

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th November 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Cllr Watson (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Brown, Ford, Mrs Hall, Mrs Patten, Smith and Stanton

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Frost, Mulgrew, Southerd, Rhind and Taylor

In Attendance

Councillor Atkin

EDS/48 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Roberts, whom was substituted by Councillor Smith.

EDS/49 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th November 2014 were approved as a true record.

EDS/50 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received from its members relating to any of the items on today's agenda.

EDS/51 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from elected members had been received.

EDS/52 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

EDS/53 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that there were no Overview & Scrutiny Committee reports for it to consider.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/54 HEALTH & SAFETY ADVICE SERVICE

Members considered a report on the Health & Safety Advice Service, which the Council provides to businesses in the 'D2 N2' Local Economic Partnership (LEP) area. South Derbyshire had, it was explained, received external funding through the Local Economic Partnership to pay for this service. The business community had welcomed the support and the tangible savings it had helped to achieve.

Further external funding had been provided by the LEP to continue the service until the end of the financial year. The Council proposed to use this funding to 'backfill' the work of the officer charged with providing the service. This would be done by contracting relevant professional support, via an agency. To secure the longer term provision of the service, it was proposed that a bid be submitted to the European Union's Regional Growth Fund to help meet the costs of providing the service during 205/16.

Members discussed the report and the evaluation of the scheme, which was appended to it. In this context, they noted that comparatively few of those who had used the service had actually provided feedback on it. The Committee felt that willingness to provide feedback should be made a condition for receiving the service. Members welcomed what had been achieved and the contribution which the service had made to local businesses and their customers. They felt that the service ought to continue and that a bid for European Union funding be submitted in order to secure the necessary funding.

Resolved:

To approve continued support for the provision of a regional health and safety business advice service for the remainder of the 2014/15 financial year;

To approve the submission of a bid to the European Union's Regional Growth Fund for the continuation of the service in 2015/16

EDS/55 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Committee was asked to endorse the publication of the Local Development Scheme (LDS). Members were reminded that the Council had a statutory duty to maintain an up to date LDS, setting out the programme for preparing those documents required for the Local Plan and also those documents to be written as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's).

It was pointed out that since the Committee had last considered the LDS the proposed Local Development Plan had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, who would shortly carry out a hearing to determine whether

the plan was 'sound' and whether all legal requirements had been met when preparing it.

Members were also told that the Council has a duty to co-operate with other neighbouring local authorities when preparing the local plan. Some places have carried out this responsibility by producing joint development plans with their neighbours. South Derbyshire, it was explained, had chosen to prepare its own document; albeit one which was 'aligned' to the plans prepared by neighbouring councils.

The Committee was advised that a formal resolution was required, confirming that the authority had consciously chosen to proceed with its own local plan, aligned with the strategic priorities of its neighbours, rather than produce a joint plan with other local authorities. This would help to make sure that the Council's compliance with its duty to co-operate could not be successfully challenged.

Members agreed with this approach. It was recognised that to go back to first principles and to seek to produce a joint document with others would be neither practical nor desirable.

Resolved:-

That the Committee endorse 'option one' identified in Section 3.6 of the report, that the Council continue to progress a separate South Derbyshire Plan, prepared on an aligned basis and with the benefit of joint evidence collated with neighbouring local authorities.

EDS/56 **TICKNALL CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Members were reminded that the Committee had considered a report dealing with the other Conservation Area Character Statements at its last meeting. It was agreed at this meeting that approval of the Ticknall Conservation Area Character Statement be put on hold, so that further local evidence about the history of the area could be assessed and, if necessary, reflected in the statement.

The Committee was informed that this additional evidence had now been assessed and incorporated into the final draft of the statement. The changes to the original draft largely involved an extension to the area of high architectural potential relating to the pottery industry.

The Committee welcomed the work that had taken place to produce the Conservation Area Character Statement for Ticknall and the contribution made by local people in preparing it. Members agreed that the Statement now be adopted.

RESOLVED:-

That the Conservation Area Character Statement for Ticknall be adopted.

The Director of Community & Planning Services be given delegated powers, to inform land owners of the additional areas of high architectural potential, now covered by the Statement.

EDS/57 **PLANNING AND TRAVELLERS**

The Committee was informed that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had published a consultation paper setting out proposed changes on planning policies for traveller sites. In particular, it proposed that when travellers had ceased to travel they should be treated no differently to members of the settled community. It also suggested that planning policy be altered, so that local authorities were required to 'very strictly' limit new traveller site development in open countryside, rather than just 'strictly' limit these developments, as the policy currently specifies.

RESOLVED:-

That the Chief Executive be authorised to prepare with the agreement of the Chairman of the Committee a response to this consultation paper and to submit this response to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

EDS/58 **CORPORATE PLAN**

Members considered the latest performance report for the Corporate Plan 2009-15. This covered the second quarter of the current financial year, or 1st July to 30th September 2014. The Committee was informed that most of the targets included in the plan had been achieved. The reasons for the lack of progress in some areas were explained. For instance, it was pointed out that on GP03, temporary staffing difficulties had meant that the 'Jobs Gazette' had not been produced. This was the reason why the indicator had been categorised as 'red' or as a 'fail' – even though the Council had actually held the biggest ever jobs and career fair, which was the other part of the indicator.

In this context, the Committee discussed the Council's performance when dealing with planning applications, which had fallen slightly. This had been caused, it was stated, by staff shortages that had now been rectified and the aim was that this measure should once again be classed as 'green' or in other words achieved within the near future.

RESOLVED:-

To note the performance information in relation to the Council's Corporate Performance Plan for the period 1st July to 30th September 2014.

EDS/59 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its revised work programme for the year.

RESOLVED:-

To approve the updated work programme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED:-

EDS/60 ***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 would be 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.***

EDS/61 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from elected members had been received

EDS/62 **EXEMPT MINUTES**

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2014 were approved as a true record.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 18.45.