

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Monday 7th March 2022 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Steve Fritchley in the Chair
(except for Minute No EX88-21/22 and Minute No EX97-21/22)

Councillors Duncan McGregor (Vice Chair), David Downes (to Minute No EX97-21/22), Clive Moesby, Sandra Peake (to Minute No EX97-21/22), Liz Smyth and Deborah Watson.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Executive Director of Resources), Grant Galloway (Executive Director of Strategy and Development), Theresa Fletcher (Assistant Director of Finance & Resources), Jim Fieldsend (Interim Monitoring Officer), Pam Brown (Assistant Director of Leader's Executive, Partnerships and Communications), Ian Barber (Assistant Director of Property Services & Housing Repairs), Kath Drury (Improvement & Engagement Officer) (left during Minute No. EX87-21/22), Chris Fridlington (Assistant Director of Development), Natalie Etches (Business Growth Manager), Laura Khella (Commissioning and Contracts Officer) (from during Minute No. EX92-21/22), Ann Bedford (Customer Standards and Complaints Officer) (left during Minute No. EX87-21/22) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

EX83-21/22. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mary Dooley.

EX84-21/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As Members of Shirebrook Town Council, Councillors Steve Fritchley, David Downes and Sandra Peake, declared a significant other interest in Agenda Item 15 - Bolsover Homes Scheme - Market Close Cluster, Shirebrook, and left the meeting at the relevant time.

EX85-21/22. MINUTES – 31st JANUARY 2022

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake.
RESOLVED that Minutes of an Executive meeting held on 31st January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

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NON KEY DECISIONS

EX86-21/22. CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS/ COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS REPORT 2021/22 - 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Executive considered a report regarding the Council's performance in relation to its customer service standards, which included information on the number of compliments, comments and complaints for the period 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021.

The Customer Standards and Complaints Officer explained the targets in the report and added that some targets had slipped due to the current challenging times in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake. **RESOLVED** that the overall performance on Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

This was an information report to keep Members informed of performance on Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not applicable as the report provided an overview of performance against agreed targets.

EX87-21/22. AMBITIONS TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021 (Q3 – 2021/22)

Executive considered a report in relation to the Council's Quarter 3 outturns for the Council's Ambition targets 2020-2024.

Out of the 31 targets:

- 19 (61%) were on track
- 1 (3%) continued to be affected by Covid 19
- 4 (12%) had been placed on alert (as unlikely to meet their outturns in 21/22)
- 7 (22%) achieved previously.

Councillor McGregor noted that the report described a lot of hard work undertaken by officers.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson **RESOLVED** that the Quarter 3 outturns against the Council Ambition 2020-2024 targets be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION:

This was an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the Council's Ambition targets noting achievements and any areas of concern.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not applicable as the report provided an overview of performance against agreed targets.

As a Leaseholder in Shirebrook, Councillor Steve Fritchley declared an interest in the following item of business and did not participate in the debate or vote.

Councillor Duncan McGregor in the Chair

EX88-21/22. THE REPLACEMENT AND REFURBISHMENT OF FENCING IN SHIREBROOK

Executive's approval was sought to award a contract for the replacement of existing dilapidated timber fencing and the refurbishment of existing timber fencing in Shirebrook to Impact Links Ltd.

It had been identified that the ranch style fencing bordering the public highway to a number of roads in Shirebrook was beyond economic repair and needed replacing with metal hoop fencing. Where timber fencing was in reasonable condition but not located on a highway, it would be refurbished or replaced in timber to match existing.

In response to a Member's query, the Assistant Director of Property Services & Housing Repairs, confirmed that Right to Buy leaseholders would be impacted by the works and would be advised of this in writing.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake.

RESOLVED that (1) Impact Links Ltd be awarded the contract for replacement and refurbishment of fencing in Shirebrook as outlined in the report,

(2) progress on the contract be reported through the Housing Stock Management Group (HSMG).

(Assistant Director of Property Services & Housing Repairs)

REASON FOR DECISION:

It had been identified that the ranch style fencing that borders the public highway to a number of roads in Shirebrook was beyond economic repair and required replacing.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Removal of the existing fencing with no replacement was considered but following consultation with the mainly elderly residents affected, they felt this would leave them feeling more vulnerable.

Councillor Steve Fritchley in the Chair

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EX89-21/22. CARBON REDUCTION PLAN - MONITORING UPDATE

Executive considered a report which provided an update on the Council's work towards carbon zero, and also sought Members' approval to change the way in which this was reported.

Although the thematic areas remained relevant, the action plans were out of date and did not reflect the changing face of climate change and the reduction of carbon emissions. Added to this, the Council had its own Carbon Reduction Plan which did not mesh easily with external funding opportunities.

Having looked at the existing action plans and those in use with regional funders, and in consultation with the Assistant Director of Development, a 10 point framework used by the Midlands Engine was identified which would allow the Council's existing themes to be transferred/captured but would also allow the streamlining of bids for schemes to be aligned with regional and national funders.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor.

RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the Carbon Reduction Plan be accepted, and the Council moves away from more traditional monitoring to a live document that tracks and evidences progress across all schemes and or Initiatives.

(Assistant Director of Development)

REASON FOR DECISION:

The framework allows better compatibility with funders both regionally and nationally, includes additional themes which represent new and emerging technologies that BDC are keen to explore.

This allows a number of different polices and groups to be brought together with progress clearly identified and evidenced with greater opportunities to be offered to partners through the climate group and the Bolsover Partnership.

The framework will ensure a consistent approach to climate improvements in the Bolsover District.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Remain as we are, which would be less flexible, not relevant to new and emerging technologies, not clearly set out to funding and other partners the schemes BDC are working on and the opportunities for them to be involved.

KEY DECISIONS

EX90-21/22. SAFE & WARM UPGRADE AT VALLEY VIEW HILLSTOWN

Members consented to a change in order of business to that stated on the agenda. The Safe & Warm Upgrade at Valley View, Hillstown item would be considered before the Replacement & Upgrade of Kitchens 2022 – 2027 item.

Executive's approval was sought to appoint a Contractor to undertake the Safe & Warm Upgrade work at Valley View, Hillstown.

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Housing Services had identified a need to improve facilities, including the replacement of an ageing heating system, alter flat layouts at Valley View and space for additional bungalows.

Working in conjunction with the Procurement Team, the works were tendered in accordance with Council procedures. One tender was received and evaluated on 9th February 2022. Davlyn Construction Ltd (Derby) scored 90 out of 100 and were recommended in the report to be awarded the contract.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor.

RESOLVED that (1) Davlyn Construction be awarded the contract to carry out the Safe & Warm Upgrade at Valley View, Hillstown in accordance with tendered specification and following tender evaluation,

(2) Progress on the contract be reported through the Housing Stock Management Group.

(Executive Director of Development)

REASON FOR DECISION:

The evaluation group were in unanimous agreement that this tender represented a competitive submission received from Davlyn Construction Ltd (Derby), who have provided excellent work on the Safe & Warm Upgrades at Ashbourne Court and Parkfields. Technical assessment by cost consultant confirmed that tender directly correlates with prices returned for those schemes uplifted to the current date.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Retendering scheme to obtain more returns. Rejected as the price received was in line with prices received for the previous identical schemes, and Davlyn have proved themselves quality wise.

EX91-21/22. REPLACEMENT & UPGRADE OF KITCHENS 2022 - 2027

Executive's approval was sought to appoint a contractor for the replacement & upgrade of kitchens 2022 – 2027.

The Council had a responsibility to maintain and improve its Housing stock and a number of dwellings required replacement or upgraded Kitchens.

Working in conjunction with the Procurement Team, the works were tendered in accordance with Council procedures. Two tenders were received and were evaluated on 19th January 2022 with Matthews & Tannert scoring 96 out of 100.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor.

RESOLVED that (1) the contract for replacement and upgrade of kitchens 2022-2027 be awarded to Matthews & Tannert Ltd,

(2) progress on this contract is reported through the Housing Stock Management Group.

(Executive Director of Development)

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REASON FOR DECISION:

Following a competitive tendering process, Matthews & Tannert provided the best value and highest quality score.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Utilise a Framework. Rejected because it would be too broad a brush, whereas through direct tendering the Council has honed and refined the kitchen specification over a number of years to its exact requirements.

EX92-21/22. **EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Executive's approval was sought for the use of ring-fenced external funding from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Public Health, to commission an external organisation or consortium to deliver activity which aimed to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Bolsover.

Members shared a number of concerns regarding the three target areas identified in the report (Bolsover, Clowne and Shirebrook) such as:

- the three areas were a small part of a large District, and the plan overlooked smaller towns and villages,
- the selection of the three areas had received no input from Members,
- the Council would have no control over the selection of the areas.

The Commissioning and Contracts Officer advised the meeting that the three areas would not be set in stone and there would be scope for Members to provide local intelligence to help inform the areas of delivery and the funding, which had already been received, would be overseen and managed at a local level by Bolsover Partnership's Commissioning Group.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Clive Moesby.

RESOLVED that (1) the use of ring-fenced external funding from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Public Health, to commission an external organisation or consortium to deliver against pre-defined objectives which aim to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, for an initial period of 24 months from 1st June 2022 be agreed,

(2) a collaborative approach with North East Derbyshire District Council who have funding for the same activity from DCC Public Health, and proceed with a joint commission in recognition of the shared aims and objectives therefore maximising resource and achieving best value for money be agreed,

(3) the flexibility to extend the contract beyond June 2024, subject to budget availability from DCC Public Health, or other external funding providers, and successful delivery of output and outcomes be agreed.

(Assistant Director Leader's Executive, Partnerships and Communications)

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REASON FOR DECISION:

For the Council to support this initiative to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people living in Bolsover by developing a preventative approach that enables the expansion of mental health awareness, awareness of preventative factors, building resilience and raising aspirations. This could have longer term impact improving community cohesion and reducing anti-social behaviour, although not a key driver at this stage.

This will not have a direct impact on Council budgets and will be fully funded by DCC Public Health. The collaborative approach with North East District Council enables the maximisation of resources and provides best value for money.

The tender process will create a transparent approach in appointing an organisation or consortium that will be able to deliver the objectives, offer the best value for money and meet the needs of children and young people living in Bolsover.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The option to 'do nothing' and not utilise the external funding could undermine post-COVID recovery. There wouldn't be increased interventions to support younger residents in Bolsover build resilience and cope with mental health issues later in life. A local tailored approach would be unlikely and not meet the outcomes required. To provide this support in-house using Council budgets was also not an option as no additional resources were available.

EX93-21/22. **REDUCING INVALID PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND BACK OFFICE PLANNING SYSTEM**

Executive's approval was sought to join the RIPA/BOPS project (Reducing Invalid Planning Applications and Back Office Planning System), on the terms of the associated funding agreement, and work with North East Derbyshire District Council through the programme to ensure that the best possible outcomes were achieved.

The existing back-office systems that were used by planners to determine planning applications were sometimes confusing and joining the RIPA/BOPS project would seek to receive funding and make these processes simpler.

Members referred to the report which stated "*the remaining £300,000 would be split between the two councils to pay for the cost of back filling officer time 'seconded' to the project over the twelve months it would run*", and queried what the split would be between the authorities. The Assistant Director of Development explained that each Council would receive £150,000 each.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Liz Smyth
RESOLVED that the decision to join the project on the terms of the associated funding agreement and support the provision of North East Derbyshire with an indemnity to allow recovery of any ineligible costs claimed by this Council be endorsed.

(Assistant Director of Development)

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REASON FOR DECISION:

The benefits of joining the RIPA/BOPS project include receiving grant in aid funding to:

- Improve the planning process for both officers and applicants;
- Provide better customer service in both Councils;
- Help both Councils make more effective and efficient use of officer time;
- allow both Councils to consider additional income generation opportunities;
- put both Councils in a stronger position with improved ICT systems; and
- a better understanding and awareness of the new digital technology the Government wishes to see adopted by LPAs.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The 'do nothing' option was rejected because this project provides a unique opportunity to improve its planning systems with external funding. To undertake the project separately as an 'alternative option' for both Councils was rejected on the advice of the funding body and in light of the efficiencies to be gained because both Council's planning services operate with the same ICT functionality and support.

EX94-21/22. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake
RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

NON KEY DECISIONS

EX95-21/22. REDEVELOPMENT OF PLEASLEY MILLS EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members' approval for proposals for a dedicated officer to project manage master planning and prepare a planning application for the redevelopment of Pleasley Mills.

Moved by Councillor Liz Smyth and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that the approach for the redevelopment of Pleasley Mills as outlined in the report be approved.

(Assistant Director of Development and Planning)

REASON FOR DECISION:

Appointing a dedicated officer 'in house' with an appropriate budget is considered to offer clear benefits to the Council by providing a dedicated resource designed to accelerate delivery of a credible redevelopment scheme for Pleasley Mills.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

A 'do nothing' option was rejected because the existing buildings are increasingly becoming a liability. A 'do more' option such as appoint an external consultancy was rejected because the constraints on redevelopment on the site do not indicate that a consultancy could add any substantial value to master planning or redevelopment of the site at this stage. Alternative options including the use of existing staff or establishing a permanent post paid from general funds were rejected because of insufficient capacity.

KEY DECISIONS

EX96-21/22. MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE DEBT - WRITE OFF OF OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS

Executive's approval was sought for proposals to write-off of debts in respect of Business Rates, Council Tax, Housing Rents and Overpaid Housing Benefits.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that the amounts included at paragraph 2.1 of the report and individually detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved for write off.

(Assistant Director of Finance & Resources)

REASON FOR DECISION:

Given that all available options to recover this debt have been explored, it is important that the Council recognises the position and approves the write-off of the uncollectable debt.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

These are outlined in the main body of the report.

Having previously declared a significant other interest in the following item, Councillors David Downes, Steve Fritchley and Sandra Peake left the meeting.

Councillor Duncan McGregor in the Chair

EX97-21/22. BOLSOVER HOMES SCHEME - MARKET CLOSE CLUSTER, SHIREBROOK

Executive's approval was sought to enter into a contract to deliver the Market Close cluster scheme through the existing Bolsover Homes framework, and to purchase land at Market Close.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Liz Smyth **RESOLVED** that (1) an expenditure budget as outlined in the report to deliver the Market Close, Shirebrook cluster social housing building scheme be approved,

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(2) Homes England funding be applied for and if received be used to offset or partially offset the viability gap. If the Homes England funding is unsuccessful then available 1-4-1 receipts be used to reduce the cost to the HRA,

(3) the recommendation to enter into contract for the development of a further 28 properties in Shirebrook as outlined in the report be approved,

(4) the purchase of Site 3 in the amount stated in the report, together with any Stamp Duty Land Tax and other associated purchase costs that are usually incurred, be approved,

(5) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Property Services and Housing Repairs to complete the purchase of Site 3 by triggering the Option.

(Assistant Director of Property Services and Housing Repairs)

REASON FOR DECISION:

To deliver the Council's aspirational target of building a minimum of 150 new Council properties by March 2024, to use funding from either Homes England or 1-4-1 receipts to support the Scheme, and to enable Site 3 to be purchased.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Executive could choose not to support the development but this would not help to achieve the Council's agreed ambition of building 150 social housing properties. This would not help to meet the current demand for social housing in Shirebrook.

The meeting concluded at 1050 hours.