

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 16th December, 2015**

Present:-

The Mayor

Councillors	Bagley	Councillors	Flood
	J Barr		P Gilby
	P Barr		T Gilby
	Bellamy		Hill
	Blank		Hitchin
	Borrell		Hollingworth
	Brittain		Huckle
	Brown		J Innes
	Brunt		P Innes
	Burrows		Miles
	Callan		A Murphy
	Catt		T Murphy
	Caulfield		Niblock
	Davenport		Parsons
	Derbyshire		Rayner
	Dickinson		Redihough
	A Diouf		Sarvent
	V Diouf		Simmons
	Dyke		Slack
	Elliott		Wall

50 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 October, 2015 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

51 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

The Mayor referred to the following Mayoral engagements:

- Hosting several visits to the Town Hall by primary school pupils as part of Local Democracy Week.
- Attending events to mark Remembrance Day including the Service of Remembrance at the Parish Church and the parade to the Chesterfield War Memorial.
- Switching on the Christmas lights in Chesterfield town centre.

The Mayor also thanked Councillor Brunt for raising funds for the Mayor's appeal by running in the recent Bolsover 10km event.

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Brady, Bexton, Ludlow, Perkins and Serjeant.

53 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

No declarations of interest were received.

54 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

There were no questions.

55 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

In accordance with Standing Order No.13 Council debated the following petition from Chesterfield Liberal Democrats received on 20 November, 2015: -

The Chesterfield Liberal Democrats petition Chesterfield Borough Council not to sell the Ashgate Road car park.

The petition contained in excess of 1,000 signatures; therefore it was referred to Council to be debated in accordance with the Council's petition scheme and Standing Order No.13.

Councillor Maureen Davenport, representing Chesterfield Liberal Democrats presented the petition and answered Member's questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council receives and notes the petition submitted by the Chesterfield Liberal Democrats in relation to the Council's proposals to sell the Ashgate Road car park.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Planning takes the following matters into account before coming to a final decision on the proposed sale of the Ashgate Road car park and associated premises at 6 Ashgate Road, Chesterfield:
 - (a) the petition and also the representations made at the Council meeting;
 - (b) the site's longstanding allocation for housing development in the Chesterfield Local Plans of 1996 and 2006 and the Local Plan Core Strategy of 2013;
 - (c) the Council's current inability to demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites and the additional pressure this places on the Council to grant permission for housing on greenfield sites;
 - (d) the opportunities that exist within the planning system to potentially secure measures to manage the impact of any proposed housing development at this site on on-street parking;
 - (e) the availability of off-street parking at other edge of town centre car parks with the capacity to accommodate extra cars at prices suited to attract commuters.

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No.14 Members asked the Leader the following questions and received verbal responses to their questions.

- Councillor Brunt asked about the end of deep mining in the UK, and what Chesterfield Borough Council could do to recognise the heritage of coal mining in the borough.
- Councillor Peter Barr asked about the development of clean coal technology.
- Councillor Jean Innes asked about the high occupancy levels of town centre shops in Chesterfield.
- Councillor Tom Murphy asked about the impact of government proposals regarding social housing rents on the Housing Revenue Account.
- Councillor Hitchin asked about the Leader's work schedule over the Christmas period.

57 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER, 2014/15

The Council's District Auditor, Tony Crawley, attended to present KPMG's Annual Audit Letter for 2014/15.

The report covered the audit of the Council's financial statements and assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money in the use of resources. The arrangements were assessed against the criteria of financial resilience and securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The report advised that KPMG had issued an unqualified value for money conclusion for 2014/15 on 28 September, 2015, and had also concluded that the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure financial resilience and to challenge how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

RESOLVED -

That KPMG's Annual Audit Letter for 2014/15 be received.

58 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT ON MEMBER ALLOWANCES

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report detailing the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) following its recent review of the Members' Allowances Scheme. The council appointed the IRP

earlier in the year to consider Members' allowances as a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act 2000. The Panel last carried out a comprehensive review in 2011 and advised then that a further comprehensive review should take place in 2015.

Professor Steve Leach who chaired the panel attended Council to present the panel's recommendations.

The IRP recommended increases to the Basic Allowance and all the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs), apart from the SRA's payable to the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council and to the Leader of the Opposition. The panel's report also recommended the introduction of two new SRAs for the Vice Chairs of Appeals and Regulatory and of the Planning Committee and the discontinuation of the SRA's for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and for the Cabinet member without portfolio if that position was held by the Leader of the Opposition.

RESOLVED –

1. That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel are accepted in full and implemented from 1 April, 2016.
2. That the Independent Remuneration Panel's report be published as set out in paragraph 7 of the officer's report.
3. That Full Council expresses both its appreciation and thanks to the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the thorough and efficient way in which they carried out the review.
4. That the application of the average level of change in the NJC staff pay award for spinal column points 35-40 as the basis for the annual increase in members allowances shall not be valid after 31st December 2019, unless the Council has before then sought a further recommendation from its Independent Remuneration Panel on their application in this scheme

59 REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 113 the Council's revised Statement of Licensing Policy was submitted to Council for approval. In accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 the Statement of Licensing Policy was required to be published every five years, with the reviewed statement scheduled for publication on 7 January, 2016.

RESOLVED –

That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be approved and published.

60 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AND UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST – SECOND QUARTER 2015/16

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.111 the Chief Finance Officer submitted a report outlining the budget position at the end of the second quarter, covering General Fund Revenue account, the General Fund Capital account, the Housing Revenue account as well as the Housing Capital Programme. The report outlined projected deficits in 2015/16, 2016/17, and 2017/18 in respect of the General Fund Revenue Account.

RESOLVED -

1. That the council's financial performance in the first half of the financial year and the revised medium term forecast be noted.
2. That the changes to the General Fund Capital Programme as outlined in the officer's report be approved.
3. That the proposed new use of reserves as outlined in the officer's report be approved.
4. That the changes to the Housing Revenue Budget be noted.

61 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/17

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.125 the Chief Finance Officer submitted for approval Chesterfield Borough Council's Council Tax Support Scheme for the next financial year (2016/17). The scheme being recommended for adoption in respect of the next financial year (2016/17) was unchanged from that in 2015/16.

RESOLVED –

1. That Council approve the continued operation of a local Council Tax Support scheme for 2016/17 based on The Council Tax Reduction Scheme England Regulations 2012 amended to reflect the following local decisions concerning the key principles of the scheme:
 - For those of working age the maximum amount of Council Tax that will be eligible for reduction is 91.5% of their full Council Tax Liability (£84 for a Band A property).
 - The Council continues its policy of disregarding war pensions for the purposes of calculating income in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme at a total estimated cost of £16k.
 - The 'taper', i.e. the rate at which support is withdrawn as income increases be maintained at 20%.
2. That the Chief Finance Officer be granted delegated powers to update the scheme to reflect such up-ratings of premiums, allowances and non-dependent deductions as may be determined by the Department of Work and Pensions, and any other minor technical changes which may be required.
3. That the local council tax discounts originally agreed for 2013/14 be continued.

62 GREAT PLACE: GREAT SERVICE UPDATE

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.112 the Executive Director, James Drury and the Business Transformation Managers submitted the November 2015 business case for the Great Place, Great Service transformation programme for Council approval.

A report requesting delegated authority from Council to both Cabinet members and named officers to enable the Great Place, Great Service programme to be delivered in an informed and timely manner, was also submitted for Council's consideration.

RESOLVED -

1. That the revised Great Place, Great Service (GPGS) business case be approved and implemented.
2. That the proposed delegated decision making authorities be made to Cabinet and named officers, as detailed in section 5 of the officer's report, to ensure that the GPGS programme is delivered in an informed and timely manner.

63 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be noted:-

Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 7, 14, 21 and 28 October, 4, 11 and 25 November and 1 December, 2015.

Licensing Committee of 21 October and 11 November, 2015.

Planning Committee of 5 October and 26 October and 16 November, 2015.

Standards and Audit Committee of 25 November, 2015.

64 CABINET MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 6 October, 3 and 17 November and 1 December, 2015 be noted.

65 **MINUTES OF JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 3 November and 1 December be noted.

66 **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 15 September, 2015 be approved.

67 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes for the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 6 October, 2015 be approved.

68 **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19**

There were no questions.