

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COMMITTEE

09 November 2023

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor S Taylor (Chair) and Councillor K Storey (Vice-Chair) and Councillors A Archer, I Hudson, J Jackson, V Redfern, B Stuart and A Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors K Haines, J Lowe and P Watson.

Liberal Democrats

Councillor G Andrew

Non-Grouped

Councillor A Wheelton

EDS/40 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Hudson (Labour Group).

EDS/41 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

EDS/42 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

EDS/43 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/44 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023-24**
(QUARTER 2 – 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER)

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report highlighting that the measures for this Committee were on track and there was one update for this Committee's Risk Register.

Members raised concerns on the development of Swadlincote Town Centre, new initiatives for waste and recycling, an indication of when figures would be available for Biodiversity Net Gain and an update on the appointment of the Climate and Environment Officer.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services informed the Committee that developments for Swadlincote included indoor market event space and ongoing development of the Delph. The Head of Operational Services confirmed to the Committee that the dry recycling rate was static and that a joint approach with Derbyshire County Council would be explored which would include the mandate for separate food waste from 2025.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services informed the Committee that the Climate and Environment Officer had been appointed and had joined South Derbyshire District Council.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing informed the Committee that it was expected that figures for Biodiversity Net Gain would be available between March and April 2024

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

1.2 The Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's services.

EDS/45 **CCTV IN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES POLICY**

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report confirming that the consultation had been completed and that there was not enough evidence to make CCTV in private hire vehicles a mandatory requirement.

Members raised queries about the number of responses that had been received from the public and noted it was a disappointing result.

The Senior Licensing Officer confirmed to the Committee that the next consultation would be extended to a wider audience.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the report.

- 1.2 The Committee approved the active monitoring of complaints and investigations by Licensing Officers with a view to assessing the need for mandatory CCTV in licensed vehicles on an ongoing basis.**

EDS/46 **FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to the Committee highlighting the proposed changes to fixed penalty notices and South Derbyshire District Council's performance in comparison to national statistics.

Members requested a further report in November 2024 to review the levels of offences and fines. Members wished to express thanks and support to Dennis Bateman of the Environmental Services team for his contributions over several years of service with South Derbyshire District Council.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. The Committee approved the proposed changes as per the report, to the local use of prescribed types of Fixed Penalty Notices and where appropriate, to take enforcement action in relation to environmental offences.**
- 1.2. The Committee authorised delegated authority to Environmental Officers to issue fixed penalty notices in accordance with the approved variable scale within the report.**

EDS/47 **APPROVAL OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT 2022-23**

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report with an overview of the Section 106 Agreement obligations, contributions not yet allocated and the projects that had been delivered.

Members noted an excellent report and thanked all concerned for the good work at Badger Hollow and improvements to play equipment.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) for the 2022-23 financial year, attached to the report as Appendix A.**

EDS/48 **PREPARING FOR THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report highlighting the need for the document to be published by 01 January 2024.

Members discussed various points in the report including the potential impact to staff, the fees associated with Pre-Application Planning, raising the BNG rate from 10% to 20%, charges to developers, network mapping, wildlife sites of less than 20 acres, visibility of the final report and a requirement for training for Members.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing confirmed to the Committee that a report would be provided in early 2024 in conjunction with the Local Plan Working Group and that although Pre-Application charging had not been introduced it would be considered in the future due to the financial impact of resourcing. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing confirmed that local wildlife and sites of scientific interest had been mapped and that the Council's Ecologist would be assessing the BNG metrics, understanding sites adjacent to wildlife corridors, renewable energy survey and the mapping application in conjunction with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

The Chair confirmed that although legislation requires a minimum 10% BNG, it may be possible to increase this to 20% via the Local Plan. The Chair confirmed that the final report would be reviewed with the Local Plan Working Group prior to publication in January 2024.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the contents of the report and approved that the information contained within the report and Appendix 1 to the report be compiled into a Biodiversity Duty document for publication by 01 January 2024.

1.2 The Committee delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) in consultation with the Chair of the Environmental and Development Services Committee and the Local Plan Working Group to approve the Biodiversity Duty statement before its publication.

EDS/49 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme, attached as Annexe A to the report.

EDS/50 **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 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.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

PLANNING SERVICES REVIEW

The Committee approved the recommendations within the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:25 hours.

COUNCILLOR S TAYLOR

CHAIR