

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

OPEN

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Mrs Haines (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs. Brown, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Patten, Roberts (substituting for Councillor Macpherson), and Whittenham.

Labour Group

Councillors Mrs. Heath, Shepherd (substituting for Councillor Dunn), Singh, Taylor and Tilley.

EDS/39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Macpherson (Chairman), and Councillor Dunn.

EDS/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

EDS/41 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

EDS/42 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

EDS/43 REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/44 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PROPOSED REFORMS TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G AND EXTEND MOBILE COVERAGE

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report to the Committee including views on the rollout of 5G and the potential loosening of permitted development rights. Committee was advised that the consultation period covered works related to telecoms, particularly the erection of telephone masts, where there was currently a 15m height restriction which would, under the proposals be unlimited. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing highlighted that whilst this Council may have an input in the design issues, this may not be the case when deciding on the location of the masts. For this reason, the recommendation in the report requested that Members object to further liberalisation of consents for telecoms masts. It was further noted that whilst the intention would not be to hinder the rollout of 5G, some control over the location of the masts would be required.

Councillor Billings requested that the opportunity to submit detailed comments be taken, particularly in relation to where broadband coverage needs improvement.

Councillor Singh expressed concern in relation to the location of masts and potential low-level radiation, particularly near schools, and sought further information on this subject. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing advised that any effects on health would not be assessed by this Council, but a separate government department deals with such issues.

Councillor Southerd noted that as telecommunications operators choose sites, it would be valuable to this Council to obtain the knowledge in order to constructively challenge such applications. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing acknowledged this point, commenting that currently this is not possible. Further comment was raised in relation to requesting further information on health effects. Members were advised that health effects from telecom masts are not be considered to be a material planning consideration. In response to a query regarding resources, The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing responded that currently approximately 1500 applications are received annually and this would be kept under review.

In order to address the Committee's concerns, an amendment to the recommendation was carried; where as part of the feedback to the government's consultation, a request would be made for the latest research available on the potential effects of 5G networks., which would then be made available to the residents of South Derbyshire.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Committee, in response to the consultation, objects to all proposals relating to new permitted development rights on the grounds that all such telecom developments require careful consideration in the light of the specific merits of the context of individual sites on a case by case basis. Deemed consent would not be appropriate for development particularly in conservation areas and for masts above 25m high, both of which could be harmful to the significance of heritage assets and visual amenity generally. These issues can then be weighed against the acknowledged government objective for the improvement of mobile phone coverage and the enhancement of networks in pursuit of accommodating 5G.***

***The Committee approved to delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Strategic Housing, upon liaison with the Vice-Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee, to formulate a full technical response to the government consultation and as part of the feedback, request the latest research available on the potential effects of 5G networks. which would then be made available to the residents of South Derbyshire.***

EDS/45 **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**

The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Taylor commented that the area would include Willington Power Station and sought clarification if any communications had been received from the landowners in terms of their future plans for the site. The Head of Planning and Strategic Housing responded that the site still possesses power generation consent and a pipeline consent for gas to serve the site. Members were advised that although attempts had been made to secure a power generation allocation for the site, no future plans had been confirmed.

**RESOLVED:**

***The Committee approved to formally designate the Willington Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the application from Willington Parish Council.***

EDS/46 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) advised Members work is ongoing with further details to be included at the next Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

***The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.***

EDS/47 **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 would be 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.***

**EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

***The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.***

The meeting terminated at 6.30 pm.

COUNCILLOR MRS HAINES

VICE-CHAIRMAN