

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

9th April 2015

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman) and Councillors Roberts, Mrs Brown, Ford, Mrs Hall, Mrs Patten and Stanton

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Frost, Mulgrew, Stuart, Shepherd (substituting for Councillor Tilley) and Taylor

EDS/95 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Tilley.

The Committee were informed that with the Chairman's agreement the order of the agenda would change and agenda item 8 would be reported on first followed by item 7.

EDS/96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

EDS/97 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/98 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.

EDS/99 REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee was informed that there were no Overview & Scrutiny Committee reports for it to consider.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/100 REPTON DETAILED AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Health Manager delivered a report which advised Members of the outcomes and conclusion of the most recent Detailed Air Quality Assessment in Repton. This is following the previous report in November 2013, which concluded that air quality from traffic emissions were marginally above EU Air Quality Objectives at the front of a few properties on the High Street in Repton. The approved report was subsequently submitted to DEFRA who accepted the findings and recommended that an additional full calendar year (throughout 2014) of monitoring be carried out before reaching a decision.

The full year results for air quality monitoring during 2014 had now been received and the Detailed Assessment report had concluded with a high degree of certainty that air quality in Repton meets Air Quality Objectives.

RESOLVED:

(1.1) That Members approved the contents and conclusions of the Detailed Air Quality Assessment in Repton (attached as Appendix 1).

(1.2) That Members instructed the Environmental Health Manager to issue the assessment report to DEFRA in order to meet the Council's statutory duties under the Environment Act 1995.

EDS/101 ASSESSMENT CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN - SWADLINCOTE

The Planning Development Manager delivered a report on the current progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for the Swadlincote Conservation Area. In 2013 the Council were informed of the first round of success in obtaining £8,000 to help develop ideas further and formulate the second bid in May for approximately £500,000 to carry out the delivery of the project. The HLF includes:

- Grants of between 50% and 95% for repairs and improvements to eligible buildings for a three year period between 2015/16 and 2017/18.
- The re-designing of Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Garden
- A programme to get people more involved in the town's heritage through events, activities and educational agendas.
- Improving the way that the conservation area is managed, providing advice and guidance.

As part of the bid and to follow on from the Conservation Area Character Statement, a Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) and an Article 4 for the Conservation Area were required. The consultation on the CAMP and Article 4 Direction ran from the 30th January to 13th March 2015, this included a drop in event in the Town Hall, letters to all of the buildings within the Conservation Area, supplemented by 20 information notices. Hard copies of the CAMP were held in Swadlincote library and in the

Council's reception along with hard copies of the questionnaires and the Article 4 Direction. Whilst there were several enquiries regarding the CAMP, many seeking clarification, there were no formal comments made to the consultation.

RESOLVED:

(1.1) That Members noted the report and adopted the Swadlincote Conservation Area Management Plan.

EDS/102 **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 FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

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

REORGANISATION OF THE PLANNING SERVICE

The Director of Community and Planning Services presented a report and highlighted the increase in planning applications, in particular Major applications which had more than doubled since 2012/13. The restructure aim to increase the effectiveness within the Development Management team and Performance and Administration teams, whilst provide a sustainable and appropriate structure for the delivery of these services. The restructure also provides the opportunity to build capacity and resilience in the services to recognise the increased demands placed on the Planning Service following an upturn in the economy.

RESOLVED:

(2.1) That Members recommend to the Finance and Management Committee the following changes for the restructuring of the Planning Service within the Community and Planning Directorate:

Planning Service

The proposals for the restructuring of the Planning Service structure of the Directorate are:

- a) *The creation of two teams within the existing Development Management Team to deal with planning applications.***

To create these new teams the following changes to the existing establishment are proposed;

- b) *The flexible retirement of one Principal Area Planning Officer and re-designation of that post to Principal Area Planning Officer (Major Developments).***
- c) *A new Graduate Planning Officer post for a two year fixed term contract.***

It is also proposed to make a change within the Performance and Administration Team as set out below;

- d) *A new Modern Apprentice post on a two year contract***

It is also proposed to make a change within the existing Policy Team as set out below;

- e) *To re-grade the Planning Policy Manager.***

Whilst not directly linked to changes in this report,

- f) *The Senior Engineer post to be deleted on the retirement of the current post-holder, the saving from this post will be used to finance the permanent changes proposed.***

(2.2) *That guidance on organisational change to be followed to implement these changes that include formal consultation with employees and Trade Union representatives.*

(2.3) *That the proposals outlined to appoint in the revised structure be approved in principle and subject to appropriate consultation.*

(2.4) *That appointments into the new posts detailed above be completed in line with the Council's Assimilation Procedure*

(2.5) *That, owing to the exigencies of the service, any adjustments to the dates as outlined in the report be delegated to the Director of Community & Planning Services in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of the appropriate Committees.*

(2.6) *That the appropriate employment procedures of the Council be followed to ensure that the employment implications be managed appropriately as outlined in the report.*

- (2.7) That the timescales and actions outlined in the report for the completion of the review be approved in principle.**
- (2.8) That the grades of any existing or new posts be subject to the Council's Pay and Grading Review.**
- (2.9) That subject to the completion of assimilation interviews, all changes are implemented with effect from 1st July 2015.**
- (2.10) That Planning Services income from 2014/15 be carried forward to fund the changes for the next two years.**

The meeting terminated at 6:45pm

COUNCILLOR P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN