

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote on 11th December 2003
at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Bell, Carroll, Dunn, Harrington, Isham, Jones, Lane, Lauro, Pabla, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Southern, Stone, Taylor, Whyman, M.B.E. and Wilkins.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bale (Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Lemmon, Martin, Nalty, Shaw, Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Wheeler.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mulgrew and Murphy (Labour Group).

CL/90. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed Sarah Adams from the Audit Commission to the Meeting, who would be observing the deliberations as part of the forthcoming CPA inspection process.

At the Special Council Meeting held on 27th November 2003, the Chair reminded Members that details were circulated concerning the new multi-material kerbside recycling scheme. Further copies were available at this Meeting and the Council's Recycling Officer would be happy to discuss any queries with Members.

The Chair outlined his various visits during the previous fortnight, which included the switching-on of the Swadlincote Christmas lights, a visit to Findern School earlier in the day and a presentation evening at Swadlincote Swimming Club. Forthcoming Christmas visits had been arranged to several elderly persons' accommodation and residential homes across the District.

The Chair was pleased to announce that CBVC (Corporate and Business Vehicle Contracts Limited) of Burton-on-Trent had kindly agreed to become the major sponsor of the Charity Golf Competition on 21st May 2004 at Branston Golf and Country Club. In this regard, the Chair expressed particular thanks to Richard Wileman for his generosity and assistance.

As this was the last Council Meeting of the year, the Chair wished all Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CL/91. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Further to his announcement at the Special Meeting held on 27th November 2003, the Leader updated Members on the financial settlement, advising that the responsibility for the settlement had now been transferred to the Department of Work and Pensions. The anticipated allocation of £467,000 relating to the revenues area had now been reduced to £330,000, which left a shortfall of £470,000 over the three year budget cycle. However, following representations from this Council together with other authorities, the Chancellor had announced on 10th December 2003 that £340 million would be awarded to local authorities across England to prevent council tax rises. This had provided an additional sum of £177,000 for this Council for next year and over the next three years should increase the grant received by up to £550,000. Although difficulties still remained, it was anticipated that the Council should achieve a break-even situation over the course of the budgetary planning period.

The Leader updated Members on the funding bids submitted to the Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership. He advised that the Local Strategic Partnership would receive £150,000 per annum for the next three years and also £80,000 would be awarded for environmental improvements at Coton Park and the Council for Voluntary Services would receive £7,500 towards a feasibility study. Log cabins would be provided at the Rosliston Forestry Centre and Dalbury Lees would also receive funds for a feasibility study. The Leader was pleased to announce that every funding request submitted had been approved.

CL/92. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive advised that a recommendation had now been made that a postal pilot be held in the East Midlands Region for the forthcoming European Parliamentary Election.

The Chief Executive referred to the recent award received by the Council for its IT work in connection with the National Land and Property Gazetteer and Councillor Harrington, the Member E-Champion, presented the award to the Chair of the Council.

CL/93. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

It was reported that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 13(s), Councillor Mrs. Wheeler had submitted the following motion as being urgent on the basis that the amendments to Committee and Working Panel compositions were necessary to be effective for any Meetings prior to the next ordinary Council Meeting on 22nd January 2004:-

“Development Control Committee	Councillor Ford replaces Councillor Atkin
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Atkin replaces Councillor Ford
Refuse Collection Working Panel	Councillor Harrison replaces Councillor Martin
Customer Services Working Panel	Councillor Atkin replaces Councillor Martin”

The Council agreed the motion as being urgent and accordingly, Councillor Mrs. Wheeler moved the Motion, which was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:-

That the Motion be carried.

CL/94. **DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2004-2007**

It was reported that the Corporate Plan was an important part of the Council's performance management framework, alongside the Best Value Performance Plan, Service Plans and the Employee Review and Development Scheme. The current plan differed from previous plans in several respects. For the first time, the Plan brought together the Council's ambitions for South Derbyshire along with plans and priorities for delivering local services. This was intended to support the Council's community leadership role. Targets were now set over a three-year period to bring the Plan into line with the reporting requirements of ODPM Circular 03/03 and allow the Council to plan and implement service improvements, which would have a more demonstrable impact on the lives of local people. Year one milestones and expected outcomes at the end of the Plan period had also been identified. There was a recognition in the Plan that the Council could not achieve everything it would like to do and priorities had been set based on the wishes and aspirations of local people.

The Plan had been prepared in accordance with a Brief agreed by the CPA Working Panel on 8th October 2003 and the Panel had also reviewed key aims and targets. A Members' Seminar to outline the contents of the Plan was held on 27th November 2003, at which several helpful suggestions made had now been included in the Plan. The Plan also incorporated improvement proposals identified through the preparations for the Council's first Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

The purposes of the Plan were to set out the Council's vision and ambitions for South Derbyshire, to explain the Council's plans and priorities for service e-delivery over the next three years, to provide a framework for the Council's contribution to local and regional partnerships and to help local people and organisations to become more involved in the work of the Council. The sections of the Plan were outlined and it was noted that changes had been made to the Council's existing key aims to provide more focus, reinforce points of crime and disorder to local people and promote sustainable development actively. For each of the key aims, more detailed priority themes had been developed which were then translated into targets, milestones and outcomes. Primary key aims related to caring for the environment, economic development, crime and disorder, and improving services.

There were still several issues relating to final proof reading and presentation matters which required addressing. When the Plan had been finalised, it was proposed to produce a short summary for circulation to all employees and for discussion at the cycle of Area Meetings in the Spring. Copies of the full Plan would be distributed to key stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors and a copy would also be placed on the Council's website. The costs

associated with printing and distributing the Plan would be met from existing budgets.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to an amendment necessary to the percentage figure relating to satisfaction surveys. The Leader expressed his gratitude to all staff who had contributed to the preparation of the Plan, particularly Members of the CPA Working Panel together with the Deputy Chief Executive and the Policy and Best Value Manager.

RESOLVED:-

That the Draft Corporate Plan for 2004-2007 be approved and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to approve any final changes to the Plan prior to publication and distribution.

M.J.P. BALE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.00 p.m.