

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote on 21st June 2005
at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Jones (Chair), Councillor Lauro (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Bell, Isham, Lane, Mrs. Mead, Pabla, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Southern, Stone, Taylor, Whyman, M.B.E. and Wilkins (arrived at 5.45 p.m.)

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin, Bale, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Lemmon, Nalty, Mrs. Renwick and Mrs. Wheeler.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Walton.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Carroll, Dunn, Harrington, Mulgrew and Murphy (Labour Group).

CL/31. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005**

It was reported that the Council had a statutory duty to publish a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30th June. Since 2004, statutory guidance had linked reporting requirements in the BVPP to Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) outcomes. As a fair Council, the plan must include the following information:-

- A summary of the Council's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement. This should reflect corporate/business planning processes and the Community Strategy.
- An explanation of the arrangements for addressing the Council's improvement priorities, particularly the opportunities and weaknesses identified through the CPA and the outcomes that were expected to be achieved as a result.
- Details of performance – outturn performance for 2004/05 on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) and targets for 2005/06 and the following two years for all BVPI's.
- A statement on contracts – the Council must state and certify that all individual contracts awarded during the past year involving the transfer of staff complied, where applicable, with the requirements in the Code of Practice on workforce matters in local authority service contracts.

Councils had also been advised to include details in the plan of the efficiency savings now required as part of the Gershon agenda. The BVPP was subject

to audit by the Audit Commission and a formal report on the plan was made as part of the Annual (Audit and Inspection) letter.

A copy of the draft Plan had been circulated to Members, which was the Council's sixth BVPP. It set out the Council's record on delivering local services together with plans and priorities for improvements. The plan was in five parts and it was acknowledged that Members had already considered the majority of the information in the plan in the context of reports on 2005/08 Corporate Plan, Service Plans and Strategies/Policies/Programmes for particular service areas.

The Plan would be circulated to partner organisations and would be made available in libraries and on the website. An item would also be included in the Team Brief for employees and in the proposed Council Newsletter. The cost of printing and publishing the Plan would be met from existing budgets.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised Members that following concerns raised at a recent meeting of the Improvement Panel, Officers had made a commitment to report back to the Improvement Panel on slippage within the framework.

Councillor Wheeler made several comments on the Plan, which were duly addressed. Councillor Wheeler advised that she felt that the Plan was not "aspirational for the people of South Derbyshire" and that some of the targets could have been set at a higher level. Councillor Whyman referred to the need for targets to be realistic.

Councillor Whyman commended the work undertaken by officers involved in the document and these sentiments were echoed by Councillor Harrison.

RESOLVED:-

That the Best Value Performance Plan 2005 be approved and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to approve any final changes to the Plan prior to publication.

R. JONES

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 6.00 p.m.