

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

10th December 2001

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Bell (Chair), Councillor Richards (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Harrington and Routledge.

Conservative Group

Councillor Mrs. Robbins.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Bladen (Conservative Group).

OV/12. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th October 2001 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/13. **REPORT OF MEMBER**

The Chair reported on the scrutiny training session attended by several Members at Hucknall on 20th November 2001. Members considered that the progress made by this authority on the scrutiny function compared very favourably to other authorities represented at the training and this Council appeared to be fairly advanced in the operation of the scrutiny function.

OV/14. **PUBLIC TOILETS**

Further to consideration of this matter at the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 19th November 2001, the Chair circulated a draft report which he had prepared for submission to the next Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee on 3rd January 2002. Officers had also had an opportunity to comment on the report and the Committee now considered the content for final amendments. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the DSO Manager had assessed the cost of any additional personnel in the town centre in more detail. At the present time, a service development proposal had been made in the sum of £4,000 for an additional cleanse to the toilets adjoining The Delph, Swadlincote on six days per week. This would need to be increased to approximately £19,000 to cover the cost of an additional member of staff to undertake additional cleansing duties at both town centre toilet blocks together with some litter picking duties. In this regard, it was suggested that an additional employee could be recruited to work six days per week to cover this additional cleanse.

It was reported that the cost proposals in respect of this matter would be considered by the Service and Financial Planning Working Group on 12th December 2001.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be approved, subject to the various comments made by Members and the proposals be submitted to the Service and Financial Planning Working Group and the Environmental Services Committee.

OV/15. REPORTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Councillors Richards and Bell gave verbal reports on the discussions held at the recent Meetings of the Community Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Scrutiny Committee respectively.

Councillor Richards advised that a visit had been made to the Planning Department, at which encouraging aspects of the service had been noted. Unfortunately, the report on car-parking had been withdrawn and would now be considered at a future meeting. The Policy and Best Value Manager advised that the Council's website was to be relaunched and training was currently awaited. A Member enquired as to the possibility of including the Council's agendas and Minutes on the website and it was advised that this had been investigated in principle but considerable cost implications may be involved. The Chair suggested that progress on Information Technology may be an appropriate matter for ongoing consideration by the Community Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Richards reported on a presentation on Crime and Disorder initiatives by the Community and Leisure Development Manager and it was noted that the Community Strategy seminars previously scheduled for 28th November 2001 had now been re-arranged for 9th January 2002. The District Council's Policy and Best Value Manager reported that it was likely that the Sheltered Housing Service would be the subject of a re-inspection early in the new year and Councillor Richards advised that the Committee may review the subject of housing allocations in due course.

Councillor Bell advised that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had received progress reports on the Best Value Reviews relating to Asset Management, Human Resource Management and Financial Services. These were progressing well but the review relating to Customer and Support Services had been delayed due to the absence of key staff. A presentation had also been made on the Best Value Performance Plan by the Policy and Best Value Manager. The Committee had also agreed to consider a special project on "How Green is the Council?" and this matter would be the subject of an agenda item at the next meeting. A Special Meeting of the Committee was to be held on 19th December 2001 at 4.30 p.m. to consider the proposals arising from the Meeting of the Service and Financial Planning Working Group to be held on 12th December 2001.

OV/16. WORK PROGRAMMES

The Committee noted the Work Programmes in respect of both Scrutiny Committees and this Committee. It was reported that arrangements had now been made for all Divisional Managers to receive copies of Scrutiny Committee agendas in order that they were aware of the timetable for the consideration of the Best Value Reviews by the Committees.

R. L. BELL

CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 5.10 p.m.