

Items Scrutinised by the Community Commission

18 JUNE 2007

07/07 Neighbourhood Working

The Commission received a presentation from Andy Thomas - Head of Stronger and Safer Communities on proposals for rolling out neighbourhood working city wide and replace area panels with neighbourhood forums. It was proposed that one forum be established for each of the 17 wards coterminous with the ward boundaries. A number of briefing sessions with elected members had been held to explain the new structure and these were followed by more detailed discussions with ward members to enable them to have a better understanding of the proposed neighbourhood working model. Neighbourhood working had been piloted in a number of areas and this had worked well. Services would be delivered closer to the people who would have a say in shaping services and setting priorities.

08/07 Work Planning and Resources 2007/08

The Commission considered a report which stated that Commissions were expected to set their annual work programme based around items contained within their respective portfolios at the beginning of each municipal year. Members of the Commission suggested that neighbourhood working should be considered as a priority due to the imminent roll out of neighbourhood working. They also suggested looking at why Nottingham and Leicester Playhouses received more funding from the Arts Council than Derby Playhouse, the new housing allocation policy which had recently been implemented particularly where emergency banded homes were situated in the city.

09/07 Performance Management - Fourth Quarter Monitoring 2006/07

The Commission considered a report which stated that monitoring performance was an important role for the scrutiny process as it enabled the non executive members to assess Council's performance, hold Cabinet to account and help to improve local services

23 JULY 2007

20/07 Section 30 Dispersal Areas and Alcohol Free Zones

The Commission received a presentation from Chief Inspector Gary Parkin on the Section 30 dispersal Areas and Alcohol Free Zones.

21/07 Derby Playhouse

The Commission received an update on the funding arrangements for the Derby Playhouse from Councillor Graves – Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct

Services. The Cabinet Member informed the Commission of the Derby Playhouse's grant income from the Arts Council and how this compared with Leicester and Nottingham.

22/07 Housing and Council Tax Benefits Claims

The Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director Customer Services on the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Service Performance. The report identified performance up to the end of June 2007. It was stated that we processed all new claims on average within 58 days during 2006/07 and this had been further improved by 10 days to the end of June. A new target of 34 days had been set for the end of the year.

Members were not satisfied with current times for processing claims and felt waiting for 48 days for benefit claims to be processed caused hardship for the applicants and in some instances might affect their tenancies.

23/07 Neighbourhood Working and Forums

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the area and neighbourhood working arrangements which would replace the five Area Panels with one Neighbourhood Forum for each ward. The report had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 3 July and was referred to the Commission for its views on the implementation of the new arrangements.

24/07 Performance Management – Annual Indicators 2006/7

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services detailing the annual performance indicators for 2006-7.

29 AUGUST 2007 SPECIAL MEETING

32/07 Neighbourhood Working

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services, setting out the proposed arrangements to transform Area Panels into Neighbourhood Boards and Forums.

The process was currently looking at amendments to the Constitution and to the Good Practice Guide for the new Neighbourhood Boards and Forums. The report addressed the previous comments from the Commission and it was noted that there were still discussions taking place to ensure that the integration of the Children and Young People Commission work was included.

1 OCTOBER 2007

39/07 Derby Playhouse Funding Agreement

Pursuant to minute 21/07 the Community Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director of Cultural Services, Regeneration and Community Department. On 29 March 2007, the City Council signed a Funding Agreement

with Derby Playhouse Board, covering the financial year 2007/8. The Agreement expresses the joint objectives of the Council and Board and lays out the obligations on both parties.

40/07 Housing and Council Tax Benefits

The Community Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director – Customer Services. The report provided information about performance improvement requested by the Community Commission at the meeting of 23 July 2007. The Benefit Service has put in place several improvement strategies, to improve benefits performance. The latest improvement strategy was put in place on 21 May 2007 resulting in a restructure within the benefits teams to enable them to tackle a claims backlog over a 1,000 claims and changes caused by the conversion of benefits processing computer system. This was a significant achievement for the benefits service, which provided the platform for improved performance. Since the introduction of the improvement strategy the backlog of claims has been cleared. All claims are either processed or the customer is asked to provide information required to process the claim within 3 to 4 days of the claim being received.

41/07 Older Persons Housing Strategy

The Community Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director – Housing and Advice Services. The Older Persons Housing Strategy had been developed in response to the Government's requirements detailed in the document "Quality and Choice for Older People's Housing – A Strategic Framework" (Department of Health/ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG); 2002). The Strategy provides a local framework for the future direction of housing and housing support related solutions for older people, regardless of tenure.

42/07 Housing Allocations Policy

The Community Commission considered a report on the Housing Allocations Policy. At its meeting of 2 April 2007, the Community Commission resolved to receive regular monitoring reports on the operation of the new Housing Allocations policy and processes. This report detailed the allocations made during the first six months of operating the new Abritas system.

43/07 Rose Hill Housing Market Renewal Master Plan

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director – Corporate and Adult Services. The Rose Hill Housing Market Renewal Area Master Plan was requested by the Commission at the last scheduled meeting following the consideration of the July Forward Plan. The plan was put together by external consultants seeking to stimulate the housing market by developing a legacy of housing regeneration of which the residents and investors will be proud. It aimed to raise the aspirations and enable the local population to reach their potential.

44/07 Gypsy and Traveller Inter Agency Guidance Document

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director – Corporate Adult Services. The TIWG was a county-wide forum with representation from Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, each of the Derbyshire district councils and other partners including the police, PCTs and the voluntary sector. The guidance has been developed and written by the TIWG and contains a code of practice for Travellers. The code sets out the responsibilities of local authorities and those expected of Travellers on unauthorised land whether or not court action is planned. Members welcomed the document and noted that it should be available for the public to inspect.

45/07 Performance Management

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director – Corporate Adult Services. Members agreed at the July meeting to regularly monitor quarterly performance indicators that are within the remit of this Commission.

28 NOVEMBER 2007 - SPECIAL MEETING

55/07 Community Theatre

The Commission received a petition from the Derby New Community Theatre Association regarding access to suitable venues by community theatre groups. The Commission received representations from the lead petitioner Mr Briers and Mr Jagers from the Derby New Theatre Association. They stated that there were 25 Societies who performed in the Derby area of which had a total of 1160 adult members that 840 lived in the city of Derby. A comparison with similar sized authorities of membership carried out four years ago showed that Derby had one of the highest proportion of people involved in community theatre. However, the groups were facing difficulties in giving performances due to suitable venues being too expensive and/or not accessible during certain times of the year.

14 JANUARY 2008

66/07 Proposed Revenue Budget 2008-2011

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Revenue Budget Proposals 2008/09 to 2010/2011.

Proposed Capital Budget 2008/09 to 2010/2011

The Commission received a report from Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the proposed Capital Budget 2008/09 to 2010/2011.

Recommendations on the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget 2008-2011 by the Community Commission

69/07 Extra Care Housing – Briefing Paper

The Commission considered a report from Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Extra Care Housing –

70/07 Quarter Two Performance Monitoring 2007-08

The Commission considered a report from Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Quarter Two Performance Monitoring 2007-08.