

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

14th October 2010

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Hewlett (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale (substitute for Councillor Murray), Mrs. Brown, Grant, Mrs. Hood and Roberts.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn (substitute for Mrs. Gillespie), Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Richards and Shepherd.

**In attendance**

Councillors Atkin and Mrs. Farrington (Conservative Group).

HCS/25. **MINUTES**

The Open and Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2010, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/26. **GET SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PLAYING PROJECT**

A report was submitted informing Members of the previous three years' achievements through the delivery of the Get South Derbyshire Playing Project, and it provided this year's figures to date. It also sought approval for the development of options for increasing income, to support the continuation of current levels of service.

The Get South Derbyshire Playing Project was funded with a £200,000 grant from the Big Lottery. The grant allocated £93,579 towards fixed play sites and £106,421 towards play schemes, over a three-year period. Activities and equipment available in the District for play scheme provision included the Sportsmobile, Climbing Wall, Xtreme Sports/Wheels Mobile, Inflatable Laser Games and the Play Mobile, which was funded directly with a Big Lottery Grant in 2008. Full details were given on the number of sessions and participations delivered in the last three years.

As Big Lottery funding was due to end this year, an exit strategy had been considered, to ensure that there would not be a significant drop in the number of play sessions and participations across the District in 2011. Over the last two years, income levels for the play schemes had been increased, and costs had been reduced through reducing the Play Officer post to part time from full time. This had enabled the project to be extended until at least the end of 2011/12. It was proposed to continue this work and maintain an efficient service, with particular emphasis on income generation, through bookings by

parish councils and other groups, and the potential introduction of a Leisure/Play Card which would give a free/reduced price for participants. It was hoped that other income would be secured through the Positive Activities for Young People Partnership, which had previously supported the cost of delivery in priority locations.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the success of the Get South Derbyshire Playing Project be noted, and further work on developing income generation to support further provision across the District, be approved.***

HCS/27. **SHELTERED HOUSING VISION AND STANDARDS**

A report was submitted which advised of a number of sheltered housing properties identified as being in lower demand from applicants aged 60 and over. It sought approval to declassify them in line with the Sheltered Housing Vision and Standards. A key part of this Vision was that sheltered housing should be accessible and where possible, accommodation provided on one level. A number of the properties now recommended for declassification were only accessible via a flight of steps or stairs. In addition, to comply with the Government's definition of sheltered housing, properties also needed to be in relative close proximity to other facilities such as shops, bus routes, etc.

Seventy five properties were proposed to be declassified and a full list was provided within the report. It was proposed that the age limit for applicants for these properties was reduced in order to allow a wider range of residents to bid for them when they became empty, thereby helping to meet the high demand for properties for single people and childless couples aged over 50.

Consultation with residents would be completed during late October and November, and, providing that no major objections were raised, it was proposed to declassify the properties from 1st December 2010. If significant objections were received, a further report would be brought to Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the declassification of a number of sheltered properties, which were in lower demand from applicants aged over 60, and generally didn't comply with the established Sheltered Housing Vision and Standards, be approved.***

HCS/28. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved.***

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.