

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the  
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way,  
Swadlincote on 26th June 2006  
at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

**Labour Group**

Councillor Lauro (Chair), Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Bell, Carroll, Dunn, Isham, Jones, Lane, Mulgrew, Pabla, Shepherd, Southerd, Southern, Taylor, Tilley, Whyman M.B.E. and Wilkins.

**Conservative Group**

Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Lemmon and Nalty.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Richards (Labour Group), Councillors Bale, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Littlejohn, Shaw and Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group) and Councillor Mrs. Walton (Independent Member).

CL/24. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised that he had attended sixteen engagements since 1st June 2006, a number of which had been to voluntary organisations. He highlighted particular engagements, including the Festival of Leisure held the previous weekend. He reminded Members that his Civic Service would be held at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 16th July at Christ Church of Linton and Castle Gresley.

CL/25. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader paid tribute to Councillor Lauro as this was his first Meeting since being elected Chair of the Council. He was sure that Councillor Lauro and his consorts would fulfil their role with dignity and be a credit to the District during their year of office.

CL/26. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive thanked the Chair for his attendance at the Festival of Leisure the previous weekend. He spoke about the improvements made to the Maurice Lea Memorial Park and had received excellent feedback from those attending this event.

CL/27. **COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS**

There were no amendments to the compositions of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels.

CL/28. **SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

There were no amendments to the compositions of Substitute Panels

CL/29. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no amendments to the Council's representatives on Outside Bodies.

CL/30. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

It was reported that the Council had a statutory duty to publish a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30th June each year. Since 2004, statutory guidance had linked reporting requirements in the BVPP to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) outcomes. As the Council was rated as "fair" under CPA it was required to include certain information in the BVPP and this was outlined within the report.

The Council had also been advised to include details in the Plan of the efficiency savings required as part of the "Gershon" agenda. The BVPP was subject to audit by the Audit Commission and a formal report on the Plan was made as part of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

A copy of the draft BVPP for 2006 had been circulated. This was the Council's 7th Plan and set out its record of delivering local services along with plans and priorities for improvements. Details were provided of the sections contained within the Plan. It built upon the quarterly performance reports that were now made to Members as part of the "achieving more" performance management framework. These covered progress in achieving milestones, actions and targets for the 2005/08 Corporate Plan, for the 2005/06 CPA Improvement Plan, the Community Strategy Year 1 Action Plan and BVPIs for 2005/06.

The key message was that overall performance had improved on last year, with 84% of targets being achieved or partially achieved. This compared with 61% in 2004/05. Looking ahead, the BVPP also detailed targets for the new Corporate Plan and an updated Improvement Plan. It included BVPIs for 2006/07 and the following two years, together with the Community Strategy Year 2 Action Plan, which would be presented to the Local Strategic Partnership Event. Many of the targets were "stretching", in order to secure further improvements in the quality of local services. The Plan would be circulated to partner organisations, made available through libraries and the Council's website. An item would be included in the staff team briefing and published in the Council newspaper, "The News".

Slides had been circulated from a presentation to the Improvement Panel. This document gave further detail on the Council's overall performance and that related to the Corporate Plan, the CPA Improvement Plan, the Community Strategy and with regard to Best Value Performance Indicators. For each of these areas, information was also provided on the targets for the period 2006 to 2009. In conclusion, there were two service areas that had priority indicator targets that were projected not to be top quartile by 2008/09, in waste management and planning. It was suggested that these

be reviewed by the relevant policy committee. There was a need to continue the good progress made to date and to develop the “achieving more” framework, to include “stretching” targets, Audit Commission data quality standards and linking performance to value for money.

The Leader of the Council presumed that a succinct, digestible executive summary would also be provided and this was confirmed. The Leader found the report exceptionally encouraging and stressed the importance of it. It showed how the Council should perform over the following years; it would be considered by the District Auditor and there might be grounds to revisit the Council’s rating under the CPA. There was a need to be realistic as the Council could not aim to achieve all targets and it needed to prioritise and target funding accordingly. He spoke of the significance of these “stretching” targets, which if achieved, would give the Council an “excellent” rating in CPA terms. He recognised the importance of the direction of travel and the Council was moving in the right direction. He welcomed the Plan and thanked those involved for the work undertaken in producing it.

Councillor Harrison suggested minor modifications to the text relating to budgets and he questioned whether there was duplication on a section about Council services. He sought clarification with regard to Corporate Plan performance and on achieving targets, which was duly provided. Councillor Atkin also proposed an amendment to the draft document, to seek the inclusion of Elvaston Castle within relevant sections of the profile of the District and the Council. Officers provided further information to respond to the issues raised. It was noted that delegated authority was sought for any minor modifications to be agreed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Best Value Performance Plan be approved.***
- (2) That the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader) be authorised to make any final changes to the Best Value Performance Plan prior to its publication.***

M. LAURO

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.