

ITEM 2

Time commenced – 6.00 pm

Time finished – 8.08 pm

PLANNING, HOUSING and LEISURE BOARD 12 JUNE 2012

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)
Councillors Hillier, Holmes, Ingall, Jackson, S. Khan, Nawaz and
Troup

01/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen.

02/12 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/12 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Redfern declared a personal interest in minute numbers 06/12 and 08/12, namely that she was appointed to the board of Derby Homes Limited.

04/12 Call-in

There were no items.

05/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The board expressed particular interest in the revocation of PM10 Air Quality Management Area, reference number 65/11, in the July 2012 Forward Plan and requested an update report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the Forward Plan; and**
- 2. to request that the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods present a report, to a future board meeting, regarding the proposed revocation of PM10 Air Quality Management Area in the Victory Road area of Derby.**

06/12 Terms of Reference and Remit of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board

The board received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Resources. Members considered the Planning Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, together with its remit for the municipal year. Members received briefings from the following officers:

- the Head of Housing Options and Advice Services;

- the Housing, Strategy and Research Officer;
- the Director of Housing and Customer Service;
- the Director of Leisure and Culture;
- the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services; and
- the Director of Planning and Facilities Management.

The briefings summarised each of the relevant service areas, which were included in the corresponding portfolios and highlighted the key issues in each area.

The Director of Planning and Facilities Management highlighted an overlap in the service areas of maintenance and energy management. It was reported that both service areas were within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Board. The Director recommended that energy management would benefit from being dealt in conjunction with climate change.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board's terms of reference;**
- 2. recommend that the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Board adopt energy management, together with climate change and home energy under their terms of reference; and**
- 3. recommend that maintenance remains under the remit of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board.**

07/12 Recommendation of the Adults, Health and Housing Commission

This report was withdrawn for consideration.

08/12 Work Programme and Topic Reviews 2012-2013

The board considered their work plan for the municipal year and matters which might be selected as topic reviews. Members particularly discussed the issues surrounding unscrupulous landlords, their responsibilities, together with the problems leading to and caused by overcrowding. Members were keen to ascertain the extent of the problem in the city, to examine ways in which they could improve the situation and to explore whether, for example, a condition could be included in tenancy contracts to link overcrowding to the receipt of housing benefit payments.

The board discussed the desirability of having safely let properties in the city. Members expressed interest in gaining an understanding of category 1 faults and housing standards in private sector rented housing and the resources allocated to them. Members were also interested in recent legislative changes affecting the right to buy scheme and the amount of money available for new build properties.

The board expressed a desire to review work which had previously been undertaken by a scrutiny commission in relation to homelessness. The board were particularly interested in examining the effectiveness of the recommendations that were made following that work and discussed their intention to invite former members of the working group to return and participate in the review.

It was reported that during the last municipal year, the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Commission had opted to undertake a review of the governance arrangements which could be adopted by the anticipated Multi Sports Arena. The board were mindful of the difficulties in completing the topic review in light of the pending decision regarding the development of the arena.

Resolved to:

- 1. request that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer invite the appropriate officer to a future meeting of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board, to discuss housing issues in the private rented sector, in order to determine the merits of a topic review being undertaken on this subject;**
- 2. request that, following the issues raised in discussion by the board, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer prepare an outline summary of the work programme for the municipal year 2012-13; and**
- 3. delay the completion of the Multi Sports Arena Governance Topic Review, pending the determination of its future development.**

MINUTES END