

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

6th November 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Bell (Chair) and Councillors Lane and Bambrick.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Atkin.

OV/13. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/14. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

Councillor Atkin asked if there would be a briefing on the Government White Paper for all Members. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that this would be discussed at the Corporate Management Team/Senior Members Meeting to determine how any relevant information would be cascaded.

OV/15. **REPORT OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Lane gave an update on the current actions of the Community Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-

Possible Changes to the Rural Post Office Network

It was reported that a significant forthcoming event was the drop-in meetings to enable members of the public to make any additional comments regarding possible changes to the rural post office network. It was also confirmed that a press release would be issued during the week commencing 13th November 2006 detailing dates and times of these public forums.

Street Scene Review

It was reported that this review was now back on schedule and a meeting of the working party had taken place on 6th November 2006. A report would be produced and considered at the next meeting of the Street Scene Group on 29th November 2006. A working protocol was to be agreed and would be submitted to the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting in January 2007.

PCT Issues

It had been agreed that this would now be discussed in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council, and would include issues such as the services to be delivered within South Derbyshire, how they would be delivered, and would also include a review of services. The Chair asked if a timetable had been set to deal with these issues and Councillor Lane responded that it

would not commence before January 2007, as the new Board was not yet in place. It was agreed that between now and January 2007, a strategy would be agreed with Derbyshire County Council followed by an invitation to the new Chief Executive of the Derbyshire Health Authority to an appropriate meeting of the Council.

E-enablement

It was reported that e-enablement would be developed further, commencing during November 2006 and the 2005 Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act would be considered as an item for implementation.

Overview Leaflet

The Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration reported that the new Overview leaflet had now been produced. She also confirmed that this would be distributed at all Area Meetings. Councillor Lane requested that this be distributed to a wider audience.

Councillor Lane and the Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration agreed to discuss further distribution of this leaflet.

Scrutiny Website

Councillor Lane requested an update on the current position with regard to the Scrutiny website. He understood that all information had been produced, but was concerned that the website may still not be available.

The Head of Policy and Economic Regeneration agreed to confirm the current position of the Scrutiny website and report back to Councillor Lane.

Area Meeting Report

The report from the Community Scrutiny Committee had been finalised and would be distributed at Area Meetings.

Reports to the Forthcoming Cycle of Policy Committees

Members were advised that at its meeting on 5th October 2006, the Environmental and Development Services Committee had considered reports on:-

- Achieving targets 2006/09 Planning Applications
- Achieving targets 2006/09 Waste Management

The Committee had resolved as follows:-

- Achieving targets 2006/09 Planning Applications - that the report be received and that the Committee give consideration to the recommendations within the next three months.
- Achieving target 2006/09 Waste Management - that the report be received and that officers be requested to take cognisance of its recommendation in reporting back on the issues to the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting on 9th January 2007.

In addition, at its meeting on 12th October 2006, the Housing and Community Services Committee considered reports on:-

- Arrangements for improving homelessness services - BVPI 183(a)(b)
- Audit commission inspection of the Council's housing repairs and the maintenance service

The Housing and Community Services Committee approved the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee in respect of these items.

OV/16. **REPORT OF CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Bell gave an update on the recent activities of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-

Budget

It was reported that there had been extensive discussions with regard to the budgeting process and it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next Corporate Scrutiny Committee to compare the budget and out turn figures.

Ideas Into Action Update

It was reported that currently, there were 64 responses to this initiative. The Deputy Chief Executive added that a report would be considered at Full Council on 9th November 2006, which would include recommendations on how these were to be dealt with.

Shifting Resources

It was reported that a presentation had been received from the Head of Planning Services and it was agreed that there was now scope to monitor how this issue progressed.

It was agreed that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee should monitor this issue over the next 12 to 18 months, which would be built into the work programme.

Support for Voluntary and Community Groups

It was reported that a working group was already considering this issue. It was agreed not to pursue this item further at the present time.

Service Standards

It was reported that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee felt that literature throughout the whole authority should be considered. It was felt that many of the current leaflets supplied by the District Council were inconsistent. It had been agreed that the Chair of the Committee and Councillor Tilley prepare a project plan for consideration at the next Corporate Scrutiny Committee to review current Council literature and leaflets.

Redecoration

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that he was concerned over the lack of information previously provided with regard to the redecoration works to the Civic Offices. This was now available and would be distributed to Scrutiny Members.

OV/17. **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 Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Councillor Atkin asked a question on equal pay issues within the District Council.

R. L. BELL

CHAIR