

ITEM 3

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 8:27pm

COUNCIL 21 July 2021

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Robin Wood, and Councillor Barker, Bonser, Carr, Dhindsa, Evans, Eyre, A W Graves, Hezelgrave, A Holmes, M Holmes, Lind, Lonsdale, Nawaz, J Pearce, T Pearce, Peatfield, Pegg, Potter, Prosser, Repton, Roulstone, Skelton, Testro, West and Williams.

20/21 Apologies

The Mayor noted that Council was being held in the Derby Loves You Venue, to ensure that all attendees could remain socially distanced during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

It was reported that although the venue was large enough to accommodate all councillors and members of the public safely, given rising Covid-19 case rates locally, it was considered a sensible precaution to reduce the number of councillors present. This was to ensure that in the event of councillors being subsequently required to self-isolate, the democratic processes of the Council could continue to function.

Apologies for absence were therefore received from Councillors Atwal, Bettany, Care, Cooper, Froggatt, A J Graves, Grimadell, Hassall, Ingall, Jennings, J Khan, S Khan, Kus, Martin, McCristal, Naitta, Pandey, Pattison, Poulter, Sandhu, Shanker, Smale, Webb and Willoughby.

21/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Peatfield declared that they held a private interest in the Cathedral Quarter and St Peters Quarter Business Improvement Districts, having been appointed to their Board of Directors.

Councillor Barker declared that they were the current President of the National Association of British Market Authorities, in respect of questions raised relating to the Derby Market Hall project.

The Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to address the meeting, who informed councillors that a general dispensation was being granted for the duration of the meeting to allow voting to take place on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of councillors' allowances and expenses.

22/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2021 were moved by Councillor Pearce, and seconded by Councillor Williams.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2021 be approved as a correct record, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

23/21 Announcements from the Mayor

Councillor Wood reflected on engagements he had undertaken during his first two months in office and addressed several housekeeping matters.

It was reported that a late item had been circulated in respect of a minute extract from a recent meeting of the Council Cabinet that required Council approval. It was proposed that the minute would be tabled prior to discussion of the reports and motions included on the published agenda.

The recent passing of former Councillor Anne MacDonald and former Mayoress Buddug Chadwick were reported to Council. Councillors Dhindsa and A W Graves shared their recollections of former Councillor MacDonald, whilst the Mayor paid tribute to Mrs Chadwick. A minute's silence was then observed out of respect.

24/21 Statements from members of the Council Cabinet

There were none.

25/21 Questions from the public

Questions and responses were heard as follows:

Questioner	Respondent	Summary
Nathalie Hollingworth	Cllr Barker	Public Meetings post pandemic
Dorothy Skrytek	Cllr Poulter	Derby A38 Scheme
Mair Perkins	Cllr M Holmes	Review of the Local Plan
Paul Tice Craig Tice	Cllr Roulstone	Allestree Hall and Golf Course
Joe Guiliano	Cllr M Holmes	Cycling in Derby
Richard Stokes	Cllr M Holmes	A38 Expansion
Doug Lumley	Cllr Webb	Housing Standards
Adrian Howlett	Cllr M Holmes	Climate Change Emergency Plans
Tony Roelich Bal Mahal	Cllr M Holmes	Eastwood Drive Road Safety
Bernadette Grosse Marcus James Elizabeth James Karen Springer	Cllr Williams	Holiday Activity and Food Programme
Carmel Swan	Cllr McCristal	Protecting the heritage of Derby
Nathalie Hollingworth	Cllr Barker	Second referendum about reviewing Erasmus involvement
Dorothy Skrytek	Cllr M Holmes	Clean Air Zone
Mair Perkins	Cllr M Holmes	Climate Emergency Training

26/21 Questions relating to Derbyshire Fire Authority or Derby Homes

There were none.

27/21 Questions from non-Council Cabinet members

Questions and responses were heard as follows:

Questioner	Respondent	Summary
Cllr Repton	Cllr Roulstone	Running of Allestree Golf Course
Cllr Prosser	Cllr Pearce	Bus Lane enforcement
Cllr A W Graves	Cllr Pearce	Wastewise Contract
Cllr Naitta Cllr Lind Cllr Hezelgrave	Cllr Williams	Holiday Activities and Food Programme
Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Pearce	Fly-Tipping
Cllr West	Cllr McCristal	Moorways Sports Village
Cllr Bonser	Cllr Webb	Mental Health support
Cllr S Khan	Cllr McCristal	Market Hall update
Cllr Lonsdale	Cllr M Holmes	Adoption of land
Cllr A W Graves	Cllr Pearce	Overflowing bins
Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Pearce	Normanton highways priorities
Cllr Repton	Cllr M Holmes	Listed buildings
Cllr Lonsdale	Cllr M Holmes	Manor Kingsway
Cllr A W Graves	Cllr Pearce	Junior Football
Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Pearce	Derby South footpaths
Cllr Dhindsa	Cllr Smale	Safer Streets Fund

28/21 Minute extract 08/21 from the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 16 June 2021.

A minute extract from the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 16 June 2021 was presented to Council. The minute recommended the Annual Report of the Audit and Accounts Committee from the preceding municipal year for approval.

It was moved by Councillor West and seconded that the minute be approved. The recommendation was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved to approve minute 08/21 of the Audit and Governance Committee.

29/21 Minute extract 33/21 of the Council Cabinet meeting held on 14 July 2021

A late item was presented for consideration, in respect of a minute extract from the Council Cabinet meeting held on 14 July 2021.

The Mayor stated that he had previously agreed that the minute extract be considered urgently, as it was in the public interest to allow the recommendations to be progressed expediently.

The minute recommended amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy to include Derby Homes Ltd. as an approved source of short and long term borrowing for the Council.

It was moved by Councillor Roulstone and seconded by Councillor M Holmes that the minute be approved. The recommendation was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved to approve minute 33/21 of the Council Cabinet

30/21 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

A report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was presented to Council for consideration. The report detailed thirteen recommendations in respect of councillors' allowances and expenses, which had been compiled following a comprehensive review undertaken since August 2020.

Several aspects of the IRP's report were highlighted for consideration by councillors:

- The IRP recognised the difference between public service and employment and had taken that into consideration in preparing its recommendations
- The IRP noted that no significant changes had been made to the Councillors' Allowances Scheme in over ten years, which had resulted in a scheme that no longer reflected the roles and responsibilities associated with becoming an elected member.
- The IRP urged councillors to reflect on their duty to ensure becoming a councillor remains a viable option for people from all backgrounds.
- The IRP felt strongly that Derby's councillors were under-remunerated for their role and noted that the Council compared unfavourably with several of its regional comparators. It was noted that it was in the long-term interest of the city to set a scheme that continues to attract a high calibre of councillor candidates.
- The IRP's recommendations sought to address discrepancies within the existing scheme and seek to ensure that all councillors are treated equitably in the support they receive from the Council.

It was noted that the Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board had recently concluded a review of Gender Representation within Derby City Council and had made several additional recommendations in respect of the Councillors Allowances and Expenses Scheme.

Minute extract 33/20 of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board meeting held on 11 March 2021 was therefore presented at Appendix 3 of the substantive report for consideration alongside the recommendations of the IRP. The minute extract detailed the findings of a report of the Gender Representation Task Group, which had examined barriers to entry for women in local government since 2017.

Councillors were invited to consider and make resolutions on the two sets of recommendations. The Mayor proposed that the recommendations of the IRP were considered before the recommendations of the scrutiny board were moved for debate.

It was moved by Councillor Barker and seconded by Councillor Pearce that the recommendations of the IRP were agreed in full. The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

1. To approve the thirteen recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel:

- That the Basic Allowance is increased to £11,523 per annum.
- That an index link is adopted so that the Basic Allowance increases in line with the Local Government Pay Award in the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
- That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Council is increased to £34,569 per annum and that all SRAs are increased on a pro-rata basis as detailed at Figure 10 of this report.
- That an index link is adopted so that Special Responsibility Allowances increase in line with the Local Government Pay Award in the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
- To request that the Independent Remuneration Panel conduct a further review of the relativity of Special Responsibility Allowances during the 2021/22 municipal year, pro-rated against the Leader's allowance established at recommendation three.
- That the rates payable for travel expenses are amended to ensure consistency with equivalent entitlements for Derby City Council employees.
- That the Councillors' Allowances and Expenses Scheme is amended to give effect to the seven component recommendations in respect of Dependent Carers Allowance, contained within the report.
- To request the introduction of a Parental and Carers' Leave policy for councillors at the earliest opportunity.
- That annual summaries of the amounts claimed for Dependent Carers Allowance are reported separately to all other allowances and expenses.
- To undertake a cross-party communications initiative to highlight the valuable role of elected councillors and to encourage residents from all backgrounds to consider standing as candidates.
- To amend the Councillors' Allowances Scheme to provide discretion for SRAs to be withheld in circumstances where mandatory training has not been completed within a reasonable timescale, as detailed in the report.
- That the payment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's purse is openly and transparently reported alongside the annual summaries of councillor allowances and expenses; and, that a

process is introduced for payments from the purse to be drawn down and receipted, as expenses are incurred, following the payment of an initial lump sum.

- **That an annual bursary of £750 is introduced for the Deputy Youth Mayor, to accompany the existing £1000 bursary received by the Youth Mayor.**

2. To approve with immediate effect the Councillors' Allowances and Expenses Scheme for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 4 of the report.

It was moved by Councillor Peatfield and seconded by Councillor Dhindsa that recommendations one to three contained within minute extract 33/20 of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Board be approved. It was noted that following the earlier agreement of the recommendations of the IRP, the fourth recommendation of the Board had been superseded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

- 3. That Derby City Council aspire to achieve equal gender representation when filling Chair/Vice-chair positions; and that all reasonable steps must be taken to achieve this.**
- 4. To introduce a programme to encourage more women to stand for all Political Parties.**
- 5. To write to the Government and the Local Government Association to recommend that pensions for councillors be reintroduced.**

31/21 Motion: Support for Business Improvement Districts

It was moved by Councillor Peatfield that a motion of which she had previously given written notice be withdrawn. The consent of the meeting was signalled without debate.

32/21 Motion: Derby's Children and Young People Deserve Better

The following motion was moved by Councillor Hezelgrave, and seconded by Councillor Dhindsa:

Council notes that children and young people in Derby have had two academic years of education disrupted by Covid. This comes after many years of below average educational performance in the city and which, in 2018-19, showed a downward trajectory in secondary schools and, in 2019, was below the expected standard in primaries.

Council also notes that the Government's Education Recovery Commissioner, Kevan Collins, and the Bright Future Task force of education experts, recommended a £15 billion national plan for education catch-up funding, in response to which the Government plan to provide just one tenth of that sum. 99% of children will receive no catch-up funded tutoring whatsoever. In Derby, just £1,437,210 has been provided in the summer payment to Derby schools for catch-up work which, given

the 44,965 children in Derby's schools, amounts to a paltry £31.96 per pupil. The Education Opportunity Area Board has described Derby as a social mobility cold spot; these levels of catch-up funding risk freezing the children of Derby out of any viable future.

Council further notes that the Council still has a statutory responsibility for overall education outcomes.

Given the detrimental effects of the Covid pandemic on children and young people's education, and the urgent need to deliver better education outcomes in Derby, Council resolves that the Leader of the Council should:

- 1. immediately contact the Secretary of State to demand catch-up funding for Derby at the level recommended by Kevan Collins and provide evidence of that communication to Full Council*
- 2. write to the Secretary of State to urge him to develop a 5-year strategy for pandemic recovery measures in education*
- 3. early in the autumn term, contact Derby schools to request feedback on catch-up provision, notably how many children and young people are receiving funded catch-up tutoring and help, and to obtain details of the kind of help being delivered.*

It was moved by Councillor Lind and seconded by Councillor Skelton that the motion be amended by the addition of the words 'to be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board' to the final sentence of the final paragraph.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

Council notes that children and young people in Derby have had two academic years of education disrupted by Covid. This comes after many years of below average educational performance in the city and which, in 2018-19, showed a downward trajectory in secondary schools and, in 2019, was below the expected standard in primaries.

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- 3. early in the autumn term, contact Derby schools to request feedback on catch-up provision to be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board, notably how many children and young people are receiving funded catch-up tutoring and help, and to obtain details of the kind of help being delivered.**

33/21 Motion: Allestree Golf Course and Hall

The following motion was moved by Councillor Skelton, and seconded by Councillor Repton:

In January 2020 the Council advertised the opportunity to operate Allestree Golf Course via an online subscription-only magazine and some local publicity. The Hall was separately offered for sale via estate agents. No publicity was done in the specialist golfing media.

Since the announcement of the Council's preferred bidder, questions have been asked by the campaign group Save Allestree Golf Course (see their website www.saveallestreegolfcourse.co.uk) expressing concerns about various aspects of the process used to choose the successful bidder for the Hall and the knock-on effects of that choice on the process to find a private organisation to operate the course as a separate entity.

Council notes with concern the current situation regarding Allestree Park Golf Course and Allestree Hall. Of particular concern is the process used to identify potential bidders. Serious bidders have since come forward with credible plans. They were not reached by the Council's initial publicity.

The separating of the Hall from the Golf Course means facilities essential for running the Golf Course are not available e.g. the irrigation system controls and the water tank are within the curtilage of the Hall. In fact the preferred bidder's plans would see the water tank destroyed. This is despite it being covered by the Grade II listing.*

Basic research has revealed that the Golf Course was designed by the much-acclaimed golf course designer Harry S Colt, yet no mention was made of this in any of the publicity the Council did.

Council therefore requests that Cabinet and Council officers do not give a further time extension to the company that, although the preferred bidder, has been unable to finalise the deal.

Council also requests that Cabinet and Council officers ask Marketing Derby to identify suitable organisations who are interested in operating the Hall and Golf Course in an integrated manner or the golf course as a separate entity.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

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Council also requests that Cabinet and Council officers ask Marketing Derby to identify suitable organisations who are interested in operating the Hall and Golf Course in an integrated manner or the golf course as a separate entity.

34/21 Motion: Alterations to the Wildlife and Countryside Act

The following motion was moved by Councillor Carr, and seconded by Councillor Skelton:

Derby City Council notes with concern that significant changes are being proposed as part of the regular five yearly review of the schedule of protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

The Act currently gives protection to vulnerable wildlife, at risk due to persecution, population decline and other threats. This includes iconic species like red squirrels and water voles, and amazingly named plants like Derbyshire feather moss and greater yellow-rattle.

The current review proposes only including species in 'imminent threat of extinction' on the protected lists.

Council further notes that over 30 conservation non-Governmental organisations have written an open letter objecting to the change in eligibility criteria for species to be on a protected list. They highlight that the proposed change would:

- undermine the work done to protect these species*
- make trade and movement of wild-caught specimens legal which increases risk of disease spread*
- require costly research to identify which species are at severe risk of extinction in the UK, and*
- mean that we will only be reacting to catastrophic species declines not preventing species decline.*

Council notes that a biodiversity plan for the city is currently in preparation and that the proposed changes could make it harder to protect notable local species, like the white letter hairstreak butterfly and white-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, if this change goes ahead.

Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and our local MPs, objecting to the proposed change in eligibility criteria as part of this five yearly review of the protected species schedules.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

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- make trade and movement of wild-caught specimens legal which increases risk of disease spread**

- require costly research to identify which species are at severe risk of extinction in the UK, and
- mean that we will only be reacting to catastrophic species declines not preventing species decline.

Council notes that a biodiversity plan for the city is currently in preparation and that the proposed changes could make it harder to protect notable local species, like the white letter hairstreak butterfly and white-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, if this change goes ahead.

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35/21 Closure

It was moved by Councillor A W Graves under Council Procedure Rule CP42r, that a motion without notice relating to the mandatory vaccination of care works be tabled. The Mayor declined the request for the motion to be urgently debated and invited Councillor A W Graves to raise the matter for debate at a future meeting by written notice.

MAYOR