

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th August 2009

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Bladen (Chairman), Councillor Stanton (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Patten, Timms, Mrs. Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Ford) and Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Watson).

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn (substitute for Councillor Rhind), Mrs. Lane, Richards (substitute for Councillor Taylor) and Tilley.

**Independent/Non-Grouped Members**

Councillors Mrs. Brown and Pabla.

**In Attendance**

Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Jones (Conservative Group).

EDS/9. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Ford and Watson (Conservative Group) and Councillors Rhind and Taylor (Labour Group).

EDS/10. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2009 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EDS/11. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. Patten declared personal interests in Minute No. EDS/18, Heritage Grants Sub-Committee, as a family member was employed by Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust and in Minute No. EDS/20, Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th June 2009 relating to the Footpaths Agency Agreement, as a Member of Derbyshire County Council.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS12. **CERTIFICATION OF THE COUNCIL TO ISO14001 AND THE ECO MANAGEMENT OF AUDIT SYSTEMS**

It was reported that South Derbyshire District Council had been awarded certification to two international standards for environmental management. The Environmental Statement had now been verified by external auditors as the final part of verification to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), and full external verification and accreditation to ISO14001 and EMAS standards had been received for the Council as a whole. South

Derbyshire District Council was now one of only 5% of Councils in the UK that operated to an accredited environmental management standard that assured legal compliance and year on year improvement on environmental performance.

Members congratulated all those involved in these achievements and requested that appropriate publicity be given, including information on the Council's website.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Environmental Statement that has now been verified by external auditors be adopted as the final part of the Council's verification to the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) attached as Appendix 1 to the report.***
- (2) That the full external verification and accreditation to the ISO14001 and EMAS standards for the Council as a whole be accepted.***
- (3) That the public be informed that South Derbyshire District Council is now one of only 5% of Councils in the UK that operates according to an accredited environmental management standard that assures legal compliance and year on year improvement on environmental performance.***
- (4) That Members' congratulations be conveyed to all those involved in this achievement.***

EDS/13. **PLANNING SERVICES ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION**

It was reported that at its Meeting on 16th April 2009, this Committee had requested a report setting out the number of staff employed by other authorities who dealt with planning enforcement matters. Full details of the numbers for each local planning authority in Derbyshire were included in an Appendix to the report. In addition, a training session relating to enforcement had been provided to Members in July 2009.

It was also confirmed that the 2009/10 Service Plan for Planning Services identified a need to undertake a business re-engineering exercise for the enforcement function, now that the Enforcement Officer post had been increased to full time in accordance with the wider Planning Services business re-engineering project. The outcome of the re-engineering exercise would be reported to the Committee, together with some new local performance indicators that would be identified during the process.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the report be noted and the possibility of further information being provided following the business re-engineering exercise be investigated in due course.***

**EDS/14. DERBYSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 – QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF TRANSPORT GOALS**

A report was submitted requesting Members to formulate a District Council response to the County Council's consultation on transport goals for the emerging Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP).

Further background information was given and it was confirmed that Derbyshire County Council, as the local highway authority, had a statutory duty to produce an LTP which set out strategies for the development of local integrated transport, supported by a programme of transport improvements and initiatives. The current LTP ran until March 2011, and the County Council was in the early stages of preparing a replacement and updating its evidence base. It was therefore consulting interested parties on five national transport goals proposed by the Department for Transport. These goals were:-

- Tackle climate change.
- Support economic growth.
- Promote equality of opportunity.
- Contribute to better safety, security and health.
- Improve quality of life, and promote a healthy natural environment.

Views were being sought on the relative importance of these goals for Derbyshire County Council's area and what consultees considered to be the key transport problems or challenges the area faced over the next 10 years relating to these. The results of this survey would feed in the development of options for addressing these, which would be the subject of further consultation in 2010.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the completed questionnaire be forwarded to the County Council as the District Council's response to this consultation exercise, with the exception of the goal on Quality of Life and a Healthy Natural Environment in Q1 being classed as 'Very Important' and reference being made in Q3.2 (Support economic growth) to the potential for a Hatton bypass.***

**EDS/15. LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION**

It was reported that South Derbyshire currently had one local nature reserve at Elvaston, owned by Derbyshire County Council, covering 9.67 hectares, well below Natural England's target of a minimum of 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population. It was recommended that Coton Park be put forward for declaration as the first South Derbyshire District Council managed Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The declaration of Coton Park would bring the District to 21% of the target amount.

Background information was given on LNR's, in addition to the qualification criteria.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had produced a Management Plan for the site, which detailed an annual maintenance regime to protect and enhance existing

habitats. For successful management to be implemented, it was important that there was a formal management structure. The development of the Management Advisory Group was underway, comprising representation from the site owners, the local community, conservation organisations and other interested individuals and organisations.

It was confirmed that current maintenance arrangements were a partnership between South Derbyshire District Council, Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire and a small group of local volunteers. The cost of implementing the Management Plan was approximately £2,500 per year, which was currently met through the Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire. South Derbyshire District Council would continue to own and have responsibility for the site, and the cost of any capital works identified in the Management Plan would be sought from external funding sources.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That Badges Hollow at Coton Park be put forward for declaration as the first SDDC managed Local Nature Reserve.***

EDS/16. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1ST APRIL 2009 – 30TH JUNE 2009)**

A report was submitted detailing achievements for the quarter ending 30th June 2009, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009–2014. The Corporate Plan Action Plan consisted of four main themes, of which this Committee was responsible for actions within the Sustainable Growth and Opportunity theme. Full details were provided in the report.

Further information was provided in response to questions on Rosliston Forestry Centre and waste disposal.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Council's key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 be noted.***
- (2) That, where performance has failed to achieve the specified target, the responses be noted.***

EDS/17. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and to review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved.***

EDS/18. **HERITAGE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members considered the Open Minutes of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee Meeting held on 17th March 2009.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Minutes of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee Meeting held on 17th March 2009 be received and noted.***

EDS/19. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (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 9th June 2009 were received.***

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN