

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 9th October, 2019**

Present:-

Councillor Simmons (The Mayor)

Councillors	Bagshaw	Councillors	Holmes
	Barr		Kellman
	Bingham		Kelly
	Blakemore		Ludlow
	Blank		Mannion-Brunt
	Borrell		Mann
	Brady		Marriott
	Brittain		Miles
	Callan		A Murphy
	Catt		T Murphy
	D Collins		P Niblock
	L Collins		S Niblock
	Davenport		Perkins
	Dyke		Rayner
	G Falconer		Redihough
	K Falconer		Rogers
	Flood		Sarvent
	Fordham		Serjeant
	P Gilby		Snowdon
	T Gilby		Thornton

25 MINUTES OF COUNCIL**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 July, 2019 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

26 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent deaths of Alderman Arthur Wain MBE and of former Mayoress, Mrs Pat Bannister. Members stood for a minute's silence in their honour.

The Mayor referred to the following Mayoral engagements:

- The Brampton Potteries Festival in July, celebrating the history of pottery making in this area of the town;
- The Motorfest in August, which attracted thousands of people in to the town centre, and during which he presented a chair to Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson MBE to raise money for the armed forces charity, the Pilgrim Bandits;
- A concert by the Choir at the Royal, formed of current and former staff at Chesterfield Royal Hospital, and visiting guests, the Swansea Bay Singleton Singers.

The Mayor thanked Members for their support at recent fundraising events for the Mayor's Appeal.

He reminded Members of the Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 18 November, 2019 to confer the honour of Alderman on three former councillors.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bellamy, Caulfield, Coy, Hollingworth, J Innes, P Innes and Perry.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

29 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question had been submitted by Plastic Free Chesterfield:

“The newly formed group, ‘Plastic Free Chesterfield’, which is part of the larger group ‘Surfers Against Sewage’, is aiming to reduce the avoidable use of single use plastic. We feel that as Chesterfield Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency it is vitally important that the Council

addresses the issue of avoidable single use plastic. At a recent event we found the public overwhelmingly in support of our aims.

We therefore ask what action the Council is taking or proposing to take in respect of the following aspects:

- What actions has the Council taken to date to reduce its own use of single use plastic and what plans are in place to change to more sustainable solutions;
- Acting as an exemplar; encouraging all local businesses to avoid the use of single use plastic where possible;
- Providing better information for residents as to how they can consider 'Refuse Reduce Re-use Recycle' in relation to their plastic use, e.g. clearer promotion of alternatives to single use plastic or recycling facilities."

Councillor A Serjeant, Deputy Leader, provided a verbal response, referring to:

- the Council having switched from single use plastic items to sustainable alternatives where these were available in its own premises;
- the Chesterfield Climate Emergency Working Group, which would be reviewing the approach to single use plastic taken by the Council and more broadly within the town;
- the Council acting as an advocate with its partners and stakeholders to encourage businesses, retailers and residents to reduce the use of single use plastic.

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question was asked by Daniel Botham:

"Climate change is only one of the many challenges we are facing; another big challenge is loss of biodiversity. What strategies does the Council have for protecting and increasing biodiversity in the borough?"

Councillor A Serjeant, Deputy Leader, provided a verbal response, referring to:

- The Council's history of bringing back into use former industrial and mining sites to include habitats for a wide range of species, such as the country parks at Poolsbrook and Holmebrook Valley and the Enterprise Zone at Markham Vale;
- The strategic objective within the existing and emerging Local Plans to promote a net gain in biodiversity;
- The network of Local Nature Reserves provided through a Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) and the 'Chesterfield Greenprint', a document jointly prepared with DWT identifying priority habitats and species for protection;
- The Council's planning policies providing protection for priority habitats and species and seeking a net gain of biodiversity on all new development;
- Revised grass cutting regimes to encourage wilder areas to grow, providing a habitat for biodiversity, and seeking to minimize the Council's use of herbicides.

30 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

No petitions had been received.

31 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No. 14 Members asked the following questions:

- Councillor Davenport asked whether the income generated from Council housing would enable more new Council homes to be built over the next four years than the 100 already identified.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to existing and further Council housing developments planned for the current and following year, including sites at Heaton Court and Brockwell Court, and work that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Assistant Director – Housing were progressing to develop capacity for building more new Council homes.

- Councillor K Falconer asked about the number of electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) installed at Council and private homes in 2018 and 2019 and how many were planned for 2020.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to 10 EVCPs being installed in the new homes at Heaton Court, a further 27 points at the new Council homes to be built in 2020 and the use of planning conditions to require EVCPs at all new private homes where practical.

- Councillor G Falconer asked about the number of residential properties where the Council had assisted in installing solar panels in 2018 and 2019 and how many were planned for 2020.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the most recent installation of solar panels at 383 Council homes in 2012 and further multi-million pound annual investments since then in energy saving and thermal efficiency measures in the Council's housing stock.

- Councillor Bingham asked about the Council's use of herbicides and pesticides which were harmful to the environment and pollinators.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the Council's introduction of revised grass cutting arrangements to allow wilder areas to grow and to measures being taken to minimize the use of chemicals.

- Councillor Rogers asked about plans to provide a permanent shelter for homeless people.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the Council's commitment to work for a second year with local authority partners, Derby City Mission and local churches to provide a winter night shelter for homeless people from 1 December to 31 March.

- Councillor Fordham asked about plans to deal with the trade waste bins outside the Crooked Spire.

The Leader provided a verbal response confirming that Council officers were actively working with the church and retailers to identify a suitable solution.

- Councillor Borrell asked about plans to phase out gas boilers in Council properties.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the multi-million pound annual investments that the Council had already made and would continue to make in improving the thermal efficiency of Council homes.

- Councillor S Niblock asked whether a wildflower garden could be provided outside the town hall.

The Leader provided a verbal response stating that such matters would be for the Climate Emergency Working Group to consider. An important element for inclusion in the climate change action plan would be carbon offsetting measures and Councillor Niblock's suggestion would be taken into account.

- Councillor Redihough asked when details of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy review would be available for Members and when it would be implemented.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing currently reviewing the work to date on the Strategy, and a revised timetable for handling publication of the Strategy would be shared in due course.

- Councillor Kellman asked whether the Council intended to apply for funding available through a government grants scheme to improve air quality.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to the Council working with Derbyshire County Council and through the Climate Emergency Working Group to identify how best to address air quality issues locally.

- Councillor Snowdon asked about the Council's business case for bringing services currently provided by external providers in-house.

The Leader provided a verbal response referring to reports and business cases which had already been prepared evidencing the value for money case for bringing the services in-house and the

improved ability that future in-house provision will enable to better tailor services to the needs of customers.

32 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 AND MONITORING REPORT 2019/20

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No. 14 the Chief Finance Officer submitted a report for Members to consider the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018/19 and the treasury management activities for the first five months of 2019/20.

RESOLVED –

1. That the outturn Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 be approved;
2. That the treasury management stewardship report for 2018/19 be approved;
3. That the treasury management position for the first five months of 2019/20 be noted.

33 DELIVERY OF CHESTERFIELD'S GROWTH STRATEGY

Pursuant to Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee Minute Nos. 14, 16 and 18 the Chief Executive, Executive Director and Assistant Director – Economic Growth submitted a report seeking approval to establish a Joint Growth Board and a Joint Growth Unit with Derbyshire County Council to support the delivery of Chesterfield's Growth Strategy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the decisions of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee be noted:
 - 1.1 That an informal Joint Growth Board be established with Derbyshire County Council in order to provide improved focus on the delivery of key growth projects within Chesterfield borough;
 - 1.2 That a new Joint Growth Unit, with officer roles designed to focus on the delivery of key growth projects, be established

with additional provision for the commissioning of further specialist advice and support as required;

- 1.3 That a new Skills Delivery Officer post, be established in the Economic Development Service;
 - 1.4 That the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, be granted delegated authority to approve the final job descriptions for the new posts and the final budget for the Joint Growth Unit.
2. That the costs of establishing the new Joint Growth Unit be met through the retained business rates income received from the Markham Vale Enterprise Zone.

34 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 25 the Policy Officer submitted the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2018/19 to update members on the improvements and achievements made in delivering equality and diversity activities across all of the Council's services.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2018/19 be supported.
2. That the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2018/19 be published on the Council's website and circulated to partners.

35 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 10, 17 and 24 July, 7 August and 4, 11, 18 and 25 September, 2019;
- Employment and General Committee of 8 July and 9 September, 2019;

- Planning Committee of 22 July and 12 August, 2019;
- Standards and Audit Committee of 17 July, 2019.

36 MINUTES OF CABINET

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 16 July and 10 September, 2019 be noted.

37 MINUTES OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 10 September 2019 be noted.

38 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 4 July, 2019 be approved.

39 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 11 July, 2019 be approved

40 MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 18 July, 2019 be approved.

41 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

Under Standing Order No. 19 Councillor Fordham asked the following questions:

- ‘With the winter Night Shelter in Chesterfield due to recommence, will the Council give the volunteer organisers and supportive churches access to storage facilities all year around and consider making a building available as an all year round drop-in-centre for shelter users?’

Councillor Ludlow provided a verbal response referring to the Council’s commitment to supporting rough sleepers, its close working with partners, including Derby City Mission, to identify suitable storage facilities, and through the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum to develop the draft Rough Sleeper Strategy Action Plan, including exploring possibilities for provision of a year round drop-in-centre.

- ‘With new electric charging points being installed in car parks controlled by the Borough Council, will the Council actively promote their existence and publicly report on the usage and take up?’

Councillor Sarvent provided a verbal response referring to the Council working closely with the operator of the charging points to actively promote them and to monitor and openly report on their usage in order to inform further investment decisions.