

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

24th August 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Taylor (Chair), Councillor Dunn (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Carroll, Isham, Mrs. Lane, Pabla (substitute for Councillor Whyman, M.B.E.), Shepherd and Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors Bale, Ford, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hood).

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Walton.

In Attendance

Councillors Jones and Lane.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Whyman, M.B.E. (Labour Group) and Councillor Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group).

EDS/22. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment of the penultimate sentence of the preamble of Minute No. EDS/18 to read "rapeseed pollen, spores and moulds released in autumn....".

EDS/23. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeler asked for further information concerning the Swadlincote Information Technology Switching Gear Proposal and how far the work by British Telecom to update the Broadband delivery provision in Swadlincote had progressed. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the matter was being investigated by the Council's Policy Unit and an answer would be provided shortly for Councillor Mrs. Wheeler.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/24. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**
COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a brief presentation from Councillor R. Lane – Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Lane advised that the Community Scrutiny Committee would be submitting reports to this Committee on 5th October 2006 relating to Waste Management and the processing of planning applications.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee notes that the Community Scrutiny Committee will be submitting reports on Waste Management and the processing of planning applications to the Meeting on 5th October 2006.

EDS/25. **PRESENTATION ON SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Kevin Exley on the Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Frameworks. The Committee was advised that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 made sustainability appraisal of all local development documents compulsory and that this concept had been introduced to address the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. From 31st July 2006, all new plans in addition to those prepared by the Council's planning department considered to have significant effects on the environment should be considered alongside the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive. The objectives of the directive were:-

- To promote sustainable development.
- To ensure a high level of environmental protection.
- To integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of Local Development Frameworks and other plans and programmes likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The Meeting noted that there were five key stages to carrying out a combined strategic environmental assessment/sustainability appraisal. These were:-

- Stage A: setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.
- Stage B: developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.
- Stage C: preparing the sustainability appraisal (SA) report.
- Stage D: consulting on the draft plan and the sustainability appraisal report.
- Stage E: monitoring the implementation of the plan.

RESOLVED:-

That the content of the presentation on the sustainability appraisal of local development frameworks be noted.

EDS/26. **HERITAGE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 19TH JUNE 2006**

The Committee considered the Open Minutes of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee from its Meeting held on 19th June 2006.

RESOLVED:-

That the Open Minutes of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee held on 19th June 2006 be received and noted.

EDS/27. “ACHIEVING MORE” – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK SERVICE REPORTS - FIRST QUARTER 2006/07

Members considered a report on current performance levels in relation to the Committee’s contribution to the Council’s Corporate and Improvement Plan, the Community Strategy Action Plan and the Best Value Performance Indicators for which it was responsible. The report also contained information on service level performance.

The format of the report had been designed to provide an approach that was consistent across all services and linked into the work of the Improvement Panel, which was working to improve performance across the whole of the Council.

The Committee was advised that the tables attached to the report at Annexe ‘A’ provided information on actual performance at the end of the first quarter (30th June 2006). The information was summarised from the report of the Improvement Panel in relation to the Corporate Plan, Improvement Plan, Community Strategy and Best Value Performance Indicators. The information was presented for each service area which reported to this Committee, being Environmental Services, Planning and Policy and Economic Regeneration.

Members noted that the report would enable the Committee to review the performance information presented and any ideas that Members wished to consider for further improvements. It also provided an opportunity for Members to discuss service issues with the relevant Head of Service and celebrate successes achieved.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee notes the “Achieving More” Performance Management Framework reports for the first quarter of 2006/07.***
- (2) That the Head of Environmental Services be requested to circulate information to each Member of the Committee on the take-up of the Village Carbon Footprint scheme designed to cut greenhouse emissions.***

EDS/28. “ACHIEVING MORE” PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a report on current performance levels in relation to the Environmental and Development Services Committee’s contribution to the Council’s Corporate and Improvement Plans, the Corporate Strategy Action Plan and the Best Value Performance Indicator for which it was responsible. Performance had previously been considered by the Improvement Panel and where appropriate its comments and requests had been included in the report. The tables contained in the report detailed the current level of performance and assessed whether targets were being achieved. The report summarised the position in relation to the Committee’s responsibilities and provided an opportunity for Members to note performance levels and review those areas that were not “on track” to achieve

the target agreed by the end of the year. The report contained information on the following headings:-

- Corporate Plan
- Improvement Plan
- Community Strategy Action Plan
- Best Value Performance Indicators

The performance levels detailed in the report were very good and compared favourably with the position across the Council. The delivery on the Corporate Plan actions was the only area where Committees' performance lacked slightly behind the Council average, but the two actions in question "at risk" were for reasons beyond the control of the Council. It was noted that the performance being delivered within the Council services was of a high standard and improving. The Committee could take pride in this achievement which was the result of the focus and hard work of both employees and Members.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the continuing improving performance within its area of responsibility.***
- (2) Agrees the remedial measures proposed where performance is not on track.***
- (3) Agrees the proposed target for BVPI 217a and 217b in relation to contaminated land.***
- (4) Reports all actions agreed back to the Improvement Panel.***
- (5) Asks that public transport be added to the list of topics to be discussed with Derbyshire County Council and that the Head of Planning Services be requested to write to the appropriate Officer at Derbyshire County Council inviting them to give a presentation on public transport at a future Meeting of the Committee.***
- (6) Requests that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services ask the South Derbyshire CVS to provide information packs on the local community transport service for distribution to Members, Parish Councils and copies also be available for the next cycle of Area Meetings.***

EDS/29. **ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY - UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report on the Economic Regeneration Strategy which reported findings from consultation and research work undertaken to date and set out the remaining development work to be undertaken. Members were advised that the Committee had approved a project brief for a new Economic Regeneration Strategy in June 2006.

The strategy had progressed as detailed in the project brief. Desk research, exploring the current position of the District and key trends through the

review of statistics available and existing studies had taken place and an Issues Paper had been prepared. Consultation with Members had taken place through a series of events including a presentation to this Committee, a workshop on 28th May 2006 and a tour of the District on 9th June 2006. These enabled Members to consider economic regeneration issues from the perspective of both businesses and local residents.

Members were advised that a questionnaire-based survey of one hundred businesses in South Derbyshire had been conducted. A broad cross section of responses had been received. The businesses involved were then invited to a workshop on 12th July 2006 together with partner organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to discuss the issues arising. The event provided participants with an overview of the current position of the District and an opportunity to discuss and prioritise issues under three themes:-

- People and Communities e.g. commuting and earnings.
- Business Development e.g. recruitment and assistance.
- Business Infrastructure e.g. development sites and HGV weight restrictions.

Members were advised that it was anticipated that it would be possible to meet all costs associated with the preparation of the strategy from within the existing economic development promotions budget for 2006/07.

The purpose of the development of a new Economic Regeneration Strategy was to:-

- Improve understanding of local economic and related issues and enhance engagement for local businesses.
- Establish a key strategy document, setting out a common vision, objectives and priorities for the District.
- Contribute to the development of other key strategies, including the Local Development Framework and Community Strategy.
- Help to coordinate the activities of the numerous public, private and voluntary and community agencies engaged in economic regeneration activities.
- Raise awareness of economic regeneration issues in South Derbyshire amongst key agencies, promoting the attraction of external funding and other support.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the work undertaken to date with consultation events and research for the emerging Economic Regeneration Strategy and approves the proposed way forward for its development.***
- (2) Requests that the Chief Executive write to JCB Power Systems Limited congratulating the company on the South Derbyshire manufactured diesel engine used in the vehicle which successfully broke the land speed record for a diesel powered vehicle.***

EDS/30. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

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 13th July 2006 were received.

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY (Paragraph 4)

The Committee considered proposals on Corporate Health and Safety and approved the recommendations in the report.

WOODVILLE – SWADLINCOTE TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN – BUYING IN CAPACITY (Paragraph 3)

The Committee considered a report on the Woodville – Swadlincote Town Centre Area Action Plan – Buying in Capacity and approved the recommendations in the report.

S. TAYLOR

CHAIR