

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

17th November 2011

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Watson (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Brown, Ford, Mrs. Hood, Lemmon, (substitute for Mrs. Hall), Mrs. Patten and Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Roberts).

**Labour Group**

Councillors Chahal, Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew (substitute for Councillor Taylor) Stuart and Tilley.

**In attendance**

Councillors Atkin and Bale (Conservative Group).

EDS/41. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs. Hall (Conservative Group) and Councillor Taylor (Labour Group).

EDS/42. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EDS/43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Ford and Mrs. Patten declared a personal interest in Minute No. EDS/48, as Members of Derbyshire County Council.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS/44. **DANGEROUS BUILDINGS EMERGENCY CALL-OUT PROCEDURE**

A report was submitted advising Members that the current system for providing a call out service for dangerous buildings was no longer suitable for the level of calls that were being experienced. The arrangement had become untenable and there was an increased risk of no staff being available to attend the call out. This was a risk for the Council performing a statutory duty, and would make the work of the emergency services much more difficult, as they had experienced significant delays in being able to determine the safety of buildings.

Reasons for the current problem were an increase in the number of out of hour's emergency calls and the restructure of Planning Services.

A process of examining business risk had been undertaken, and it was clear that the establishment of a sustainable emergency call-out service for dangerous buildings was required.

Discussions had taken place with a number of neighbouring authorities and it was evident that East Staffordshire Borough Council were in a very similar position to South Derbyshire. Further to these discussions, a proposal was made to establish a joint service with East Staffordshire Borough Council, which would satisfy obligations for an out of hours service. The combined team would provide greater numbers of eligible Building Control Surveyors between the two participating authorities. This increased staff availability, and made a proper call out rota a viable option. Full details of the proposal were provided in the report, including the operational and financial implications.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That a joint Emergency Call Out Procedure for Dangerous Buildings in partnership with East Staffordshire Borough Council Building Control Service, be approved.***

EDS/45. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY: UPDATE**

Members were provided with an update on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. The Council had undertaken extensive consultation, including a series of 15 public drop-in sessions around the District. This was part of a wider joint consultation prompted by the Governments proposed reforms of the planning system, and views had specifically been invited on the scale of housing growth. This consultation closed on 30th September 2011. Details of responses that had been received were provided within the report.

There were, however, ongoing uncertainties surrounding the Governments reforms to the planning system, which would have a direct bearing on the indicative revised LDF timetable.

The timetable would be kept under careful review, and in the meantime, work would continue on assessing actions for the amount and location of future development, to be included in respective local plans throughout the HMA.

Given the high level of public and commercial interest in these matters, it was proposed that a joint HMA information leaflet be published towards the end of 2011. Details of what this would include were provided within the report.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That progress on the Government's planning reforms be noted.***
- (2) That a joint update/information leaflet be circulated to consultees throughout the Derby Housing Market Area, as detailed in the report.***

**EDS/46. CORPORATE PLAN 2009-14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT  
(1st JULY 2011 – 30th SEPTEMBER 2011)**

A report was submitted detailing achievements for the quarter ending 30th September 2011, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009 –2014. The Corporate Plan consisted of four main themes or priorities and this Committee was responsible for actions and relevant performance indicators within the Sustainable Growth and Opportunity theme. Key projects were highlighted, along with details of activity within the Environmental Services and Community and Planning service areas. Details were provided on performance against targets, and also, quarterly targets that had not been met, and where the projected annual target might be at risk of failure, along with reasons and any further proposed actions.

A question was asked with regard to not being able to put cardboard into the recycling bin, and whether this would have an effect on recycling targets. It was reported that this had been considered and there was a possibility that recycling would be 2 to 3% below target.

It was also asked if the District Council could further promote the 82 recycling centres around the District which, particularly leading up to Christmas, might help with the recycling targets. It was also pointed out that Derby City Council had a kerbside collection for cardboard, and asked if the District Council might also consider this.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Council's key achievements and performance for the period 1st July – 30th September 2011 be noted.***
- (2) That, where performance has failed to achieve the specified target, remedial action be taken.***

**EDS/47. ARLISTON DRIVE PETITION**

Members were informed of the receipt of a petition relating to Arliston Drive, in accordance with the Petition Protocol.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the receipt of a petition relating to Arliston Drive in accordance with the Petition Protocol be noted.***

**EDS/48. PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

A report was submitted which requested that Members approve the extension to the current scheme of parking enforcement.

Background was provided on Civil Parking Enforcement within the District, and it was confirmed that there were currently only 4 car parks included for enforcement, with approximately 4 hours per week allocated to the Civil Enforcement Officers.

It was proposed to add additional car parks to the scheme, these being:

- High Street car park, Melbourne
- Alexandra Road car park, Swadlincote
- Rink Drive car park, Swadlincote
- Hill Street car park, Swadlincote

With the increased enforcement required in these car parks, additional hours would be needed for the Civil Enforcement Officers to undertake patrols. It was recommended that these be increased to 12 hours per week. Further details were provided on the proposed layout of the car parks, and financial implications.

A query was raised with regard to the right of way on the raised area adjacent to the Rink Drive car park. The Head of Housing and Environmental Services agreed to investigate and clarify this directly with the Member concerned.

It was also requested that the use of Civil Enforcement Officers be extended throughout the District. The Head of Housing and Environmental Services agreed to look into this issue and respond to all Members.

It was also suggested that overall provision of car parking in Swadlincote Town Centre be considered.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the introduction of parking enforcement to additional car parks, as detailed in the report, be approved.***

EDS/49. **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO DEREGULATE SCHEDULE ONE OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

A consultation paper had been circulated by the Government, and a response was required by 3rd December 2011. Full background was provided on the history of the current licensing regime, and it was confirmed that a number of amendments, as contained within the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011, were yet to be given a date for enactment.

Full details were provided on the consultation document along with questions and suggested responses.

Members raised various issues and questions, and it was requested that the suggestion of a Voluntary Code of Conduct be introduced into the District Council's response and the response to question 24 be amended to 'broadly no', with the rest of the paragraph being the same.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Head of Housing and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee, be delegated to respond to the Department of Culture Media and Sport, as per the suggested responses in the report, with an***

***amendment to question 24 and the recommendation of a Code of Conduct.***

EDS/50. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

The Chairman reported that the Dog Control Review, which was expected in November, had been postponed due to response to the consultation being poor. This would be submitted in January 2012.

It was requested that a report on fly tipping be included in the work programme, to be completed by March 2012. The Head of Housing and Environmental Services agreed that this be included within the programme, and also a briefing note be provided on this issue.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of a report on fly-tipping, to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.***

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.