

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19th February 2007

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Lane (Chair) and Councillor Mrs. Mead.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bambrick (Vice-Chair) and Lauro (Labour Group) and Councillors Atkin and Lemmon (Conservative Group).

CYS/38. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2006 and the Special Meeting held on 15th January 2007 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chair.

CYS/39. **DELIVERY OF COUNCIL SERVICES VIA THE POST OFFICE NETWORK**

The Committee considered a report which advised Members of the decision from the Council Meeting on 25th January 2007 in respect of the delivery of Council Services via the Post Office Network. At that Meeting the Council resolved as follows:-

- (1) That the Council explores the delivery of services via the Post Office Network and that discussions continue with the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters.
- (2) That the possibility of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership delivering out-reach services via the Post Office Network be explored.
- (3) That a campaign be undertaken to promote the Rate Relief Scheme to the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, in order that Post Offices in the District can maximise their opportunities in making a claim.
- (4) That an Information Kiosk be installed on a trial basis at a Post Office site, preferably in the north-west of the District.
- (5) That Council planning policies in the local development documents support the provision and location of Post Offices in villages, where significant new development is planned.

The Committee was advised that a meeting involving both Officers and the Chair of this Committee would take place on 22nd February 2007 to discuss progress on the delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network.

It was agreed:-

- ***That the report of the Community Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network to the Council Meeting on 25th January 2007 be copied to all postmasters in the District, the National Federation of Sub Postmasters and all Parish Councils in the District.***
- ***That Officers investigate those areas in the District where Post Office services are not available, but which have buildings where Post Office services could be located and this matter be considered as a possible item for scrutiny in the future.***

CYS/40. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR STREET SCENE REVIEW**

The Committee was advised on the progress made with the Street Scene Review following the approval of this Committee's proposals by the Environmental and Development Services Committee. A supplementary report on this matter was circulated to all Members present at the Meeting.

It was agreed that a meeting of the relevant District Council Officers, the Chair of this Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the Environmental and Development Services Committee be arranged to discuss progress on the Street Scene Review and that a meeting then be organised between the above parties and representatives from Derbyshire County Council.

CYS/41. **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT**

A report on the new powers introduced by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 was circulated to all Members present at the Meeting. Members were advised that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act introduced new powers for local authorities which included the ability to serve Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental offences and also introduced significant changes to the Fixed Penalty Notices regime.

The main provision of the Act which affected the Council were detailed as follows:-

- Nuisance parking
- Abandoned vehicles
- Failure to produce authority (waste transfer notice)
- Failure to furnish documentation (waste carriers licence)
- Litter
- Litter/street litter control notices
- Unauthorised distribution of literature
- Graffiti and fly posting
- Offences in relation to waste receptacles
- Offences under Dog Control Orders

It was agreed:-

- ***That the Council's Corporate Management Team be requested to report back to this Committee on arrangements made for the exercise of the new powers available under the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.***

- ***That the Head of Environmental Services be requested to submit a report to the next Meeting of the Committee on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.***

CYS/42. **DERBYSHIRE PCT: MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee was advised that its Chair and the Council's Chief Executive would be meeting with the Derbyshire County PCT Chief Executive on 22nd February 2007 to discuss relevant PCT issues.

It was agreed that following the meeting of this Committee's Chair and the Council's Chief Executive with the Chief Executive of the Derbyshire County PCT on 22nd February 2007, a progress report on the items discussed be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007.

CYS/43. **POSITION STATEMENT: SPECIAL PROJECTS CONSIDERED BY COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MAY 2006-MAY 2007**

The Committee considered a report which detailed the special projects it had undertaken during the period May 2006 to May 2007. The report covered the following projects:-

- Joint review with Derbyshire County Council - "Street Scene Review".
- Delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network.
- Achieving Targets – 2006/09 – Waste Management.
- Achieving Targets – 2006/09 – Planning Applications.
- Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services BVPI 183 (a) and BVPI 183 (b).
- Audit Commission inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service.

It was agreed:-

- ***That the content of the report on the special projects undertaken by the Community Scrutiny Committee from May 2006 – May 2007 be noted.***
- ***That the Committee notes that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed actions in respect of the Street Scene Review and the Delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network.***
- ***That officers be requested to investigate the progress made by the Environmental and Development Services Committee on Achieving Targets – 2006/09 Waste Management and that a report on this matter be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007.***
- ***That officers be requested to investigate the progress made by the Housing and Community Services Committee on Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services BVPI 183 (a) and BVPI 183 (b) and that a report on this matter be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007.***
- ***That officers be requested to investigate the progress made by the Environmental and Development Services Committee on Achieving Targets – 2006/07 Planning Applications and that a report on this matter be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007.***

- ***That officers be requested to investigate the progress made by the Housing and Community Services Committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the Audit Commission inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service and that a report on this matter be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007***

CYS/44. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee was advised that its draft Annual Report would be submitted to the Meeting on 26th March 2007 for Members' consideration. The finalised report would then be presented to the Council at its Meeting on 19th April 2007.

The areas of work which would be included in the draft Annual Report were:-

- Delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network.
- Joint Review with Derbyshire County Council – 'Street Scene'.
- Achieving Targets 2006/09 – Planning Applications and Waste Management.
- Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services – BVPI 183(a) and BVPI 183(b).
- The Council's housing repairs and maintenance service.
- New powers introduced under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.
- Low Frequency Noise.
- Publicity arrangements – leaflet/website.

It was agreed that a draft copy of the Annual Report 2006/07 be submitted to the Meeting of this Committee on 26th March 2007 to enable its contents to be discussed and agreed.

CYS/45. **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07**

The Committee considered a report on its work programme for the period December 2006 to May 2007. The report detailed the following areas of work and the following actions were agreed:-

Low Frequency Noise

It was agreed that a report on the issue of Low Frequency Noise be submitted to the Meeting of the Committee on 26th March 2007.

PCT issues and District Council Liaison

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed to receive a report on discussions between its Chair, the Council's Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of Derbyshire County PCT.

e-Training

It was agreed that e-Training be referred to the Overview Committee for its consideration.

Delivery of Council Services via the Post Office Network

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed a number of actions in respect of the delivery of Council services via the Post Office Network.

Achieving Targets – 2006/09 Waste Management

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed to receive a progress report on Achieving Targets 2006/09 Waste Management to its Meeting on 26th March 2007.

Arrangements for Improving Homelessness BVPI 183(a) and BVPI 183 (b)

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed to receive a progress report on Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services BVPI 183 (a) and BVPI 183 (b) to its Meeting on 26th March 2007.

Achieving Targets – 2006/09 Planning Applications

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed to receive a progress report on Achieving Targets 2006/09 Planning Applications to its Meeting on 26th March 2007.

Street Scene Review – Joint Review with Derbyshire County Council

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed a number of actions to progress work on the Street Scene Review.

e-Enablement

It was agreed that consideration of e-Enablement be deferred to the next Meeting of the Committee on 26th March 2007.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed a number of actions in respect of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Annual Report

The Committee noted that it had, earlier in this Meeting, agreed a number of actions on its draft Annual Report and that a copy of it would be submitted to its Meeting on 26th March 2007 for Members' consideration.

R. LANE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 4.30 p.m.