

ITEM 8

Neighbourhoods Commission Work Programme Note of a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair on 5 August and 7 September 2010

INTRODUCTION

At the first meeting of the new Commission, Members were asked to reflect on both the new Commission's portfolio and relevant items reviewed or scrutinised in the previous year's by the former commissions and to suggest new items for inclusion on the 2010-11 work programme.

It was agreed that the principal focus for the year would be the impact of the budget proposals on the Commission's portfolio areas when the scale of public expenditure cuts become revealed in the Comprehensive Budget Review in late October.

It was also agreed to authorise the Chair and Vice Chair and a Conservative nominee (plus Cllr Graves, if wished) to agree a first review subject for the early autumn.

On 5 August the Chair and Vice Chair met with Paul Robinson, the Strategic Director, and discussed the value-adding potential of the various suggestions discussed at the Commission's initial meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair then made proposals as to an initial review, to be conducted ahead of the CSR announcement, and how a number of the other suggested themes could be dealt with. These were shared with the Conservative and Independent members.

At the pre-agenda meeting on 7 September meeting dates were allocated to the items to be considered at scheduled meetings and a time proposed to review the Highways and Footways maintenance programme contract.

DECISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **ISSUES TO BE CONDUCTED AS REVIEWS**

A) Libraries – opening times and the 'offer' to increase usage by local people

Decision a) that subject to the views of a Conservative Member and Cllr Graves, this be the first review of the year b) meetings commence at 4.30 pm and be held at libraries and the review include i) a mini-bus tour of Derby libraries representative of size, age and locations ii) evidence from other LAs that have successfully adapted libraries to be one-stop-shops

B). Follow the Budget – The resolution on 27 July was: to agree that the impact of the budget proposals for this Commission's portfolio areas be the

principal focus as soon as the scale of public expenditure cuts becomes revealed in the Comprehensive Spending Review;

Recommendation a) to confirm this be the main focus following the publication of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October and b) that as an initial step the September meeting considers the in-year effect on services of the expenditure cuts approved by Council on 28 July.

C) Highways and Footways maintenance programme contract

Recommendation that consideration of these issues should be the next highest priority after i) the review on libraries and ii) Follow the Budget and conducted as in so far as time allows in the period December 2010 to January 2011

- **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

1. Enforcement Action against unauthorised developments and the frequency of retrospective planning applications. **Recommendation** that a presentation on these issues be made to the scheduled meeting in October or December.

2. Public Toilets and to invite the Cabinet Member responsible to explain why the future strategy for public conveniences has not been completed;

Recommendation To invite the Cabinet Member plus appropriate officers to the September meeting to give an update..

3. Kedleston Road Bus Lane – Commission members had resolved to ‘consider the effectiveness of the Kedleston Road bus lane, dependent upon decisions following the current trial.’ Mr Robinson had explained that a wide review would take place on bus lanes in the City. **Recommendation** to avoid duplication, the Commission scrutinise the completed review at the scheduled meeting in March 2011.

5. Derby Live - **Recommendation** That the Commission receive an update to the scheduled meeting in December

6. Connecting Derby, with particular reference to the potential need for a bus service to the Royal Derby Hospital **Recommendation** That the Commission receive an update to the scheduled meeting on 20 October.

- **OTHER RECOMMENDATION**

7. Brown Bin Waste – An investigation into the potential benefits from moving from an aerobic to an anaerobic break down of the waste collected in brown bins **Recommendation** this review would be worthwhile but the potential scale means it cannot be a priority for this Commission in this year.