

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17th October 2005

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillor Bambrick (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Jones.

Conservative Group

Councillors Mrs. Hood, Lemmon and Mrs. Renwick

CYS/17. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2005 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CYS/18. **CORPORATE PLAN - CONSULTATION**

The Chair reported on the discussion of this item at the Finance and Management Committee the previous week. The Deputy Chief Executive provided an overview of the current position and a further report would be presented to a special Meeting of the Finance and Management Committee on 20th October 2005. There was a tight timescale to complete this project. Reference was made to the consultation questionnaire and the content would be agreed with the Chairs of the Finance and Management and Community Scrutiny Committees. Councillor Lemmon commented on the discussion at Finance and Management Committee. The Chair confirmed that he was happy with the process and it was important for the Scrutiny Committee to remain involved, so that the consultation was comprehensive and effective. The importance of the detail of the questionnaire was recognised.

The Vice Chair questioned whether it was intended to revisit this project at a future date, so that the Council could seek to improve its consultation arrangements. The Chair agreed this was an ongoing process. The Deputy Chief Executive referred to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee's Strategic Planning Project, which had identified the need to start consultation at an early date.

Councillor Lemmon felt that one of the lessons which could be learnt from this exercise was how the Council consulted with a broad spread of people, so it did not have to consider this issue for future consultations. If some of the mechanisms used for this consultation were less successful, this could be taken into account for the future. The Chair agreed that the feedback received would be useful. The Deputy Chief Executive commented that there were two different types of consultation, to seek general feedback about Council services or more detailed consultation on specific proposals. There was a discussion about the time required to undertake effective consultation, particularly when some consultees only met on a six or eight weekly cycle. Reference was also made to the Citizens Panel. The Principal Policy Officer

explained the close liaison with Derbyshire County Council and the efforts to maximise use of the periodic questionnaire circulated to the Citizens Panel.

CYS/19. **SHELTERED HOUSING**

The Chair referred to the discussion at the previous Meeting and had hoped to receive an updated matrix, including timescales for completion of various works. The Deputy Chief Executive suggested that the Committee consider those issues that were still to be answered and request Housing Officers to provide the required information. This could be circulated to Members before the next Meeting. The Chair felt it was important for these issues to be addressed, so hopefully the Committee could give a positive report to Housing and Community Services Committee. This point also needed to be communicated to the Housing Department. He used the example of Pear Tree Court at Etwall and understood that the reported problems should be resolved by the time of the next Meeting. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to meet with Housing Officers and then discuss with the Chair and Vice Chair, to ensure that the correct issues were addressed in the report to the next Meeting. It was requested that a copy of the report to Housing and Community Services in November 2003 be circulated to Members of the Committee, in order that they could consider the remaining issues and feedback to the Chair and Vice Chair.

CYS/20. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Principal Policy Officer advised that he had been in contact with Derbyshire County Council and arrangements had been made to attend a County Council Scrutiny Committee. This would take place on Wednesday 9th November 2005 at 10:30 a.m. The agenda would include a discussion on street furniture and it was noted that the Scrutiny Committee was also responsible for the welfare of the elderly. Members wishing to attend this visit were asked to contact the Chair within the next two days. Members discussed the travel arrangements for the visit.

The Principal Policy Officer suggested that once the consultation on the Corporate Plan had been completed, the Committee could give further consideration to its Work Programme. There might also be issues arising from the visit to Derbyshire County Council that could be incorporated into the Work Programme.

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 4.25 p.m.