

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

21st January 2021

OPEN

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Brown, Corbin, Ford, Mrs. Haines and Mrs. Patten.

Labour Group

Councillor Taylor (Chairman), Councillor Dunn (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Heath, Singh and Tilley.

Independent Group

Councillors Fitzpatrick and MacPherson.

In Attendance

Councillors Mrs. Bridgen, Gee, Hewlett, Richards, Southerd and Mrs. Wheelton.

EDS/78 APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

EDS/79 TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 13th August 2020, 15th September 2020, 24th September 2020 and 12th November 2020 were received.

EDS/80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

EDS/81 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/82 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/83 PICTORIAL WILDFLOWER PLANTING TRIAL-OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Members outlining the outcomes of the trial and the discussions with the County Council. The successful trials in Hilton, Repton and Ticknall were noted and Members were informed that officers would investigate why the site at William Nadin Way was not a success. The positive public support for the four year pilot was highlighted.

Members welcomed the excellent report and the worthy project and considered the mixed set of options for the continuation of the scheme. Members raised queries regarding outside events and the impact on increased litter, a communications campaign; the criteria for selecting the sites; and the clearance of arisings.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) and Head of Operational Services informed the Committee that discussions had taken place with the Licencing Team regarding this matter. An advertised sponsorship scheme was in place to provide additional planting on roundabouts. The Grounds Maintenance Manager had reviewed the District for suitable planting and sites where a different management regime could be piloted. It was confirmed that the sites selected were manageable within existing resources. Arising from the four pilot planting sites had been removed.

The Chairman recommended to the Committee that the scheme be extended District-wide in the long-term.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the outcome of the pictorial wildflower planting pilot scheme which was undertaken at four locations within the District during 2020.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the continuation of wildflower planting in the four pilot areas in 2021, adapted to reflect the lessons learned in the initial scheme in 2020.***
- 1.3 The Committee welcomed Derbyshire County Council's agreement for the Council to trial a different mowing regime at four sites and at two "gateways" into the District to encourage indigenous/native wildflowers, under the terms of its Agency Agreement subject to the Committee's approval.***
- 1.4 The Committee endorsed a communications campaign under the banner "First Impressions" for the work on the "gateway" sites into the District.***

1.5 The Committee noted that the above work would inform the potential development of a revised specification for its Agency Agreement with the County Council in the longer-term.

1.6 The Committee noted that the continuation of the wildflower trial and amendments to highway verge management on the proposed trial and gateway sites would be accommodated within existing budgets. However, should the Committee wish to see a District-wide expansion of the proposed trials in the longer-term then the resource implications of so doing would be the subject of a future report to this Committee and also be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

EDS/84 **AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT**

The Planning Policy Officer presented the report to Members outlining the key contents which featured the delivery of the Local Plan, Development Planning and the Housing Position Paper.

The Committee sought clarity on intermediate housing and details from the Conservation Officer on the heritage buildings noted at risk.

The Planning Policy Officer informed Members that intermediate housing referred to dwellings offered with shared ownership and the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) advised that a Member's briefing would be issued regarding the heritage buildings.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the content of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and authorised the publication of the document on the Council's website.

EDS/85 **INTRODUCTION OF PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION CHARGING**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) introduced the report advising Members that a report regarding the charges had been discussed at a previous Committee.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the Pre-Application Charging proposals to Members advising that the revenue generated would be re-invested into the Planning Service and that the final proposals would be available for Members to review at the next Committee in March.

Members enquired about the proposals to apply fees for single householders and listed buildings and requested justification for business being allowed a free service.

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing advised the Committee that enquiries regarding listed buildings were mainly dealt with over the telephone

and that businesses bringing economic growth into the District were given incentives to invest in South Derbyshire and that further analysis of the charging mechanism would be completed and submitted with the final proposals.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee endorsed the proposed Model 2 scheme in Appendix 1 of the report, for charging for planning pre-application advice to be provided by the Planning Service.***
- 1.2 The Committee granted delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing to produce, finalise and refine supporting guidance, detailed fees schedule, required documentation for submissions and application forms to deliver the scheme.***
- 1.3 The Committee agreed that proposals for how the potential income generated by the adoption of pre-application charging could be reinvested in the Planning Service, be the subject of separate reports to Environment and Development Services and Finance and Management Committees.***

EDS/86 **REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE FEES**

The Senior Licensing Officer outlined the content of the Report to Members highlighting that the purpose of the review was to ensure legal compliance.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the proposed fees for private hire drivers, vehicles and operators.***
- 1.2 The Committee agreed that the fees take effect from 1st March 2021.***

EDS/87 **ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

The Environmental Health Officer presented the report advising Members that the Environment Policy had been revised to reflect the ambitions and visions of the Corporate Plan and it would be published in accordance with international standard ISO 14001.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the revised Environment Policy as per Appendix 1 of the report.

EDS/88 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Members noting that a Review of Interim Waste Services Report was to be added to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

EDS/89 **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 MINUTES

The exempt Minutes of the Meetings held on 13th August 2020, 15th September 2020, 24th September 2020 and 12th November 2020 were received.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM 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.

SHARPE'S POTTERY MUSEUM

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

DRAFT FREEPORT PROPOSALS

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The meeting terminated at 20:05 hours.

COUNCILLOR TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN