

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th July 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Southern (Chair), Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Carroll, Taylor (Substituting for Councillor Jones), Tilley, Whyman, M.B.E and Wilkins (Substituting for Councillor Shepherd).

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison, Mrs. Littlejohn, Shaw and Councillor Mrs. Wheeler (Substituting for Councillor Hood).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Jones and Shepherd (Labour Group), Councillor Hood (Conservative Group) and Councillor Mrs. Walton.

HCS/12.**MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th June 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

HCS/13.**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler declared a personal interest in respect of the report on Supporting People – Expenditure of Non-Recurrent Funds – application by Trident Housing Association – Lemon Grove Women's Refuge as a Member of the Steering Committee.

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

Councillor Taylor asked that Officers investigate whether it was possible for housing transfer arrangements between local authorities to have an introductory tenancy period. The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate this request and advise Members accordingly.

Councillor Taylor informed the Committee that Severn Trent PLC was now charging the public for car parking at the Hartshorne Reservoir. Councillor Harrison advised that the same applied at the Foremark and Swarkestone Reservoirs. Councillor Taylor requested that the above be investigated by Officers as a Severn Trent PLC employee had advised him that the car parking charge had been imposed at the request of the District Council. The Director of Community Services agreed to investigate the introduction of car parking charges by Severn Trent PLC at various reservoir sites in the District and advise Members accordingly.

Councillor Whyman expressed concern that the Council's existing Council housing allocations policy did not allow tenants to move to more desirable Council properties within the District. The Director of Community Services

advised that he did not think the allocations policy was so restrictive, but he would investigate the matter and submit a report to a future Meeting of the Committee.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/15. SUPPORTING PEOPLE – EXPENDITURE OF NON-RECURRENT FUNDS

The Committee considered a report on the Council's receipt of one-off Supporting People funds from Derbyshire County Council, which requested approval for the spending of the funding.

Members were advised that Derbyshire County Council had for the financial year 2005/06 predicted a £1 million underspend of Supporting People funds. This was due mainly to delays in some long term service developments. In January 2006 the County Council Cabinet had approved allocations of the underspend and allocated £62,500 to each District/Borough Council in Derbyshire. There was some flexibility how Members may wish to distribute the funds and the following conditions were attached:-

- The services to be delivered must meet the Supporting People Grant Conditions.
- The services provided were to be in addition to existing provision.
- The services should meet agreed strategic targets to support people in their own homes.

In March 2006 the District's Core Strategic Housing Group agreed that the funding should initially be restricted to the District Council and those Registered Social Landlords which operated in South Derbyshire. Five applications were received, which were considered first by Derbyshire Supporting People to assess the information against the eligibility criteria and scored accordingly. The Panel was made up from the Core Strategic Housing Group (four Officers and one Member) which met on 23rd June 2006 to assess and score the eligible bids. The following five applications were received and considered:-

- South Derbyshire Council – The Sanctuary Project
- Trident Housing Association – Lemon Grove Women's Refuge
- Trident Housing Association – Substance Misuse Worker for Young People
- Trident Housing Association – Resettlement Worker for Young People
- Walbrook Housing Association – Floating Support for People with Chaotic Life Styles

RESOLVED:-

That, having considered the recommendations of the Core Strategic Housing Group, the following grants be awarded:-

- (1) South Derbyshire District Council - The Sanctuary Project £12,232, to cover a 24 month period.***
- (2) Trident Housing Association – Lemon Grove Women's Refuge £50,268 [balance of funds to cover a 21 month period].***

HCS/16. PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE 17 (PPG17): PLANNING FOR OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

The Committee considered a report on a methodology for establishing the provision of open space, outdoor sports pitches and built facilities which would form the basis for negotiations with developers when determining planning applications. Members were advised that the report had been considered at the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting on 13th July 2006 as the planning policy issues in terms of formulas were a matter for that Committee.

The Committee was informed that a study had been undertaken based on Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and included an assessment of the three main leisure provision areas, built facilities, outdoor sports pitches and open space provision. The research undertaken had audited the provision which existed already, identified shortfalls and offered guidance on how these could be addressed, particularly in dealing with new developments. The survey was intended as an objective basis for negotiation and a reference point for challenges. Government guidance indicated that negotiations with developments should be based on an up to date survey.

Members were informed that the completed survey contained many recommendations for services, the majority of which came within the remit of this Committee. The findings and recommendations of the research had been considered by Officers in order to provide a reasonable and appropriate methodology for use, particularly when determining planning applications and negotiating Section 106 contributions. PPG17 was essentially about setting local standards which would ensure effective provision for open space, sport and recreation for new developments. It would also allow for first time contributions to be sought towards make up existing shortfalls. The standards required should be based on a robust assessment of existing and future needs and informed by both qualitative and quantitative research. The completed study would then be used to inform the preparation of planning policy documents which would provide an objective and consistent basis for negotiations with the developers.

Assessment had been undertaken in three particular areas:-

- Built Facilities
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Open Space

The Committee was advised that there were no immediate financial implications arising from the report. However, the study and its recommendations provided an approach towards negotiating contributions towards funding leisure provision shortfalls already identified across the District. Members were reminded that it was important to note that the full cost of built facilities would never materialise from developer contributions alone.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be recommended to approve the following:-

- (1) The adoption of the standards set out in Appendix A of the report as the Council's current standards for open space and outdoor sports pitches in relation to Recreation and Tourism Policy 4 of the adopted Local Plan.**
- (2) Agreement of the formulas set out in Appendix A of the report as the basis for negotiating financial contributions where appropriate via Section 106 Agreements towards built facilities, open space and outdoor pitch provision with regard to new developments and, where appropriate, the making up of any deficit in any existing provision.**

HCS/17. AGREEMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ALL-WEATHER TRAINING PITCH (ATP) - THE PINGLE SCHOOL, SWADLINCOTE

The Committee considered a report on progress with a project to provide an All-Weather Training Pitch (APT) at the Pingle School, Swadlincote. The report also detailed the main elements of an agreement which was intended to formalise future management arrangements for the facility.

The Committee was reminded that the provision of an All-Weather Training Pitch in the Swadlincote urban area had for some time been a key objective in the South Derbyshire Facilities Strategy. In September 2005 it had been confirmed that the Football Foundation was prepared to contribute approximately 50% of the total project costs with the remainder being funded with equal contributions from Pingle School and this Council. Members were advised that an important factor in formalising future management arrangements for the school site and meeting the requirements of the Football Foundation for the acceptance of the grant offer was the production and signing of a legally binding agreement. The draft agreement had been prepared and was being considered by the School Governors. The key elements of the draft agreement were summarised as follows:-

- The asset is the school's.
- The Council's interest is in developing and safeguarding community use of the facility.
- The agreement sets out when the facility will be available to the school and when it will be available to the community.
- The school will have responsibility for the "day to day" management of the site, details of which are identified in the agreement.
- The school will retain all income from the direct hire of the facilities, the majority of which will be used to fund the requirements of "day to day" management.
- A proportion of the income will need to be set aside as a sinking fund to cover the eventual replacement of the carpet.
- An operational management team will be established to oversee the management and development of the pitch, which will include the Council's Youth Engagement Through Sport Officer.
- The operational management team will be overseen by a strategic management group comprising senior representatives of the main stakeholders, including a Member representative from this Council.

Members were advised that the Council's contribution to the project was £101,000, which was being matched by Pingle School. The estimated total project costs were £406,000, and the Council's contribution was included in its Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:-***That the Committee:-***

- (1) Notes the progress made in the delivery of the All Weather Training Pitch [ATP] at the Pingle School.***
- (2) Approves in principle the Chair of the Council signing the agreement on behalf of the Council, subject to no significant changes to the draft agreement being requested by Pingle School.***
- (3) Nominates Councillor Tilley to attend meetings of the Strategic Management Group once it is formally constituted.***

HCS/18. UNIFORMS FOR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

The Committee considered a report, which asked Members to determine the style and design of the uniform to be worn by the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens.

Members were advised it was intended that the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens would provide a key service in dealing with not only low level environmental crime but providing information for other agencies, including the Police to help tackle anti-social behaviour more efficiently. The uniforms of the Wardens would need to be relatively formal, thereby conveying an appearance of authority. It was proposed that uniforms consisting of dark trousers, white shirts and green ties or cravats would be provided. A high visibility waterproof jacket and fleece combination would also be provided. To assist identification of Wardens, the Council's Crest would be embroidered on the left side of the shirt, fleece and jacket with the words "SDDC Safer Neighbourhood Warden" beneath. The jacket and fleece would also have the Council Crest embroidered on the back in a large font with "Safer Neighbourhood Warden" beneath. The Committee was advised that these proposals would ensure that Wardens were easily identifiable by the public and had maximum impact in terms of them being seen in the District.

When determining the type and style of uniforms for the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens, a number of elements should be considered:-

- Uniforms should ensure that staff were instantly recognisable as Wardens rather than Police Officers or security guards.
- Uniforms should be highly visible preferable with reflective strips.
- Uniforms should consist of layered clothing to take account of weather conditions including waterproof coats, trousers, hats and gloves and include safe and comfortable footwear.
- The uniform should support the Council's corporate image and have an embroidered logo/crest.

RESOLVED:-***That the Committee:-***

- (1) Approves the uniforms to be worn by the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens as detailed in the report.***

- (2) Authorises the Head of Environmental Services to determine the detail of the exact appearance of the uniforms for the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens, subject to their availability from suppliers.**

HCS/19. ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16TH JANUARY 2006

The Committee considered the Open Minutes of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee from the Meeting held on 16th January 2006.

RESOLVED:-

That the Open Minutes of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee from the Meeting on 16th January 2006 be received and noted.

HCS/20. BRETBY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE – 30TH NOVEMBER 2005

The Committee considered the Open Minutes of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee from the Meeting held on 30th November 2005.

RESOLVED:-

That the Open Minutes of the Bretby Crematorium Joint Committee from the Meeting held on 30th November 2005 be received and noted.

HCS/21. 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.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th June 2006 were received.

APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER – HILTON (Paragraph 3)

The Committee approved proposals to appoint a Project Manager in respect of phase one infrastructure works at the Village Hall site, Hilton.

ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16TH JANUARY 2006 (Paragraph 3)

The Exempt Minutes of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee held on 16th January 2006 were received.

R.W. SOUTHERN

CHAIR