

## **COUNCIL – 30 JANUARY 2024**

### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN TO COUNCILLOR R BLUNT**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, the Government published its Levelling Up Fund Round 2 prospectus. In an officer's email to a third party dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, it was said that "it is unlikely that the Council will be submitting its own bid to round 2." Can the Leader please explain how the council arrived at that position and why, for instance did it not submit an improved version of the round 1 bid?

#### **REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BLUNT TO COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN**

I understand officers have already provided a detailed written response on this matter and have met with you to discuss.

National Government regularly announces funding opportunities for various activities. This Council has bid to those where it believes there is a strong chance of success. There is no council policy requiring that bids be made. To make bids takes significant resource, both officer time and external specialist consultancy support.

Having already made two unsuccessful bids for Coalville, firstly for the Future High Street Funding and then to Round 1 Levelling Up - which was in effect the "improved version" it was considered that our available resource needed to be spent delivering funded regeneration projects in line with our Council Delivery Plan.

The Council did begin discussing a new bid (not in Coalville) for round 2 with a third party in 2022, considering that this may be more attractive for government to fund than another bid centred on Coalville. After providing initial advice and support it was decided by the third party that they were not in a position to bid and would prefer to wait until Round 3 Levelling Up.

Given this, no Round 2 bid was submitted as it was considered any resubmitted bid for Coalville had a poor chance of success given the two failed attempts. Staffing resource was instead focused on deliverable projects.