

PUBLIC

MINUTES of the meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** held on 5 February 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Janet A Hill (In the Chair)

Councillors D Allen, Mrs E Atkins, S A Bambrick, Mrs G Birkin, Ms C Bisknell, Mrs S L Blank, Mrs M W Booth, A Botham, S Brittain, W Burrows, K Buttery, Mrs D W E Charles, Mrs L M Chilton, D Collins, Mrs C M Cox, J A Coyle, R Davison, J E Dixon, P Dunn, S J Ellis, S Freeborn, J A Frudd, K Gillott, D T Greenhalgh, Mrs C A Hart, Ms Julie A Hill, R L Hosker, Mrs J M Innes, P Jones, T A Kemp, Mrs K D Lauro, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, W Major, D McGregor, R R Mihaly, C R Moesby, C E Neill, J R Owen, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, Mrs I Ratcliffe, B Ridgway, P J Smith, T Southerd, S A Spencer, Mrs M Stockdale, Mrs J S Street, M Tomlinson, Mrs J A Twigg, D Walton, Ms A Western, Ms E S Wilcox, D A Williams, J G Williams and B Wright

01/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S J Bradford, M Ford, D Lomax, K P Morgan and D J Wilcox.

02/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.

03/14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The following announcements were made:-

- (1) The Chair of the Council, Councillor D J Wilcox, was currently unwell and Members wished him a full and speedy recovery.
- (2) Members were reminded that the proceedings were being filmed.
- (3) The death of former County Councillors Bob Janes, Lionel Cannon and Mrs Janet McKee and former Deputy Chief Executive Gerald Tommy. The meeting observed a minute's silence in their memory and tributes were made
- (4) In the New Year's Honours List, Councillor A I Lewer had been awarded the MBE for services to local government.
- (5) The retirement of Strategic Director of Adult Care, Bill Robertson.
- (6) Presentation of awards were made to:-

Suzanne Tunnicliffe, Superintendent Registrar at the Chesterfield Register Office who had completed her Apprenticeship in Management at Wigan and Leigh College and the College had awarded her their "Management and Professional Studies Student of the Year".

The Council has been placed 15th in Stonewall's Top 100 places to work out of 369 public and private sector entrants and an award was presented to Rob Bounds, Alison Boyce, Helen Linacre and John Cowings.

(7) In considering the Council's budget for 2014/15, Members would need to have regard to the Council Tax referendum principles which had not yet been confirmed by the Department for Communities and Local Government. However, these were expected to be announced at some point in the afternoon. With this in mind, and to enable the Council to assess the impact of any changes made to the referendum principles, a change in the order of business for the meeting was agreed.

04/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING On the motion of Councillor Mrs Janet A Hill, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 4 December 2013 be confirmed.

05/14 PRESENTATION ON FOODBANKS IN DERBYSHIRE

A presentation was made by Julie Hurst (Health and Communities Department) and Andy Fellowes from the Clay Cross Foodbank and Ben Browne from the Ashbourne Foodbank.

06/14 NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) Moved by Councillor S A Spencer, duly seconded,

This Council resolves to continue its commitment to funding and working with the Peak District National Park on issues related to green lanes; furthermore, Derbyshire County Council is committed to protecting the natural environment and reducing the environmental damage caused to our green lanes across the county.

The motion was debated, put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED that the Council continue its commitment to funding and working with the Peak District National Park on issues related to green lanes; furthermore, Derbyshire County Council is committed to protecting the natural environment and reducing the environmental damage caused to our green lanes across the county.

(2) Moved by Councillor W Major, duly seconded,

This council will put on hold the cuts to the Housing Related Support Programme while a review is carried out by a task and finish group made up of members of the Public Health and People Scrutiny Committees. The task and finish group will investigate and report back to full council on:

- What return Derbyshire County Council and partner agencies make from this investment
- What service pressures the proposed changes will have on borough and district councils, CCGs and the NHS in Derbyshire
- Provide recommendations on any changes to phase 1 and 2 of the plan to cut the Housing Related Support Service programme.

The motion was debated, put to the vote and declared to be lost.

(3) Moved by Councillor Ms E Wilcox, duly seconded,

The County Council is concerned that regardless of the changes at a macroeconomic level, most Derbyshire people remain significantly worse off than they were prior to the banking crisis.

Whilst we welcome the devolution of some service responsibility to councils, who are often best placed to deal with the day-to-day issues and problems that arise within people's lives, this cannot be achieved unless funding follows the relocation of responsibility.

The County Council recognises that even where appropriate funding may have been devolved, the number of people within Derbyshire subject to major cost of living increases – relating to rents, mortgages, food and energy costs – are those with the least financial resilience, being hit harder than any other group.

With national growth spiking at just 0.8% in the last quarter of 2013, cuts in important Council services may need to be even more severe over the next three years. This will inevitably lead to a marked deterioration in the quality of life of those who are most vulnerable, despite the best efforts of voluntary organisations, anxious to help yet competing to access an ever-diminishing pot of resources.

In order to protect vulnerable families and individuals, many of whom are in work or seeking work, the County Council calls for its Members to focus their efforts on addressing the issue of growing hunger and poverty, and to ensure that the impact of all policy proposals are scrutinised under an anti-poverty agenda.

The motion was debated, put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED that, in order to protect vulnerable families and individuals, many of whom are in work or seeking work, the County Council calls for its Members to focus their efforts on addressing the issue of growing hunger and poverty, and to ensure that the impact of all policy proposals are scrutinised under an anti-poverty agenda.

At the request of at least 5 Members, a recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

For the motion (42) – Councillors D Allen, Mrs E Atkins, S A Bambrick, Mrs G Birkin, Ms C Bisknell, Mrs S L Blank, Mrs M W Booth, A Botham, S Brittain, W Burrows, Mrs D W E Charles, D Collins, Mrs C M Cox, J A Coyle, R Davison, J E Dixon, P Dunn, S Freeborn, J A Frudd, K Gillott, D T Greenhalgh, Mrs Janet A Hill, Ms Julie A Hill, R L Hosker, Mrs J M Innes, P Jones, Mrs K D Lauro, D McGregor, R R Mihaly, C R Moesby, C E Neill, J R Owen, Mrs I Ratcliffe, B Ridgway, P J Smith, T Southerd, Mrs M Stockdale, Ms A Western, Ms E S Wilcox, D A Williams, J G Williams and B Wright.

Against the motion (0)

Abstained (15) - Councillors K Buttery, Mrs L M Chilton, S J Ellis, Mrs C A Hart, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, W Major, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, S A Spencer, Mrs J S Street, M Tomlinson, Mrs J A Twigg and D Walton.

07/14 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

(1) Question to Councillor J Dixon from Councillor S Brittain.

Would the Cabinet member for Jobs, Economy & Transport like to update us on the County Council's bid for Enterprise Zone infrastructure funding for Markham Vale?

Councillor Dixon responded as follows:-

It is a very timely question. This is a question about the £400m made available to put infrastructure schemes into the 24 Enterprise Zones currently in England. It was a competitive bidding process and I am proud to announce that Markham Vale was one of the 13 successful bids and has secured £14.2m of funding from the fund. This is good news. As you know, part of the current site is currently compromised by the proposed line of HS2, the plot which we call the "Green Giant". We do have Costain on there at the moment as part of the managed motorway scheme but this money, £14.2m, will open up the Seymour Link, which is the plot of land on the Chesterfield side of the motorway as you head north. It is 81 hectares of land where we hope 2,000 new jobs will be created.

I would like to thank, on behalf of all the Council, the officers of the newly formed Economy, Transport and Environment Team led by Mike Ashworth who have worked so hard to put this bid together, as well as our colleagues at Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire, and to Sheffield City Region for promoting this bid.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

That is welcome news. Would you agree that ties in well with the five principles up *there*? (pointing to the service principles displayed on the Council Chamber wall)

Councillor Dixon responded as follows:-

It is not by accident that "A Derbyshire That Works" is top of the list over there. We, as a Group, chose it as our top priority when we were preparing for power two to three years ago and the people of Derbyshire agreed with us. Last summer we consulted on their priorities and, not surprisingly, creating jobs was the number 1 priority for us as a Council. Some people over *there* branded us as a bunch of Loony Lefties. Well, if understanding that a lot of the ills in our society, poor health, education under-attainment, anti-social behaviour and substance abuse are a function of the economy then I am a Loony Leftie. We as a Labour Group will unapologetically pursue jobs and investment and get people decent reasonably paid jobs, because if you give them a job you give them self-worth and a reason for getting out of bed in the morning. If you give them a job, that person gets respect, they have the ability to hold their head high in the street, and if you give them a job they have hope and a future and the right to dream for a better life. It has been really tragic today that some people don't even have the ability to dream because of the circumstances they are in. There are far too many people in Derbyshire working and out of work who can't dream of a better life, so yes, a Derbyshire that works is our priority.

(2) Question to Councillor D Allen from Councillor Mrs C Bisknell.

It is an accepted fact that the lack of proper nutrition not only has a huge impact on people's physical and mental health but also on the health and local authority support services they increasingly have to rely on if the situation is not addressed.

In High Peak we have seen a huge increase in the demand for food parcels since the food banks in Buxton and Glossop were formally established in 2012. So far they have supplied more than 10,000 days' worth of food to people in need.

Will Councillor Allen outline what measures the council is taking to ensure that residents caught in the cost of living crisis do not suffer further because they cannot afford to feed themselves or their families?

Councillor Allen responded as follows:-

I think we have touched on quite a lot of this today but I will just continue a little bit more. You talk about mental health issues and that is clear it has had a big impact and, again, I think that has been said. You are talking about nearly 3 million adults suffering from mental health problems and again 1/4 of adolescents in cold houses have multiple mental health problems. It is inevitable if you have no job and you are cold and hungry I think you are going to have a mental health problem, so it is a real big issue. We have to do what we can and certainly Public Health will do what it can to help to try to alleviate that, to work with that.

People are in this position, it has been said, about either "heating or eating", and that is the effect touching so many people. I think one of the things is children are so vulnerable because if they are living with poor food, cold conditions, damp houses, they are eating unhealthily then that develops into diseases, lung diseases etc if they are having poor diets. One of the reports that came out today said Derbyshire has a very high obesity level. I think this is due to poor nutrition and eating inappropriate food, cheap food, so we have to look at some of those issues. There have been massive increases in things like gas, up by at least 168% over this last decade, so that is going to have an amazing impact on people being able to keep warm. Keeping warm is such an issue both for young people and older people. It is so easy to get loans, as has been said earlier today. I was driving yesterday and even Classic FM had an advert for Wonga. I nearly screamed. I thought, "What is the world coming to?" I nearly went back on to Radio 4!

We have talked about food banks. My note says 21 but it has gone up to 22. I was going to read them all out but I think we have passed that point today. It shows they are expanding at a rate. We have seen the presentations today and I think it is well worth the effort that has been put into the food banks.

Councillor Western has mentioned about a lot of things we have done and I think that obviously helps along the lines of your question. I will just say very quickly there are the Breakfast Clubs; Credit Unions; Food Banks; advice in Children's Centres now and in surgeries; Affordable Warmth Schemes, which again fills in very well if you can keep people warm. We are supporting the Unemployed Workers' Centres. There is a lot more to do and certainly I give this commitment where we can use Public Health money legitimately then we will do so. It is the only budget in this Council that is ring-fenced, it has a bit extra next year and we need to maximise how we can use that supporting people with the principles that have been outlined on that wall which we have mentioned earlier.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

In the light of what you have just said and what we heard earlier from the food banks in Clay Cross and Ashbourne, would you agree with me that what we are seeing actually sadly is just the tip of the iceberg and that the recent outrageous and unfounded comments made recently by former South Derbyshire MP, and now even more unfortunately a High Peak resident, highlights the hypocrisy of the Opposition which condemns and/or votes against food banks on the one hand but is quite happy to turn up for a photo call when it suits them?

Councillor Allen responded as follows:-

I think you are right by the fact that food banks have gone up from two in the last couple of years to 22 now that is showing it is the tip of the iceberg. There is a real crisis out there. Indeed, earlier I talked about actual individual people. We need to realise that that has an impact. The lady you mentioned presumably is Edwina Currie? She is a great person for trying to get publicity but with no substance.

I finish where I started. My view is we need to fight and campaign hard to change the government and try to then influence a Labour government to make some changes which will have an impact on both the people in Derbyshire and the people in the country.

(3) Question to Councillor C Neill from Councillor Mrs I Ratcliffe.

Amongst the Government's devastating cuts to this Council, what is the Council doing to meet the ever increasing need for access to day care services for vulnerable adults of Derbyshire.

Councillor Neil responded as follows:-

You will all be very familiar with the Cabinet papers that I brought on the 21 January in opening consultation to our round of a number of cuts. One of those papers was actually to introduce a trading policy for our direct care services which is in direct response to those people who when the previous administration consulted on increasing the thresholds and the higher moderate category was introduced, those people who were taken out of the service at that time said to us, as an Authority, "We would gladly pay to come to our Day Centres, to the County Council Day Centres if we could." They were told, though, they couldn't. What we have done in establishing the trading policy is those who have the means and are able to pay will be able to still have access to high quality day services from this Council.

Also, Councillor Jones has been working with officers around capacity in our Day Centres. When we took over the administration, only 61% of the total capacity in Day Centres was being used. We have now got that up to 76% and it is rising.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

Day Care services and respite not only service the wellbeing of users but enables family carers time out. Day in and day out, carers across Derbyshire and beyond look after disabled, elderly and seriously ill relatives. They help take some of the burden that would otherwise fall to this Council or the NHS. Yes, a detailed analysis by Carers UK reveals that over the next four years, due to the welfare reforms, they are facing a £1bn cut to their financial circumstances. This Coalition Government is stripping carers of their allowance, pushing carers to financial breaking point. Do you agree with me, and Carers UK, that this government is undermining families' ability to care for each other when they are striving to work and care at the same time?

Councillor Neil responded as follows:-

The short answer to your question is yes, I do agree with you. The slightly longer answer is that I want to assure Council that we are protecting the investment that we make in carers. Derbyshire County Council funds various caring organisations to the tune of just shy of £300,000 a year and that is continuing. That, added to the investment from partner agencies, takes the total investment to carers to just short of £900,000 and we will continue to do that.

As you will also be aware, at the last full Council meeting, there was cross-party support for the amended motion which supported Mencap's campaign to lobby the government to increase the funding for carers' breaks. I have written to Mencap and asked them to work with us on that campaign. I shall be duly contacting Councillor Major to pursue that.

(4) Question to Councillor J Dixon from Councillor R R Mihaly.

Does the Cabinet Member agree that the £27.6m investment in Digital Derbyshire shows that this Labour administration is pro-business and serious about creating employment in Derbyshire?

Councillor Dixon responded as follows:-

I think the answer is 'yes' but no, you don't get away with it. I quite like that. I have already mentioned in the previous answer why getting people decent reasonably paid jobs is so important but I think the departmental changes that we have made here that were referred to earlier reflects how economy and business focused this Labour administration is.

Lord Heseltine in his report "No Stone Unturned" put local authorities in the driving seat of delivering local growth and jobs via the LEPs and the Economic Prosperity Boards. This government has undertaken one of the biggest shake-ups in economic development in years now forcing us as local authorities to compete in beauty contests for money and increasing uncertainty about funding, which is no way to try and run an economy. But here in Derbyshire, Derbyshire Labour we're pragmatic. We understand that we have to make the best of the sow's ear that this government and Eric Pickles has given us.

To help the economy and business grow in Derbyshire, we have created the new Economy, Transport and Environment Department that brings together all the levers of economic development into a single portfolio to deliver regeneration. We bring in transport, planning, economic strategy. By bringing all these elements together, we are ensuring that we are in the best position to compete and get resources for Derbyshire people and for Derbyshire businesses.

Yes, Digital Derbyshire is very important in delivering broadband to our areas. We recognise that superfast broadband is an important piece of infrastructure for business growth as much as roads, electricity or water supply. We recognise that and have continued to commit DCC funding to it, but more importantly than that, we have committed extra resources

to the project to ensure it succeeds and delivers both for households and for businesses in Derbyshire. So business friendly, yes.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

Could Councillor Dixon please confirm that this investment will bring advantages to all areas of Derbyshire and benefit all residents?

Councillor Dixon responded as follows:-

Yes. This is intrinsic to the way we go about our business here in Derbyshire Labour. We recognise that Derbyshire has a diverse economy. We have depths and strength in manufacturing and engineering but we also have a strong agricultural sector and a fantastic tourist offer. We are seeking to grow our indigenous food and drink sector.

Farmers nowadays have to use the internet to go about their business when they are reporting back to Defra. The internet is really important to hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and tourist attractions as more and more of us use the internet to go on line to book weekends away and use sites like Trip Advisor to advise us where to go.

The Derbyshire BDUK project, Digital Derbyshire, will cover about 95% of the county but we are also already working hard to get the extra 5% covered and are already looking for new sources of funding for this.

Sadly, though, some areas will miss out. The BDUK programme and the money that the government has used is restricted by State-aid rules and I could go on about those for hours, but you are not really interested in those. It is primarily for areas where commercial broadband is unlikely to be rolled-out by the private sector, whether it is by Virgin or BT. Unfortunately, what you do get in some areas you find that broadband has been rolled out commercially but because of the distance from the actual box, some houses will miss out. I have a personal interest in that because I live eight miles away from the nearest exchange, I am third furthest away. I rarely get 1 MB, but we are already as well talking about lobbying government to make sure that those areas that can't be reached by the current programme do not miss out in the future. So yes, we are trying and 100 per cent Derbyshire would be our aim.

(5) Question to Councillor K Gillott from Councillor T Southerd.

Will the Cabinet Member for Children and Young Adults give an undertaking to work with Home Start when their contract comes to an end this summer?

Councillor Gillott responded as follows:-

I am aware that there was a hiatus in South Derbyshire when the Cabinet announcement was made and I assume that has reached your ears and that of your colleagues and perhaps prompted the question, but before I actually answer it (and it will be an affirmative answer obviously) I just want to make a few comments about Homestart because, during the course of the consultation process, I met with the trustees on several occasions and I met with some of their senior managers as well. I also met with some of the service users. The action made my task incredibly hard, not by being difficult with me but by being incredibly nice and understanding because they realise what effect the government's cuts are having on the people in Derbyshire and how difficult they are struggling to cope. I was reassured by the fact they made it clear to me that whatever happened, Homestart would continue and I was really pleased about that.

What we did do was take notice of what they said. I could not give them the extra money. I certainly could not recommend to Cabinet that we gave them the extra funding they were asking or at least re-tender the contract that they could bid for, is I suppose a more accurate way of saying it, there is no guarantee they would win, but we did extend the contract by four months, which is what they approximately asked for to allow them a transition period to accommodate to the change that they are now going to have to face and the cuts they are going to have to face. What I have also made clear to officers is that they must work with Homestart both during the next six months and afterwards as well. I acknowledge that they provide a valuable service to the people of Derbyshire and we want to work with them. It is the same families we are working with after all.

I would also hope our officers will advertise their services and signpost them where that is appropriate, just as they have undertaken to do that with us as well. I believe they have applied to this Authority for grant funding for some of their other projects and I sincerely hope they are successful, so basically the answer is 'yes'.

There was no supplementary question.

(6) Question to Councillor K Gillott from Councillor B Lewis.

Could the Cabinet member explain why he and his colleagues are making draconian cuts to voluntary, community and independent sector organisations, such as Homestart, who do vital work with families in significant areas of Derbyshire, at a time when this Council should be exploring commissioning a wider range of such services to drive down costs and deliver more for the public?

Councillor Gillott responded as follows:-

I am pleased that at long last the Tory Group today are acknowledging that this Council is facing draconian cuts because, for some time, they have been in denial about that and it is a pity that they won't join with us and campaign against their government to ameliorate that and actually bring extra funding into the county. But the answer is quite simple: it is because we are facing a triple whammy from *you*, from the Tory Group. It is in the form of your previous administration's mismanagement of the finances of this Authority. Councillor Neill keeps referring to the "structural deficit" in Adult Social Care but there is a structural deficit in Children's Services as well. As previously explained, you have failed to modernise the Authority so we are having to do that at exactly the same time and, of course, nobody will ever forget the fact that we are now imposing £157m worth of cuts because of what your government has done. For my department that is £6m in the new financial year with the best part of another £30m to come, so it is quite simple: we are having to react to what the Tories are doing to Derbyshire.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

I think the Cabinet Member evaded the second part of my question so I put my supplementary in this way: you are a prospective parliamentary candidate and your Leader, Ed Miliband, and his colleague, Mr Balls, are on record as having to support Coalition cuts should they be elected. Indeed, would the Cabinet Member go as far as to say that he is unwilling to innovate or deliver services in new and interesting ways that are more cost effective and would rather cut services to the public of Derbyshire and appease his Union comrades?

Councillor Gillott responded as follows:-

We have heard about Wayne's World earlier but we clearly have Barry's World as well, which is another dimension completely.

I won't take any lectures from you, Councillor Lewis over cuts, none at all. The suggestion that this Authority can simply re-tender contracts having knocked a few thousand pounds off and save £157m is delusional, absolutely delusional. Cuts on the scale that you are imposing upon us means stopping doing things, cutting services. It

means job losses. It means asking staff to work differently. This is what you actually believe in. You believe in a small state. You believe in spending less money. You believe in taking spending levels in this country back to 1948. Your Leader is already on record that we are not even halfway through the cuts if he gets his own way, so I won't take any lessons from you, Councillor Lewis. The voters of Derbyshire rejected you last year in overwhelming numbers. You don't even know the difference between Children's Centres and MAT Teams if your letter to the *Derbyshire Times* is anything to go by. You didn't even read the Cabinet report properly. I will also remind you of what you did when you were in power. Do you remember your Cabinet report from three years ago? You were a Cabinet member then. Do you remember it? You are accusing us, basically the narrative you seem to portray is that we are against the voluntary sector and using local authority instead. Just let me remind you in your paper that dealt with the voluntary sector, a grant of £246,000 payable to Action for Children, decommissioned. Their words for cuts. Service brought in-house. A grant of £455,000 for Barnardo's for general family support. Decommissioned, service brought in-house. A grant of £90,000 for Action for Children in Barnardo's. Again... You are getting the theme, aren't you? Decommissioned, service brought in-house. A grant of £91,000 for Derbyshire runaways. Spot on, service brought in-house. A grant of £240,000 for the Signposting and Support Service which Derbyshire Dales CVS led on. Spot on again, decommissioned, service dealt with in-house. A grant of £38,000 to the Chesterfield Volunteer Centre for Young People Mentoring Service. Guess what? Decommissioned, service brought in-house. So I won't take any lectures from you, Councillor Lewis. We are having to do what your government is making us do. We do it with a heavy heart but we do it because we are a responsible Authority. You do it because you believe in it.

(7) Question to Councillor B Ridgway from Councillor S Freeborn.

DCC is seeking to rationalise its property usage and the Resources Scrutiny and Improvement Committee have recently endorsed a property review that identifies sites that might be surplus to requirement. These could be sold or they might be used or managed in a different way through the development of partnership agreements with, for example, parish councils. To what extent have parish councils and other organisations come forward who are prepared to consider managing or maintaining DCC sites?

Councillor Ridgway responded as follows:-

Can I first take the opportunity to thank Councillor Moesby and his team in looking at the issue over the last few months. I know that other

authorities who have taken the opportunity to look at our properties have congratulated us on the report, which seems to be very open and very specific.

Can I just say it is our intention to offer our properties to our partners out across the Derbyshire to see if we can work with them in close partnership to either take on those properties or to share in other ways so that we can support them in their difficulties financially that we are also in.

It has to be said that that is a difficult thing to do, or it has been over the last few months, because when we took office last May, the relationships with the Town and Borough Councils and other Authorities were at an all-time low. I have to say that many are struggling, were struggling with budgets and savings imposed on them by this anti-local authority Tory Government and that was compounded by four years of an administration here that appeared to treat them very shoddily or just ignored them altogether. They were at a real low level when we went to talk to them. It has taken some considerable time to build those relationships back up and when you consider that these local authorities within our boundaries were under the guidance if you like, because that is what we do with our local authorities in our boundaries of the people opposite you, you may note that their situation was in direct contrast to the government's view of what our local authorities were doing, they gave the Leader of the Council for the last four years a medal for his services to local government and yet, when we came in, local government's chin was on the floor. It is absolutely disgraceful.

Can I just say to you that the first tranche of properties are ready to go on to the market should they not be snapped up by other local authorities. We spent some considerable time building them back up. As you have already heard, we have built up business links as well and links with the voluntary sector. That has all had to be done in the last few months on top of the achievements which have already been demonstrated to you here, so that is where we are at the moment.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:-

A couple of strands to this. Firstly, in terms of some local Councils, I have to say that my experience where I live locally in Ripley with the Amber Valley Borough Council is pretty mixed, to say the least. Recently, the Borough gave notice to two organisations to quit the Council offices, that is Supporting Futures and the Derbyshire Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team. I know that the County has worked with those organisations to bring them back in to the aegis of the public sector space.

My question is really to the extent to which do you think that the County Council is going to be able to help deliver our fifth commitment there, a local Derbyshire listening to our communities and enabling people like the Parishes, enabling the voluntary sector to maintain their presence where otherwise they might not?

Councillor Ridgway responded as follows:-

We are very much aware of the local Derbyshire agenda which you can see up on the wall there. It is part of the discussions we have had with some of the Boroughs and Town Councils that we should bring them all together. What we have to remember is that those Councils out there are the fabric that knits Derbyshire together. They are the administrations that do it on a local level. They know their people, they know their communities, and unless we treat them properly and unless we have a proper dialogue in a proper way, in an understanding way so that they can bring their issues to us and we can take our issues to them, then nothing is going to happen in Derbyshire. We have to treat them properly. We are at the table. They are coming to us now, which is nice. We first had to go out to them. Simply because of the situation they thought they were in regarding the County Council, the County Council is up *here* and we are just down *there* but that is not any more, we sit on an equal footing right across the table and I am very, very pleased to say that yes we are talking about a community of Derbyshire, we are pulling that altogether and that is where we want to be. I think as we put these properties out onto the market that will also support not only those Councils it will support the business community, there will be opportunities for the voluntary sector as well and they will be supported by us hopefully in a way to access those opportunities and get them going. I think probably, in a little while, you may find there will be a discussion or there will be an announcement that will enable some of that to happen.

08/14 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Ms A Western, Leader of the Council, reported on recent progress in relation to the continued development of Markham Vale; the implementation of the Living Wage within the Council; the Council's commitment to the Buxton Crescent development and some of the measures being undertaken to mitigate the effects of the budget cuts.

09/14 PUBLIC QUESTIONS No public questions had been received.

10/14 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS No petitions had been received.

11/14 BUDGET CONSULTATION RESULTS A report was presented on the results of the budget consultation exercise that had been undertaken in the preparation of the 2014/15 Budgets.

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the views of the consultation respondents and be taken into account in determining the revenue and capital budgets for 2014/15.

12/14 REVENUE BUDGET 2014-15 A report was presented on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 28 January 2014.

The proposals were within the context of currently known information including the reports for consideration at this meeting regarding the Council's reserves position, capital programme and recent consultation activity.

The report commenced with an overview of the current 2013/14 budget position before explaining details of income and grant sources including Council Tax levels. It identified the service pressures and budget cuts facing the Council, concluding with the reserves.

It was proposed that the increase in the level of Council Tax be 1.99%, the effect of which was:-

Band	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	Increase £	Number of Properties
A	718.15	732.47	14.32	127,866
B	837.84	854.55	16.71	76,047
C	957.53	976.63	19.10	56,494
D	1,077.22	1,098.71	21.49	37,224
E	1,316.60	1,342.87	26.27	22,204
F	1,555.98	1,587.02	31.04	11,164
G	1,795.37	1,831.18	35.81	6,667
H	2,154.44	2,197.42	42.98	493
				<u>338,159</u>

The resulting precept was:

Amount Collected £	Collect Fund Surplus (Deficits) £	Amount Actually Due £
-----------------------------------	--	--

Amber Valley	40,299,459	711,001	41,010,460
Bolsover	21,807,958	0	21,807,958
Chesterfield	30,174,796	172,233	30,347,029
Derbyshire Dales	30,614,895	(37,257)	30,577,638
Erewash	34,464,653	256,785	34,721,438
High Peak	31,849,395	317,880	32,167,275
North East Derbyshire	31,884,718	127,037	32,011,755
South Derbyshire	32,656,946	126,000	32,782,946
	253,752,822	1,673,679	255,426,501

The Government had now confirmed that a maximum 2% increase in Council Tax would be acceptable before a referendum was required.

The report set out the implications of pay and price inflation, implementation of the Living Wage and the contingency budget.

The Revised Budget Report 2013/14, approved by Council on 2 October 2013, included the revised Five Year Financial Plan projections which showed that budget reductions of £157m were required over the five year period 2013/14 to 2017/18. The Council was looking at a number of options in order to achieve this level of reduction.

Details of the proposed budget reductions, subject to consultation where necessary, were detailed.

There was a duty placed on the Director of Finance, as the Council's statutory Chief Financial Officer, to report to the Council when making its statutory calculations required to determine its precept. The Council was required to take the report into account when making the calculations.

The recommendations agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 28 January 2014 were:-

that Council:

- (1) Notes the details of the Autumn Statement and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as outlined in section (b) of the report;
- (2) Notes the details of the budget consultation activity as outlined in the report for consideration at the meeting;
- (3) Notes the Government's expectations about Council Tax levels for 2014/15 in section (e) of the report;

- (4) Approves the precepts as outlined in section (e) of the report;
- (5) Approves that billing authorities are informed of Council Tax levels arising from the budget proposals as outlined in section (e) of the report;
- (6) Approves the contingency to cover pay and non-standard inflation as outlined in sections (f) and (g) of the report, the contingency to be allocated by the Director of Finance and the Chief Executive once the pay award and non-standard inflation have been agreed;
- (7) Approves the level and allocation of budget reductions as outlined in section (h) of the report;
- (8) Approves the priority growth items identified in section (j) of the report;
- (9) Approves the Council Tax requirement of £255.427m which is calculated as follows:

	£
Budget Before Pressures and Budget Reductions	530,760,785
Plus Service Pressures - on-going	8,090,000
Plus Service Pressures - one-off	1,645,000
Less Budget Reductions	(29,885,000)
Contribution to Risk Management Budget	2,419,215
Plus Derbyshire Challenge Fund	2,000,000
Net Budget Requirement	515,030,000
Less Top-Up	(84,135,050)
Less Business Rates	(16,391,263)
Less Revenue Support Grant	(126,195,724)
Less New Homes Bonus	(1,715,624)
Less Local Services Support Grant	(1,178,462)
Less General Grant	(15,838,543)
Less PFI Grant	(10,503,833)
Less Use of General Reserve	(3,645,000)
Balance to be met from Council Tax	<u>255,426,501</u>

- (10) Approves that the Director of Finance allocates cash limits amongst Cabinet portfolios; Strategic Directors will then report to Cabinet on the revised service plans for 2014/15; and
- (11) Notes the Director of Finance's comments about the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves as outlined in section (l) of the report.

It was moved by Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

That the recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting held on 28 January 2014 be varied to provide that the additional sum of £450,000 arising from increased income from Business Rates be utilised to offset the cuts to the Housing Related Services Support Grants.

The Director of Legal Services advised that the proposed amendment, if approved by the Council, would result in the budget decision being made in principle; the decision would automatically become effective 5 days after the Council meeting unless an objection from the Leader of the Council was received.

The motion was debated, put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED to:-

(1) note the details of the Autumn Statement and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as outlined in section (b) of the report;

(2) note the details of the budget consultation activity;

(3) note the Government's expectations about Council Tax levels for 2014/15 in section (e) of the report;

(4) approve the precepts as outlined in section (e) of the report;

(5) approve that billing authorities be informed of Council Tax levels arising from the budget proposals as outlined in section (e) of the report;

(6) approve the contingency to cover pay and non-standard inflation as outlined in sections (f) and (g) of the report, the contingency to be allocated by the Director of Finance and the Chief Executive once the pay award and non-standard inflation have been agreed;

(7) approve the level and allocation of budget reductions as outlined in section (h) of the report;

(8) approve the priority growth items identified in section (j) of the report;

(9) approve the Council Tax requirement of £255.427m as calculated as follows:

	£
Budget Before Pressures and Budget Reductions	530,760,785
Plus Service Pressures - on-going	8,090,000
Plus Service Pressures - one-off	1,645,000
Less Budget Reductions	(29,885,000)
Contribution to Risk Management Budget	2,419,215
Plus Derbyshire Challenge Fund	2,000,000
Net Budget Requirement	515,030,000
Less Top-Up	(84,135,050)
Less Business Rates	(16,391,263)
Less Revenue Support Grant	(126,195,724)
Less New Homes Bonus	(1,715,624)
Less Local Services Support Grant	(1,178,462)
Less General Grant	(15,838,543)
Less PFI Grant	(10,503,833)
Less Use of General Reserve	(3,645,000)
Balance to be met from Council Tax	255,426,501

(10) approve that the Director of Finance allocates cash limits amongst Cabinet portfolios; Strategic Directors will then report to Cabinet on the revised service plans for 2014/15;

(11) note the Director of Finance's comments about the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves as outlined in section (I) of the report;

(12) approve that the additional sum of £450,000 arising from increased income from Business Rates be utilised to offset the cuts to the Housing Related Services Support Grants; and

(13) to note that the Council's budget decision, as set out above, would be made in principle and would automatically become effective 5 days after the Council meeting unless an objection from the Leader of the Council was received.

13/14 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE, CAPITAL PROGRAMME APPROVALS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities set out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending; allowing councils to invest in capital projects which best meet their service delivery objectives as long as they were affordable, prudent and sustainable, subject to Government reserve powers to restrict borrowing for national economic reasons.

To facilitate the decision making process and support capital investment decisions, the Code required the Council to agree and monitor a number of prudential indicators. The indicators covered affordability, prudence, capital expenditure, debt levels and treasury management. These indicators also formed the basis of in-year monitoring and reporting.

The capital programme was affected by the downward pressure on public expenditure, with lower levels of new schemes, government support and related borrowing going forward.

The Council would receive government grant of over £42m to address key issues in highways maintenance, develop integrated transport schemes and address the most immediate condition problems in schools. A number of smaller schemes to address urgent issues across the remainder of the Council's property portfolio were also proposed and they would require finance from borrowing.

The proposed new starts programme for 2014-15, was shown in Appendix 1 to the report and the proposals for capital expenditure related borrowing and the estimated impact on the Council's revenue accounts in the next three years were set out.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Amendment Regulations 2008 required local authorities to agree a policy on the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for each financial year. The MRP was the amount the authority has to provide for the repayment of debt. It is not proposed to change the current policy.

The Prudential Code specified a number of prudential indicators in respect of external debt and these were described and proposals were made to meet these indicators. The Council has remained within all of the Prudential Indicators set for previous years, including in 2013-14.

The Prudential Code specified only one prudential indicator in respect of Treasury Management which was that the Council adopt the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance. In addition, the Council is required to take account of guidance received from Communities and Local Government (CLG) in respect of Investment Strategy. The proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2014-15, which incorporated these requirements was reported.

CIPFA recommended in the revised Treasury Management Code of Practice that councils should amend their financial regulations to adopt four important clauses in respect of treasury management activity.

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to approve:-

- (1) the adoption of the Prudential Code including the Prudential Indicators as described in paragraphs 2.5, 2.6, 2.8 and 2.12-2.16 of the report;
- (2) the 2014-15 Capital Starts Programme as detailed in Appendix 1, and that further reports on the detailed schemes be brought to Council;
- (3) the MRP policy for 2014-15 as detailed in paragraph 2.10;
- (4) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014-15 as described in Appendix 3, and taking into account the guidance issued by the CLG as described in paragraph 9(b);
- (5) the adoption of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (revised 2011), as shown in Appendix 3, and the Treasury Management Policy Statement as specified in the Treasury Management Code of Practice and set out in Appendix 3.

14/14 STRATEGIC DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS Council was asked to confirm the appointments to the posts of Strategic Director following implementation of a new corporate senior management structure.

Appointments had been made as follows:

Post	Appointee	Commencement date
Strategic Director for Economy, Transport and Environment	Mr M Ashworth	22 December 2013
Strategic Director for Corporate Resources	Ms J Greenhalgh	7 April 2014
Strategic Director Health and Communities	Mr D Lowe	3 February 2014

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to approve the appointments to the posts of Strategic Director for Corporate Resources, Strategic Director for

Economy, Transport and Environment and Strategic Director Health and Communities.

15/14 PAY POLICY STATEMENT Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 required local authorities to produce a pay policy statement for each financial year. The Pay Policy Statement also complied with the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency 2011 which required the publication of certain pay data and defined senior employees' pay as those who had an annual salary of £58,200 (FTE) and above.

The Pay Policy has been amended to reflect:-

- Pay award for Single Status employees for 2013/14.
- Implementation of the Living Wage for 2014/15
- Revised senior corporate management structures
- Agreed Market Rates.

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement be approved.

16/14 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS – TRADE UNION INTERESTS Council was informed of Government guidance regarding the declaration of personal interests in respect of membership of a trade union and approval to amend the Council's Code of Conduct for Members to reflect the new Guidance was sought.

The Guidance stipulated that a councillor's registration of personal interests *"should be guided by your duty to act in conformity with the seven principles of public life. You should ensure that you register all personal interests that conformity with the seven principles requires. These interests will necessarily include your membership of any Trade Union."*

In light of this guidance, it was proposed that the section on 'Personal Interests' within the Council's Code of Conduct for Members be amended to require members to register and disclose at meetings any membership of a trade union.

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED to note the Guidance provided by the DCLG and to approve and adopt the proposed amendment to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

At the request of at least 5 Members, a recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

For the motion (53) – Councillors D Allen, S A Bambrick, Mrs G Birkin, Ms C Bisknell, Mrs S L Blank, Mrs M W Booth, A Botham, S Brittain, W Burrows, K Buttery, Mrs D W E Charles, Mrs L M Chilton, D Collins, Mrs C M Cox, J A Coyle, R Davison, J E Dixon, P Dunn, S J Ellis, S Freeborn, J A Frudd, K Gillott, D T Greenhalgh, Mrs C A Hart, Mrs Janet A Hill, Ms Julie A Hill, R L Hosker, Mrs J M Innes, P Jones, Mrs K D Lauro, A I Lewer, B Lewis, M V Longden, W Major, D McGregor, R R Mihaly, C R Moesby, C E Neill, J R Owen, R A Parkinson, Mrs J E Patten, Mrs I Ratcliffe, B Ridgway, P J Smith, T Southerd, S A Spencer, Mrs M Stockdale, D Walton, Ms A Western, Ms E S Wilcox, D A Williams, J G Williams and B Wright

Against the motion (0)

Abstained (0) -

17/14 REPORT OF CABINET AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT

Councillor Ms A Western, Leader of the Council, presented a report on the decisions that had been taken at meetings on Cabinet held on 3 December 2013 and 21 and 28 January 2014. No questions on the report had been received from Members.

On the motion of Councillor Ms A Western, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

18/14 QUESTIONS ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DERBYSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

No questions had been received.

19/14 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

On the motion of Councillor Mrs Janet A Hill, duly seconded,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be received:-

- (a) Regulatory – Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 9 December 2013.
- (b) Regulatory – Planning Committee held on 2 December 2013.
- (c) Standards Committee held on 11 December 2013.
- (d) Pensions and Investment Committee held on 11 December 2013.
- (e) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places held on 22 January 2014.

- (f) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - People held on 20 November 2013 and 15 January 2014.
- (g) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 16 January 2014.
- (h) Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 20 January 2014.
- (i) Improvement and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 3 December 2013.
- (j) Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 28 November 2013.
- (k) Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority held on 26 September 2013.