

# RECORD OF DECISIONS

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

At the Meeting of the Housing and Community Services Committee Held on 12th October 2006, the following decisions were taken.

Urgent decisions or those exempt from call-in are indicated in the third column of the table. These decisions cannot be called in and are effective immediately.

All other decisions may be called in until 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 24th October 2006.

A request to call in a decision must be made by at least three Members representing at least two political groups. The request must be made in writing to the Chief Executive<sup>1</sup>.

If no request to call in a decision is received within this time limit then the decision becomes effective immediately.

<u>Agenda Item No.</u> <sup>3</sup>	<b><u>OPEN REPORTS</u></b>	<b><u>Urgent/ Call-in Exempt</u></b>
6(a)	<b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b> COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPROVING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES – BVPI 183 (A) AND BVPI (B)	
	<b><u>DECISION:</u></b> <sup>1</sup> That the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee in respect of arrangements for improving homelessness services be approved and the Director of Community Services be requested to investigate how other similar local authorities approach homelessness issues and how they achieve top quartile performance for BVPI 183 (a) [Length of stay in temporary accommodation (bed & breakfast)].	
6(b)	<b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b> AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE	
	<b><u>DECISION:</u></b> That the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Audit Commission's Inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service, listed below be approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the tenants obligations with respect to 'dealing with asbestos' be included in the lettings agreement (see Audit Commission Ref: R3).</li> <li>• That a separate report advising on the implications of the slippages in the Sheltered Housing 'Vision &amp;</li> </ul>	

	<p>Standards' Plan be prepared for the Housing &amp; Community Services Committee (Ref R4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the need for and frequency of post inspections be considered (Ref. R5).</li> <li>• That a discount system be investigated for the retrospective annual review of repetitive work in the proposed contract arrangements (Ref R6).</li> <li>• That as there appears to be scope for improvements in the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) Arrangements with our Partners, this be reviewed as a matter of urgency. (Ref. R7).</li> <li>• That the extension of reporting times to include Saturday mornings be reviewed (Ref. R9).</li> <li>• That a 'capacity building' exercise be undertaken to develop the housing maintenance and repairs service / Disabled Facilities Grants with a view to improving performance, quality and Value For Money (Ref. R12).</li> <li>• That In the absence of a planned Audit Commission re-inspection of the housing repairs and maintenance service, the commissioning of an independent assessment of the service be made within eighteen months time to allow for the completion of the implementation plan and to collect six months performance data.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b> COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SCHEME</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> That the Committee having considered the recommendations of the Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel awards the following grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Woodland Trust – Land Acquisition at Botany Bay - £25,000.</li> <li>• South Derbyshire Organ Trust – Preserve and enhance Pipe Organ - £8,000.</li> <li>• Frank Wickham Charity Trust – Village Hall Refurbishment - £5,945.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b> SERVICE PLANS 2006/2009</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> (1) That the Services Plans for Housing Services, Leisure and Community Development and Environmental Services be approved as the basis for service delivery for the period to March 2009. (2) That the Chair of the Committee be requested to</p>	

	<p>write to all Council staff who participated in the Housing Services Open Day to express the thanks of Members for their hard work and contribution to a successful event.</p> <p>(3) That the Director of Community Services be requested to provide all Members of the Council with appropriate information on the law relating to fireworks to assist them when providing advice/information to their constituents.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  <b>TREE INSPECTIONS – PROGRESS REPORT</b></p> <p><b>DECISION:</b></p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report and the actions proposed in respect of tree inspections be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Community Services be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The details of the Councils policy on the removal of trees and whether this involves the replacement of trees with another appropriate species.</li> <li>• The details of the number of over mature trees in the District which may be at risk of removal and what works can be under taken to them so that they can be retained in a safe and healthy condition.</li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  <b>PROGRESS REPORT – PLAY EQUIPMENT PROVISION</b></p> <p><b>DECISION:</b></p> <p>(1) That the progress in delivering the agreed programme of capital works for play equipment provision be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the additional play and youth provision for the Chestnut Avenue, Midway, Woodville Road, Overseal and Fabis Close, Swadlincote sites as identified in Annexe A of the report be approved.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  <b>FORMER SITE OF 22-28 ASKEW GROVE</b></p> <p><b>DECISION:</b></p> <p>(1) That consideration of the report in respect of restrictive covenants at the site of 22–28 Askew Grove, Repton be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to enable an officer from legal services to</p>	

	<p>provide appropriate advice.</p> <p>(2) That the withdrawal of delegated powers from officers in respect of decisions relating to covenants be investigated and a report on the matter be submitted to Council/ Committee as appropriate.</p> <p>(3) That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to investigate whether the consideration of covenants is a relevant issue which should be included in reports when the Development Control Committee is considering planning applications.</p> <p>(4) That the developer in respect of the land at 22- 28 Askew Grove, Repton be advised by the Director of Community Services that no decision has yet been taken to relax the restrictive covenants in respect of the same site.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES GUIDE AND STANDARDS</p>	
	<p><b><u>DECISION:</u></b>  That Committee having considered the Environmental Services Guide and Standards document approve it for publication.</p>	
13.	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p>	
	<p><b><u>DECISION:</u></b>  That the Open Minutes of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee Meeting held on 24th April 2006 be received and noted.</p>	

DATED: 13th October 2006  
Chief Executive

- <sup>1</sup> Although it is not necessary to use a prescribed form, copies are available from the Chief Executive.
- <sup>2</sup> NOTE – this gives an outline of the committee decision for call-in purposes but it does not necessarily reflect the final wording for minute purposes.
- <sup>3</sup> Insert both the agenda item number and its heading.