

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Remote meeting using Microsoft Teams on TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021

Present: Councillor V Richichi (Chairman)

Councillors J Hoult, E G C Allman, R Ashman, R D Bayliss, C C Benfield, D Bigby, A S Black, R Blunt, R Boam, A J Bridgen, J Bridges, R Canny, J Clarke, D Everitt, T Eynon, M French, J Geary, L A Gillard, S Gillard, T Gillard, D Harrison, B Harrison-Rushton, M D Hay, G Hoult, R Johnson, J Legrys, K Merrie MBE, N J Rushton, A C Saffell, C A Sewell, S Sheahan, N Smith, J Windram, A C Woodman and M B Wyatt

Officers: Mrs B Smith, Mr J Arnold, Mr A Barton, Mrs T Bingham, Mr D Bates, Miss E Warhurst, Mrs M Long and Mr T Delaney

### **63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **64. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor S Sheahan declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to any broad reference in reports to HS2 on the proviso that if any verbal reference was made to it in the meeting, he would declare a pecuniary interest and leave the meeting.

### **65. UPDATE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPANY TO BE KNOWN AS 'EM DEVCO LIMITED'**

Councillor R Ashman presented the report, which updated Members on the proposals for a locally led Development Corporation since its consideration by Council on 17 November 2020. Approval was also sought for a financial contribution by the Council of £167,000 in 2021/22 in advance of government funding being secured for the establishment of an Interim Vehicle.

A full and lengthy debate was held and broad support was expressed for the proposals contained in the report, although reservations were expressed regarding the sourcing of funding for the Council's contribution and the Development Corporation remaining locally led in the future. Clarification was also given on the relationship between the similar but separate proposals for the East Midlands Development Corporation and the Freeport.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie, and by a vote of 31 for and 4 against it was subsequently

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Approves making a financial contribution of £167,000 in 2021/22 in advance of government funding being secured to support the Interim Vehicle in line with the funding approved by Council on 17 November 2020.

### **66. NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL REVIEW - PROPOSED ADOPTION**

Councillor R Ashman presented the report, which sought Council approval for the adoption of the North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review.

A full and lengthy debate was held in which it was acknowledged there were several areas for improvements in the current Local Plan, but it was important to agree the proposals in the report in order for the Local Plan to remain in force. It was also acknowledged that the

Chairman's initials

subsequent Substantive Review would be an opportunity for these concerns to be addressed and all Members were encouraged to engage with this process. Thanks were also expressed for the hard work of officers in responding to an ever-changing series of local and national factors when undertaking these reviews.

It was moved by Councillor R Ashman, seconded by Councillor A Bridgen, and by a vote of 32 for and 4 against it was subsequently

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL

- 1) Accepts the Inspector's report and her recommendations to make the Local Plan Partial Review sound, as set out in Appendices A and B of the report;
- 2) Approves the minor modifications as set out in Appendix C of this report;
- 3) Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Place in consultation with the Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder to make any further changes to address typographical errors or factual corrections;
- 4) Adopts the North West Leicestershire Local Plan Partial Review as set out in Appendix E of this report; and
- 5) That an adoption statement and the final sustainability appraisal report be issued in accordance with Regulations 17 and 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

**Councillor J Bridges experienced technical difficulties partway through the meeting, and was therefore unable to participate in the vote on item three and the beginning of the debate on item four.**

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.23 pm