

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.10 pm

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
24 MAY 2004**

Present: Councillor Bolton (in the Chair)
Councillors Beech, Rehman, Skelton and Troup

100/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown, Samra and Dhamrait.

101/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

102/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

103/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

104/03 Forward Plan

The Commission decided to request a report on the following issue to be considered at the next meeting:

- Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative – Outline Business Case

105/03 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

Home Energy Conservation – How's Derby Doing?

The Commission considered the response of the Council Cabinet to the report on Home Energy Conservation, which was made by the former Environment and Sustainability Commission to the Council Cabinet meeting on 5 August 2003. It was noted that, at that time, an action plan had been proposed. Richard Murrell, Home

Energy Advice Manager, attended the meeting to present the draft action plan for any comments to be taken to the Council Cabinet meeting on 15 June 2004.

It was reported that the Commission's recommendations in relation to Home Energy Efficiency had covered several departments, which had each submitted proposals to be incorporated into the action plan. The plan covered various aspects of the service such as staffing, promotion of the Warmfront scheme and opportunities for grants toward home insulation and repairs. The department had also liaised with employees at Derby Loans to discuss how to increase awareness of the Derby Loans initiative. Members of the Commission felt this was very important and suggested more contact with local MPs to highlight the issue, especially for people over 60, who may not be aware of such initiatives.

It was advised that a purchasing consortium that enabled local Councils to purchase energy efficient goods had been proposed and implemented on a trial basis, but had been withdrawn due to some difficulties with the service. It was noted that it might be possible to re-establish the consortium once a review had been completed by the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC).

Resolved

- 1 To recommend that the Council Cabinet approve the proposals set out in the draft action plan.**
- 2 To recommend that the Council lobby local MPs to support the Sustainable and Secure Buildings Bill and to request that current enforcement powers are updated so that legislation can be properly enforced.**

Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

106/03 Best Value Review of Development - Final Report and Improvement Plan

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services which had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 27 April 2004 and referred to the Commission for comment. It gave details of the final report and improvement plan. Stewart Todd, Head of Development Control and Land Searches, and Mick Henman, Head of Building Consultancy, had attended the meeting of the Commission on 4 March 2004 to present the options for the Best Value Review. Stewart Todd and Mick Henman were in attendance to answer any questions of the Commission on the final report.

Councillor Troup referred to the method and amount of training that would be provided to front line staff and asked why other staff were not going to be trained. Stewart Todd advised that from past experience, it had been found better for Planning Officers to give in-depth advice as they had the necessary training and

experience. He also added that funding had now been made available to fill vacancies by recruiting new staff.

Resolved to make no comments on the report.

For the following items, Councillor Beech took the Chair.

107/03 Best Value Review of Bereavement Services Terms of Reference

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Commercial Services which had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 27 April 2004 and referred to the Commission for comment. Geoff Hall, Assistant Director – Works and Engineering, gave a presentation outlining the proposed improvements to the current services for bereavement provided throughout the City.

It was noted that the Review was scheduled to be completed in September 2004, and that a scoping event had been carried out in March to identify areas for improvement. There had been extensive consultation with all stakeholders including ethnic minorities and people of different religious groups, which had involved reviewing the range of options available. It was advised that grass cutting, staffing levels and facilities for mourners were among the areas that were being considered for development.

It was reported that monuments and headstones in cemeteries were being inspected and any that were found to be unsafe were laid down. All new headstones would be constructed according to the National Association of Memorial Masons Regulations (NAMM).

It was also noted that the flower terrace at Markeaton Crematorium was in need of improvement, although there were no immediate plans to restore it.

Resolved to make no comments on the report.

108/03 Supplementary Planning Guidance on the After Use of Sand and Gravel Sites

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services which had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 6 April 2004 and referred to the Commission for comment.

The report gave details on the various elements that needed to be considered when site restoration was proposed, including landscape, biodiversity and recreation, and how these factors should be handled, especially on specific sites where restoration plans had not been finalised. It was noted that the report was designed to add supplementary planning guidance as part of the Joint Minerals Local Plan, which was adopted by the City and County Councils in 2000.

It was advised that the guidance sought to address problems such as the lack of materials to restore sites locally and the concerns of airport authorities of birds being attracted to sites where water was part of the restoration plan. This was inevitable where an extraction site could not be filled and restored to agriculture.

It was noted that the public consultation period had started at the beginning of May and would continue for seven weeks.

Resolved to make no comments on the report.

109/03 Derby Joint Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, LTP2 Draft Policy and Delivery Frameworks

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services which had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 27 April 2004 and referred to the Commission for comment. Christine Durrant, Head of Transportation and Special Projects, gave details of the plan and it was noted that the purpose of the report was to update and improve the way the Local Transport Plan was developed, adding to the current transport framework.

It was reported that there were four delivery strategies including:

- Maintenance
- Integrated transport
- Road safety
- Sustainable travel promotion

The Commission were advised that the department was still waiting for government guidance, but some documentation referred to shared priorities and how the guidance could be implemented.

Councillor Troup questioned the meaning of the vision statement, as it referred a more integrated and sustainable transport network, which was thought to be unrealistic. It was felt that the vision statement on a previous LTP report was much better and more achievable.

Councillor Troup referred to Delivery Strategy 3 and felt that this should also be a more achievable aim. It was advised that the Delivery Strategy was only a guideline to make further progress and it was unlikely it would be fully achieved in the short term.

Resolved to recommend that the proposed 'Transport Vision' and the 'Delivery Strategy 3' are redefined to make them more realistic and more achievable.

110/03 Best Value Review of Services to Road Users Final Report

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services which had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 18 May 2004 and referred to the Commission for comment. Christine Durrant, Head of Transportation and Special Projects, had presented the report at a previous meeting of the Commission on 24 May 2004. She was in attendance to answer any further questions the Commission had.

It was reported that the Improvement Plan had been updated since the Options Appraisal, and some amendments were highlighted. In relation to School Travel Plans, it was advised that more areas had been involved, although from an educational perspective, there were limitations on what could be done.

Resolved to make no comments on the report.

For the following item, Councillor Bolton took the Chair.

Work Plan

111/03 Underage Sales Review

The Chair reported that she and the Vice Chair had attended the Council Cabinet meeting on 18 May 2004 where the Review of the Sale of Age Restricted Goods had been discussed. It was noted that the Council Cabinet had welcomed the Commission's recommendations on the report and had requested officers to investigate the full implications of the scheme, in particular, the revenue funding required.

It was reported that Mel Smith, Trading Standards Manager, had agreed to be Lead Officer and would investigate the possible implementation of the Commission's recommendations. He had agreed to meet with Members of the Commission to discuss various issues, but no date for a meeting had so far been suggested.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 To pursue arrangements for a meeting with the Trading Standards Manager.**

Minutes End