

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

11 August 2022

OPEN

Labour Group

Councillor Taylor (Chair), Councillor Pegg (Vice Chair) and Councillors, Heath, Singh, Southerd and Tilley

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd (Substitute for Cllr Redfern), Brown, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Haines and Lemmon

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

EDS/10

APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that apologies have been received from Councillor Redfern (Conservative Group) and Councillor Singh (Labour Group).

EDS/11

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

EDS/12

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/13

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/14 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2022-2023 QUARTER 1 – 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE)**

The report was introduced to the Committee by the Chief Executive who highlighted the impact of the Covid Pandemic.

The Head of Environmental Services addressed the Committee and gave an update of the service area noting that the e log reading had helped with the regulatory action.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing informed the Committee how targets had been impacted by recruitment and retention issues. The Committee was updated regarding planning applications being dealt with by the Planning Team and was advised that regular updates would be reported to the Committee.

Members requested an update on the appointment of the Tree officer.

The Chief Executive advised that an exit strategy had been looked into for the existing Tree Officer and the recruitment for a replacement and timeframes were to be confirmed.

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/15 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN (2021-30)**

The Climate and Environment Officer presented the report to the Committee giving updates on Carbon Emissions and the review of Audit recommendations. It was noted that the in house carbon emissions had reduced from 2018/19 to 2021/22 which was in part due to the replacement of refrigerants, the increase in a low carbon fleet that included the use of Hydrogen and the installation of Electric Vehicle charging points. The Committee was informed that carbon emissions had increased in 2022 due to staff returning to the office.

Members commended the report and raised queries regarding Green Bank Leisure Centre and suggested a quarterly update report on the Climate Change Policy.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the new Head of Cultural and Community Services would be responsible for the Climate Change Policy update report.

The Climate and Environment Officer informed the Committee that following an audit there was a 25 point plan drawn up to make improvements at Green Bank Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the current progress made in reducing carbon emissions as described in the 2021/22 Annual Carbon Reduction Progress Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the recommendations set out in the Annual Review of the Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30 attached as Appendix 2 to the report.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Climate and Environment Action Plan attached as Appendix 3 to the report.***
- 1.4 The Committee welcomed the innovative approach that the Council was taking in reviewing its Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30 (hereafter referred to as 'C&E Action Plan'). To ensure continuous improvements are made, new priorities are to be set and achievements to be recognised in the Council's journey to reach its carbon neutral commitments.***
- 1.5 The Committee acknowledged that there were co-benefits of reducing carbon emissions, the most significant being the reduction in energy consumption. This co-benefit was recognised at the current time of high energy costs for supporting energy efficiency and the reduction in energy costs.***
- 1.6 The Committee recognised that the carbon reductions achieved to date were encouraging, but that the reductions necessary to achieve the net zero commitment in the Climate Emergency will require difficult future decisions and significant investment and expenditure.***

EDS/16 **ANNUAL ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT 2021-22**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to the Committee highlighting key points within the report that included Covid Compliance, the increase of fly tipping during the pandemic, the backlog of food inspections and illegal dog breeding.

Members raised concerns regarding the foster carers for dogs, the cost to the Council and the management of non-traditional food businesses.

The Head of Environmental Services informed the Committee that independent checks were carried out by a fostering charity which reduced the Council's costs by 90%. It was explained that new food businesses would need to register and that officers gave advice and guidance on compliance and food hygiene.

Councillor Smith raised a query regarding littering.

The Head of Environmental Services confirmed that the standard fine was £75 but was reduced if payment was made within 30 days of the fine being issued.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee noted the contents of the report and approved that the Council used its regulatory powers in a way proportionate to the demands for all regulatory services it provided.

EDS/17 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report summarising the key points and sought approval of the recommendations within the report noting an amendment to the date that should have read 31 March 2025.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee agreed to the Council entering into a revised Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire County Council attached as per Appendix 1 to the report for the next three years to 31 March 2025 for the provision of archaeological services to assist in the determination of planning and other applications.

EDS/18 BIODIVERSITY CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report and noted that the Wildlife Trust had requested an extension to the end of July 2023. It was confirmed that the financial implications would be minor with a 3% uplift. It was explained that the Service Level Agreement gave a full year to see how well it worked and could be extended if necessary.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee agreed to the Council entering into a revised Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to 31 July 2023 attached as Appendix 1 to the report for the provision of biodiversity advice to assist in the determination of planning and other applications.

EDS/19 AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING APPLICATION VALIDATION PROCESS

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report to the Committee outlining the proposal that would reduce the length of the process and have a list of approved planning agents, which would remove the need for checks prior to allocation to an office. It was noted that it would reduce the process time by two to three weeks and would put the onus on the planning agent to ensure the application was completed correctly.

Members raised concerns regarding the potential to cut corners and sought clarity regarding advice to agents.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing confirmed that there would be no risk of cutting corners and advised that the process should free up time for technicians. It was further confirmed that the website would be updated to reflect the new requirements

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee agreed the amendments to the planning application validation process as outlined in the main report

EDS/20 **CENTRAL BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report and sought approval of the recommendations within the report.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee endorsed the Partnership Board Report which provided a review of the performance for years 2 and 3 of the Central Building Control Partnership; and

1.2 The Committee delegated authority to the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) to confirm a continuation of the partnership arrangements with an annual update to the Committee to assess arrangements on an ongoing basis.

EDS/21 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme

EDS/22 The Chairman may therefore move:

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 is 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 paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.

EDS/23 **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.

The meeting terminated at 19:40 hours

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

CHAIR