

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:
SPECIAL - BUDGET

5th January 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Muller (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin (substituting for Councillor Mrs Patten), Mrs Brown, Ford, Hall, Roberts and Stanton.

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Shepherd, Taylor and Tilley

EDS/66 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Coe and Mrs Patten (Conservative Group).

EDS/67 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Atkin declared a pecuniary interest when the Infinity Garden Village was raised in relation to Item 7 Local Plan Part 2 Submission, by virtue of his family owning farm land in the area, leaving the Chamber whilst the item was debated.

EDS/68 **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/69 **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.

EDS/70 **26th JANUARY 2017 COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Chairman announced that due to there being no reports to present, the next Meeting of the Committee had been cancelled.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/71 SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2017 / 2018

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the report to Committee, drawing attention to elements from the report, including the reduction in income from Building Control fees, the increase in recycling costs, the increase in the car parks maintenance budget to address essential works and the proposed reduction in the fuel budget. The Director also highlighted risk areas, as in income via Planning and Licensing, as well as consequences of the growth in development, as in increased refuse collection costs. Within the fees and charges, it was proposed that the charges made for land and property searches and for food export certificates be increased.

Members raised queries relating to the Licensing deficit, to differences in certain charges, to the recharge for vehicles and to the capacity for the growing number of searches, all addressed by the Director.

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2017/18 for the Committee's Services, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, were considered and referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

1.2 That the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the Report, were considered and approved.

EDS/72 LOCAL PLAN - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Planning Policy Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Taylor raised his concerns relating to the production of the Affordable Housing supplementary planning document due to need for Strategic Housing input. The Councillor asked how this would be addressed given the recent staff departures in that area and the impact this may have on the document's progress. The Chairman expressed his view that this was a matter for the Housing and Community Services Committee. The Director of Community and Planning Services recognised this loss of input to the process, but referred to the pending Housing restructure. The Chairman noted the comments made, that officers were aware and that the matter was to be addressed in due course.

Councillor Mrs Brown referred to the nature of, and issues identified by, responses made to the Local Green Spaces through the Local Plan consultation. The Planning Policy Manager outlined the methodology that will be applied to producing the Local Green Spaces supplementary planning document.

Councillor Atkin, in noting the Neighbourhood Plans agreed by Melbourne and Repton, queried the level of interest amongst other parishes. The Director of Community and Planning Services confirmed that assistance was available to parish council's expressing an interest and that a briefing

was due to held in the Spring to again brief Members and parish council's on the process and the assistance available.

RESOLVED:

Members endorsed the Local Development Scheme for publication.

EDS/73 **LOCAL PLAN PART 2 SUBMISSION**

The Planning Policy Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Shepherd, as local Ward Member for Stenson, referred to the recent announcement regarding the Infinity Garden Village funding award.

Councillor Atkin made his declaration and left the Chamber at 6.40pm.

Councillor Shepherd raised his concerns on behalf of himself and fellow Ward Member Councillor Chahal, expressing disappointment at the lack of notice given to the local Members and the omission of any discussion with Members in general. The Chairman made reference to the unfortunate timing of the national announcement, made on the Bank Holiday Monday and the Planning Policy Manager confirmed that despite its new title of Infinity Garden Village the area covered consisted of existing housing and employment allocations within the District and City plus an area for potential growth at Lowes Farm that currently has no planning status.

The Director of Community and Planning commented that whilst there is usually a news embargo period to allow for information to be relayed, it had not happened in this case, as Officers had not been informed prior to the press release. The Planning Policy Manager commented that following the information being released, the Homes and Communities Agency had apologised to not being able to give advance warning.

Councillor Mrs Brown commended the bid and its successful outcome.

Councillor Taylor expressed his sympathy for the local Ward Members, gave his views on how the matter had been dealt with nationally, as well as locally, and his assessment of the impact on the democratic process on this occasion.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Members noted the content of the report regarding the Regulation 19 consultation.

1.2 Members endorsed the continuation of the Local Plan Part 2 to progress towards submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State. This decision would also involve approval by Full Council in due course.

Abstentions: Councillors Chahal, Shepherd, Taylor and Tilley.

Councillor Atkin returned to the Chamber at 6.50pm.

EDS/74 **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 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee were informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The meeting terminated at 6.55pm.

COUNCILLOR P WATSON

CHAIRMAN