

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th November 2008

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Grant (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Patten and Roberts.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind and Shepherd.

**In Attendance**

Councillor Mrs. Farrington and Jones (Conservative Group), Councillors Lane and Richards (Labour Group) and Councillor Mrs. Brown (Independent Member).

HCS/39. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2008 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. Farrington declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute No. HCS/42, the Age 50+ Needs Survey, as Chair of Swadlincote 50+ Forum.

HCS/41. **REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE**

A report was submitted advising Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review of Rosliston Forestry Centre, and to consider future actions to improve the Business Plan performance of the Centre.

It was confirmed that over the last 10 years the Centre had been subject to significant development. Included within the report was a 10 year performance table, which illustrated these changes and also benchmarked the Centre with other comparable countryside and leisure facilities.

In addition, a further table demonstrated the comparative costs of the principal leisure/community facilities supported by the District Council.

The National Forest Company had invested significant funds in facilities and activities at Rosliston over the past 10 years and considered the Centre as one of the main gateways to the National Forest. They were extremely pleased with the partnership approach to the development of the Centre and would continue to support its development.

Following the rapid delivery of the last vision and strategy, work had started on the development of a new strategy. This would involve the views of the partners along with consultation with Centre users and the local community.

The partners had already identified a number of potential initiatives that contributed in a positive financial manner to the existing vision, values and aspirations.

A business plan had also been developed, which illustrated the projected financial cost of the Centre for the next 5 years. It was confirmed that partners would work with Aurora Country Developments Limited to maximise income and reduce expenditure on the site.

One area that was considered under-resourced was the marketing budget, which was very low for promoting the visitor accommodation on the site.

The report also detailed in full, both the corporate and community implications of the Rosliston Forestry Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That it be noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee records its full support for the excellent partnership work being undertaken at the Rosliston Forestry Centre, and also recognises the value for money that the Centre provides.***
- (2) That the partners seek to maximise the potential for increasing income and reducing costs on an ongoing basis.***
- (3) That partners be asked to consider increased contributions to the Business Plan's marketing budget, on the basis that an investment in promotional work will achieve an enhanced return in site income.***
- (4) That the Committee supports the Partnership's work to secure capital funds to deliver projects that will contribute income or reduce expenditure to the business plan.***
- (5) That a further update on the Vision/Strategic Plan and Business Plan be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the start of the 2009/10 work programme.***

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/42. **AGE 50+ NEEDS SURVEY**

A report was submitted informing Members of the results of the recent Age 50+ Needs Survey.

Members were advised that the survey was conducted in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council Partnership Development Team, the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, the South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services, Swadlincote, the District 50+ Forum and the Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust.

In total 800 surveys were returned and three focus groups were also held. Key findings were given under the headings of physical activity and fear of crime.

An action plan commencing October 2008 was also included within the report.

Further to Members' questions, it was confirmed that there was an agreement with neighbouring authorities to offer the free swimming scheme across district boundaries. Further detail was also given on the 'marker scheme', and officers reassured Members that all previous pilots would be fully considered, before a pilot was carried out within the District. In addition it was requested that all Members receive a copy of the presentation, and further information on the 'Dawn Patrol Project' when available.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the findings of the Age 50+ Needs Survey be noted and that the implementation of the recommendations and action plan be supported, subject to securing the required funding.***

Councillor Mrs. Farrington declared a prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the Meeting during the consideration and determination thereof.

HCS/43. **HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FUNDED BY THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME**

It was confirmed that since April 2003, the Supporting People (SP) Programme had considered the way that housing-related supported services had been funded. Further background information was given, including a list of housing related support services, which were currently funded from the Supporting People Programme.

At a Meeting of the Commissioning Body held on 12th September 2008, it was decided that they should broadly follow Audit Commission recommendations, and restructure, replacing the Commissioning Body with a 'Strategic Partnership for Accommodation and Support'. This new body would broadly retain its existing membership, but would lose its commissioning and detailed finance decision-making role. The net result of these changes was that the District Council's representation at the new commissioning forum was to be an officer. It was proposed that this be formalised with a requirement for officers to consult with the Chairman, or his nominated deputy, on the agenda items before the Meeting took place.

In addition, the County SP team had decided to release additional funding to the 8 districts, to help support existing and new project costs, provided that each District developed proposals on how the money was to be allocated. In order for County SP officers to progress this matter, they had asked the Districts to supply proposals of how the additional resources would be committed. A table was provided itemising the proposed projects, project descriptions, number of estimated clients benefiting and costs.

It was pointed out that within the report at paragraph 2.3, some organisations were missing, and it was requested that this must not be used as an exhaustive list. The Head of Housing confirmed that this was not an exhaustive list, and other organisations would be included.

With regard to the additional funding for proposed projects, it was asked if a project could be put in place to assist young people to access benefits. The Officer confirmed that this was currently being considered.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That decision making powers be delegated to the Head of Housing or his nominated deputy, as a member of the Countywide Core Strategic and Commissioning Body for Supporting People in Derbyshire, and that prior to the Meeting, the attending officer consults with the Chairman of the Housing and Community Services Committee on the agenda items.***
- (2) That the proposals for additional projects to be funded by a grant of £125,000 from the County Supporting People Team be approved.***
- (3) That as this item relates directly to a financial issue, this decision be referred to the Finance and Management Committee.***

HCS/44. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1st APRIL TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2008)**

A report was submitted detailing performance levels and achievements for the quarter ending 30th September 2008, in relation to this Committee's contribution to the four key strands of the Council's Performance Management Framework. Full details were included in appendices, entitled:

- Corporate Plan.
- Community Strategy Action Plan.
- National Indicator Set Performance Indicators.
- Local Performance Indicators.
- Service Level Key Tasks.

A concern was raised over reference No. 1.10 within the Corporate Plan, which had been highlighted as probable failure. The Director of Community Services confirmed that there had been major problems with recruitment, and a campaign on fly-tipping had resulted in a 25% drop in incidents.

In addition, concerns were raised over Local Performance Indicator LCD 11b, the percentage of exercise referrals who had completed a course. It was pointed out that the current position of 14% was very low. The Director of Community Services agreed to look into this further.

Telecare installations were also discussed, with examples given of residents not being connected following long delays. It was felt that rather than offering deadlines and not achieving them, only achievable deadlines should be given, thereby not raising expectations.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30th November 2008 be noted.***
- (2) That Members note where performance has failed to achieve the specified target and accept the responses submitted.***

HCS/45. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

**RESOLVED:-**

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

HCS/46. **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 16th October 2008 were received.***

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN