

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

3rd October 2002

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Southerd (Chair) and Councillors Brooks, Carroll, Pabla, Shepherd, Sherratt and Whyman.

Conservative Group

Councillors Douglas, Shaw and Mrs. Walton.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Bale (Conservative Group).

EDS/34. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 22nd August 2002 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EDS/35. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

(a) Footpaths Officer

Geoffrey Fewkes, the recently appointed Footpaths Officer was introduced to the Committee. The Leader of the Council commented that this post was held in high esteem and the Chair reminded Members of the tourism elements which had been included within this post.

(b) CHC Meeting

The Chair advised the Committee that earlier in the day, he had attended a South Derbyshire Community Health Council Meeting at Worksop and was pleased to see the South Derbyshire Tourist brochure available at the venue.

(c) Composting Scheme and Recycling

Councillor Carroll advised that the Composting Scheme in Melbourne had commenced during the last week and appeared to be successful to date. However, a large number of plastic bottles had been placed by the recycling facility in the car park behind the Lamb Inn and Councillor Carroll considered that additional provision in this regard should be investigated, possibly at the Budgens Supermarket on Derby Road or at the Scout Hut on Packhorse Road, Melbourne. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that consideration of an additional facility in a suitable location in conjunction with the Parish Council would be worthwhile. Councillors Carroll and Pabla also advised that they were aware that certain areas within their Wards had not yet received the blue bag collection schedules and the Deputy Chief Executive agreed to pursue this accordingly.

The Leader expressed concern at a Recycling Unit for cardboard recently provided in a car park at Hatton, which was attracting children using the unit as an item of play equipment.

(d) Street Cleansing

Councillor Sherratt advised that he had received several complaints at the lack of street cleansing on the Goseley estate and in the Lower Midway area. He considered that two sweeps per annum was insufficient in view of the amount of litter on the roads and he understood that there may be a problem with the availability of appropriate machinery. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the frequency of sweeping was supplemented by the Lengthsman Scheme and confirmed that as the footway sweeper was at the end of its useful life, another machine had been ordered. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that he would provide a full explanation to Councillor Sherratt and the Chair of the Committee on the current progress of the programme.

(e) Adoption of Highways

On behalf of a Member, the Deputy Chief Executive advised on the adoption of highways in the area which he wished to raise at the local County Council Area Meeting. The Chair advised that these forums had previously been a vehicle for Officers to advise Members of local initiatives. It may be necessary to widen the scope of these Meetings and County Councillor Routledge was now the Chair for the current year. It was acknowledged that there were many unadopted roads still required to be addressed and the Chair would liaise with the Member concerned on the dates of future County Council Area Meetings.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/36. **CROSS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NATIONAL FOREST AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

Members were reminded of a Meeting between the Regional Development Agencies for the East and West Midlands, together with relevant local authorities, at which it was decided not to seek the establishment of a Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership (SSP) based on the area of the National Forest. It was agreed to give support to the development of a cross-regional strategy for the area, focusing on common strategic issues.

Increased funding from the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) would be targeted to meet the aims and objectives of the Regional Strategy. This would be achieved through SSP's by their own sub-regional strategies which were to be prepared over the coming months.

The Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfields' Partnership was likely to cease its functions in March 2004. The SSP's for Derbyshire and Leicestershire would become responsible in sub-regional terms for the economic regeneration of their respective areas from April 2003. They would be required to produce Regional strategies and delivery plans to meet these ends and regeneration monies would follow through the SSP's by emda. There was a perceived danger that there would be no common strategy recognising the unique interests and potential of the area defined loosely by

the National Forest. A National Forest Strategy would help both to inform and complement the emerging SSP strategies, particularly in terms of the potentially common interests across their respective boundaries.

Officers of the RDAs, the district councils and the National Forest Company had met to discuss the potential and possibility of producing such a strategy. The two RDA's might be willing to fund part of the strategy preparation costs, subject to matched funding from partners. It had been suggested that a bid be submitted and this was proposed to enable consultants to be commissioned and a strategy prepared before April 2003. The designated area would include the whole of the relevant local authority's areas. The consultancy costs were likely to be in the order of £20,000, it being anticipated that £15,000 would be met by the two RDA's with the balance met by the partners including a contribution of up to £1,000 from this Council. A draft consultant's brief was appended to the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee approves the preparation of a cross-regional Economic Development Strategy for the National Forest and surrounding areas and that a contribution of up to £1,000 be made towards the consultancy fees for its production.

EDS/37. **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 22nd August 2002 were received and Members received an update on the disposal of public toilets.

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR