

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

3rd September 2009

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Grant (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bladen (substitute for Councillor Atkin), Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Hood, Roberts and Mrs. Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Murray).

**Labour Group**

Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Richards and Shepherd.

**In Attendance**

Councillors Mrs. Farrington and Jones (Conservative Group) and Councillor Dunn (Labour Group).

HCS/13. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th June 2009 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jones declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. HCS/24, (Family Z Special Needs Accommodation), as a Member of Derbyshire County Council.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/15. **LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION**

It was reported that South Derbyshire currently had one local nature reserve at Elvaston, owned by Derbyshire County Council, covering 9.67 hectares, well below Natural England's target of a minimum of 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population. It was recommended that Coton Park be put forward for declaration as the first South Derbyshire District Council managed Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The declaration of Coton Park would bring the District to 21% of the target amount.

Background information was given on LNR's, in addition to the qualification criteria.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had produced a Management Plan for the site, which detailed an annual maintenance regime to protect and enhance existing habitats. For successful management to be implemented it was important that there was a formal management structure. The development of the Management Advisory Group was underway, comprising representation from the site owners, the local community, conservation organisations and other interested individuals and organisations. It was confirmed that current

maintenance agreements were a partnership between South Derbyshire District Council, Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire and a small group of local volunteers. The cost of implementing the Management Plan was approximately £2,500 per year, which was currently met through the Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire. The Council would continue to own and have responsibility of the site, and the cost of any capital works identified in the Management Plan would be sought from external funding sources.

**RESOLVED:**

***That Coton Park be put forward for declaration as the first SDDC managed Local Nature Reserve.***

HCS/16. **OLDER PERSONS' HOUSING SERVICES**

A report was submitted advising Members of national policies which moved towards the provision of tenure neutral housing related support for older clients, and how this would affect service delivery in South Derbyshire. In addition, it was requested that a review group of Members, residents and officers be established to consider the option to remodel the way housing related support was delivered in South Derbyshire.

The Supporting People programme was the main funder of supported (or sheltered) housing in South Derbyshire. Nationally, the Supporting People programme driver was to provide tenure neutral floating support services to those most in need which was currently more evident in the provision of services to clients other than the elderly, for example mental health services and support to victims of domestic violence, which were provided as floating support rather than being tied to accommodation. The Council's current supported housing service had undergone significant changes during recent years. The service had gone from strength to strength, achieving accreditations to the Centre for Sheltered Housing Studies and Telecare Services Association Standards.

A review of service provision could open up the service to all elderly clients of South Derbyshire in need of housing related support, regardless of tenure, offering a tiered service dependent on a needs assessment and support plan for delivery. At present there was no Supporting People funding for private sector clients in need in South Derbyshire. Officers had done some preparatory work to explore best practice from around the Country, the demand for the service in the private sector, and feasibility into the delivery of a high quality cost-effective service that met the needs of the most vulnerable.

Since the implementation of the Supporting People programme, the Housing Revenue Account had financially subsidised the Supporting Housing Service. This review was proposed to consider the shortfall in funding and the options for remodelling the finances. It was proposed that a working group be established, consisting of 3 Members (2 from the Controlling Group and 1 from the Opposition Group) plus 3 officers and 3 residents, to consider the details and make recommendations to Housing and Community Services Committee at a later date. It was envisaged that the officer places would be in the ratio of

2 places to the Community Wardens and 1 to a Supported Housing Manager and that the residents be selected by the Sheltered Housing Manager utilising his knowledge of those volunteering.

Although this recommendation was fully supported, it was requested that all of those who may be involved, or affected, should be kept fully informed throughout the process. It was proposed that Councillor Rhind be considered as the Member from the Opposition Group.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the formation of a review group to consider options to remodel the Community Warden service to provide more flexible housing related support to elderly and vulnerable clients in both the public and private sector be approved.***

HCS/17. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1st APRIL 2009 – 30th JUNE 2009)**

A report was submitted detailing achievements for the quarter ending 30th June 2009, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009–2014. The Corporate Plan Action Plan consisted of four main themes, and this Committee was responsible for actions within the Safe and Secure and Lifestyle Choices themes.

Officers drew Members attention to those actions/targets which were 'at risk' and those indicated as 'probable failure'.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Council's key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 30th June 2009 be noted.***
- (2) That, where performance has failed to achieve the specified target, the response has been noted.***

HCS/18. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved.***

HCS/19. **ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee held on 7th July and 13th October 2008 and 26th January and 23rd March 2009 be received and noted.***

HCS/20. **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 11th June 2009 were received.*

**LAND AT ROSLISTON (Paragraph 3)**

*Approval was granted for the proposed land transactions.*

**LAND AT MIDWAY (Paragraph 3)**

*It was agreed that an area of land at Midway be deemed surplus to requirements and approval was granted for disposal,*

**FAMILY Z SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION (Paragraph 3)**

*Approval was given to progress a new build option to satisfy the special rehousing needs of a family.*

**REPLACEMENT KITCHEN AND BATHROOM PROGRAMME FOR THE DELIVERY OF DECENT HOMES (Paragraph 3)**

*The appointment of a contractor for the kitchen and bathroom 2009/10 renewal contract was ratified.*

**ETWALL LEISURE CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Paragraph 1)**

*The Exempt Minutes of the Meetings held on 7th July 2008 and 26th January and 23rd March 2009 were noted.*

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN