

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Cllr Watson (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs Brown, Ford, Mrs Hall, Mrs Patten, Stanton and Atkin

Labour Group

Councillors Chahal, Frost, Mulgrew, Southerd, Rhind and Taylor

EDS/29 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Roberts. Councillor Atkin substituted for him. Apologies were also received from Councillors Stuart and Tilley. Councillors Rhind and Southerd substituted for them.

EDS/30 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st August 2014 were approved as a true record.

EDS/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received from its members relating to any of the items on today's agenda.

EDS/32 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from elected members had been received.

EDS/33 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

EDS/34 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee was informed that there were no Overview & Scrutiny Committee reports for it to consider.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/35 CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENTS

Members considered a report which sought the Committee's agreement to extend the conservation area boundaries and adopt conservation area statements for different parts of the District. It was explained that extensive public consultation on this had taken place during the early part of 2013. The comments received during this consultation exercise were attached to the report.

It was pointed out that the comments attributed to the Trusley Parish Meeting should actually have been attributed to Stanton-By-Bridge. Members noted this and agreed that the correct attribution for these comments be made clear in the minutes.

The Committee was informed that approval of the Ticknall conservation area character statement would have to be put on hold. This would enable further local evidence about the history of the area to be assessed and, if necessary, reflected in the statement.

The Committee welcomed the work that had taken place to produce the draft conservation statements and agreed that they now be adopted.

RESOLVED:-

That the extension of the conservation area boundaries for Trent & Mersey Canal, Stanton by Bridge and Trusley, be approved.

That the draft conservation area character statements for Shardlow, Smisby, Stanton By Bridge, Swadlincote, Swarkestone, Trent & Mersey Canal, Trusley, Twyford, Walton on Trent and Woodhouses be approved

That approval of the Ticknall conservation area character statements is deferred pending further, more detailed consideration of the historical facts.

EDS/36 ADOPTION OF MODEL CONDITIONS FOR DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Committee then considered a report explaining the Council's legal duty to licence dog breeding establishments in the District, and to ensure that their operators complied with the relevant legislation in terms of the welfare of the animals. It was pointed out that in order to help discharge their responsibilities, local authorities could adopt 'conditions' setting out how these establishments should operate. The Committee was asked, therefore, to adopt the model conditions for dog breeding establishments produced by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). A consultation exercise involving relevant stakeholders had been held in the District and no objections were raised to the proposed conditions.

RESOLVED:-

That the conditions and supporting guidance related to dog breeding establishments be approved.

EDS/37 **PET SHOPS LICENSING POLICY**

Following this, the Committee then considered a report explaining the Council's legal duty to licence pet shops in the District, and to ensure that their operators complied with the relevant legislation in terms of the welfare of the animals. It was pointed out that in order to help them discharge their responsibilities, local authorities could adopt conditions setting out how these establishments should operate. The Committee was asked, therefore, to adopt the model conditions for pet shops, produced by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). A consultation exercise involving relevant stakeholders had been held in the District and no objections were raised to the proposed conditions.

RESOLVED:-

That the conditions and supporting guidance related to pet shop licences be approved.

EDS/38 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES LICENSING POLICY**

Members received a report setting out a new policy and associated operational conditions for licensing private hire vehicle drivers in the District. The proposed changes had been produced following consultation with the relevant stakeholders. They would, it was explained, bring the Council into line with national guidance and best practice. Briefly, under the revised policy the Council would now require that: (a) On the initial grant of a private hire licence, all vehicles must be less than **eight** years old from the date of registration, and (b) Medical examinations of drivers must take place every **five** years and eye tests every **two** years up to the age of 65 (and yearly after that).

Members discussed the proposed changes and welcomed them. They thanked the Senior Licensing Officer for her hard work in producing the revised policy, along with the conditions relating to pet shops and dog breeding establishments.

RESOLVED:-

That the proposed Private Hire Licensing Policy, Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions, Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions and Private Hire Drivers Licence Conditions as set out in the report be approved.

That the revised policy and conditions as set out in the report come into effect from Monday 10th November 2014

EDS/39 REGULATORS CODE

The Committee received an update on the changes to statutory guidance which had taken place on the way in which the Council's enforcement services ought to be directed to regulate the local business community. These changes were set out in the so-called 'Regulators Code', published by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The code is intended to provide a framework for the proportionate and appropriate regulation of businesses.

The Council is required to show how it is complying with the code. A comprehensive assessment of its activities had been carried out to help identify where we are compliant in terms of the six specific requirements of the code and where we are not. Members were told that proposals to make the necessary improvements had been drawn up and that these were appended to the report.

During the discussion, members queried the scope of the code and in particular, the local focus on food safety, in terms of the actions that the Council had or intended to take. This focus, it was explained, reflected the fact that food safety was the main area of regulation where the Council engages the with the business community.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee approve the proposed actions identified in the report following a review of the Council's regulatory services in the light of the publication of the Regulator's Code.

That the Committee approve the report as evidence that the regulation of the business community by South Derbyshire District Council is compliant with the principles of the Regulator's Code.

EDS/40 DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC STRATEGY STATEMENT

Members then considered the 'Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement' (DESS). This had been produced by the Derbyshire Economic Partnership, which the Council is a part of. This strategy sought to define what the County needs to do in order to secure economic prosperity and setting out what the County can do to promote and deliver growth. The DESS had been endorsed by the Partnership Board in May of this year. All of the local authority partners had now been asked to formally approve the plan through their own governance arrangements. For this reason, it had been submitted to the Committee for its endorsement.

Members discussed the strategy and in particular the role played by the visitor economy in promoting economic growth. It was noted that although employment in the sector had grown nationally it had actually fallen in Derbyshire. Much of this was caused by a reduction employment elsewhere in Derbyshire, rather than to the National Forest in South Derbyshire. In

this context, members also discussed whether a joint approach with the West Midlands might help, especially in terms of marketing the midlands as a whole to overseas visitors.

The Committee thanked the Economic Development Manager, Mike Roylance, for his contribution to the preparation of the strategy.

EDS/41 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its revised work programme for the year.

RESOLVED:-

To approve the updated work programme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RESOLVED:-

EDS/42 *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.*

EDS/43 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from elected members had been received

EDS/44 **EXEMPT MINUTES**

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st August 2014 were approved as a true record.

P. WATSON

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 18.40.