

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 10:49 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), David Bennett, Anne Clarke, Rowan Clarke, Amanda Davis, Mary Dooley, Louise Fox, Steve Fritchley, Justin Gilbody, Duncan Haywood, Rob Hiney-Saunders, Cathy Jeffery, Lucy King, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Sandra Peake, Lisa Powell, Jeanne Rospin, John Ritchie, Phil Smith, Emma Stevenson, Janet Tait, Ashley Taylor, Catherine Tite, Vicky Waplington, Deborah Watson, Jen Wilson, Carol Wood and Jane Yates.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Theresa Fletcher (Service Director Finance & Section 151 Officer), Jim Fieldsend (Service Director Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Pam Brown (Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships), Victoria Dawson (Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement), Sarah Kay (Assistant Director of Planning and Planning Policy), Ken Eastwood (Assistant Director of Environmental Health), Louise Arnold (Legal Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Charmaine Terry (Environmental Health Team Manager (Licensing)), and Amy Bryan (Governance and Civic Manager).

CL16-24/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Will Fletcher, Donna Hales, Chris Kane and Sally Renshaw.

CL17-24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

CL18-24/25 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

CL19-24/25 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.

Question submitted to Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Fritchley by Andrew Joesbury

COUNCIL

Dear Councillors,

Bolsover district has been allocated £15 million from the Government Regeneration Fund.

This is from the 2019 district plan:

South Normanton

6.64 South Normanton is the most southerly of the four towns. It is also one of the poorest performing shopping areas, based on our 2017 Study. Only 1.2% of the whole of the study area's convenience expenditure takes place in South Normanton; the same as in Bolsover; but only a fifth of the spending that takes place in Clowne.

6.65 At 2.1%, the amount of comparison shopping seems strong. However, this includes the East Midlands Designer Outlet; a major out of town clothing and comparison shopping destination; which is likely to be the major part of this expenditure and is divorced from the town centre by around 1.5 miles, the M1 and the A38 dual carriageway.

6.66 Like Bolsover, the most concerning statistic is that South Normanton only retains around 20% of its immediate catchment zone's convenience expenditure. This shows that whilst the centre is not playing a role in attracting shoppers from a wider area, it retains very little of the food shopping expenditure from the centre of the town.

6.67 The Regeneration Framework, identifies 3 main village centre projects:

- a) Redesign and re-establish Market Place as the heart of the Village – High priority urban design project and delivery to improve pedestrian movement and experience in the village centre, including improved signage and replacement of the Market Place clock
- b) New and enhanced connections to greenways – Development of connections to the Blackwell Trail and upgrades along The Common and Alfreton Road to create a 'shared route'

Taken from the Vision Bolsover District 2

The Council's ambition for town centre development is to support and invest in the 4 town centres to make them more sustainable and thriving places for communities to live and enjoy.

To improve the physical appearance, provide flexible space to create shopping havens, cafe culture, community venues etc.

To work with our partners (parish councils) to develop the 4 town centres and continue to bid for funding.

Funding is normally not available unless the project is designed, planned, costed and had preliminary planning permission from the stakeholders, otherwise known as being 'shovel ready'.

Before the last election councillors from the south of the district were invited to the

COUNCIL

meeting of the Growth Committee.

The biggest complaint was that the majority of funding went to the north of the district.

After some debate the committee agreed that South Normanton should be used as a pilot scheme, with help from the council, to become shovel ready to allow for application for funding as soon as it was available.

As proof of the majority of funding going to the north of the district these next points are taken from the In Touch and Bolsover Vision 2.

South Normanton and the south of the district is hardly mentioned.

The mention of South Normanton is that '£600k has been invested for new or refurbished play equipment or improvements to the sports pitches in South Normanton, Bolsover, Tibshelf and Pleasley.'

The only thing that I know in South Normanton of is the drainage of the Boundary rugby field, which came out of section 106 funding.

Meanwhile, from the publications

- £1.5m invested in Go Active in Clowne

- Introduction of 2 growth plans for Shirebrook and Creswell.

- £9.6m for the crematorium in Shirebrook.

- Assisted with the building of the £3m Cresswell Heritage Centre and well being centre.

- £100k from Safer Streets fund towards a new skate park in Bolsover.

- Cresswell Crag discovery trail.

- Spent £1m on the Tangent extension in Shirebrook.

My questions are 'How are the councillors and leadership going to make the £15m is allocated fairly?'

'The district plan of 2019 hasn't made any improvement to South Normanton in 5 years so when is the Bolsover district vision 2 going to improve the town centres?'

'Why wasn't the agreed Growth Committee motion of using South Normanton as a pilot scheme acted on?'

As only one question was permitted Andrew Joesbury confirmed that his question to the Leader of the Council was: How are the Councillors and leadership going to make sure the £15m is allocated fairly?

Councillor Steve Fritchley, Leader of the Council, responded firstly with the background to the £15m Regeneration Funding, which had been announced on 22nd November 2023.

COUNCIL

The funding criteria had been sent to the Council on 16th January 2024, which included that funding could be spent on one or multiple projects within any locality within the Council's jurisdiction. The Council had had 11 working days to draw up a programme of works that could be delivered by March 2026. The Council's proposal had been submitted on 31st January 2024. Mark Fletcher, MP for Bolsover had refused to support part of the programme that was outside Bolsover Town Centre. Councillor Fritchley stated that he had had a zoom meeting with Mark Fletcher MP, who had said he would not be swayed. Since then, a further meeting had been held with the MP and Jacob Young, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Levelling Up) on 25th April 2024. An amended submission was then drafted which removed the Blackwell site and added the purchase of the Co-op. The MP for Bolsover formally removed their objection by letter on 15th May and the Council was now waiting for formal approval from the Minister. Councillor Fritchley added that as far as he was aware the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was happy with the submission. Councillor Fritchley added that there was some funding included for public realm so there could still be work included within South Normanton.

Andrew Joesbury asked a supplementary question. South Normanton was the gateway to the District and had the highest footfall/biggest attraction of the area (McArthur Glen) and it would be good if some visitors went into South Normanton village, but it needed investment to make it more attractive and to encourage businesses into the empty shops. Andrew Joesbury stated that things always happened in the north of the District, for example in Bolsover and Shirebrook Market Place. He added that he wanted the leader to lead and to help parish councils to improve their areas so what would the Leader do to make that happen?

Councillor Steve Fritchley replied that if/when the Regeneration Funding had been approved, South Normanton would have the opportunity to work with the District Council to get something under the public realm element.

CL20-24/25 MOTIONS

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

a) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Donna Hales

MOTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY TO COUNCIL: A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS

This council notes:

Since 2010, local government workers have lost an average of 25% from the value of their pay. Our staff are experiencing an ongoing cost of living crisis. Since 2010 the cost of living has risen by 60%, more and more local government workers have been pushed into debt, and their basic spending has overtaken their income, with 1 in 5 households having less than £100 to spare each month. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, the local government workforce has fallen by 30% as a

COUNCIL

result of job cuts. This has had a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Local government continues to show how indispensable it is. But staff are increasingly leaving the sector for better paid jobs elsewhere, for example in retail, leaving local authorities with a massive skills gap, and vacancies in a range of key services, including in social care, education and youth services.

Local government finance is in an enormously difficult state, facing an estimated funding gap of more than £3.5 billion for 2024/25. Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2024 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our, neighbourhoods, towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £3,000 or 10%, whichever is the greater.

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim, working with the unions to present a united front in defence of the local government workforce.

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign.

Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

Councillor Donna Hales was not present at the meeting so Councillor Anne Clarke moved the Motion and it was seconded by Councillor Rob Hiney-Saunders.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Council (1) support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £3,000 or 10%, whichever is the greater.

(2) Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to

COUNCIL

central government to fund the NJC pay claim, working with the unions to present a united front in defence of the local government workforce.

(3) Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.

(4) Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign.

(5) Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

CL21-24/25 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - SCHEME OF COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

Council considered a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The report set out the recommendations and reasons of the IRP, which in summary recommended no change to the level of allowances. Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was the current Members' Allowances Scheme and at Appendix 2 was the report of the IRP.

The recommendations of the IRP were:

Basic Allowance – Recommendation: no change to the level of Basic Allowance

Special Responsibility Allowance – Recommendation: no change to the level of Special Responsibility Allowance

Other Parts of the Allowance Scheme – Recommendation: no change

Next Review of Allowance Scheme – Recommendation: the Allowances Scheme be reviewed again in three years (unless there was a particular need to address something within that period.)

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor David Bennett
RESOLVED that (1) the recommendations of the IRP be agreed in full;

(2) the Allowances Scheme be reviewed again in three years;

(3) the Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to amend the Members Allowance Scheme in line with the Council's decision and to publish the new scheme as required.

(Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)

CL22-24/25 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Council considered a report of the Chair of the Employment and Personnel Committee, which sought agreement for budget increases for the establishment of two posts that had been agreed at Employment and Personnel Committee on 17th April 2024.

COUNCIL

The proposals agreed at the Employment and Personnel Committee were to establish two new posts, one Land and Property Assistant and one Communications Officer. The Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer confirmed that the budget required for each post would be:

Land and Property Assistant (a full-time post at Grade 4 - £34,594 - £36,278 including on costs)

Communications Officer (a full-time post at Grade 6 - £38,810 - £41,892 including on costs).

The additional posts would require an increase to the Council's General Fund budget.

Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Deborah Watson **RESOLVED** that the growth in salary budgets as recommended by the Employment and Personnel Committee on 17th April 2024 be approved.

(Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer)

CL23-24/25 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICY UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Council considered a report which sought adoption of the revised Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003.

The report explained that the Licensing Act 2003 imposed a statutory requirement upon the Council to prepare and publish a Statement of Principles every five years. The previous Statement of Principles had been published in 2019 and was now due for renewal.

The Joint Environmental Health Service had conducted an initial review of the Policy and had identified a number of amendments necessary to bring the Policy up to date. In summary, the proposed amendments aimed to achieve the following:

- Ensure the policy was consistent with legislation and statutory guidance
- Increase the clarity of the Policy
- Improve the standards of premises in the District through the recommendation of more robust management practices
- Provide clarity on delegations
- Update local demographics.

The draft policy had been considered by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee, after which a six-week public consultation had run from 26th February 2024 to 7th April 2024. No responses had been received during the consultation period and a proposed final version of the Policy had been considered by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on 29th April 2024.

The revised Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003 was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Moved by Councillor Anne Clarke and seconded by Councillor Emma Stevenson **RESOLVED** that, as recommended by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, the

COUNCIL

revised Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003 be adopted and take effect immediately.

(Assistant Director of Environmental Health)

CL24-24/25 WEEKLY COLLECTION OF FOOD WASTE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Council considered a report which sought approval for the acceptance of new burdens capital grant funding for the introduction of weekly food waste collection arrangements and to approve capital funding for the purchase of vehicles and containers to meet the Council's new weekly food waste collection duty.

The report explained that from 1st April 2026, the Council had to undertake weekly collection of food waste from all domestic households. This had to be separate from waste collected in black (residual), burgundy (dry mixed recycling) and green (garden) bins.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had awarded new burdens funding to the Council, details on which were set out in the report. The Streetscene (Waste Services) Team did not consider the funding assumptions to be sufficient and had sent a funding review request to DEFRA.

Regardless of the DEFRA new burdens funding allocated, the capital cost to the Council of implementing weekly food waste collections was estimated to be £1,021,408. Therefore, to ensure the Council was able to implement the collections by 1st April 2026, Council was asked to approve a budget for the full cost of meeting the new duty consisting of £699,908 guaranteed funding awarded, leaving a funding shortfall of £321,500. The shortfall of £321,500 would potentially need to be funded by the Council should the funding review request submitted to DEFRA be unsuccessful.

Approval for budget to cover the potential shortfall in funding was being sought now to allow the procurement of vehicles and waste containers to ensure the new duty of weekly food waste collections could be met by the deadline.

Moved by Councillor Anne Clarke and seconded by Councillor David Bennett

RESOLVED that a budget be added to the capital programme of £1,021,408. This would be funded from an external grant of £699,908 as a minimum, with £321,500 funded by the Council from available capital resources, including prudential borrowing, if the outcome of the DEFRA review request was unfavourable.

(Strategic Director of Services/Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer)

CL25-24/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Moved by Councillor Rita Turner and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor

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

COUNCIL

in the public interest for that to be revealed.

[The category of exempt information is stated after each Minute].

CL26-24/25 STOCK CONDITION SURVEY

Council considered a report which sought approval to allocate budget from the Housing Revenue Account Development Reserve for a Stock Condition Survey of the Council's Housing Revenue Account Dwelling Stock.

The report stated that in line with best practice, and the updated Consumer Standards, a stock condition survey was needed, given that it was now ten years since the previous survey had been undertaken. The new survey would seek to provide a comprehensive and accurate stock condition dataset enabling the Council to effectively maintain and improve the housing stock, inform decisions about procurement and investment priorities, as well as ensuring that the Council met its statutory and regulatory landlord obligations.

The report set out details of the expected cost and recommended procurement route.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie

RESOLVED that budget be allocated from the Housing Revenue Account Development Reserve for a Stock Condition Survey of the Council's Housing Revenue Account Dwelling Stock.

(Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer/Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement)

[Paragraph 3]

CL27-24/25 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:38 hours.