

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th March 2003

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Southerd (Chair), Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Brooks, Carroll, Pabla, Shepherd and Whyman M.B.E.

Conservative Group

Councillors Douglas, Shaw and Mrs. Walton.

In Attendance

Councillor Harrington (Labour Group).

EDS/68. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 7th January 2003 and of the Meeting held on 30th January 2003 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/69. **REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

(a) Occupation of a Lay-by at Barrow-on-Trent by Travellers

A Ticknall Ward Member submitted a report to inform the Committee of problems caused by travellers occupying a lay-by at Barrow-on-Trent. He explained the costs incurred in clearing this site on two occasions and a possible solution for the sale of this land to an adjoining landowner. Several Members supported the need for action to prevent the future occupation of this lay-by by travellers. Derbyshire County Council was responsible for the lay-by and Members felt it should be closed and access prevented, other than to an area of adjoining farmland.

RESOLVED:-

That Derbyshire County Council be asked to close the lay-by and make it inaccessible, other than to the adjacent farm land.

(b) Litter Problems in Newhall

The Leader of the Council read a letter from Mr. Woods, a resident of Newhall about problems with litter. Mr. Woods sought the Council's assistance, recognised the need for a cultural change to reduce the amount of litter created and commented that no lengthsman service was provided for the urban area. In response, the Technical Services Manager explained the maintenance frequencies for the urban core and the responsive service provided by the Clean Team. He was asked to respond to Mr. Woods' letter.

EDS/70. DIRECT SERVICES ORGANISATION – VEHICLE AND PLANT REQUIREMENTS 2003/04

The Committee was asked to give consideration to the vehicle and plant requirements for the Direct Services Organisation for 2003/04. A 7.5 tonne lorry with multi-lift, hook lift equipment was required to replace a vehicle stolen from the Depot some months ago. Three mowers were required to replace equipment that had reached the end of its useful life. These comprised a ride-on rotary mower, a 32” rotary mower and a cylinder mower. It was proposed to replace a hired vehicle with the procurement of a 3.5 tonne tipper vehicle, to respond to increases in the grounds maintenance workload. Similarly, it was proposed to replace a hired mower with the procurement of a ride-on rotary mower. An additional heavy duty wood chipper was also required to meet current and future needs.

It was proposed to seek open tenders for these items and to select the most economically advantageous tenders received. The financial implications were reported for each item of replacement equipment. A Member questioned whether the procurement process took account of environmental issues and he spoke of the incentives available for using vehicles which operated on LPG fuel. Officers explained that this issue had been recognised in the Cleansing of the Environment Best Value Review Action Plan.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee approves the DSO vehicle and plant requirements for 2003/04.***
- (2) That tenders be sought in accordance with the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules and that Officers be authorised to select the most economically advantageous tenders received.***

EDS/71. CIVIC OFFICES CAR PARK ABUSE OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS

It was reported that there were five disabled persons parking bays in the Civic Offices car park and two further bays in the reserved access car park at the side of the Offices. There was some misuse of these bays by people who did not have disabilities and periodically complaints were received.

Officers had discussed this matter with the Chair of the Local Access Group, Councillor Harrington. Consideration had been given to the use of wheel clamps on offending vehicles, but at this stage, less severe measures were proposed. It was planned to erect additional signage to make it clear to car park users that they should only park in these bays if they could display the appropriate badge. When a complaint was made, this would be investigated by a member of staff. If appropriate, a letter would be attached to the vehicle using a plastic envelope with a sticky adhesive. This would ensure that the letter was not dislodged and the residue left on the vehicle was likely to act as a deterrent to the driver in the future. Following legal advice, it was suggested that the notice be placed with care to ensure that the driver’s visibility was not obscured.

The person reporting the parking violation would be asked to complete a monitoring form. Details would be kept on a database and monitored to identify repeat violations, so that letters could be sent to the vehicle’s owner,

to draw their attention to the misuse of the parking bay. Publicity was proposed to explain the reasons for this initiative and to seek the support of those visiting the Council's premises. It was proposed to run the new scheme for a three month trial period and then to submit a further report to the Committee outlining the results. Dependent on the success of the scheme, it could be decided if further measures were necessary. With the approval of the Chair, Councillor Harrington spoke to this item. He felt that this was a sensible approach and commended the report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee approves the proposals submitted to ensure the proper use of disabled persons parking bays.

EDS/72. **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 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 paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th January 2003 were received.

DIRECT SERVICES ORGANISATION – QUOTATIONS FOR SUB-CONTRACTORS TO CARRY OUT AD-HOC WORKS (Paragraph 9)

The Committee accepted a quotation for the supply of ad-hoc labour and plant hire.

PURCHASE OF REFUSE FREIGHTER FROM LEASE COMPANY (Paragraph 9)

The Committee authorised the purchase of a refuse freighter.

CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SWADLINCOTE MARKET (Paragraph 8)

The Committee approved in principle a two year management agreement for the Swadlincote Market.

TRAVELLER PROBLEM – ASTON-ON-TRENT (Paragraphs 3 and 12)

The Committee authorised legal proceedings to evict a traveller from an area of Council-owned land.

NEWHALL TOILETS (Paragraph 9)

The Committee approved the disposal of the Newhall public toilets.

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR