

ITEM 4

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 7.40 pm

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 5 SEPTEMBER 2005

Present: Councillor Ahern (in the Chair)
Councillors P Berry, Baxter, Care, Carr, Leeming, Rehman and
Tittley

In attendance: Councillors Bolton and Repton

15/05 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor West.

16/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/05 Call-In

There were no call-ins.

Items for Discussion

20/05 Public Conveniences

At its meeting on 21 April 2005 the Commission were told by John Hansed Head of Streetcare and Waste Management that there had been problems at some public conveniences in the City with drug abuse, vandalism and anti-social activity. The Commission were told that arrangements had been made for the Police to monitor some of the worst affected public conveniences.

Councillor Bolton, the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Direct Services told the Commission that a proposal to close some public conveniences at night was being considered. It was thought that this would largely resolve the problems of vandalism and the savings made by this could then be used to improve the service.

John Hansed told the Commission that Police surveillance at the Markeaton public toilets had been effective in reducing the problems of anti-social behaviour and staff had not reported any problems in August

Inspector Ian Davey of Derbyshire Constabulary was also present at the meeting. He commented that it would be difficult for the police to continue monitoring these toilets over a long period, but considered the overnight closure would help to prevent further incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Some members of the Commission suggested that appropriate signage should be used to inform members of the public that the pilot closure would be taking place from October 2005 and to advise them how to make comments on the closures.

The Commission resolved to:

- 1 Note the report**
- 2 Thank Derbyshire Police for their assistance in monitoring the toilets**
- 3 Ask John Hansed to monitor the effect of the pilot closures and ask him to report back to a future meeting of the Commission.**

21/05 Performance Eye

David Romaine, Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer, highlighted the three red indicators relevant to the Commission:

BV200a – Do you have a development plan that has been adopted in the last 5 years?

BV82c - % of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover energy

BV99c - % change in road accident casualties 1994-1998 average – all slight injuries.

The Commission was satisfied with the commentary that had been provided, which explained why the first two indicators were red. With regard to the third indicator:

The Commission resolved to request the Coordination Officer to arrange for officers to provide a presentation to a future meeting on the nine BVPIs associated with reducing road traffic accident casualties.

22/05 Retrospective Scrutiny

Councillor Peter Berry informed the Commission of a letter he had received from a householder whose black refuse bin had become infested with maggots during the recent hot weather. It was also noted that there had been a recent article in the Derby Evening Telegraph about a similar occurrence.

The Commission resolved to consider the decision to change the collection frequency of black bins as an item for retrospective scrutiny.

23/05 Second Draft Report of the Dog Fouling Review

The Commission considered the second draft report of its review of Derby City Council's Enforcement of the Dog Fouling and Dog Control Legislation.

The Commission resolved to

- 1 Approve the report subject to the addition of a recommendation suggesting that Environmental Health and Trading Standards use kennels closer to the City**
- 2 Ask the Assistant Director of Environmental Health and Trading Standards to report to the Commission on the action that will be taken in response to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which will come into effect in April 2006.**

24/05 Work Plan for 2005/2006

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services on its work plan for 2005/06. A number of topics were identified for consideration.

The Council Cabinet Members for Planning and Transportation and for Environment and Direct Services were in attendance during consideration of this item.

The Commission resolved to

- 1 Request the opportunity to comment on the Section 106 agreement report going to the Scrutiny Management Commission before it goes to Council Cabinet.**
- 2 Consider the repair of roads and footways and associated complaint levels.**
- 3 Review the promotion of the City's new bus services.**
- 4 Conduct a review aimed at identifying possible ways of reducing the Council's energy consumption and its emission of Carbon Dioxide. The Commission agreed that this review should be conducted by a small working group comprising the Chair and Councillors Care and Carr.**
- 5 Indicate its support for the Council's Cycling England bid by looking at the provision of cycle storage at flats and apartments.**

25/05 Overview and Scrutiny Training

Members considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services, setting out details of six training modules that are available to Members on the following aspects of Overview and Scrutiny:

- a) Getting Started
- b) Conducting Reviews
- c) Scrutiny Reviews
- d) Engaging the Public
- e) Selecting Topics
- f) Interviewing

Members noted that the Co-ordination Team can also provide members with training in the use of Performance Eye. Training can be tailored to the needs of individual members and, within reason, be delivered at times which are most convenient them.

Resolved to:

1 Note the report

2 Thank Rob Davison, Coordination Officer, for preparing the training material.

26/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission identified the following items on the Forward Plan for consideration at a future meeting:

- 21/05 - Consideration of objections to the A514 Weight Restriction
- 99/04 - Winter Maintenance

27/05 Response of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

There were no items.

28/05 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END