

Post Hearings Written Statement – EXAM 6A – Only Solutions Response to EXAM 6 – MDC’s Affordable Housing Note

Thank you for this further opportunity to comment.

Only Solutions LLP stands by the comments and observations we have already made, including those in our EXAM 1 and EXAM 1a representations. The only piece of further information that we wish to draw to the Inspector's attention is the following excerpt from the Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Tuesday 17 July 2018 (where the resolution mentioned in Mansfield District Council's (MDC's) May 2019 Affordable Housing Note [EXAM 6] was unanimously passed). These minutes are available from: https://portal.mansfield.gov.uk/CMADattachments/2018/Council/Attachments/2018_09_18_00016982_2018_07_17_00003426_Minutes.doc and are attached for convenience.

The significance and relevance of the excerpt (below) is that it underlines a fact that perhaps was not made sufficiently clear during the Examination Hearings, i.e. that even without any additional measures to deliver the incoming Labour administration's pledge to build 150 Council homes, MDC already provided for the delivery of around 100 new Council homes, roughly twice the 53 affordable homes previously acknowledged by MDC at the Examination in Public hearing sessions.

The aforementioned excerpt from the minutes is as follows:

"The Portfolio Holder advised members that Council land had been identified which had the potential to be developed into new housing developments and along with converting some existing buildings into residential accommodation, had the potential to deliver around 100 new Council homes.

"Council was also advised that the proposed developments would generate an additional £2.79m from additional rents.

"Several Members spoke in favour of the motion to build additional social housing in the district. Comments were also made regarding the development of appropriate housing to meet needs and also regarding the effect of a proposal to redevelopment Melville Court in Warsop. In response, the Portfolio Holder indicated that investigations would be made into the development of bungalows which would free up houses and that further consultation would be undertaken with the tenants of Melville Court before any decision was taken.

"On the motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that it had been carried unanimously.

"RESOLVED - That the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2018/19 – 2022/23 be amended to include £21,450,000 for the development of new Council homes."

This appears to provide an alternative to the tone taken in MDC's May 2019 Affordable Housing Note [EXAM 6] as the motion suggests there is indeed "evidence at this time in terms of sites or resources to justify the inclusion of...additional affordable housing over and above the supply already included", although we accept that at Paragraph 9 of EXAM 6 MDC acknowledges "that additional sites may come forward on sites owned by the Council or through other registered providers".

Only Solutions maintains that MDC is well positioned to deliver two or even three times the figure of 53 houses previously cited by MDC, and that this higher level of delivery reduces the number of market developments required to deliver the affordable homes needed for Mansfield. The information supplied in EXAM 6 and in this submission demonstrate that it can be reasonably assumed that significantly more than 53 affordable houses will be delivered by MDC during the plan period.

Only Solutions considers that EXAM 6 and the attached minutes that accompany our submission support and affirm our previously expressed views that a higher overall housing target would not be justified (especially if it could result in developers avoiding their affordable housing obligations on the ground that an unrealistically high target is not being met), and that if anything the evidence supports a slightly lower overall housing targets than the one proposed by MDC.

Thank you once again to you and the Inspector for overseeing this important process.

Kind regards,
Shlomo

Mansfield District Council

Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday 17 July 2018 Time: 6:00 PM Place: Council Chamber

Present: Councillor Sharon Adey, Executive Mayor Kate Allsop, Councillor Barry Answer, Councillor Katrina Atherton, Councillor Mick Barton, Councillor Joyce Bosnjak, Councillor Kevin Brown, Councillor Terry Clay, Councillor John Coxhead, Councillor Bill Drewett, Councillor Amanda Fisher, Councillor Stephen N. Garner, Councillor Stephen Harvey, Councillor Vaughan Hopewell, Councillor John Kerr, Councillor Sean McCallum, Councillor Ann Norman, Councillor Stuart Richardson, Councillor Stewart Rickersey, Councillor Dave Saunders, Councillor Ian Sheppard, Councillor Andy Sissons, Councillor John Smart, Councillor Roger Sutcliffe, Councillor Andrew Tristram, Councillor Sonya Ward, Councillor Andy Wetton, Councillor Lesley Wright, Councillor Martin Wright

In Attendance: M. Andrews, J. Collins, H. Barsby, M. Robinson, M. Pemberton, M. Saxton, S. Troman and C. Wharton

FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR SIMS

The Chairman advised Council of the recent death of the former Chairman of the Council and former elected member for the Lindhurst Ward, Maurice Sims. All those present stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

MAYORAL COMMENDATIONS

The Executive Mayor presented Mayoral Commendations to -

Paul and Brenda Holt

Melanie Shooter

Colin Etches

Sofi Choudhury

18/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Bennett, Burgin, Higgins, Lohan, Jelley, Smith and Wallace

18/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Executive Mayor and Chief Executive Officer declared personal interests in the item relating to the Mansfield Homes Ltd - Update

18/47 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor M. Wright and seconded by Councillor Sheppard that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 March 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

On the motion being put to the vote the Chairman announced that the minutes had been approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

18/48 RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE LAID BEFORE THE COUNCIL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Chief Executive Officer advised Council that a petition had been received from Ben Bradley MP, relating to the provision of free car parking in Mansfield Town Centre. The petition had been evaluated against the Council's approved Petition Scheme and as the petition did not contain the required number of signatures to trigger a debate in Council, the petition had been referred to the Director of Economic Growth and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Growth.

18/49 ADVANCE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public

18/50 ADVANCE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question from Councillor Kerr to the Executive Mayor

In Ben Bradley's annual report he says that he has been pressing both M.D.C. and N.C.C. to make the Meden Sports Centre a priority and find a solution. He says it is very frustrating that it has been allowed to get this far. What is the Mayor doing to support the provision of leisure facilities in Warsop in the future?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I receive many emails and letters from our MP but I have had no emails or letters from Ben Bradley on the issue of Meden Sports Centre, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Wellbeing has had no emails or letters neither has the Director of Place and Wellbeing, the CEO has had no letters or emails on the subject of Meden Sports Centre. Ben has not been to see me on this issue either.

However, both the Council and I continually support the provision of leisure and recreational facilities and services in Warsop, both in terms of the Council's parks and open spaces and in conjunction with Mansfield District Leisure Trust.

For example, we have and will continue to support the following provisions;

- The Bottoms Local Nature Reserve with;
 - o Woodland & river walks
 - o A picnic area
- The Carrs Green Flag Park with;
 - o As a Local Nature Reserve and green space with Green Flag Award
 - o A play area
 - o Wildlife areas
 - o Fishing platforms
 - o A community orchard
 - o A picnic area
- Carr Lane Park with;
 - o A BMX track
 - o A play area
 - o A MUGA (multi-use games area)
 - o A skate park
 - o A 9 versus 9 & adult football pitch, changing rooms/pavilion
 - o A Pergola garden
- Cottage Lane open space with a large amenity area
- Church Warsop with a MUGA
- Pencil Park, Meden Vale with
 - o A play area
 - o Football/Basketball MUGA ends
- Princess Street with;
 - o Small green space
 - o A play area
- Warsop Vale with ;
 - o Rugby posts
 - o Large green space

The Council works with Mansfield District Leisure Trust to maintain health and wellbeing outreach opportunities in the community of Warsop. There have been a number of outreach community based sessions set up in partnership with community buildings in the local area. These sessions include:

- yoga sessions at the Tudor Barn
- Fit Together sessions at the Shed (Adam Eastwood Building) in conjunction with Vibrant Warsop .
- A beginner's circuit class has just commenced at the Shed.

There are also activities specifically targeting children and families within the area, such as family multisport sessions on Carr Lane Park during the school holidays.

Meden School has continued to maintain access to their school gymnasium for long standing martial arts and gymnastics clubs that operate weekly from the school and provide sporting opportunities for children.

The Council will continue to work with the Trust and other partners to provide sport and physical activity in the Warsop area using a place based approach to the planning and delivery of sporting and physical activities to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Warsop.

Also, as you are aware, I have already met with the Parish Council to discuss issues regarding the requirement of a leisure facility in Warsop and I am always happy to meet with relevant stakeholders, including the County Council, to discuss such matters.

In summary, the Council is always looking for opportunities to improve participation in sports and physical activity in both Warsop and the District as a whole, working with Active Notts and Sport England to improve engagement.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Kerr

Many of these things you've said we've had for many years. I wouldn't say that they were exotic things, two parks. However, you did have your Mayoral Commission and we invited you to a meeting with Pulse, you didn't say much at that meeting, the Chief Executive Officer was left to do all the talking, we was very disappointed. The Mayor made me a promise at that meeting, that was to borrow money to build a new leisure centre. It didn't quite work out that way because the cost was a bit too high apparently, but having said that, you recently tried to buy a place in Maidenhead which failed, so you still have £55m to invest. Will you invest it in the people of Warsop once and for all or will we get nothing as usual?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I think that the list that I just read out is not nothing, it is quite a lot and judging by the comments from your own Group, some people are quite

envious of what is already provided. The opportunity that we were looking at with the Meden Sports Centre, hung on the fact, that you informed us that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) would clear and gift the land so that a could be built. Now the NCC have said that they are not prepared to do that and because they are not prepared to do that the business plan fell down, it didn't stack up.

(ii) Question from Councillor Richardson to the Executive Mayor

At what stage of the process is the sale of the old bus station to the developers at?

Response from the Executive Mayor

The Council are working closely with ARBA to implement the regeneration of the SGN site. This is very much in line with the original timescales set within the agreed decision, allowing up to 12 months for marketing of the site. There is significant interest from a number of potential operators for a presence on the site, which cannot be released at this confidential and delicate stage. When key milestones have been achieved further details may be released in due course.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Richardson

Has the site been handed over to ARBA?

Response from the Executive Mayor

Yes it has.

The Chairman advised Council that five questions on urgent matters had been accepted in accordance with paragraph 3.04.9.4 of the Council's Rules of Procedure for Council and Committee Meetings.

Questions from Councillor Ward to the Executive Mayor

Context - At Nottinghamshire County Council's full Council meeting on 12th July 2018, a motion was passed by Conservative and Mansfield Independent Forum Councillors to move towards abolishing Mansfield District Council and creating one so-called 'super council' for the whole of Nottinghamshire. This Council will not meet again until after the next NCC meeting.

1. Will the Executive Mayor be instructing officers to model the impact of the current proposal on Mansfield and district? If so who will be party to any such information?

Response from the Executive Mayor

Thank you for your questions on this matter I am pleased you have raised them to give me an opportunity to respond this evening.

Along with the other Nottinghamshire District and Borough Leaders I co-signed a letter to the Leader of the County Council setting out our disbelief that this motion had been proposed without any knowledge of it by the Districts until it was published. This letter was sent to the Cllr Cutts the day

before she took her motion to Council. So she had an opportunity to reflect on it.

This letter was also sent to the Secretary of State for Local Government. The letter requested involvement by the Districts through the Economic Prosperity Committee. This Committee was used to develop the options for devolution and the combined authority and is the appropriate route for preliminary consideration of any local government reorganisation within the County.

My focus at this time is to try and ensure the governance that is already in place is used to consider the full options available for local government reorganisation.

The approach needs to be inclusive and not exclusive. This does not appear to be the intention of the County Council but at this stage we are trying to ensure that we are able to shape the work of the County rather than offering an alternative option.

Clearly any proposal being developed needs to ensure that the communities we serve are at its centre. This may change if we are unable to persuade the County that a single unitary option is not appropriate.

My final point on this question is if the County do use the EPC to consult this won't be until the autumn and with the County Council going into recess I doubt there will be enough time to pull together a comprehensive report for several months.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ward to the Executive Mayor

I think that it was interesting to be told that the District Council was not informed of this until it was published. On that what are the chances of the County actually giving a monkey about what Mansfield District Council thinks and of us being able to shape the work of the County Council, as they didn't even see fit to let the District Council know about this?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I need to think very carefully about this as I don't want my answer to be taken out of context. I believe that Councillor Cutts has railroaded this through. I was at the Local Government Association Conference when the report was made public. Leaders from other Councils had no idea about it. Then I spoke to some Conservative County Councillors. It has been pushed through and railroaded, I don't believe with much officer support. I don't believe that it has been thought through. Any reorganisation needs to be consulted on, we are talking about peoples lives here, were are talking about jobs and the effects it will have on communities. Everything at such a level needs to be discussed, robustly and challenged robustly, shared with fellow councillors, other Leaders and involving communities, because at the end of the day, I am interested in the services we deliver and that's all.

2. Will the Executive Mayor be instructing Mansfield District Council officers

to liaise with other authorities and to potentially work up alternative proposals? If so who will be party to any such information?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I will ensure that officers are working with other District and Boroughs to ensure that the County have the views of the Council and that the interests of the community are considered.

I am very very disappointed that Councillor Cutts has taken this step in a unilateral manner. I will lobby to ensure that mechanisms such as the Economic Prosperity Committee are utilised to consider this proposal and to formally request a wider piece of work to ensure other options for local government reorganisation are put on the table. There has been talk at Leader level of three unitary authorities with a North South and an extended City. And many of you will recall that in 2007 there was a piece of work concerning district unitaries.

There is still the outstanding matter of the Metro Unitary Plan taking in Nottingham City and most of Nottinghamshire (not Mansfield) and Derby City with most of Derbyshire which was launched in November last year, and remains unresolved.

The terms of reference for the EPC is recognised by every authority in its constitution and will enable proper governance of the process and therefore is the preferred route for development of options which would then be considered by each Council.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ward to the Executive Mayor

Alongside working with other Authorities what steps will be made to work with other political groups, if such a big decision, there should be cross party debate on this and has there been any other communication with other political groups and going forward, likewise with the MP?

Response from the Executive Mayor

It will come back through Full Council so will go through the process. I've been talking to the Labour Group Leaders at the County Council and also the Labour Leaders at Broxtowe, Gedling and the Independent Leader at Ashfield District Council. I can assure you were are very keen to involve all Leaders and Opposition Leaders.

Councillor Ward sought a response on the point regarding the MP for Mansfield.

Executive Mayor - I am happy to talk to our current MP, but it is worth remembering, he is a County Councillor and very much in favour of this, so I am not sure he is going to be shouting loudly for Mansfield District, as he has nailed his colours clearly to the takeover, a smash and grab and we are not overly excited about that.

3. What commitment will the Mayor make to ensuring the process is

transparent?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I will ensure, in Mansfield at least, Members and the community are involved responding to and developing proposals. Of course any formal response will be considered by Full Council.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ward to the Executive Mayor

Given the fact that nobody outside of the County Council's inner circle was informed of this until it has been published, how much influence do you think we can have that the process is transparent or will that be taken away from us?

Response from the Executive Mayor

Well I think that one of the things that Councillor Cutts hasn't taken into consideration is to take this forward, it needs to have the backing of the Secretary of State. At the Local Government Conference, the Secretary of State was there and he came to the District Council Network meeting, the proposal had been made public by this point. Several members spoke to James Brokenshire and told him of their concerns, that nobody had been consulted in the Districts and his response, as was the response of the Chairman of the LGA, was there has to be consensus, if there is no consensus, he won't sign it off.

4. What will the Mayor be doing to ensure that any outcome will not result in the dilution of services, or the reduction of democracy for the people of Mansfield, Woodhouse and Warsop?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I will continue to make robust representations to the County to protect the interests of our local communities. This is not something that the County can merely impose upon the rest of Nottinghamshire. There are legal procedures to be followed that include the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission. I will ensure that I strongly advocate upon behalf of Mansfield and District wherever that is required.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ward

It seems to me that so far this process has been a failure of democracy and that Councillors have gone into this and have voted without any consultation with ward members, with their communities and the broader general public. I don't think that can continue. I don't think that we can have people who say that they are there to represent people, to take steps without broader consultation.

What can the Council do to ensure this happens?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I think that we need to have confidence that we can all work together to

make sure that we get a very clear message through. Its about our communities, it's about our people, it's not about somebody trying to make a super state; it really isn't.

I'm very confident that the Secretary of State will not impose any on us that we don't want. I'm not saying that we shouldn't ever look at re-organising, of course we should, there is less and less money all the time. But local council should be local, local democracy. Having a centre at County Hall, would be absolutely horrendous for our residents. How would they be able to engage, many of them, somewhere so far away that they would be totally remote from.

5. There has been no public consultation, nor consultation with district councillors, what does the Mayor propose to do to ensure the views of Mansfield and District's residents are heard, and taken into consideration in the decision making process?

Response from the Executive Mayor

Councillors across the county were not consulted, District Leaders including myself were not consulted either. It is imperative as part of the process that the community are fully informed of and engaged in the formulation of any proposals and that any changes are in the best interests of our community. I believe that we should have the confidence to represent the views of our communities and if this does not accord with the wishes of the County Council, or other bodies, and I be vocal in making the voice of Mansfield and District heard.

When the Minister James Brokenshire came to the DNC meeting at the LGA conference he said, unless there is consensus he will not sign off any proposal.

This is a worrying time for staff and for staff moral, the wording of the motion was aggressive and not in the spirit of partnership working.

Have to say Councillor Ward we are totally as one on this and I am grateful for being given the opportunity that you have given me of bringing these questions to Council.

I have already said that we were consulted, I've already said that the proper process is the EPC which all Leaders and CEO's attend and I believe that we need to have the confidence that we can represent our communities. And if it doesn't accord with the wishes of the County or other bodies, well we still have our voice and I will speak loud and strong. Also I am going back to the Minister and I shall write to him, I've recently be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the District Council Network, and through that organisation I can see an opportunity to help and support not only Mansfield but all districts in Notts. So I will be shouting loudly, knocking on doors and I'm sure you will agree I can be quite an annoying person at times.

5. Supplementary question from Councillor Ward

My concern is that the Conservatives have never been keen on investing in Mansfield and Warsop specifically and if all the funds are bundled together we will see money leaking from our district and given to more favourable areas in Notts for the Conservatives.

It also concerns me that jobs, good quality jobs that District Council's provide, which are currently provided locally, may find that they are delivered in the city.

Do you think Mayor that there is any way that this can work and benefit the people of Mansfield and is doomed to failure?

Response from the Executive Mayor

I think that it is doomed to failure without any doubt. And I do believe and I'm choosing my words carefully, as I wasn't at the meeting, it is only what I've had reported back to me from different people. I believe that Councillor Cutts talked about sucking up the District Council's budgets and that all people were interested in was Adult Social Care and potholes and that there was no need for services like the museum, the Palace Theatre, any cultural offer we provide, any support we give to residents, the ASSIST programme, which has saved the NHS £1.4m in just 9 months would be wiped out with this cavalier approach.

18/51

EXTRACT MINUTE FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2017/18

It was proposed by Councillor Garner and seconded by Councillor Norman that the recommendation from the Audit Committee held on 15 June 2018, relating to the Treasury Management Outturn position for 2017/18 be noted.

Members were advised that the report detailed the financial activities undertaken by the Council as part of its treasury management function for 2017/2018 and was being reported to Council for information in line with the 2009 CIPFA Code of Conduct.

On the motion being put to the vote the Chairman announced that the motion had been passed by 29 votes in favour with no votes against and one abstention.

RESOLVED - That the Treasury Management Outturn Report be noted in line with the 2009 CIPFA Code of Practice.

18/52

DELEGATED DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME NEW HOUSING PROVISION

The Portfolio Holder for Housing proposed and the Executive Mayor seconded that the recommendation from the delegated decision taken on 14 June 2018, seeking to amend the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme be approved.

The Portfolio Holder advised members that Council land had been identified which had the potential to be developed into new housing developments and along with converting some existing buildings into residential accommodation, had the potential to deliver around 100 new Council homes.

Council was also advised that the proposed developments would generate an additional £2.79m from additional rents.

Several Members spoke in favour of the motion to build additional social housing in the district. Comments were also made regarding the development of appropriate housing to meet needs and also regarding the effect of a proposal to redevelopment Melville Court in Warsop. In response, the Portfolio Holder indicated that investigations would be made into the development of bungalows which would free up houses and that further consultation would be undertaken with the tenants of Melville Court before any decision was taken.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that it had been carried unanimously.

RESOLVED - That the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2018/19 – 2022/23 be amended to include £21,450,000 for the development of new Council homes.

18/53

DELEGATED DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE - CAPITAL OUTFURN REPORT 2017/18

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by the Executive Mayor that the recommendations from the delegated decision taken on 6 July 2018, relating to amending the 2017/18 Capital Programme be approved.

One member referred to the size of the capital budget for Regeneration and Employment compared to Council funds loaned to Mansfield Homes Ltd.

On the motion being put to the vote the Chairman announced that the motion had been carried by 29 votes in favour, with no votes against and one abstention.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the out-turn position in sections 3.1 and 3.2 be noted.
- (ii) That the method of funding the capital programme 2017/2018 as shown in paragraph 3.3.1 (table 7) be approved.
- (iii) That the carry forward to the 2018/19 Capital Programme of expenditure budgets totalling £7,840,000 and associated income budgets totalling £810,000 be noted (paragraph 3.2.3 and Table 5).
- (iv) That the carry forward to 2019/2020 Capital Programme of S106 related expenditure budgets totalling £30,000 be noted (paragraph 3.2.3 and Table 5)

(v) That it be noted that budgets totalling £107,000 have been brought back from the 2018/2019 capital programme of finance overspends in 2017/2018 (paragraph 3.2.3 and Table 5)

18/54

DELEGATED DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE - LOTTERY FUNDING FOR THE MANSFIELD TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by the Executive Mayor that the recommendations from the delegated decision held on 6 July 2018 relating to the acceptance of funds from the Heritage Lottery fund for the Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project be accepted.

Council was advised the project would see a variety of works to include the conservation and restoration of key building features on the Leeming Street, the Market Place and Stockwell Gate, as well as increasing participation in local heritage.

On the motion being put to the vote the Chairman announced that it had been passed unanimously.

RESOLVED -

(i) That £849,000 be accepted from the HLF to fund the Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project.

(ii) That the capital programme be amended accordingly in line with the total project cost of £1,347,264 and the project be implemented.

(iii) That negotiation and acceptance of the terms and conditions of the funding agreement (including accounting for risks to the authority) be delegated to the Director of Governance in conjunction with the Director of Economic Growth.

18/55

EXTRACT MINUTE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE - PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF GROWTH DELIVERY GROUP AND DEVELOPERS FORUM

It was proposed by Councillor Hopewell and seconded by Councillor Tristram that the recommendations from the Standards Committee relating to the establishment of a Developers Forum and Growth Delivery Group as part of the Council's Local Plan process be approved.

Council was reminded that the Local Plan was due to be submitted for examination later in the year. However, prior to this the Council needed, to demonstrate its commitment to delivering housing and other types of development to meet the identified need. As such, the Council needed to adopt a new proactive approach to improve overall delivery. This is to improve the delivery of schemes that have effectively stalled and also encourage new schemes to come forward.

At a recent Local Programme Board meeting, it was recommended that a Developer Forum be set up to actively engage with the development

industry, and that the findings of this forum be report to a proposed Growth Delivery Group which would comprise senior council officers, elected members and partners such as the County Council and the LEP.

Concern was expressed by some members of the status and reporting mechanism for the Groups and the involvement of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council, in decision making, together with the receipt of confidential information.

The Monitoring Officer urged members to support the motion, as the proposals were vital to enable to Council to develop its Local Plan and did not take powers away from either the Executive or Full Council.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the recording of confidential information would be done appropriately and suggested that the Group report every six months to Council.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that the motion had been carried with 29 votes in favour, one vote against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED -

(i) That a Developer Forum be established (Terms of Agreement at Appendix A)

(ii) That a Growth Delivery Group be established (Terms of Agreement at Appendix B) and a report on its activities be submitted to Council every six months.

18/56

EXTRACT MINUTE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT PERSON APPOINTMENT

It was proposed by Councillor Hopewell and seconded by Councillor Tristram that the recommendation from the Standards Committee relating to the appointment of Independent Persons be approved.

Members were advised that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 the Council was required to appoint at least one Independent Person to support the investigation of complaints that the Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Members had been breached.

The Council currently had two Independent Persons who were, Hazel Salisbury and Neil Stent, Ashfield District Council had appointed the same two individuals and shared the cost with this Council.

It was recommended that Hazel Salisbury and Neil Stent are appointed as Independent Persons for a further period of four years.

Comments were made by one member regarding whether it was appropriate to reappoint the same individuals to the positions so as to prevent relationships evolving with members and officers.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that the motion had been carried by 29 votes in favour, with no votes against and one abstention.

RESOLVED - That the current Independent Persons, Hazel Salisbury and Neil Stent, be appointed as Independent Persons for a period of four years.

18/57

DELEGATED DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGENERATION AND GROWTH - MANSFIELD HOMES LTD

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Growth and seconded by the Executive Mayor that the recommendation from the delegated decision taken on 5 July 2018 relating to the frequency of reports to Council on the activities of the Mansfield Homes Ltd be approved.

It was proposed to have three up-dates to Council on the activities of the Company which it was felt would result in less time being spent by officers on producing reports for Council and would better fit in the frequency of Council meetings.

As an amendment it was proposed by Councillor Richardson and seconded by Councillor Smart that the frequency of meetings be unchanged and remain at four each year.

Several members spoke in favour of the amendment as it would enable further scrutiny of the Company which had been loaned a substantial sum of money from the Council.

On the amendment being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that the motion had fallen by 14 vote in favour, with 15 against and one abstention.

Speaking on the original motion, the Executive Mayor stated that when Council had agreed to have quarterly reports, there were numerous governance issues to deal with which were now resolved, therefore three reports annually was adequate to deal with the activities of the company.

On the original motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that 15 votes had been cast in favour, with 15 against and no abstentions. The Chairman used his casting vote in support of the motion to give, 16 votes in favour, with 15 votes against therefore the motion was passed.

RESOLVED -

(i) That the Council is provided with an update on the activities of Mansfield Homes Ltd at 3 Council meetings a year.

(ii) That the update on the activities of Mansfield Homes Ltd is noted by Council.

18/58

MOTIONS

(i) It was proposed by Councillor McCallum and seconded by Councillor

Ward -

That this Council supports the establishment of an 'Armed Forces Support Fund' to be implemented by the start of the next financial year (April 2019), with an annual budget of £15,000, and its use shall be limited to the fulfilment of the following four aims:

- 1 - To support military veterans and their families in crisis.
- 2 - The provision of a 'veterans hub' within the district which will provide a 'one-stop' resource for assistance.
- 3 - To support the wider aims of the Armed Forces Covenant and Mansfield District council's commitment to fulfil its responsibilities under that agreement.
- 4 - To support impoverished and disempowered children, in partnership with uniformed cadet organisations, in order that we support child and youth development opportunities.

Expenditure of monies from the fund will be distributed following consultation with the Armed Forces Champion.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McCallum spoke about the various issues which were faced by veterans when they were discharged from the Forces, which included suicide which was at an all time high. It was felt that the motion sought a small amount of money which had the possibility to make a big impact for veterans. Members were also advised that the Council would be re-signing the Veteran Charter in September 2018.

In supporting the motion, the Executive Mayor referred to the support which the Council currently provided to Veterans of the Armed Forces through the Homefinder Choice Based Lettings Policy and the temporary accommodation and ASSIST services.

The Monitoring Officer advised Council that should the motion be supported, an officer report would be prepared which would address the issues of the purpose of the fund, how it dovetailed with other work done by the Council to support veterans, the allocation of a budget and the governance arrangements for its distribution.

Furthermore, as this related to an Executive function the report would be considered by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Wellbeing.

On the motion, being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that the motion had been carried unanimously.

(ii) It was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Smart that -

This Council resolves to write to the Government and demand more action is taken to stem the supply of, and address the harm caused by former so called 'legal highs' such as 'spice' and 'mamba'

This Council recognises that the services tasked with addressing this at grass roots level include the NHS, local councils, the Police and voluntary agencies. These very services are, at the same time, all too often already overstretched and under-funded due to the current Government's policy of austerity and spending cuts. More investment is needed in both preventative and reactive services nationally in order to address this complex problem.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Ward stated that the use of former so called legal highs was becoming an increasing problem both nationally and locally. Concerns had been raised by business owners in Mansfield town centre, that the presence of users of such substances were affecting the feel of the town centre. Council was advised that the substance was a cheaper alternative to heroin.

The Executive Mayor advised Council of the activities of the Council, together with its partners to tackle the problems in the area but also the support which was provided to the users of the substance, who often had complex issues including mental health issues.

Several members spoke how not one authority could deal with the issue alone, which required a multi-agency approach. It was also recognised that providing support for the individuals effected and also the consequences of such behaviour took resources away from other priorities and needs.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Chairman announced that the motion had been carried with 29 votes in favour, with no abstentions and one vote against.

(iii) It was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Fisher that -

This Council will review and reduce the use of Single Use Plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council activities. Single Use Plastics will be phased out where it is reasonable to do so. We will also encourage our facilities' users, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles.

This Council will also aim to increase the recycling rate of Single Use Plastics, by committing to work with Nottinghamshire County Council and Veolia to maximise the amount of plastic and other materials which can be recycled.

This Council will also investigate the potential for delivering the proposed deposit-return scheme for single-use plastic bottles.

Several members spoke in favour of the motion and the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Wellbeing stated that the Council was committed to increasing recycling and that the issue would be considered by the Joint Waste Recycling Committee.

On the motion being put to the vote the Chairman announced that the motion

has been passed unanimously.