

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COMMITTEE

26 January 2023

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Taylor (Chair) and Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chair) and
Councillors Heath, M Mulgrew, Singh and Southerd

Conservative Group

Councillors Brown, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Haines, Lemmon and Watson.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

In attendance

Councillor Gee
Councillor Smith

EDS/54

APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

EDS/55

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was informed that no declarations had been made.

EDS/56

**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/57

**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/58 **CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to the Committee which gave an update of work carried out during the previous 12 months. The Committee was informed that the proposed amended terms of reference was the result of an audit request.

Members raised queries regarding training, staff travel and the use of electric bikes.

The Head of Environmental Services informed the Committee that internal training was to be considered and that staff travel figures would be updated following the 2022 Staff Travel Survey.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) addressed the Committee and confirmed that progress was being made regarding the use of electric bikes and that a report would be presented to the Committee in the future when necessary.

Members commended the report and the work that had been undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. The Committee noted the progress made in improving the environmental performance of the Council further to the Committee establishing a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group in August 2018.***
- 1.2. The Committee approved the amended terms of reference for the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group.***
- 1.3. The Committee noted the content of the report and approved that the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group was making good progress in delivering the environmental improvements contained within its terms of reference.***

EDS/59 **AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT**

The report was presented to the Committee by the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing regarding progress the Council had made in relation to policies and the Local Plan. It was noted that the 5 year land supply and housing completions were good. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing outlined the key points that included employment land take up, allocated housing sites requirements and a review being undertaken noting that housing figures and distribution would be included.

Members commended the report and congratulated the Council on the success of the 5 year plus housing plan and the delivery of 919 homes per year. Concern was raised by Members regarding the quality of builds, the infrastructure, the use of brownfield sites and affordable housing.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing confirmed that the quality of the housing was ensured and covered by policies. It was noted that dialogue had taken place with healthcare providers and that where necessary, commuted sums were paid to assist with the delivery of healthcare provision. It was noted that brownfield sites had been used predominantly for employment land but consideration would be given to the use for housing provision.

It was noted that where affordable housing was not possible then a commuted sum would be paid. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing explained that it was the Council's intention to increase the amount of affordable housing and that new policies for housing would be considered.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the content of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and authorised the publication of the document on the Council's website.

EDS/60 **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**

The report was presented to the Committee by the Planning Policy Assistant regarding the request from Etwall Parish Council to enable them to create a Local Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that there was no known reason why Etwall should not be designated as a neighbourhood area.

As a Local Ward Member Councillor Brown addressed the Committee in support of the application.

RESOLVED:

1.1. The Committee formally designated the Etwall Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the application from Etwall Parish Council.

EDS/61 **REVISION TO ACTION PLAN FOR NATURE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee and gave an overview of the Action Plan and the 5 key objectives and targets. Nature works and main schemes and projects were highlighted along with consideration of biodiversity net gain.

Members raised queries regarding the National Forest, grass verges and the role of the new biodiversity officer.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services addressed the Committee and confirmed that the Council worked closely with the National Forest, and that the planting of wild flowers in grass verges was to be expanded.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing informed the Committee it was the intention to expand the role of biodiversity with a parks and greens spaces officer.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee acknowledged the work completed under the Action Plan for Nature (APN) Work Programme, during 2022.

1.2 The Committee approved the revised Work Programme for 2023 as per Appendix 1 of the report.

EDS/62 **TOYOTA CITY**

The Head of Economic Development and Growth addressed the Committee and summarised the report noting the importance of Toyota manufacturing in the area and how 90% of production was exported overseas. The Head of Economic Development and Growth outlined the history, friendships and benefits that Toyota brought to the area. The Committee was requested to consider and approve the recommendations within the report.

Members commended the report and the excellent partnership that the Council had with Toyota.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee recognised the importance of the relationship with Toyota City to South Derbyshire, particularly in terms of inward investment and employment.

1.2 The Committee approved that the activities of the Toyota City Partnership Board continued to be supported.

1.3 The Committee approved that a one-off budget of £20,000 be allocated from General Fund Reserves to support the further development of the successful relationship for the benefit of the local economy.

EDS/63 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Committee and confirmed that other reports would be added to the Work Programme once dates had been confirmed.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

EDS/64 **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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME (EEP) CONTRACTS AND FUNDING

The Committee approved the recommendations within the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:05 hours

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

CHAIR