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## Community & Environment Committee

**Minutes of a Community & Environment Committee meeting held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 29th October, 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN.**

### PRESENT

Councillor Steve Wain - In the Chair

Councillors: Sue Bull, David Chapman, Peter Dobbs, Marilyn Franks, Stuart Lees, Andy Nash, Peter Slack, Nick Whitehead, Anthony Bates and David Hughes

Present as substitute – Councillor(s): Anthony Bates and David Hughes

Giles Dann (Regeneration and Place Manager), Kerry France (Legal Services Manager), Tommy Shaw (Democratic Services Team Leader), Laura Simpson (Principal Regeneration Officer) and Paul Wilson (Chief Executive)

### Note:

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### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor(s): Martin Burfoot, Peter O'Brien, Robert Archer, Susan Hobson and Joanne Linthwaite

### 189/24 - ELECTION OF CHAIR

In the absence of both the appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community & Environment Committee, nominations were sought for a Chair to be elected from the Members present.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, seconded by Councillor Marilyn Franks and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

That Councillor Steve Wain be elected Chair of this special meeting of the Community and Environment Committee.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **190/24 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **191/24 - INTERESTS**

#### **Item 4 – Ashbourne Reborn Programme Update**

Councillors David Hughes, Peter Dobbs, and Anthony Bates declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 4 as members of the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board.

Councillor Stuart Lees declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 4 as Chairman of the Ashbourne Ex-Servicemen's Club, as a member of the Ashbourne Shrovetide Committee, and as a member of the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board.

Councillor Sue Bull declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4 as her husband was a member of both the Ashbourne Shrovetide Committee and the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board.

### **192/24 - ASHBOURNE REBORN PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Regeneration and Place Manager and Principal Regeneration Officer introduced the report which updated Members on the progress to date of the Ashbourne Reborn Programme. The report summarised recent project activity, highlighted key programme risks, and set out the next steps for the Programme. The report also detailed a proposed adjustment to the programme expenditure profile. It was clarified that no additional funding was being requested but there was a process to go through to move budget within the programme to reflect a greater proportion of the construction period now falling within 2025/26 rather than 2024/25. However, Government funded LUF expenditure would still conclude within the 2025/26 financial year.

Member approval was sought for the content of the adjustment request, prior to submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Councillor David Hughes, as Chair of the Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board, thanked the officers and partners involved in the programme and noted the large amount of work that had already taken place on both projects.

The report included background information relating to the Ashbourne Reborn Programme and the two projects which it comprised. Significant progress had been made with the preparatory work for both projects, with preferred main contractors procured and the main works due to begin in early January 2025. However, consistent with the majority of LUF projects across the country, delivery timeframes and budget pressures had presented a considerable challenge. Costs for professional services and materials had risen considerably from the evidence-led estimates at the time of the bid, reflecting the influence of significant inflation and challenging market conditions. This had led to the need for value engineering and careful re-scoping on both projects, which in turn had extended the time required to update and finalise designs. It was noted that partners had continued to work collaboratively to progress both projects and bring costs closer to the available budget, and

they remained confident that the outputs agreed with MHCLG could be delivered within acceptable thresholds.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Nash, seconded by Councillor Peter Dobbs and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the Committee considers progress to date and the position regarding programme, cost, deliverables and risks be received and noted.
2. That the Committee approves the submission of an updated expenditure profile at the earliest opportunity, through the imminent Quarterly Monitoring Return or Project Adjustment Request as required by MHCLG, based on the proposed expenditure profile in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**Meeting Closed: 7.01 pm**

**Chair**