



**Council**  
**Wednesday 19 January 2022**  
 At 7:00pm\*

Derby Arena  
 Royal Way, Derby, DE24 8JB

*\*This meeting will commence no earlier than 7pm and will immediately follow the conclusion of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 6pm.*

**NOTE FOR THE PUBLIC:** Members of the public are advised to watch proceedings via the Derby City Council [YouTube channel](#). A limited number of seats are available for those wishing to attend in person; please register in advance with [Civic Services](#) by no later than 5pm on Friday 14 January. If you are not pre-registered, you are not guaranteed a seat in the meeting venue.

**NOTE FOR ALL ATTENDEES:** To ensure the safety of all in attendance, the Director of Public Health has advised that all guests undertake regular Lateral Flow Tests in the week prior to the meeting, with at least one test to be undertaken shortly beforehand. If this test is positive, you should book a PCR test immediately; please do not attend the meeting unless you have received a negative PCR test result.

**Members:** The Mayor, Councillor Robin Wood, and Councillors Atwal, Barker, Bettany, Bonser, Care, Carr, Cooper, Dhindsa, Evans, Eyre, Froggatt, A J Graves, A W Graves, Grimadell, Hassall, Hezelgrave, A Holmes, M Holmes, Hussain, Ingall, Jennings, J Khan, S Khan, Kus, Lind, Lonsdale, Martin, McCristal, Naitta, Nawaz, Pandey, Pattison, J Pearce, T Pearce, Peatfield, Pegg, Potter, Poulter, Prosser, Repton, Roulstone, Sandhu, Shanker, Skelton, Smale, Testro, Webb, West, Williams and Willoughby.

## Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest **Attached**
3. Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 November 2021 **Attached**
4. Announcements from the Mayor
5. Statements from members of the Council Cabinet
6. Questions from the Public

	Questioner	Respondent	Summary
<b>A</b>	Nathalie Hollingworth	Cllr Hassall	Clean Air Zones
<b>B</b>	Brendan Connelly	Cllr Smale	Council Tax increase
<b>C</b>	Ruth Coates	Cllr Hassall	Friar Gate Goods Yard
<b>D</b>	Pauline Inwood	Cllr Hassall	Local Plan
<b>E</b>	Philip Hutchinson	Cllr Hassall	Air pollution levels
<b>F</b>	Simon Bacon	Cllr Pearce	Residual black bin waste
<b>G</b>	Brendan Connelly	Cllr S Khan	Complaint response time
<b>H</b>	Ruth Coates	Cllr Hassall	Reduction of cars on the road
<b>I</b>	Pauline Inwood	Cllr Hassall	Carbon Literacy Training
<b>J</b>	Simon Bacon	Cllr Pearce	Recycling and waste reduction promotion

For more information or if you have any specific requirements please contact Democratic Services on Derby 643643. Documents can be accessed online at <https://democracy.derby.gov.uk/>

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| 7.  | Questions relating to Derbyshire Fire Authority or Derby Homes  |                 |
| 8.  | Questions from non-Council Cabinet members  |                 |
| 9.  | Minute extract 118/21 of the meeting of the Council Cabinet held on 8 December 2021 (Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2021-22) | <b>Attached</b> |
| 10. | Appointments to Statutory Roles   | <b>Attached</b> |
| 11. | Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA)   | <b>Attached</b> |
| 12. | <b>Notice of Motion: Flexibility of local authority meetings</b>  |                 |

Moved by Councillor Barker, seconded by Councillor Williams

*Council notes with concern that local authorities remain unable to meet remotely during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, despite having done so successfully between April 2020 and May 2021. The temporary legislation that allowed remote meetings has now expired and two High Court rulings have confirmed that the Local Government Act 1972 requires councillors to be present at a single location to form part of the quorum of a meeting.*

*Council believes that local authorities should have the choice to decide how they run their meetings, depending on local circumstances. Whilst physical meetings open to the public remain an important part of our democratic process, the current public health situation warrants immediate action and holding large public meetings places all in attendance at unnecessary risk and incurs additional costs.*

*Furthermore, the ability for councils to meet flexibly offers long-term benefits in respect of democratic engagement, public participation and transparency. Council notes that local authorities in Wales and Scotland have been able to meet remotely for several years.*

*The Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) have launched a petition calling for Councils in England to be given the flexibility to meet remotely. Council welcomes the petition and encourages councillors, officers and members of the public to lend their support.*

*Council notes that the Cabinet Member for Governance has written to the Secretary of State on two occasions in the past twelve months requesting permanent adoption of remote and hybrid meetings. Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member for Governance writes again to the Secretary of State, calling for an urgent response to a recent consultation and a swift resolution to this untenable situation.*

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| 13. | <b>Notice of Motion: The future of swimming in Derby</b> |
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Moved by Councillor Repton, seconded by Councillor West

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*Council recognises the vital role swimming pools play in our local community. Swimming pools are community hubs where people of all ages come together for fun, fitness and sport and we therefore eagerly await the opening of Moorways Sports Village in Spring 2022.*

*It is estimated that the enormous benefits swimming brings to people's physical and mental health saves NHS and Social Care services more than £357 million each year across the UK.*

*Council reaffirms its commitment to providing top class swimming facilities in Derby.*

*Council notes with concern the report published by Swim England in September 2021 – A Decade in Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England – which warns that, without proper investment and refurbishment, up to 2000 swimming pools could be lost across the UK over the next decade. Indeed, many pools have closed during the pandemic.*

*Council further notes Swim England reports that leisure centres can account for as much as 40 per cent of a council's direct carbon emissions. New or refurbished pools are much more sustainable (both economically and environmentally) and can play a key part in meeting our climate change ambitions.*

*As has been discussed over recent years, Queen's Leisure Centre is coming to the end of its lifespan having been built 90 years ago. Cabinet confirmed last month that Queen's would be closed once the new pools at Moorways open in Spring.*

*Council resolves to:*

- 1. Ensure Moorways Sports Village is affordable for all.*
- 2. Improve numbers of swimmers in Derby for safety and health and wellbeing reasons, and to build new pools to address any shortfall in the provision of local swimming facilities.*
- 3. Bid for full Government funding for the creation of a new centrally located pool if Queen's Leisure Centre closes.*
- 4. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand that the full £1 billion of grant funding recommended in Swim England's report is made available to local authorities to refurbish and expand their swimming pool provision.*

#### **14. Notice of motion: Derby city centre**

Moved by Councillor Peatfield, seconded by Councillor Shanker

*Council notes with concern the continued decline of Derby City Centre, accelerated by the Covid pandemic and acknowledges that drastic steps need to be taken beyond the Levelling Up and Future High Streets funding plans to address the rapid decline and footfall loss.*

*While Council recognises there are future plans in place for the Market Hall, Eastern Gateway and Becketwell, it notes that these are all being delivered at undetermined future years, the future of the Assembly Rooms remains a mystery, there are no plans for the Guildhall and more and more shops are vacant across the city.*

*Council therefore resolves to:*

- *Facilitate the creation of a City Centre Improvement Hub to bring together businesses, community organisations and city centre residents to galvanise action for Derby City Centre including:*
  - *Liaising with landlords to re-utilise and/or re-purpose empty buildings and offer low rent for renovation.*
  - *Creating an online hub for information, advice, resource, support, landlord/ property directory etc. including support for community and co-operative businesses to take on ownership or management of vacant high street properties to enable communities to have a stake in their city centre.*
- *Encourage meanwhile use/low rent for renovation for City Centre council and Anchor Institution owned buildings.*
- *Investigate compulsory purchase of long-term empty buildings with alternative meanwhile use and low rent for renovation options.*
- *Explore the creation or enhancement of a Capital Scheme for matched funding loans / grants to bring empty retail units back in to use.*
- *Campaign to devolve national funding pots to give local communities, councils and regions the ultimate say in how it is spent in their area.*

## **15. Notice of motion: Virtual council meetings**

Moved by Councillor Skelton, seconded by Councillor Willoughby

*The temporary enabling of virtual council meetings in response to the coronavirus pandemic allowed the council to continue making democratic decisions efficiently, transparently and safely without the need for physical meetings in one place. We welcomed the return to in-person meetings where they can safely and efficiently take place, but also recognise the benefits to democracy of providing flexible meeting options, including opening up local democratic decision-making and creating a more accessible experience for councillors and the public.*

*Council notes in particular the following advantages of being able to hold remote and hybrid council meetings:*

- *Some councillors and prospective councillors have work or caring commitments, or mobility or accessibility issues limiting their ability to attend meetings in person. Virtual meeting options provide more flexibility and accessibility for councillors to attend council meetings. In the future, this flexibility and increased accessibility*

- could help to attract a wider range of potential councillors.*
- *Council has acknowledged the challenges around climate change. A reduction in unnecessary travel by attending some meetings virtually rather than driving would reduce emissions and cut down on the council's carbon footprint and also reduce road congestion.*
  - *Virtual meetings can save money for the council in terms of venue costs.*
  - *Providing virtual meeting options can make council meetings more accessible and produce better engagement from the public and the press on various issues. For example, reporting of council business increased when meetings were held virtually compared to when council meetings must be attended in person by journalists and members of the public.*
  - *At times when government advice is to reduce in person contact, holding more virtual or hybrid meetings can set a good example to the public.*

*This council would like to have the flexibility to hold virtual, hybrid and in-person meetings to suit the local context and needs of residents and councillors.*

*Council asks the Leader of the Council to:*

- 1) *Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) urging a permanent amendment to the meeting rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972 enabling local authorities to hold virtual, hybrid or physical meetings*
- 2) *Write to our local MPs to ask for support for this flexible approach to council meetings*

*Council also asks officers to:*

- 1) *Think about what changes might be needed to our Constitution to accommodate this new opportunity.*
- 2) *Continue to explore our use of technology to develop online meetings we are already able to hold, for example for consultations, and thus be ready for greater use of online technologies for all meetings, once approved.*



**Emily Feenan**  
**Monitoring Officer**