

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET** held on 10 February 2015 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor Ms A Western

Also in attendance – Councillor R Mihaly

5/15 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

6/15 **A FAIRER DEAL FOR DERBYSHIRE PETITION** Since 2010 the Government had implemented a number of austerity measures to help it reduce the fiscal deficit, which had resulted in significant cuts to local authority funding. In 2015-16 nearly three-quarters of the Council's funding would come direct from the Government. By 2018 the Council's budget would be reduced by £157million which represented almost a third of the 2013 budget.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 18 December 2014 and highlighted a 27% reduction in the Council's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2015-16. The Council had the highest percentage cut in RSG when compared to other county councils which did not have fire and rescue authority responsibilities. The financial implications of the Provisional Settlement were illustrated in the Revenue Budget report 2015-16 which was considered by the Council on 4 February 2015.

Alongside the Government cuts, the Council was facing unavoidable demands on its services and the Government had reduced its funding to local authorities by 37% over the period 2010-11 to 2015-16.

As well as reductions in its RSG the Council would also see significant reductions in the following grant streams in 2015-16:

- Education Services Grant – the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2013 announced a 20% funding cut in the national amount payable. The Council's allocation in 2015-16 was £2.7m less than the 2014-15 allocation
- Local Welfare Provision - from April 2013 local authorities became responsible for the administration of local welfare provision schemes. The Council had received funding of £1.8m per annum to help support the scheme, but this would cease from April 2015.

Local community and business leaders and residents had expressed concern about inequitable Government funding for the county and particularly the impact on services for vulnerable people. The proposal was to create an online petition with paper copies also available in libraries and other Council buildings to provide a facility for Derbyshire residents to urge the Government to provide a fairer funding deal for Derbyshire. The wording of the petition would reflect this report.

RESOLVED to approve the establishment of a petition to enable residents and other Council stakeholders to call on the Government to provide a fair funding deal for Derbyshire.