

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

23rd August 2012

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Murray (substitute for Councillor Ford), Smith (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hall), Stanton and Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Patten).

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Richards (substitute for Councillor Chahal), Shepherd (substitute for Councillor Tilley), Southerd (substitute for Councillor Stuart) and Taylor.

EDS/10. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Ford, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Patten (Conservative Group) and Councillors Chahal, Stuart and Tilley (Labour Group)

EDS/11. **MINUTES**

The Open and Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st May 2012, were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/12. **SWADLINCOTE TOWN CENTRE VISION AND STRATEGY**

A report was submitted that sought Members approval for the new Vision and Strategy for Swadlincote Town Centre.

It was confirmed that the first Swadlincote Town Centre Vision and Strategy was adopted in February 2001. Following this, an update and monitoring report was published in September 2005, which outlined the significant progress that had been made. In November 2010, Members endorsed the establishment of a joint officer working group with Derbyshire County Council, to draft a new Vision and Strategy. A proposed approach was supported by Members in August 2011, based upon an extensive programme of research and consultation. The research encompassed urban design issues, ranging from historic buildings and land use, to pedestrian routes and car parking. Consultation also included surveys and events with Members, partner organisations, businesses, property owners, shoppers and the local community.

The current Vision and Strategy had been prepared in 2 parts, which were included as annexes to the report

The Vision and Strategy was based upon a number of principles that focussed on 3 areas for action - Design, Promotion and Economic Restructuring. The proposals were set out as a series of Masterplans which were not intended to be restrictive but rather aimed to inspire, encourage and shape the next phases of the Town Centre development. 3 themed Masterplans – focusing on townscape, movement and investment – had been drawn up using the assessment work undertaken, plus feedback from the public and businesses, which informed and inspired new ideas and solutions. These were then drawn together as an overall Masterplan.

The Action Plan identified a series of actions that, if pursued by the public, private and voluntary/community sectors working in partnership, would contribute to the realisation of the vision over the coming years.

The Chief Executive commended the report to Members, and added that this was a steer towards further developing Swadlincote into a vibrant, dynamic and successful town centre.

Members were fully supportive of the report, and requested that their congratulations be passed onto the Officers concerned.

RESOLVED:-

That the new Vision and Strategy for Swadlincote Town Centre be approved.

EDS/13. **BUSINESS ADVICE**

A report was submitted which requested support for the provision of a business advice service, to fill a gap in the support provided to local companies that had emerged due to ongoing changes in the activities of other agencies.

A business advice service had previously been provided by Business Link, which was funded by the former East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA), which had ceased in November 2011. Business Link was now principally a web-based service, where businesses could view information and advice. This had left a gap in terms of a general business advice service that would address the needs of companies not meeting the criteria of the main Government funded programmes.

The report proposed to introduce an interim business advice service, operating initially until 31st March 2013. This service would offer free independent face-to-face business advice to entrepreneurs and companies in the District. It would be designed to complement the targeted support provided by the Manufacturing Advice Service and UK Trade and Investment Services, the Growth Accelerator project and other smaller scale initiatives. It would raise awareness and make referrals to these other forms of assistance. It would particularly benefit new start and smaller businesses which were not in a position to pay for business advice from commercial providers.

It was proposed that the service operated on a pilot basis for approximately 6 months, during the second half of 2012/13. Opportunities would be explored to attract other funding, which would enable the hours of operation of the service to be extended. At the end of the period, the service would be reviewed in light of its achievements, the services being offered by other agencies, and available budgets. It might then be concluded or extended accordingly.

It was proposed that a business adviser operate for the equivalent of approximately one day per week, typically meeting businesses on their premises. They would be supported by the Economic Development team.

The revenue cost for providing this service for approximately one day a week for a period of some six months was expected to be up to £5,000 in 2012/13. This included the cost of adviser time, plus related travel and telephone costs. This was to be funded from existing South Derbyshire Partnership funding, provided to the Partnership's 'Sustainable Development Group', and reviewed prior to any commitment beyond 2012/13.

RESOLVED:-

That a business advice service be established for the remainder of 2012/13, as per the report.

EDS/14. **RIVER MEASE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

A report was submitted which explained why the Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS) was required, to allow development connecting to the foul sewer network, which in turn discharged to the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or its headwaters, and made Members aware of the implications of not adopting the scheme.

The River Mease was designated as a SAC under the European Community (EC) Habitats Directive. Designated European wildlife sites had strong legal protection against harm from development such that the Council must not grant planning permission, unless any harmful effects on the site would be fully mitigated. It was currently considered that existing levels of phosphate in the river were a threat to the sites integrity and additional wastewater flows to wastewater treatment works in the catchment could add additional phosphates into the SAC. In order to facilitate future development across the River Mease catchment in a way that would not lead to an increase in phosphate in the SAC, a Developer Contribution Scheme had been prepared. The Scheme would allow actions to be taken to reduce current levels of phosphate, so that new development did not result in any net deterioration of water quality in the SAC. Developer contributions would apply to all new properties which sought to connect to the mains sewers in the villages of Overseal, Netherseal, Lullington and Smisby, and varied in cost from £98 to £350 per home, depending on the size of the house and how water efficient the proposed property would be. The scheme would also apply to non-residential properties, and cost would be worked out on an individual basis, depending on the additional phosphate loading from wastewater. Full details were provided on the draft River Mease Developer Contribution Scheme, which had been

produced on behalf of the River Mease Programme Board by Habitats Directive specialists David Tyldesley and Associates, and was available to view on the Council's website.

Full details of the implications of not adopting the scheme were also provided within the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the contents and scope of the draft Developer Contribution Scheme be noted.***
- (2) That the River Mease Programme Board be informed that the principle of levying a charge for new development within the River Mease Catchment be endorsed.***
- (3) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee be authorised to adopt the scheme and determine the details of its implementation in partnership with the Programme Board and on behalf of the Council.***
- (4) That the charging schedule be published on the District Council's website following adoption of the Scheme.***

EDS/15. **RECYCLING CONTRACT**

The Council was currently tendering for its Recycling Contract. Tenders were due to be received in September 2012. It was requested that three nominated Members assist in the evaluation and final recommendation of a contractor to the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That Councillors Stanton, Watson and Taylor be nominated to be involved in the assessment of the Recycling Contract.

EDS/16. **CORPORATE PLAN 2009 – 14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**
1st APRIL – 30th JUNE 2012

A report was submitted which detailed achievements for the quarter ending 30th June 2012, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009 –2014. The Corporate Plan consisted of four main themes or priorities, and this Committee was responsible for the delivery of 3 outcomes within the Sustainable Growth and Opportunity theme. Tables were included within the report which summarised the progress made against key projects and also a summary of performance against targets for both the current quarter and projected outturn for the year. This showed that all three quarterly targets had been achieved.

In addition, a table was included which detailed all known service risks, control mechanisms and review dates. This table outlined the main risks across the Sustainable Growth and Opportunity theme of the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Council's progress and achievements for the period 1st April 2012 to 30th June 2012, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009/14 be noted.***
- (2) That where performance has failed to reach the specified target, the response be noted.***

EDS/17. **BUS SHELTER PETITION**

Members were informed of the receipt of a petition relating to a bus shelter on Grampian Way, in accordance with the Petition Protocol.

It was requested that an update be sent as soon as possible to both the local Members and lead petitioner.

RESOLVED:-

That the receipt of a Petition relating to a request for a bus shelter on Grampian Way, Stenson Fields, be noted, in accordance with the Petition Protocol.

EDS/18. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

RESOLVED:-

That the updated work programme be approved.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.