

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8:50 pm

COMMUNITY COMMISSION 2 APRIL 2007

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Chera, Troup, R Khan, Redfern, Webb and Winter

Also Present: Councillors Dhamrait Latham, Leeming and Marshall
Councillor Wormbwell, Chris Brown and Sue Ridden (Broxtowe Borough Council)

89/06 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Rawson.

90/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

91/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Webb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute number 96/06 as his late father's property was currently vacant.

92/06 Call-in

There were no items.

93/06 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

a) Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and Budget

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet on 20 February 2007 responding to the Commissions recommendations on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and Budget.

Resolved to note the response from Council Cabinet.

b) Let's Talk Budget – Capital Programme for Housing and Social Care 2007/08

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet on 20 February 2007 responding to the Commissions recommendations on Let's Talk Budget – Capital Programme for Housing and Social Care 2007/8.

**Resolved to note the response from Council Cabinet.
Items for Discussion**

94/06 Cohesion Strategy for Derby

The Commission received a presentation from Tony Hurrell - Cohesion Lead Officer on the Cohesion Strategy for Derby. The aim of the strategy would be to improve cohesion in the City of Derby to bring communities closer together.

Councillor Turner welcomed what had been done and he appreciated the difficulties that needed to be challenged. Members felt that the report seemed to attach greater importance on suppressing disorder, responding to incidents and defusing tensions rather than developing measures to improve community relations. Although responding to incidents is an important issue that needs to be addressed quickly, we should seek to engage with the diverse communities and empower them to take up their responsibilities as they know the needs of their communities better than anyone else. Members suggested that there are good leaders within the diverse communities and by working with them will help to minimise the risk of incidents that often occur through ignorance and prejudice.

The Commission looked forward to seeing the document that would move the strategy forward.

Resolved to note the presentation and pass these comments to the Community Cohesion Team.

**95/06 Implementation of the Housing Allocations Policy -
Update**

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Resources and Housing on the revised housing Allocations Policy. The Commission were advised that the new Derby Homefinder IT, Abritas, system went live to customers on 12 February 2007. The Commission received a demonstration of this new system. It was reported that the policy had been changed to get more people housed. The Council was beginning to see a reduction in the homeless route. Usage of this new system and how homes were allocated would be continuously monitored and the Commission would receive further updates and statistics at future meetings. The Commission specifically asked for information on the number of people that become homeless and how many people live in bed and breakfast accommodation to be reported to a future meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To receive regular monitoring reports, and reports on specific issues that the Commission wishes to monitor at future meetings.**

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item Councillor Webb left the meeting during its consideration

96/06 Performance Eye

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services providing commentaries on performance indicators for quarter 3 2006-7. Prior to the meeting members were asked to identify any items they wished to discuss further at the meeting, BVPI 64 – Vacant Private Sector Dwellings, was identified. Martin Gadsby – Private Sector Housing Manager, provided the Commission with a briefing note explaining the situation with this performance indicator.

Members were concerned with the number of indicators in performance Eye that were red and still going down and asked for a report covering each of these to the next meeting

Resolved

1. **To note the update.**
2. **To request a report on red indicators taking a downward trend and on BV212 – Average time taken to re-let local authority housing - to the next meeting.**

97/06 Focussed Scrutiny

The Commission considered items for future focussed scrutiny.

Resolved to consider the Cohesion Strategy recommendations at a future focussed scrutiny meeting.

98/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

Council Cabinet Forward Plan

99/06 Identification of items on the Forward Plan for consideration at future meetings.

There were no new items.

MINUTES END