

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

7th October 2010

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen (Chairman), Councillor Watson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Patten, Roberts and Timms.

Labour Group

Councillors Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Taylor and Tilley.

Independent Member

Councillor Pabla.

In attendance

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Conservative Group).

EDS/18. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th August 2010, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/19. **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR SCHEMES FOR THE TRANSFER OF PRIVATE SEWERS TO WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

A report was submitted informing Members of a consultation document that had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and to seek approval of its response, as the Council's formal response to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

It was reported that concerns had been raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its Meetings on 20th December 2008 and 25th March 2009, with regard to drainage control. Problems had been encountered throughout the County where drainage schemes were not constructed to the required adoptable standard. In addition, concern had been raised regarding the potential liability of residents for sewers that were not adopted.

A letter had been sent to DEFRA, and the reply had confirmed that from 2011, all existing private sewers and lateral drains should transfer into the ownership of the nine English water and sewerage companies. The Government had also decided that design and construction schemes for all new sewers and drains that were proposed to be connected to the public sewerage network, should be made mandatory, and should automatically be adopted as part of the public system.

A copy of the report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its Meeting on 15th September 2010, and further details of the consultation document that had been published as a step towards the introduction of these changes, was included with the Agenda.

RESOLVED:-

That the following response be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in response to the consultation on Draft Proposals for Schemes for the Transfer of Private Sewers to Water and Sewerage Companies (WaSCs) in England and Wales as follows:

“The Council supports the transfer of private sewers to WaSCs but strongly urges DEFRA to enter into meaningful discussions with Local Authority Building Control in regard to the detailed implementation of the scheme, particularly any new sewer construction standards, in order to avoid potential conflict between WaSCs standards and those of the Building Regulations which could result in additional unnecessary and unfunded work being undertaken by Local Authority Building Control staff.

Also in South Derbyshire, a situation exists where there are many houses that are required to have an individual pumping station within their curtilage. Members wish to see this issue adequately addressed in the transfer, so that the burden of maintaining such small pumping stations does not lie with the individual homeowner”.

EDS/20. **TOURISM UPDATE**

Members were given a presentation on economic development within the District. Detail was provided on the ‘Beat the Crunch’ initiative, ‘Business Navigator’, the improvement programme for Swadlincote Gateways, and the Town Centre Vision and Master Plan. An update was also given on the work, which was currently being carried out at The Delph.

A second presentation was given on the Invest South Derbyshire project, which was a 3-year project, to the end of 2011, being funded jointly by South Derbyshire District Council and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP). The resource for this project was one post plus materials. Further detail was provided on initiatives that had already taken place, and those that were still being concluded.

The report also outlined recent performance in the tourism sector in South Derbyshire, and it was requested that Members agree a 1-year service level agreement for 2010/11 with the Visit Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership (DMP). It was reported, that in recent years, substantial additional funding had been made available for tourism, marketing and to improve industry standards through East Midlands Tourism (EMT), and sub-regional DMP’s, which were required to achieve ambitious targets focused on increasing overnight stays. The current 3-year funding agreement ended in March 2011, beyond which the future delivery of tourism was unknown. In the meantime, Visit Peak District & Derbyshire was developing a further 3-year

marketing plan, which it intended to agree with partners (including South Derbyshire District Council) by the end of 2010. Within Derbyshire and the wider Peak District, the Visit Peak District & Derbyshire DMP had successfully bid for EMT project funding, particularly for marketing. It was currently promoting itself as the tourist board for the area, and used the Peak District as its key attract brand with the aim of dispersing visitors across the county.

Further details were given on the main marketing tools, that continued to be used, and it was confirmed that South Derbyshire was increasingly benefiting from the work of Visit Peak District & Derbyshire. The proposed Service Level Agreement for 2010/11 between the DMP and this Council was attached to the report.

Full details were provided on the National Forest and Beyond campaign which had been running since 2003. This was the primary marketing tool for South Derbyshire, and was supported by the majority of tourism businesses. Further details were provided on conversion research, and it was confirmed that a review of marketing activity had been undertaken since the formation of the National Forest Tourism Partnership. Further details were given on activity provided by South Derbyshire District Council, and also on an economic impact study of tourism across the entire region, commissioned by East Midlands Tourism.

Questions were raised on keeping the town centre in a good clean condition, and the availability of funding for progressing and finishing further works in Swadlincote. Questions were also raised on the use of the Market Hall, and it was requested that the feasibility and future use of this building be considered, and the outcome reported back to a future Meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That work undertaken to ensure sustained growth of the National Forest as a major new visitor destination and brand, together with recent statistical evidence be noted.***
- (2) That the terms of the current Service Level Agreement with the Visit Peak District & Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership be agreed.***

EDS/21. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and to review its contents where appropriate.

The Director of Community Services reported that there was an additional item for November, and that a representative from Derbyshire County Council Highways would be in attendance at the Environmental and Development Services Meeting of 18th November 2010.

RESOLVED:-

That the updated Work Programme be approved.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.