

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

26th January 2012

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Patten and Smith (substitute for Councillor Ford).

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

In attendance

Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group).

EDS/56. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Ford. (Conservative Group).

EDS/57. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th November 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EDS/58. **QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, Councillor Smith gave notice of the following question:

“Has the quantity of waste collected by the Saturday Civic Amenities Service changed in the last four years and what arrangements are there in place to advertise the service?”

The Director of Community Services responded that figures showed that the quantity of waste collected through this process had been fairly consistent in recent years. Currently, an annual schedule of visits (of around 48 Saturday mornings each year), was agreed in advance with parish councils. They were provided with an information sheet about the service and the District Council placed an advertising sign adjacent to the site on the Fridays before the collection. All other publicity for the service was carried out by the parish council.

A supplementary question was asked as follows:

“Did the Director of Operations consider putting this information on a calendar?”

The Director of Operations responded that this might be considered for the future. However, it would incur a cost as many different leaflets would be required, as the information differed for each parish.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, Councillor Mrs. Patten gave notice of the following question:

“During the period of no brown bin collections during December 2011 and January 2012, had there been any variation in the number of calls from the public and Councillors regarding this service?”

The Director of Operations responded that the contact centre did not record calls in this level of detail, nor the number of calls from Councillors as opposed to other callers. However, the number of calls direct or referred into the waste and cleansing section in December 2011 was around 1,300 compared to 750 in December 2009, (the number of calls in December 2010 had not been used as they were affected by severe weather). It was considered that around half of the additional calls were due to strike action on 30th November 2011, and subsequent confusion over calendars. The remaining half also concerned confusion over calendars, in that the closure period for brown bin collections had been extended by two weeks, compared to the dates in the original calendars issued in November 2010. The number of calls in January so far had been at a normal to low level.

Councillor Mrs. Patten asked a supplementary question as follows:

“There has been a lot of confusion around the collection of brown bins, why had this service been stopped for a month?”

The Director of Operations responded that leaflets/calendars had been issued through letterboxes since the commencement of the compost scheme in 1997. This enabled details to be refreshed in a clear, concise manner. It was decided not to collect the brown bins for this period, as, in previous years, the majority of material inside the bins was cardboard, which could not now be included, so it was felt that a collection was not required as amounts of garden compost were negligible.

EDS/59. **REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – MOBILE TELEPHONE COVERAGE**

Members were advised of the recent work completed by a task group appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to look at issues surrounding mobile telephone coverage in South Derbyshire. It had been established that mobile phone mast training had not been provided for Members for approximately 5 years, and it was felt that all Members should be encouraged to attend such training. It was suggested that the training should also cover mobile phone network aspects, both current and the implications of 4G, as well as the familiarisation with the Council’s Mast Advisory Guidance. An update on health concerns was also requested.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that proposals to provide a briefing to all Members on guidance to be used when considering applications for new masts, be welcomed.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**EDS/60. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 FOR STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING FUNCTION AND RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR RELATED SERVICES**

A report was submitted which sought Members approval for the formal adoption by the Council of Sections 17 to 19 (inclusive) of the Public Health Act 1925, in order to facilitate the street naming and numbering functions listed in this report, to approve the statutory advertising required for the above purpose, and to introduce the appropriate charging for all aspects of the Council's Street Naming and Numbering functions on a cost recovery basis, as detailed in an appendix to the report.

The current service was at present provided by the Council free of charge, although a number of local authorities had reviewed the way they provided this service, and had considered what actions could be taken to ensure that the wider community did not cover the cost of this activity. If these proposals were accepted, income would be available to the Council, although it would be highly dependent upon the economy and particularly house building completions. For guidance, based upon last years street naming and numbering work, the income for 2010/11 would have equated to approximately £10,000, based on the charging regime as recommended within the report.

Questions were asked on the consultation process for naming streets, particularly in unparished areas. It was also requested that it be considered that Members be formally consulted on this matter. The Director of Operations agreed to look into this and circulate a response to all Members following the Meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That sections 17 to 19 (inclusive) of the Public Health Act 1925 be adopted.***
- (2) That charges be introduced on a cost recovery basis only in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report.***
- (3) That future charges be assessed annually as part of the Council's review of fees and charges.***
- (4) That an official Note of Intention be published in the local newspaper.***

**EDS/61. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT:
APRIL 2010 – MARCH 2011**

Members were advised that the Council had a duty to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of its Local Development Framework (LDF), and submit it to the Secretary of State by 31st December 2011. Whilst it had widely been understood that formal submission would no longer be necessary in view of the Localism Act, the Department for Communities and Local Government confirmed that this duty would not be abolished until January 2012. The AMR for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 was therefore submitted and was now being brought to Members for formal retrospective endorsement.

AMRs were essentially for monitoring progress on the preparation of LDF documents and for tracking development trends. A summary of these 2 aspects was set out within the report, and the final AMR would be published on the Council's website.

Much of the information collected over the monitoring period suggested that relevant aspects of the adopted local plan were being implemented to good effect, with many policies still being used to inform Development Control decisions. Whilst the AMR covered a very wide range of indicators, a summary of the key trends in employment and housing development over the monitoring year was provided.

Further clarification was given on the implications of the Localism agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Annual Monitoring Report be noted and endorsed for publication.

EDS/62. WORK PROGRAMME

Members were asked to consider an updated work programme, which was circulated at the Meeting, and to review its content where appropriate. It was requested that officers considered a report on street cleaning with particular emphasis on the removal of chewing gum. The Director of Operations responded that this report would be submitted to this Committee when further research had been completed. In addition, it was requested that a report be submitted on an analysis of parking provision within Swadlincote Town Centre.

RESOLVED:

That the updated work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of a further report that considered parking provision in the town centre of Swadlincote.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.