

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

13th October 2011

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Hewlett (Vice-Chairman in-the-Chair) and Councillors Bale (substitute for Councillor Ford), Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Plenderleith (substitute for Councillor Murray), Smith and Watson (substitute for Councillor Lemmon (Chairman)).

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards and Shepherd.

**In attendance**

Councillor Atkin (Conservative Group)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Lemmon (Chairman), Ford and Murray (Conservative Group).

HCS/25. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st September 2011, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/26. **SPORTS PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations were made recognising sporting achievements within the District. The Chairman of Council presented certificates and trophies as follows:

- Etwall Eagles Swimming Club and Hilton Harriers Football Club - Joint Club of the Year
- Melbourne under 12's Rugby Squad - Junior Team of the Year
- Kevin Brown - Coach of the Year
- Ashley Pallett - Young Sports Leader/Young Coach of the Year
- Les Pearson - Sports Person of the Year

HCS/27. **ACTIVE NATION (APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2011)**

David Johns (Area Manager) from Active Nation, gave a presentation on the first six months of their management of the District's Leisure Centres and plans for the future.

It was confirmed that Active Nation currently had partners with 16 venues. They currently had a contract to manage 2 Leisure Centre's within the South

Derbyshire District, for a seven-year period up to March 2018. The contract's overall strategic objectives were confirmed and four specific key performance indicators had also been established as follows:

- Increase participation
- Improve customer satisfaction
- Increase partnership working and club development
- Operational performance

A summary was also given on the first six months performance, of which a key achievement was that an additional 1,328 active supporters had been added. It was also reported that staff had worked very hard and been very committed to Active Nation, which had resulted in a very successful summer campaign and an additional 7,000 supporter data capture cards had been completed. The presentation also covered future plans, which included short-term priorities through to March 2012, and capital development plans.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the presentation from Active Nation be noted.***

HCS/28. **LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS**

South Derbyshire Sport, the community sport network for the District, had developed a programme of activity linked to the Olympics, which aimed to use London 2012 to maximise the physical, social and economical benefits to the local community. An organising group had been established which consisted of representatives from the School Sports Partnership, Active Nation, Sports and Health Development and the Head of Community and Development. Co-ordination and development of a programme of activity would be undertaken by this group. Planned and proposed events were confirmed, which included a District-wide torch relay that would travel around South Derbyshire to highlight the games, and to enthuse individuals to take part in associated activities.

Details of legacy projects were provided and development of facilities in Melbourne, Etwell and Green Bank Leisure Centre that might attract Sport England Legacy funds, plus investment from Active Nation, the Football Foundation and the Council itself, were being considered.

The South Derbyshire Partnership Healthier Communities Group had provided an initial grant of £4,000 and a budget of £5,000 was provided from the South Derbyshire Cultural Project. This provided a reasonable working budget to deliver many of the proposed events. A further bid would be made to the Healthier Communities fund in 2012 and it was expected that Active Nation would make a significant impact on any plans for the future.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the London 2012 Olympics programme, and its delivery by South Derbyshire District Council, be approved.***

**HCS/29. TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

There had not been a strategic approach to the management of trees and woodland on Council land within the District, and as a result, there was a risk that the pace of development and reactive management would have a detrimental impact on the quality and quantity of the Council's tree stock. In order that a proactive and consistent approach to tree management could be undertaken, it was deemed necessary to produce a policy framework for decision.

The Tree Management Policy set out the Council's approach to retaining, managing and enhancing the tree stock for the benefit for all that lived and worked in South Derbyshire. This was intended to act as point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people, to establish a clearer, consistent and more structured approach to tree related issues.

The Policy was attached as an Annexe to the report. It was requested that further wording be included within the Policy, that local Members be consulted on specific Tree Management issues in their ward.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Tree Management Policy be adopted, subject to additional wording ensuring consultation with Local Members on specific tree management issues within their ward. Wording to be delegated to the Head of Community and Planning Services in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of Housing and Community Services Committee.***

**HCS/30. POSSESSION PROCEEDINGS FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Government had launched a consultation paper "A new mandatory power for anti-social behaviour" commencing 3rd August 2011. In addition, on 15th August, the Housing Minister, in direct response to the inner city riots of the preceding days, widened the scope of the consultation to include a proposal that the discretionary grounds for possession relating to anti-social behaviour be extended to include behaviour anywhere in the UK, as opposed to the current grounds which was limited to the locality of the tenancy.

The Council had reviewed its own Housing Policy on anti-social behaviour in 2011 following extensive consultation. Full details were provided on the new mandatory grounds for possession and the extension of the current discretionary possession ground.

A proposed response to the consultation was provided for the latter 5 of the 6 questions posed by the consultation and these were agreed. In relation to the first question, Members commented that they were not in favour of extending the scope of the current discretionary ground for possession for anti-social behaviour and criminality. It was agreed that the final wording be delegated to the Head of Housing and Environmental Services in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of Housing and Community Services Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That a response on the Government proposal to extend the discretionary ground for possession, to include anti-social behaviour anywhere in the UK, be in the negative with the detailed wording of the response delegated to the Head of Housing & Environmental Services, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of Housing and Community Services Committee.***
- (2) That the proposal made by the Government to introduce a new mandatory ground for possession, following anti-social behaviour, where that behaviour has already been ruled upon by the courts, be supported.***

**HCS/31. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL ELECTRICAL GENERATING PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS (PV) ON VIABLE COUNCIL HOUSING ROOFS**

Members were informed of a project to install Photovoltaic (PV) Panels on viable Council properties, subject to procurement, finance and legal details. The project contributed to the objectives of the Corporate Plan, 'Sustainable Community Strategy' by reducing the Council's reliance on traditional forms of energy production. There was also the financial benefit that could be achieved via the Government's Feed in Tariff (FIT) initiative. The income generated from the FIT would be significant, as detailed within the report, and could offer an opportunity for the Council to reinvest this income in either other green technologies or other worthwhile schemes within the District.

This scheme involved a significant initial capital outlay in the region of £1m in return for an annual revenue income of around 10 to 14%. This rate of return was currently not available to the Council from any other source.

Members were fully appraised with details of the financial and ecological advantages of the scheme and the associated risks with a project of this nature. Full details were also provided on financial implications, including the funding of the £1m capital investment through HRA borrowing.

Members welcomed the report and it was asked if this project could be extended to allow private owners of properties to be able to take advantage of purchasing PV's under this arrangement. Officers responded that this was the intention but the final detail would be between the contractor and private owners.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the installation of Photovoltaic Panels on viable Council Properties, subject to procurement, finance and legal details, be approved.***
- (2) That the investment of £1M into the project, funded from HRA borrowing, be approved.***

- (3) *That it be recommended to Finance and Management Committee that the proposal, including the associated financing under the National Prudential Borrowing Framework be approved, and the borrowing requirement be included in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.*

HCS/32. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and review its content where appropriate. It was requested that an additional report be considered by a future Committee which included a review of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the updated work programme be approved subject to the inclusion of a report providing a review of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme.*

HCS/33. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (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.*

**MINUTES**

*The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 were received.*

J. HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN