

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

6th January 2009

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen (Chairman), Councillor Ford (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs. Patten, Stanton, Timms and Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Richards (substitute for Councillor Southerd), Taylor and Tilley.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Brown

In Attendance

Councillors Atkin, Harrison, Lemmon and Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group).

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/35. **DONINGTON PARK RACE CIRCUIT PROPOSALS**

A report was submitted advising Members of how development proposals at Donington Park Race Circuit were likely to affect South Derbyshire in terms of potential noise, traffic, landscape, air quality and economic impacts and proposed a Council response. Further information was circulated at the Meeting giving an update in respect of noise issues.

It was confirmed that Donington Park Race Circuit had signed a 10-year contract to host the British Grand Prix from 2010. Given the prestigious nature of this event, the applicants had sought to secure improvements to both the race circuit and its facilities. Two applications had been submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council. These applications sought permission for qualitative improvements to the circuit and buildings.

North West Leicestershire District Council had consulted South Derbyshire District Council on the proposals and potential implications for the District Council were considered.

The key impacts of the new physical development on the site which might have an impact on South Derbyshire and its residents were considered in turn under the following headings:-

- Noise (In addition a further update in respect of this issue was circulated at the Meeting).
- Traffic
- Landscape
- Air quality
- Economy

Members expressed concern about the proposal, but felt that the recommendation was soundly based. It was requested that ongoing monitoring of noise levels took place when events were taking place.

It was also requested that South Derbyshire District Council be consulted by Derbyshire County Council when considering any forthcoming Event Management Plans. If possible, the District Council should then consult with the affected parishes.

RESOLVED:-

That, for the reasons set out in section 4 of the report, no objection to the application be made, subject to the following:

- ***That any future Event Management Plan for Formula 1, or other major events continue to be brought forward in consultation with Derbyshire County Council as Highways Authority for the District, in order that traffic impacts associated with large events can be scrutinised and suitable mitigation measures which reduce local impact can be secured.***
- ***That, in considering any future Event Management Plan, Derbyshire County Council be requested to consult with South Derbyshire District Council.***
- ***That should permission for the scheme be granted, NWLDC tie the permission to the Environment Statement in order that the proposal does not give rise to impacts different from those set out in the Environment Statement, and to ensure that all mitigation measures outlined in respect of landscape, noise and air quality proposed in the Environment Statement are secured.***

EDS/36. **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2009/2010**

A report was submitted informing Members of the proposed base budget for 2009/10. This included an overview of the Committee's main spending areas and some of the main cost pressures facing its services. It was proposed that the estimated income and expenditure was included in the consolidated budget of the Council for 2009/10, subject to the Council's overall medium-term financial position. The report also set out proposals for the level of fees and charges under the responsibility of this Committee for the next financial year. A summary was included of the Committee's existing capital investment programme. In addition, an analysis of the Committee's proposed service development bids was also included for consideration.

The Committee's net revenue expenditure was summarised in an Appendix to the report, which set out the estimates for each main cost centre and aggregated several of the main service areas.

The Committee was also responsible for services where substantial amounts of income were generated for the Council. These included Licensing, Land Charges and, in particular, Planning with combined income in excess of £1M per year. As reports to the Finance and Management Committee had highlighted during the year, the current economic downturn has caused a negative impact on these major income streams forcing a revision to the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Details of the Committee's overall net revenue expenditure were given, with the Committee's expenditure estimated to increase overall between 2008/09 and 2009/10 by £1,765,240. An analysis of these variances was detailed

across services. It was pointed out that the largest variance of £1.7m, relating to Departmental and Employee costs were not additional costs to the Council and represented the cost of the main departmental accounts for planning, environmental health, waste and cleansing services, that had previously been charged to and then reallocated from Finance Committee. Details of other variances were given with reasons for these and it was confirmed that they had been known and reported to Finance and Management Committee as part of financial monitoring throughout the year. Further detail was given on income from Land Charges, Building Regulations and Planning fees, Waste Collection and Street Cleansing and recycling.

The proposed base budget for 2009/10 did not allow for inflation. Some base costs would be subject to inflation during the year and in some cases it would be unavoidable, for example on employee costs, when national pay increases were settled. Allowances for inflation based on various assumptions regarding price increases etc would be calculated across the main spending heads and in total, held as a central contingency. This contingency would be reviewed and monitored by Finance and Management Committee and allocated into service budgets, as the actual effects of inflation became known over the year.

Further details were given of the Council's approved Capital Investment Programme, and other potential schemes awaiting approval/funding allocations.

An appendix was provided within the report giving a schedule of the proposed level of fees and charges that would operate from 1st April 2009, together with a comparison to the existing charge. Each service area had been given a target to generate 2.75% of additional income compared to current base budgets. Charges had also been amended to reflect the recent change in the VAT rate from 17.5% to 15% for the period December 2008 to December 2009.

Detail was provided on fees for Land Charges and it was confirmed that currently there was a fee of £104.00 per search. It was proposed to introduce a different fee for commercial searches to reflect the time taken to complete them. A definition of residential and commercial searches was provided. As a result it was recommended that the fee for commercial searches be increased to £135.00 from 1st April 2009.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2009/10 for the Committee's Services be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (2) That the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 3 for 2009/10 be approved.***
- (3) That the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 5 for Building Regulations be approved.***
- (4) That the fee for Commercial Land Searches be set at £135.00 from 1st April 2009.***

EDS/37. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

WASTE AND CLEANSING SERVICES TENDER EVALUATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACT (Paragraph 3)

The Committee awarded the contract for provision of the Council's Waste and Cleansing Services for the next 7 years commencing June 2009.

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN