Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan. The work streams set out in Action Plan will need to be carried out in compliance within the relevant legal framework.
- 5.2.2 Similarly, there are no data protection issues around publishing the Growth Strategy and accompanying Action Plan but the associated actions will need to be carried out in compliance with the GPDR and with regard to the Council's privacy statements.

## 5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 Adoption of the Strategy does not give rise to any specific human resources implications but the speed of delivery of a number of projects will be dependent on officer capacity.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that
- i. the Growth Strategy and associated Action Plan are adopted by the Council;
  - ii. officers are granted delegated authority to amend the final appearance and layout for the Growth Strategy in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development prior to publication; and
  - iii. officers are authorised to make amendments to the Strategy and Action Plan in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development as appropriate or required.

## 7 Decision Information

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All

<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	All
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**8 Document Information**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Growth Strategy
2	Action Plan
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
nil	
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
Chris Fridlington	Ext 2354

### The Council's Ambition

This working draft of Bolsover District Council's Growth Strategy focusses on how the Development Directorate will prioritise its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition:

***To become a dynamic, self-sufficient and flexible Council that delivers excellent services, whilst adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District***

### Priorities

To maintain focus on achieving the Council's ambition the strategy is organised around the Council's economic priorities:

1. Making the best use of our assets;
2. Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams;
3. Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites;
4. Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth;
5. Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills; and
6. Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism

### Building Back Better

This strategy also aligns with a shared ambition to 'build back better' and support cleaner and more inclusive growth following recovery from the pandemic. Therefore, this strategy also takes into account the Council's priorities for its customers and the environment including:

- Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same;
- Enhancing biodiversity and developing attractive neighbourhoods that residents feel proud of and take responsibility for;
- Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities;
- Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people;

- Providing good quality council housing where people choose to live; and
- Improving health, wellbeing and increasing participation in sport and leisure activities

## **Outputs**

The actions set out in this strategy will support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills and makes the best use of our assets whilst supporting clean and inclusive economic growth.

The actions set out in this strategy have already contributed to generating income in excess of £1.5million the Council would not have normally achieved.

The actions set out in this strategy are projected to earn an additional £million of additional income for the Council if they were all to be successfully achieved.

The actions set out in this strategy are projected to earn an additional £million of additional income per annum for the Council if they were all to be successfully achieved

## **Council Plan Targets**

The adoption of this Business Growth Strategy will achieve ECO.01 - Deliver a Business Growth Strategy by March 2021 that will support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills and makes the best use of our assets.

The actions set out in this strategy are intended to achieve the following corporate targets:

ECO.02 - Optimise business growth (as measured by gross Business Rates) by £2m by March 2023.

ECO.03 - Working with partners to bring forward employment and development opportunities at Coalite and Clowne Garden Village strategic sites by 2023.

ECO.05 - Annually review housing delivery in the district and facilitate delivery to meet the annual target of 272 new homes

ECO.07 - Deliver 150 new homes through the Bolsover Homes Programme by March 2024

ECO.10 - Working with partners to grow the visitor economy, the number of tourists and the amount of tourism spending in the District by 2023.

## 1. Making the best use of our assets

Amongst other things, making best use of our assets can help us to

- generate additional revenue for the Council;
- drive the local economy by creating jobs and business opportunities; and
- facilitate partnership working to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills.

The key assets we could use to achieve these objectives include:

- Pleasley Vale Mills;
- The Tangent;
- Land off Portland Road, Shirebrook;
- Oxcroft House; and
- Under-utilised garage sites and other surplus Council-owned land.

### Pleasley Vale Mills

The Council-owned mill buildings are used for a mixture of commercial uses and continue to be popular with tenants. However, income generated from these mills would not cover the long-term maintenance costs of the buildings.

Therefore, it is necessary to consider how this site can be prevented from becoming an expensive liability in the future and this seems most likely to be achieved by comprehensive redevelopment of the mill buildings.

#### What have we achieved to date?

We are currently going through procurement to commission hydraulic modelling of the site. This work will allow us to understand what scale of development would be possible at Pleasley Mills with regard to flood risk.

We are also updating the stand-alone website for the Pleasley Vale Mills to ensure that we are maximising income generation from the existing business centre by more effectively marketing vacant units.

### The Tangent

The Tangent is a Council-owned business hub, giving small and medium sized businesses the opportunity to work in a professional business environment. The Tangent has already been expanded and there is scope to increase the amount of available floor space on Land off Portland Road, Shirebrook.

However, whilst industrial space remains in high demand, the pandemic has suppressed demand for physical office space.

### What have we achieved to date?

We are currently costing up sub-dividing under-utilised office space at The Tangent to provide covid-secure work pods to support businesses that need desk space rather than a full office.

We are also updating the stand-alone website for The Tangent to ensure that we are maximising income generation by more effectively marketing vacant units.

In addition, we are working on identifying what type of units on Land off Portland Road would best meet market demand.

### **Land off Portland Drive, Shirebrook**

The Council recently purchased 0.5 hectares of commercial land located off Portland Drive, Shirebrook. This land is allocated for employment use and it is intended to develop commercial units on this site.

### What have we achieved to date?

We have started work on identifying what type of units on Land off Portland Road would best meet market demand and it is likely there would be significant demand for small lock up units with a single roller shutter door.

The next steps include identifying the costs for a building accommodating these types of units and then to determine whether this type of development would be viable.

### **Oxcroft House**

This is a Council-owned building off Oxcroft Lane in Bolsover that is adjacent to Morrison's on the former Sherwood Lodge site. It has been marketed without success for a number of years.

### What have we achieved to date?

We have refreshed the marketing for this building but separately, we have entered into discussions with an interested party. A valuation taking into account the costs of bring the building back into a reasonable state of repair is being prepared to move this on.

### **Surplus Council-owned Land**

The Council is not land-rich but it does own a variety of un-used and under-utilised sites that are surplus to requirements and could be better used. The majority of this land has been used for HRA purposes.

## What have we achieved to date?

All the HRA sites that have been earmarked for disposal have been assessed for their development potential and those that could accommodate residential development are now going to auction accompanied by a planning brief or 'deemed consent' for custom and self-build.

Two of these sites have now been sold generating income for the Council of just under £200,000. If all the sites achieve a similar value, the sale of these sites will generate income in the region of £1,000,000 for the Council.

We are now going through the process of looking at Council-owned land to identify potential sites for Bolsover Homes and/or Dragonfly, which should result in additional sites being ear marked for disposal.

## **2. Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams**

Ensuring financial sustainability is one of the key issues facing local authorities following a decade of austerity and the lack of certainty beyond the current financial year. These issues are exacerbated by the yet unknown impacts of Brexit and the ongoing impacts of the current pandemic.

Therefore, the Council needs to increase revenue streams to safeguard jobs and maintain the service we provide to visitors, our partner organisations, and the people who live and work in Bolsover District.

The following projects have significant potential to generate income for the Council either through increasing our own 'tax base' or through working with others to generate revenue streams.

- Pinxton Station and Maid Marion Line
- Shirebrook Crematorium
- Shirebrook Growth Corridor

### **Pinxton Station and Maid Marion Line**

The Maid Marian Line is an existing freight-only line that connects the Robin Hood Line to the West of Pinxton and Erewash Valley Line to the East of Pinxton. If this line were to be re-opened to passenger trains, it could improve connectivity between the District, Nottingham and the proposed HS2 East Midlands Hub at Toton if the former train station at Selston were to be reinstated.

This additional connectivity could provide a boost to the local economy in its own right. However, a new road connection from the A38 or the M1 would be required to unlock any additional development potential in the local area and generate significant additional income for the Council.

## What have we achieved to date?

The Department for Transport has recently granted funding of £50,000 to Ashfield District Council to fund a further feasibility study of re-opening the Maid Marion Line to passenger trains and re-instating a station in Selston.

This gives the District a fresh opportunity to make the case for a station at Pinxton because the railway is on the administrative boundary between Ashfield and Bolsover Districts and the former station in Selston has been converted into a restaurant.

In addition, a link from the M1 through land in Ashfield District would seem much easier to achieve than a link to the A38 through land in Bolsover District and provision of this link would provide the additional benefit of reducing pressure on J.28.

### **Shirebrook Crematorium**

The Town Council own land adjacent to the cemetery and proposals for a crematorium on this land have been under consideration for some time noting the continued success of the crematorium at Brimington operated by this Council in partnership with North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield.

#### What have we achieved to date?

A feasibility study has been commissioned and the study concluded that a crematorium on this site could be viable. The next steps include commissioning a survey of the funeral directors working in the local area to determine whether there will be sufficient market demand to deliver a sustainable revenue stream based on the income projections in the feasibility study.

### **Shirebrook Growth Corridor**

This is a major project based on the provision of a new road connecting J.29 of the M1 to Shirebrook. The new road would bypass Glapwell and New Houghton, improve connectivity from the M1 to Shirebrook and unlock a significant amount of development in this part of the District.

#### What have we achieved to date?

The County Council have now provided us with the high-level costs for the road. It is important to understand this figure to be able to work out a cost-benefit ratio that would underpin any bid for funding.

We are also in ongoing discussions with Homes England seeking to negotiate funding towards a feasibility study, which would also be required to support any bid for funding.

In the meantime, work is being carried out on land availability to provide a realistic and credible picture of what benefits could be achieved if the new road were to be provided.

From an initial review of the information from the 'call for sites' for the new Local Plan, we can identify enough available land to provide an additional 2,000 new homes.

### **3. Unlocking Development Potential:**

Whereas the Shirebrook Growth Corridor has the potential to unlock development potential over time, the recently adopted Bolsover District Local Plan identifies three strategic sites that could accommodate major employment uses in the near future:

- Clowne Garden Village
- Former Coalite Site; and
- Whitwell Tip

Unlocking the capacity of these major employment sites would be the most obvious way of encouraging new industries to enter the District because of their connectivity with the strategic road network and the amount of available land on each of these sites.

#### **Clowne Garden Village**

The masterplan for Clowne Garden Village includes 24 hectares of employment land and this land will come forward before the build out of most of the 1800 houses approved on this site.

The commercial uses will come first to provide the cash-flow necessary to kick start delivery of housing at scale on the wider site.

#### What have we achieved to date?

The Council has resolved to grant outline planning permission for the development proposals subject to completion of a s.106 legal agreement and subsequently, a workable design solution for highway improvements at the Treble Bob roundabout has been agreed with the County Council and Highways England.

We are now working on resurrecting the previously successful funding bid for these highway improvements with Homes England because they are required to unlock the development potential of the site.

## **Former Coalite Site**

This site straddles the border between North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District and there is development potential for a range of commercial units with a cumulative floor area of just under 100,000m<sup>2</sup> on the part of the site within Bolsover.

### What have we achieved to date?

The Council has granted reserved matters approval for buildings on all the plots in Bolsover District (plots 4-8) and helped the developer obtain c.£8,000,000 of funding to help pay for the remediation of the site, which should be completed in March-April 2021.

An independent study has also been commissioned that concludes this site could be viable for a range of Industrial 4.0 type uses and/or technology campus and there are continuing discussions with the developer around potential end-users.

However, the developer will continue to retain the final say on when and how to bring this site forward unless and until the Council has some 'skin in the game'.

## **Whitwell Tip**

The Council has resolved to grant outline planning permission for Whitwell subject to completion of a s.106 legal agreement. The masterplan for redevelopment of the site includes c.6ha of employment land.

### What have we achieved to date?

The development proposals were recently short-listed for funding from D2N2 with particular weight given to the potential for geo-thermal energy on this site. However, the funding opportunity was foregone because the site could not be guaranteed to be brought forward by the March 2022 deadline.

Further work is required on this bid to get the site back onto D2N2's pipeline for future funding and there is a potential partnership/investment opportunity for the Council linked to this funding bid which could involve bringing forward the employment land.

## **4. Enabling Housing Growth:**

Clowne Garden Village and Whitwell Tip along with Bolsover North should provide the bulk of planned for housing growth within the District over the next ten to fifteen years. Cumulatively, these sites could provide over 3,000 new homes.

Therefore, work continues on promoting these sites for housing (alongside their potential for commercial developments) through the production of pitch books,

working up funding bids and engaging with key stakeholders including the developers, D2N2 and Homes England.

Beyond these strategic sites in the Local Plan, the Council has the opportunity to have a direct influence on housing delivery in the District through Bolsover Homes and Dragonfly to increase the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth.

### **Bolsover Homes**

Bolsover Homes follows the success of the B@Homes programme, which delivered over 100 affordable homes. The ambition for Bolsover Homes is delivery of 400 affordable homes over the next four years and this will generate significant additional income for the Council over time.

#### What have we achieved to date?

Work has already commenced on the Whitwell Cluster and further sites have been identified for the next tranche of delivery. These sites are currently in the design process prior to submission of formal planning applications.

To date, the Council has used its own land for its home building programmes but it could consider whether there are opportunities to invest in stalled sites to accelerate delivery of its own programme and unlock the development potential of the wider site. This type of approach would also accelerate income generation.

### **Dragonfly Developments**

This company is a joint venture between the Council and Woodheads Limited, which delivers a contemporary housing product for the private market. This company has the potential to create a sustained income stream for the Council.

#### What have we achieved to date?

The Meadow View development of ten homes has now sold out generating a capital receipt for the Council, which can be used to finance future capital schemes. Income from interest paid on the loan has also been received which is a benefit to the revenue accounts of the Council. Four other sites are being actively worked on prior to formal planning submissions and additional sites are being identified through the current review of land in Council ownership.

As with Bolsover Homes, the Council could consider whether there are opportunities to invest in privately owned sites to accelerate delivery of market housing through Dragonfly, which could then support accelerated delivery of its affordable housing programme and/or accelerate income generation.

## 5. Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills

Partnership working is at the heart of the Council's ambition to be the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District. Partnership working is also at the heart of the projects already described in this strategy document as well as the following range of projects that are intended to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills:

- Business Support
- Business Engagement
- Institute of Technology
- Kick Start
- MMC
- Social Value Index
- Town Centres

### Business Support

The pandemic has meant that much of the work around business support over the past twelve months has been dominated by administering discretionary grant funding.

However, to ensure the long-term resilience of many of our businesses we need to encourage businesses to adopt modern technology, including improving their digital skills and connectivity, adopt new ways of working, or diversify their existing business models.

In addition, it is recognised that businesses based in Bolsover do not necessarily access their fair share of support from the wider range of organisations that provide support, training and funding at District, County and/or regional level.

#### What have we achieved to date?

We are working with the partnership team to actively promote the Bolsover Growth Fund, which offers grants of £2,000 - £10,000 to support business growth and a grant of up to £500 for start-up businesses.

We are working with the partnership team to launch the Economic Loan Fund, which will allow the Council to issue loans of up to £10,000 to local businesses as a 'lender of last resort', where necessary.

We are working to ensure that start-ups in Bolsover District will benefit from the DCC scheme allocating £800,000 and additional support from the business rate retention scheme for start-ups across the County.

We are working to create better links with the East Midlands Chambers, the Growth Hub and Derbyshire Economic Partnership to ensure businesses in

Bolsover District are better able to access training and support from these organisations.

### **Business Engagement**

Following the first national lockdown, we have seen our relationships with businesses become stronger and our engagement and contacts with business have significantly increased.

This broader 'customer base' provides us with additional opportunities to promote and encourage businesses to grow through better engagement with this Council and partner organisations.

#### What have we achieved to date?

We are working on a draft business engagement strategy and this should be ready to go out for consultation by no later than the end of March 2021.

We have started work on creating an integrated CRM database that will allow us to manage our enquiries from and contacts with local businesses much more effectively.

It is also intended that this database will collect our own information on market demand for commercial units within the District, which can then better inform our planning when considering future commercial developments.

### **Institute of Technology**

The proposals for an Institute of Technology centre on the potential for a new-build college delivering T-levels within the District. This building could form an anchor for an innovation centre / technology park on the former Coalite site for example.

This type of facility would help to address the issues around the absence of further and higher education within the District and help to address the well-documented skills gap that affects the employability of many local residents and the ability of the District to attract new industries.

#### What have we achieved to date?

A working group has been formed involving a range of stakeholders including Nottingham Trent University, Chesterfield College, Vision West Notts, North East Derbyshire and Nottingham College. This group is actively working on a future funding bid to either D2N2 and/or the Department for Education.

Additional work has been completed around employer engagement to identify what skills are needed to keep pace with Industry 4.0 and advances in AI and other forms of technology. The proposed skills audit will supplement this work.

## **Kick Start**

This scheme is part-funded by the Government who are funding 25 hours per week at national minimum wage for a 6-month placement for job seekers at risk of long-term unemployment.

Internally, there is scope for placements in a number of service areas and potential pathways into apprenticeships with the Council.

### What have we achieved to date?

We have worked up a support package that would add significant value to the skills gained in the work place through a six-month placement. We are looking to make another call for expressions of interest by the end of January 2021.

## **Modern Methods of Construction**

The Council is currently working with Woodheads on an appropriate design for a range of modular construction homes with the aim of accelerating housing delivery within the District.

### What have we achieved to date?

Following a funding bid to D2N2, proposals for a test-bed for proto-type modular construction homes have been included on D2N2's pipeline for future funding. A suitable site has been identified for the test bed and we are looking at whether this site can be granted 'permission in principle' to ensure this project is 'shovel ready' when funding becomes available.

## **Social Value Index**

Indexing Social Value is a way of putting a value (including cash value) on socio-economic benefits of a development by providing local employment opportunities and/or use of the local supply chain for example.

This type of indexing is becoming increasingly important as securing public funding will increasingly be dependent on evidence that development proposals support 'inclusive growth'. Indexing Social Value can also be a means of promoting local businesses and local spend through procurement processes.

### What have we achieved to date?

Work has started on guidance notes and the adoption of an appropriate method of calculating social value.

## Town Centres

Re-opening high streets safely has been a major priority for economic recovery following the first national lockdown. This work remains relevant now we have entered into a third national lockdown and includes recruitment of covid information officers to provide on the ground support for local businesses.

Alongside these activities, there are a number of ongoing projects aimed at promoting and encouraging the future vitality and viability of our main town centres and local centres across the District.

This is important because local shops are at the heart of local communities and have played an invaluable role many times during the pandemic. In addition, maintaining a healthy high street offer can support the visitor economy, provide jobs and drive economic growth.

Therefore, the future of our town centres and local high streets warrants particular attention and remains a focus of much partnership working.

### What have we achieved to date?

A relatively large number of businesses have signed up to the shopappy website following our active promotion of the County Council-sponsored offer of free membership. This website hosts virtual High Streets and allows businesses to offer internet shopping and click and collect.

The Shirebrook Shutter Artwork project has been completed and we continue to help businesses in Shirebrook access the shop fronts grant, which is helping to improve the environmental quality of the Market Square.

Consultation has been carried out on granting 'permission in principle' for further re-development of the Market Square in Shirebrook and further work is continuing on a funding bid to support these proposals.

In addition, we are pursuing funding opportunities to introduce wi-fi to the District's main town centres, we have progressed work on identifying vacant premises and bringing them back into use and we are in discussions with various stakeholders about introducing a market on Mill Street in Clowne and town centre improvements in South Normanton.

## **6. Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism**

In a single year prior to the pandemic, tourism generated around £139,000,000 of expenditure within the local economy. This input could have been even bigger if more visitors had stayed overnight within the District.

Therefore, a main theme running through the draft tourism strategy is around promoting the District and working with partners not just to encourage more visitors to the District but also generate more overnight stays.

Although it is true to say the pandemic has thoroughly disrupted the visitor economy, it has also demonstrated the popularity of staycations and the amount of pent up demand for travel and tourism that has been severely restricted throughout much of the year.

Therefore, the work completed on the draft tourism strategy remains relevant and will support the growth of the local visitor economy when current restrictions are relaxed.

#### What have we achieved to date?

The draft tourism has been out for consultation and has been revised to include more work on accessibility. The revised strategy will be out for a final round of consultation by no later than the end of February 2021.

Alongside the tourism strategy, a cycling infrastructure strategy has been produced and this is currently out for consultation. This piece of work is aligned with the walkable communities work and audit of green spaces that we are carrying out to form the basis of an 'active' holiday offer. In the present times, this work would also allow the District to market its tourism offer as a 'covid-safe' holiday offer.

In addition, this work will support our proposals to create locally distinctive walking and cycling routes that we can publish online in a similar manner to many other organisations who use this material to promote their tourism and leisure offers to a wider audience.

This work should also benefit our local communities by improving public open space and providing more opportunities for leisure, active travel and a healthier lifestyle.

## 7. Building Back Better

The previous actions set out a range of projects that have been designed to individually and collectively allow us to:

- Actively engage with partners to benefit our communities;
- Promote equality and diversity and where practicable: support vulnerable and disadvantaged people;
- Provide good quality council housing where people choose to live;
- Develop attractive neighbourhoods that residents feel proud of and take responsibility for; and
- Improve health, wellbeing and increase participation in sport and leisure activities

The following projects show our commitment to enhancing biodiversity and reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same:

- Community Woodlands;
- Electric Charging Points;
- Geothermal Energy; and
- Nature Recovery Network.

### **Community Woodlands**

This project reflects the Council's ambition to plant as many as 1,000,000 trees across the District.

#### What have we achieved to date?

A funding bid for £280,000 has been submitted to Woodland Trust and a formal announcement is pending. However, the indications are that this bid has been successful.

### **Electric Charging Points**

This project was initiated to take advantage of a funding from OZEV (the Office for Zero-Emission Vehicles) to allow us to install electric vehicle charging points in three Council-owned car parks.

#### What have we achieved to date?

Although two of the three schemes were eventually ruled out by site constraints, funding has been approved for four double charging points, which will be installed in the Middle Street car park in Bolsover by March 2021.

A further funding bid has been submitted with partners to initiate a feasibility study around providing more rapid chargers within Bolsover. This project would be aligned with promoting and encouraging visitors to the District alongside our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same.

### **Geothermal Energy**

There are significant opportunities across the District to utilise mine-water to produce energy savings especially where geothermal energy can be utilised within large residential and commercial development proposals.

#### What have we achieved to date?

We are intending to partner with Welbeck Estates to commission the Coal Authority to provide two feasibility studies relating to the use of geothermal energy at Creswell and Whitwell Tip.

## **Nature Recovery Network**

The first step in the development of this work will be an audit of the areas of importance for biodiversity in the District and their condition. The resulting biodiversity strategy will map the most valuable existing habitat for nature, and include specific proposals for creating or improving habitats and increasing biodiversity, including where improvements to connectivity would be useful to wildlife.

### What have we achieved to date?

We are currently in discussions with both the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust regarding scope of project, potential match funding and officer recruitment. We have already secured funding for a temporary post to support this work.

draft

<b>Growth Strategy: Action Plan</b>					<b>March 2021</b>
<b>Making the best use of our assets</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Recent Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>Garage Sites</b> Amelia/Roger/Sarah	Work on identifying development potential of sites earmarked for disposal.	Generate income of £1,000,000 through sales of surplus land	2 sites sold this year. Offer of outright purchase of six sites, heads of terms to be agreed.	Planning briefs drawn up for next tranche of sites to go out to auction from April 2021.	September 2021
<b>Land on Portland Drive, Shirebrook</b> Natalie/Sally/Catherine	Land parcel designated for employment uses bought by the Council in 2020	Identify and complete a design and build project on the land– i.e. Tangent 3	Market research determined strong demand / unmet need for small roller shutter / lock up style units.	Design and cost up appropriate building and assess viability.	March 2022
<b>Oxcroft House</b> Natalie/Sally	Long term vacant premises adjacent new Morrisons in Bolsover.	Bring building back into income generating use.	Negotiation with potential end user gone cold.	Revisit marketing strategy. Commission energy efficiency audit and complete basis repairs.	June 2021
<b>Pleasley Vale</b> Natalie	Redevelopment of mill buildings and improved visitor attraction / leisure facilities.	Planning permission obtained for redevelopment of the site	Work on specifications for site-specific hydraulic model resulting from flood risk constraints identified on site.	RFQ for hydro modelling and further work on viability.	March 2024
<b>Increasing Revenue Streams</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Recent Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>Re-opening of Maid Marion Line</b> Natalie	Proposals to convert existing freight line to passenger line.	Reopen line and reinstate station close to the site of the former Selston Station.	Joined partnership working on procurement of Statement of Business Case part funded by £50,000 grant received by Ashfield DC.	Identify land ownership and scope out potential designs and CPO	Review June 2021
<b>Shirebrook Crematorium</b> Paul McGrath / Helen Jenkins	Proposals for new build crematorium on Town Council land adjacent to cemetery in Shirebrook.	Create a new source of income	Feasibility study favourable and survey of Funeral Directors commissioned.	Checks on availability of mains services and scoping out layout of building, parking and access subject to survey results.	Review end of March 2021
<b>Shirebrook Growth Corridor</b> Natalie/Chris/Chris McKinney	Identifying opportunities for growth / improving connectivity across the District	Delivery of new road link between J.29 and Shirebrook Delivery of 2000 new homes and 30 hectares of employment land	Opportunity Mapping completed Homes England engaged on working up potential cost benefits ratio.	Creation of Project Control Board with DCC Identify land ownership and preferred route(s) for new road(s).	Review end of June 2021

Unlocking Development Potential	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
<b>Former Coalite Site</b> Chris	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of c.49ha of employment land	Clearing final discharge of conditions applications to confirm site fully remediated.	Highway improvements begin April 2021 Continued dialogue with owner/developer re potential end-uses and end-users.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Clowne Garden Village</b> Chris/Sarah/Chris McKinney	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of c.1500 houses and c.16ha of employment land	Established Homes England interest in site. Re-engaged with DCC re preferred design of highway improvements.	Creation of Project Control Board with DCC Meeting between developer, officers and Homes England	Review end of June 2021
<b>Whitwell Colliery</b> Chris/ Chris McKinney	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of 400 houses and c.6 ha of employment land	Established Homes England interest in site. Commissioned geo-thermal energy study	Follow up interest from potential end user in employment land.	. Review end of March 2021
Enabling Housing Growth	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
<b>Bolsover Homes</b> Ian Barber	Programme of social rented house building.	Deliver 400 new homes over the next four years.	Start made on Whitwell Cluster	Delivery of next phase of Whitwell Cluster.	March 2024
<b>Development Co.</b> Chris	Joint venture to allow for greater Council control over purchase and renovation of empty properties.	To bring long-term empty residential and commercial properties back into use.	Vacant buildings survey undertaken for town centres.	Adoption of empty properties strategy. Formulate formal proposal.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Dragonfly</b> Ian Barber	Joint venture between the Council and Woodheads Limited.	Delivery of a contemporary housing product for the private market.	The Meadow View development of ten homes has now sold out generating a profit for the Council.	Four other sites are being actively worked on prior to formal planning submissions and additional sites are being identified through the current review of land in Council ownership	Review end of June 2021
<b>Housing Market Assessment</b> Chris/Chris McKinney	Report to assist potential funders / developers / investors better understand the District's housing market.	Creation of a bespoke analysis that informs a suite of pitch books to attract inward investment.	Agreement made with Homes England re content and scope of work.	Homes England to commission work.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Local Authority Mortgage Scheme</b> Chris	Use of Council powers to provide guarantee for mortgages requiring higher deposits.	To assist first time buyers to get on housing ladder. To attract additional funding from Homes England. To attract housing developers wishing / required to deliver first homes product.	Agreement 'in principle' made with Homes England, Ministry for Housing and Keepmoat to pilot First Homes product at Shirebrook.	Require finance to scope out feasibility.	Review end of June 2021

Working with Partners	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
<b>Business Support</b> EDU/Partnerships	Range of financial support made available to businesses within the District.	Allocate full allowance of Business Growth Fund = £200,000 Allocate full allowance of Economic Loan Fund = £150,000 Communicate DCC 'start-up' offer and ensure Bolsover gets fair share of support and total grant = £800,000 county-wide Distribute all Discretionary Grant Funding = £2.3million Allocate all of Shirebrook Shop Fronts Grant = £800,000	Economic Loan Fund launched First Quarter of 2021 dominated by discretionary grant funding with over £1.5million distributed to more than 200 businesses.	Revisit and revitalise communications on BGF, ELF and 'start up' grant. Continue to promote and implement Shirebrook Shop Fronts programme. Complete Discretionary Grant Funding.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Business Engagement</b> Lisa/Paul McGrath	Work related to building on our communication and engagement with local businesses.	To adopt and implement a meaningful business engagement strategy.	Work has been completed on a draft strategy but this work has sparked wider interest amongst several key partners within the District.	Further consultation with key stakeholders	June 2021
<b>Institute of Technology</b> Chris/Laura K	College delivering T-levels	Commission a design and build project that becomes an anchor for innovation centre / technology park within the District	Partnership working with DCC, NTU, Vision West Notts, NED, Nottingham College with focus on employee engagement	Explore opportunities offered by Wilmott Dixon who offer specialist support from concept to delivery.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Kick Start</b> Laura K/Lisa	6 month funded placements for job seekers between 16 and 24 and at long-term risk of unemployment.	Offer a minimum of 6 placements with prospects of a career pathway into full time employment.	Support package for placements developed Additional presentation given to service area managers (BDC&NED)	Awaiting receipt of expressions of interest. Send job descriptions / person specifications to DWP for verification and advertisement.	Review end of June 2021
<b>MMC</b> Ian Barber	'Modern Methods of Construction' (MMC) is a wide term, embracing a range of offsite manufacturing and onsite techniques that provide alternatives to traditional house building.	Work with partners to finalise a design for modular construction homes that can be adapted to fit a range of circumstances, and also be scaled and built at volume.	Working group meeting regularly.	Revisit lead-time to viable pilot scheme.	Review end of March 2021
<b>Social Value Index</b> Paul McGrath	Promoting and encouraging social value underpins 'inclusive growth'.	Indexing Social Value is a way of supporting 'spend	Work started on how to put a value including cash value on socio-economic benefits	Complete guidance notes and adopt appropriate calculator to be able to add	June 2021

		local' through procurement and future funding bids.	of a development i.e. commitment to local employment, apprenticeship opportunities, use of local supply chain etc.	social value to future funding bids and development proposals.	
<b>Town Centres</b> Sudipta/Jon Hendy/Chris McKinney	Range of work around re-opening High Streets safely and regeneration of town centres.	Securing the future viability and vitality of the District's town centres.	Permission in principle granted for regeneration of Shirebrook's market place. Covid Ambassadors recruited and in post. Town centre surveys launched.	Take forward Shirebrook town centre working group. Complete commission o town centres action plan. Follow up - Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Promoting the District and increasing Tourism</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Recent Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>Adoption of a Tourism Strategy</b> Jon Hendy	This strategy is aimed at improving the District's tourism and leisure offers and how they are promoted.	Increase overnight stays thereby increasing visitor spend and encouraging growth in the District's visitor economy.	The strategy was revised following consultation with a full chapter added on accessibility in the final draft of the strategy.	Adoption of strategy.	March 2021.
<b>Cycling Infrastructure Strategy</b> Jon Hendy	A completed RAG assessment of the existing cycle network and missing links.	Join up the existing cycle network to improve connectivity and accessibility.	This strategy has been out to consultation and prompted further collaboration with Ride Bolsover.	Finalise document and use to support future funding bids.	March 2021
<b>Walking Guides</b> Jon Hendy	Rework existing guides and create new walking guides to publish online.	Host a suite of walking guides on the Council's website to promote leisure and tourism within the District.	Work has started on the old working guides Work is continuing on the "walkable communities" project. Work has started on two long distance walks.	Checking the proposed and existing routes on the ground. Start publication of the new guides.	Review end of June 2021

<b>Building Back Better</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Recent Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>Community Woodlands</b> Chris McKinney	This project is aligned with the nature recovery network and both aim to promote 'building back better'.	Ambition to plant 1,000,000 trees.	Successful funding bid made to Woodland Trust. Call for sites completed.	Following up first offer of private land from Wellbeck Estates to start planting.	Review end of June 2021.
<b>Electric Charging Points</b> Paul McGrath/ Helen Jenkins	Using OZEV funding to provide electric charging points in the Council's car parks.	To improve the distribution of electric vehicle charging points throughout the District	Charging points commissioned for Middle Street, Bolsover	Follow up OZEV funding opportunities for 2021/22 with particular regard to Ashbourne Street, Shirebrook.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Geothermal Energy</b> Chris	Utilising mine-water to produce energy savings.		Commissioned the Coal Authority jointly to carry out studies at Creswell Model Village and Whitwell Colliery.	Determine viability / feasibility of project on receipt of the Coal Authority studies.	Review end of June 2021
<b>Nature Recovery Network</b> Adele Rhodes	Survey of Council-owned land to create a network of sites that can be improved for nature to offset impacts of future development.	To create places for nature paid for by developer contributions.	Working with Wildlife Trust to scope out baseline survey to scope out current status of wildlife and future opportunities.	Commission Wildlife Trust to start work on baseline survey	March 2021
<b>Back Office Tasks</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Recent Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
<b>CRM Database</b> Natalie/Sally/Helen	Amongst other things, the database is intended to capture the details of and the work we are doing with businesses we engage with and businesses looking for premises in the district.	Be able to better match businesses with business opportunities. Create our own analysis of market demand to inform future growth proposals.	There are several databases covering different business operations.	Integrate the different databases into a single CRM database and start to build and develop this model	September 2021
<b>Pitch Books</b> Chris McKinney	The pitch books are intended to showcase development opportunities in a similar way to the Bolsover Homes portfolio, which was successfully used to promote and communicate this project.	Publish pitch books for all strategic sites in the Local Plan to support funding bids, encourage inward investment and community engagement.	Pitch books have been completed for four of the six strategic sites in the Local Plan and for the Shirebrook Growth Corridor.	The existing pitch books need to be expanded and work is required on their design. Further two pitch books required - Coalite and Pleasley Mills.	June 2021
<b>Publication of "In Business"</b> Natalie	This is a paper-based publication intended to inform local businesses of the support offered by the Council.	Direct distribution of "In Business" to target audience to promote and encourage take up of grants and other forms of supports offered by the Council.	Compilation of content in progress. Comms Team aware of project and awaiting further instruction.	Get publication ready for delivery.	June 2021

<p><b>Websites</b> Sally</p>	<p>The Council has three websites operated independently of the Council's main website promoting inward investment and the Council's commercial properties.</p>	<p>To improve and update the Council's standalone business websites,</p>	<p>Work is currently being undertaken on new websites for The Tangent and Pleasley Vale Mills. The Bolsover Business website has been taken down.</p>	<p>Launch new websites for The Tangent and Pleasley Vale Mills</p>	<p>March 2021</p>
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**Bolsover District Council**

**Council**

**Wednesday 14th April 2021**

**Joint Whistleblowing Policy – Annual Report**

**Report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer**

**Classification:** This report is public  
**Report By:** Governance Manager, Nicola Calver  
**Contact Officer:** Nicola Calver - 01246 217753

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To provide an annual update to Members on use of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- a) agree the current Joint Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose; and
- b) note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made since the 2020 Annual Review of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Corporate Governance

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**IMPLICATIONS**

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**Finance and Risk:** Yes  No

**Details:**

None.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes  No

**Details:**

The Joint Whistleblowing Policy is drafted in accordance with the Employment Rights Act 1996 as amended by the Public Disclosure Act 1998 in relation to Part IVA.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:** Yes  No

**Details:**

None.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	All
<b>Consultation:</b> Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Standards Committee

**Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

All

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Whistleblowing is a report from an employee, member or other person about suspected wrongdoing within the organisation. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 requires employers to refrain from dismissing workers and employees or subjecting them to any other detriment because they have made a protected disclosure.
- 1.2 Whistleblowing policies should foster a climate of openness and transparency in which individuals in the workplace do not feel that they will be victimised, harassed or suffer any reprisals if they raise concerns about wrongdoing within the organisation. The Government expects all public bodies to have adequate whistleblowing procedures in place.
- 1.3 North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council currently have in place a Joint Whistleblowing Policy. The Councils are committed to updating Policies on a regular basis to ensure that they are fit for purpose, and the last review took place in February 2020.
- 1.4 The Joint Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed in February 2021 and no changes are recommended other than housekeeping amendments (shown in tracked changes on Appendix 1).
- 1.5 In accordance with the Joint Whistleblowing Policy, the Monitoring Officer has overall responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the Policy, and will maintain a record of concerns raised and the outcomes. The Monitoring Officer is also required to report as necessary to both Councils on instances of Whistleblowing. There have been no instances to report for the 20/21 Municipal Year.

### 2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The Joint Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and it is concluded that the existing version is satisfactory and up to date with current legislation and best practice.
- 2.2 There are no instances of Whistleblowing to report to Members.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council:
  - c) agree the current Joint Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose; and
  - d) note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made since the 2020 Annal Review of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

#### 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

#### DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Whistleblowing Policy
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	

# Agenda Item 12

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 13

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted