

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27th June 2007

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Atkin (Chairman), Councillor Jones (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Mrs. Plenderleith.

Labour Group

Councillors Lane and Mrs. Mead.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the meeting was received from Councillor Bambrick (Labour Group).

OS/1. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Community Scrutiny Committee held on 26th March, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd of April and the Overview Committee held on 16th April 2007 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

OS/2. **PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08**

The Chair opened the meeting by advising that it was important for the new Committee to consider whether there were any scrutiny projects from the previous work programme that should be brought forward to 2007/08. Councillor Lane added that all the previous projects, both completed and ongoing were documented and these should be now reviewed. In his opinion, the two most important for consideration were the Post Office Network and Derbyshire P.C.T. The Deputy Chief Executive added that Officers had analysed all outstanding activity from the previous Scrutiny Committees, which would be useful when deciding which projects to continue in 2007/08.

It was agreed that the list of outstanding projects be circulated to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee would discuss these items with the Chairmen of the Policy Committees and a report would be submitted to the next Meeting with suggestions of work to be continued.

The Chairman then opened a discussion with all Members of the Committee on a new items for the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007 /08.

OS/3. **REVIEW OF FLOODING ISSUES AND MAINTENANCE OF FLOOD DEFENCES IN THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Chairman expressed concern over flooding issues, including the work of the Environment Agency and suggested that a dialogue could be opened with the Director of Community Services. Councillor Lane added that it may be

useful to ask the Flood Liaison Committee if it would like the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be involved in this process.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services be invited to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting to discuss this issue.

OS/4. **COMMERCIAL RURAL BUS NETWORK AND THE COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Chairman advised the Committee that it was important to consider the role of a more user-friendly network of bus routes, and to address the inadequacy of the current services with the potential to reduce car journeys. The Deputy Chief Executive added that Members had previously shown concern over the issue of rural and community transport.

It was agreed that the Public Transport Officer from Derbyshire County Council be invited to a future Meeting to discuss the above issues.

OS/5. **WILLINGTON TRAIN STATION**

The Chairman advised the Meeting that there were currently problems with the site of the Willington Train Station, and consideration of this may be of benefit to many people in District of South Derbyshire.

It was agreed that the Public Transport Officer from Derbyshire County Council be invited to a future Meeting to discuss passenger rail transport in South Derbyshire including Willington, Hatton and the potential National Forest Link.

OS/6. **BROADBAND AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY**

The Chairman expressed concern over the quality of service and delivery of broadband within South Derbyshire particularly, for commercial use. Councillor Jones felt that the service was particularly poor in rural areas with quality, performance and cost issues. The Deputy Chief Executive added that some work had been done on this issue within the Policy Department.

It was agreed that the Policy Officers do further research on capacity and availability of broadband within South Derbyshire and a discussion paper would be provided for the next Meeting.

OS/7. **TELEPHONE CALLS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Chairman advised the Committee that when making calls to the Emergency Services, there was a requirement to provide a postcode for the incident. There was therefore a need to place postcodes in all telephone kiosks. A rolling programme could also be considered to place postcodes on street signs, with this provision appearing as standard practice at all new developments.

It was agreed that the Head of Environmental Services be asked to consider this issue and provide a report for consideration by the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

OS/8. **BUDGET**

The Director of Corporate Services advised the Meeting that the budget timetable would be reported to the next Meeting and Members would be advised on this process accordingly. The Committee would be involved in the budget process, leading to the setting of the Council Tax.

OS/9. **SCRUTINY WEBPAGES**

The Chairman felt that the Scrutiny Webpages were outdated and wished for further scrutiny information to be available.

It was agreed that the Chairman discuss this issue further with the Council's Web Editor and report any further information to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 5.55 p.m.