

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

9th June 2011

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Watson (Chairman), Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith (substitute for Councillor Wheeler) and Smith (substitute for Councillor Ford).

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

In attendance

Councillor Richards (Labour Group).

EDS/1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Ford and Wheeler.

EDS/2. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd March 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/3. **LDF CORE STRATEGY: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON GROWTH OPTIONS AND TIMETABLE UPDATE**

A report was submitted informing Members of progress on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy, in response to the Localism Bill, and to agree the next steps, including further neighbourhood public engagement on growth options.

Progress on the LDF Core Strategy had been advancing well with consultation on major site options completed in May 2010. However, the Localism Bill introduced in December 2010 had major implications for the process. Accordingly, a round of public engagement events on 'localism', community infrastructure needs and neighbourhood planning was undertaken and completed in May 2011.

With the likely imminent demise of Regional Strategies, the Council needed to produce, jointly with other authorities in the wider Derby area, its own estimates of future population and household growth, and consider development locations not previously contemplated by the East Midlands Regional Plan. It was recommended that these be considered at Full Council

on 7th July 2011, and be offered for public comment, throughout the remainder of the summer.

The report also set out a recommended revised outline timetable to enable adoption of the Core Strategy in 2012. However, Members were advised that there had been a recent Court of Appeal decision, which might alter timescales. It appeared that until the Localism Bill was fully in place, it was unlawful for local councils to promote their own local plan. In light of this, legal advice would be taken before the draft Core Strategy was published.

Members were advised that proposed neighbourhood drop-in events were due to take place in July/August 2011. The low attendance rate at some of the previous events was noted, and it was requested that some of the dates be reconsidered to ensure accessibility was maximised to the general public

In addition to reforming the planning system, the Coalition Government had confirmed that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), introduced by the previous Government, would be progressed with some changes. It was reported that the CIL was discretionary, and Members would have to consider this at a future Meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the steps taken so far on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, in response to the Localism Bill be noted.**
- (2) That options for the future amount of housing growth up to 2028, and its general location, be prepared for public consultation, and be considered by Full Council on 7th July 2011.**
- (3) That, at Full Council on 7th July 2011, the following be recommended:**
 - (i) that consultation be conducted through a further round of neighbourhood 'drop-in' events throughout South Derbyshire, as detailed in an Appendix to the report.**
 - (ii) that consultation be conducted on the basis of a joint document published across the whole of the Derby Housing Market Area.**
 - (iii) that the indicative revised timetable be endorsed and published on the Council's website, subject to the availability of dates.**
 - (iv) that an informal workshop be held for all Elected Members across the Derby Housing Market Area, including Amber Valley, Derby and Derbyshire County Council, during late August or early September 2011.**
 - (v) that a report be prepared for a future Meeting of this Committee to consider whether to formally pursue the Community Infrastructure Levy.**

EDS/4. CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENTS

A report was submitted requesting Members to consider the outcome of the public consultation exercise on 11 of the 22 draft conservation area character statements, undertaken between February and April 2011, in order to adopt the revised boundaries and character statements as appropriate.

Full details were provided on the consultation process, and it was reported that these documents were very well received, with wide-spread approval of their content and presentation.

Where minor amendments or changes had been proposed during the consultation, they had been considered accordingly and were detailed within the report.

It was requested that for the additional consultation exercise, there should be a further session in either Barrow-on-Trent, Aston-on-Trent or Shardlow.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That, the extension of the conservation area boundaries at Lullington, Melbourne and Netherseal, as set out in the draft conservation area character statements public consultation material, be approved.***
- (2) That, subject to minor amendments, made as a result of public consultation, the adoption of the conservation area character statements for Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Bretby, Etwall, Kings Newton, Lullington, Melbourne, Netherseal and Newton Solney, be approved.***
- (3) That the Milton and Repton conservation area boundary reviews and character statements be deferred, pending further consideration of the proposed boundary amendments in response to consultation.***
- (4) That the consultation exercise be repeated in the same format for the next eleven conservation area character statements, with 'drop-in' sessions at Melbourne and Swadlincote.***

EDS/5. CONSULTATION PAPER ON DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT: PLANNING FOR TRAVELLER SITES

A report was submitted which informed Members of, and formulated a response to, a draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS), 'Planning for Traveller Sites' issued for consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Government had already announced its intention to abolish regional strategies and had also committed to replacing circulars with policy that put provision into the hands of local authorities. The Government intended the draft PPS to address the perception that current policy treated traveller sites

more favourably than it did other forms of housing, particularly on green belt land, and that for this reason, people believed the system was unfair.

The proposed policy sought to enable local authorities to make their own assessment of need for the purpose of planning, and to use that assessment to set their own target for pitch and plot provision. The draft policy aimed to encourage local authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale and ensure they worked collaboratively with other local authorities to develop fair and effective strategies for identifying sites to meet need. In terms of provision for travellers, the draft PPS aimed to promote more private traveller site provision, increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, and thereby reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments.

The report set out the questions included in the consultation document and provided recommended responses where appropriate.

Members asked that the response for paragraph 4.9 should request that ethnic terms be included. It was requested that paragraph 4.15 be strengthened to highlight that there should be a fair distribution of proposed sites, and paragraph 4.25 should have additional wording with regard to retrospective applications.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the contents of the consultation paper be noted.***
- (2) That the move towards a clear and fair policy be welcomed.***
- (3) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Committee Chairman be delegated to respond to Communities and Local Government, as per the suggested responses in the report with the amendments as agreed in paragraphs 4.9, 4.15, and 4.25.***

EDS/6. **CORPORATE PLAN 2009-14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1st APRIL 2010 – 31st MARCH 2011)**

A report was submitted detailing achievements for the year ending 31st March 2011, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009-14. The Corporate Plan consisted of four main themes, and this Committee was responsible for actions and relevant performance indicators within the Sustainable Growth and Opportunity theme.

Key achievements for the year ending 31st March 2011 were highlighted, along with summary details of actual/outturn performance against targets. Tables were included within the report for actions that were not achieved, along with reasons and any further proposed actions.

Members were provided with further information on opportunities for insulation grants and energy advice, and it was also requested that the District Council embark on a benefit check. The Director of Operations responded that the

Citizens Advice Bureau was doing this. However, he would gain further information and update Members in due course.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Council's key achievements and performance for the year ending 31st March 2011 be noted.***
- (2) That, where performance has failed to achieve the specified target, the response be noted.***

EDS/7. **SERVICE PLANS 2011-12**

Service Plans for Housing and Environmental Services and Community and Planning Services had been distributed to all Members. The content and form of the Service Plans had been reviewed, and minor changes had been made to this year's Plan, which included being amended to capture a number of crosscutting themes for the Council such as the Transformational Programme, Partnerships, Outcomes and linking priorities to budgets. Service Plans reflected the current priority themes and outcomes within the Corporate Plan 2010/14 and Sustainable Community Strategy 2009/29. These would be refreshed, with new action plans being published in May 2011.

RESOLVED:-

That the Service Plans for Community and Planning Services and Housing and Environmental Services be approved as the basis for service delivery over the period to March 2012.

EDS/8. **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/9. **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 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.

REORGANISATION OF THE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (Paragraph 1)

Recommendations for the restructure of the Operations Directorate were approved.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN