

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

2nd May 2002

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Bell (Chair), Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Harrington and Routledge.

Conservative Group

Councillors Bladen and Mrs. Robbins.

OV/31. **REPORT OF MEMBER**

The Chair requested the Committee's approval for an item on the review of planning procedures to be included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Overview Committee on 13th May 2002. It was noted that the issue of development control was currently included within the terms of reference for the Community Scrutiny Committee and Councillors Richards and Routledge, the Chair and Vice-Chair of that Committee respectively, raised no objections to the request.

RESOLVED:-

That an item on the matter be included on the agenda for the Meeting of the Overview Committee to be held on 13th May 2002.

OV/32. **REVIEW OF THE NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE**

Further to the consideration given to this matter at the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd April 2002, Members were reminded of the issues raised at that Meeting following the presentation from Clive Mitchell of District Audit. Since that Meeting, the final report had been received from District Audit which had been circulated to Members, together with an Action Plan listing the recommendations from District Audit and the Corporate Management Team, together with the issues raised at the last Meeting and any additional items.

It was noted that District Audit had stated that it was the Council's responsibility to ensure that its political management arrangements and Constitution complied with legislative requirements. Accordingly, in the absence of a Legal and Members' Services Manager, a copy of the Constitution together with relevant supporting papers had been forwarded to Derbyshire County Council for an opinion on compliance. The County Council had kindly agreed to assist and a meeting between Officers of both authorities was to be held shortly.

The Council was required to respond formally to the report and recommendations of District Audit.

Members considered the contents of the Action Plan and reviewed the suggested priorities. With regard to staff resources in the absence of a Legal and Members' Services Manager, Members were advised that a report was to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16th May 2002. With

regard to the allocation of staff resources to the Scrutiny function, it was reported that it was proposed to fill the vacant post in the Policy and Best Value Division shortly. In connection with the possibility of involving the County Council in Area Meetings, it was advised that the County Council was currently scrutinising its Area Meetings function and copies of Minutes from this Council's Area Meetings had been passed to the County Council for consideration.

Various elements of the Action Plan were consolidated by the Committee and the matter would be considered further at the next Meeting of the Committee on 13th May 2002.

RESOLVED:-

That the Action Plan attached at Annexe 'A' to these Minutes be considered further at the next Meeting of the Committee with a view to a final version being approved for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16th May 2002.

OV/33. **ANNUAL REPORT**

It was reported that the Constitution required Annual Reports from the Community Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and this Committee to be submitted to the Council. A draft copy of the Annual Report in respect of this Committee was circulated to Members and it was intended to consider the three Annual Reports at the next Meeting of the Committee on 13th May 2002 prior to their submission to the Council. The Policy and Best Value Manager requested any comments on the draft Annual Report prior to consideration of the final version on 13th May 2002.

OV/34. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

CALL-IN FROM FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON 18TH APRIL 2002 – FOOTPATHS AGENCY (Paragraphs 1 and 11)

The Committee agreed to request the Finance and Management Committee to re-consider this matter.

R.L. BELL