

ITEM 4a

Time started – 6.00pm

Time finished – 9.50pm

NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMISSION 27 JANUARY 2011

Present: Councillor Troup (Chair)
Councillors Graves, Harwood, Jackson, Rawson and Redfern

In attendance: Councillors Grimadell, Holmes, Poulter, Shanker and Turner

59/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker and Berry.

60/10 Late Items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

61/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

62/10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2010 was deferred until the next meeting as they were tabled at the meeting.

63/10 Call-in

There were no call-ins to report to the Commission.

64/10 Councillor Call for Action

There were no Councillor Calls for Action to report to the Commission.

65/10 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the former Commissions

Voluntary Sector Grants Aid Strategy 2011-15

Members considered a response of the Council Cabinet to a report of the Commission.

Resolved to note the response of the Council Cabinet.

66/10 Drains in the Nightingale Road Area

The Commission considered an update on the drains in the Nightingale Road area by the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing Michael Kay. The officer apologised to the Commission and stated that he had not been made aware of the recommendations of the previous meeting and as such had not completed all the requests of the Members. He stated that he had met with Severn Trent Water but had not met the manufacturing company or the ward councillors. Head of Environmental Health & Licensing stated that his team had been aware of this issue for some time. The Council had asked Severn Trent Water to provide copies of its discharge consent agreements with S&A Foods and the amount that the company had been discharging. The officer informed the Commission that Severn Trent Water was carrying out quarterly cleaning of their sewers. Some councillors had requested that they pressure wash all of the sewers, however the company was not going to employ that method. Instead they were going to use a method known as winching. This method involved scraping the debris out of the sewers and then winching out what was collected. Severn Trent Water believed that this method was the most effective. Officers were also trying to bring together all the complaints that had been received by the various departments so that they could be dealt with in a cohesive manner.

The Chair asked if Severn Trent Water accepted that they should not be allowing large discharges in the water supply in the first place. The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing stated that S&A Foods had a legal agreement in place with Severn Trent Water outlining what they could and could not do. He added that it would be very difficult to get Severn Trent Water to agree to change any agreement they had in place in with a company.

The Chair asked if the Council had the power to stop Severn Trent Water from allowing discharges into the water supply. The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing stated that the Council could but it was very difficult to prove the source of any discharge. Severn Trent Water had informed the Council that the sewers serving Nightingale Road covered a very large area of Normanton. Many families in this area were of Middle Eastern and Eastern European and used spices in their food and this may have contributed to the problem. The officer stated that this complicated pinning down who was the cause the problem.

Councillor Shanker stated that he was disappointed with the officer's response since the last meeting. He urged everyone involved to remedy the situation as quickly as possible. He stated that this was not an issue of identifying the source of the problem, which was S&A Foods. The problem therefore needed to be dealt with at the source.

Councillor Turner said he was appalled with the inaction since the last meeting. He stated that this was an engineering problem with the material contained in the sewers not flowing freely enough and asked for the Council's engineers to investigate the problem. He added that the drains were more than 60 years old and were not designed for this.

Councillor Redfern stated that a proper monitoring system should be implemented at S&A Foods to manage the discharge into the sewer.

The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods, Paul Robinson, accepted that officers had not done what they had promised to do. But he informed the Commission that the laws relating to sewers and drains were not simple. The statutory undertaker is Severn Trent Water and the Council would need to prove that they were causing a statutory nuisance before it could take action. Severn Trent Water would still then have the defence of excessive costs or that they were using the best technologies available. Any decision the water company took would have lasting repercussions in terms of creating a precedent which would be used against them in future.

Resolved to request an update to the next meeting of the Commission on 8 March 2011.

67/10 Third Local Transport Plan

The Commission considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the consultation on the draft version of the city's third local transport plan (LTP3). The Commission were invited to provide their views on the draft plan.

Councillor Jackson stated that she thought the contribution towards cyclists should be reduced as they had received continuous investment for some time.

The Chair stated that he would like to revise the vision statement of the LTP3 to read: 'Our aim is to provide people living and travelling in Derby with safe travel choices that are practical and sustainable.' Councillor Graves questioned how this minor change would affect the way that officers worked. The Chair stated that it would improve the wording of the vision statement to make it clearer. The Chair also asked for more emphasis to be placed on the restrictions that the Air Quality Management Area and the A38 would place on the future expansion of the city.

Councillor Rawson asked when the improvements to the A38 were planned. The Head of Spatial and Transport Planning stated that this was a trunk road scheme funded by the Government. The A38 had not been included in this funding round.

The Chair stated that the land use outlined in the LTP3 was outdated and that officers needed to think less in terms of set land uses. The Head of Spatial and Transport Planning stated that these were planning issues but officers would ensure that both the planning and transport strategies were cohesive.

Councillor Redfern stated that the consultation response was very low and asked for confirmation that consultation with the diversity forums had taken place. The Transport Planning Project Officer, Catherine Martin, stated that consultation with the diversity forums had taken place earlier last year and a

volunteer from each forum had acted as a spokesman for the group. Significant consultation had taken place on the plan over the summer which fed into the autumn consultation as well as the current consultation but this plan had to be delivered by April 2011.

Councillor Rawson said that the initial emphasis of the plan was restricted by the current financial constraints and was very short term. He added that five years down the line it would be different. The Chair echoed Councillor Rawson's views and stated the Commission would want to see a revised more balanced distribution of funding among the priorities after two years.

Councillor Rawson stated that the Commission had been informed that it would cost £6m to maintain the road network but only £2m had been allocated to road maintenance. He asked the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods how he was going to increase the funding. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Councillor Poulter, stated that in an ideal world the funding would be available. He stated that funding had been allocated to at least maintain the current levels and not let the condition of the roads reduce.

Resolved:

- A. To recommend the amendment of the vision statement of LTP3 to read: 'Our aim is to provide people living and travelling in Derby with safe travel choices that are practical and sustainable.'**
- B. To recommend the placing of higher importance on the Air Quality Management Area as it will restrict the growth of the city.**
- C. To recognise the initial short term funding emphasis on the network's maintenance in LTP3 because of the current financial situation but that the Commission would want to see the priorities and allocation of funding become more balanced between the four themes in the long term as the situation improves.**
- D. To request additional information on the consultation with the diversity forums.**

68/10 Budget

a) Revenue Budget 2011/12 – 2013/14

The Commission considered a presentation by the Neighbourhoods Group Accountant, Toni Heathcote, on the budget consultation for 2011/12 to 2013/14. The key issues, actions and savings applying to the Neighbourhoods Directorate were outlined to members.

Councillor Rawson asked if the Council's financial situation was worse than had been previously predicted. The Director of Finance and Procurement, Martyn Marples, stated that in July 2010 officers had predicted a significant

reduction in funding. When the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced the cuts were structured to be front loaded and following the provisional settlement on 13 December 2010 the revenue allocated to the Council went down again. Councillor Rawson said that it was quite a leap to go from £7m of cuts to £17m. The Director of Finance and Procurement stated that £7m was an assumption. Councillor Redfern asked on what this assumption was based. The Director of Finance and Procurement stated that officers had worked on a 30 percent cut but on an average spread across the years rather than front loaded.

Councillor Rawson asked whether the Council was likely to meet the £6.9m deficit through voluntary redundancy and voluntary early retirement. He also asked if negotiations had begun on employees' terms and conditions as a way of meeting the funding gap. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that employees had been offered an enhanced voluntary redundancy and voluntary early retirement package. The response to this offer would dictate whether negotiations would commence on employees' terms and conditions.

b) Impact of the Budget on Neighbourhoods Directorate Services

The Commission then considered every identified budget saving in turn with the Strategic Director providing a brief commentary on each item.

Voluntary Redundancy/Voluntary Early Retirement

Identified ODOC VR/VER Savings - not included within service savings (£253k)

Councillor Jackson asked how the Council would pay for the voluntary redundancy and voluntary early retirement applications. The Director of Finance and Procurement stated that the Council had created a base budget this year and for the next to cover the costs. He added that the Council could not use its reserves because they were either already allocated or required to be kept as part of good financial management. Councillor Jackson asked if the staff could be kept by using the reserves. The Director of Finance and Procurement stated that reserves could not be used to keep staff on because it would require ongoing payments rather than a one-off cost.

Councillor Graves asked when applications for voluntary redundancy and voluntary early retirement applications would be needed in time to make the budget. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that they would be needed by early March. Councillor Graves expressed concerns that this would not leave a lot of time to make the deadlines. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods agreed that deadlines would be tight but the Council had to provide a statutory timescale.

Councillor Rawson asked if the changes to employees' terms and conditions would be temporary or permanent. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that he could not say as they were not being negotiated at the moment.

Neighbourhoods One Derby One Council

Staff savings through business efficiency and delivery (£2,403k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that these savings for 2011/12 had already been achieved.

CCTV

This saving continues the process of reducing camera numbers outside of the city centre. It also removes 24/7 active monitoring, replacing it with 24/7 recording and targeted monitoring at key times (£100k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that these savings would mean that CCTV would not be maintained outside of the city centre. It would only be a manned service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Councillor Jackson stated that she could not agree to this service reduction. Councillor Rawson echoed Councillor Jackson and said that most residents wanted more not less CCTV. Councillor Harwood said that perhaps the reduction to this service could be monitored to see if it had an impact.

The Director of Planning and Transportation, Christine Durrant, stated that this budget cut related to a Cabinet report in 2009. Many of the cameras needed replacing in the next few years which would have a significant cost. No cameras would be removed without appropriate consultation. She added that the Leader of the Council chairs a steering group with the Police and the Community Safety Partnership and any changes to the camera coverage could be discussed there.

- 1. Resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Commission is concerned about the reduction in CCTV cameras outside of the city centre and request that appropriate consultation is conducted before any are removed. The Commission also request that if any are removed that the situation should be monitored to see if there is an impact on the local area.**

Derby LIVE

Review Derby LIVE programmed outdoor events – taking into account charging or external contributions plus savings on infrastructure costs (£100k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that these savings would be achieved by external sponsorship deals, introducing charging at certain events and reducing infrastructure costs. He added that, as a last resort, the Council may stop arranging some events.

Councillor Harwood asked if the Darley Park Concert would be exempted from any cancellation plans. Councillor Rawson raised concern with the potential affect on visitors to Derby if fees were introduced to its array of events. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that these were only proposals. He added that other cities hold events as well attended as Derby and they charge a fee.

Councillor Graves raised concern with offering sponsorship deals at Derby's events. He stated that it needed an experienced team to negotiate the right balance from sponsorship deals.

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that the Commission would have an opportunity to review any future charging or sponsorship policies.

Resolved:

- 2. To recommend to Cabinet that this must not lead to the closure of these critical events and to progress funding in a sound manner; and**
- 3. To request that any subsequent report on charging and fees and sponsorship at events be brought before the Commission prior to consideration by Cabinet.**

Reduce Derby LIVE programme including: Cease international classical concert series - Terminate contract on Big Screen after 2012 Olympics (£51k)
The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods informed the Commission that those programmes that did not cover their costs.

Efficiency savings in Derby LIVE Programme (£18k)
Councillor Graves expressed concern in the planning efficiency savings. He stated that the Arts Council were reviewing their budget this move may affect any potential grants the Council received.

Examine closure or disposal of Guildhall Theatre (£75k)
The Commission expressed concern with any potential closure or disposal of the Guildhall Theatre.

Environmental Health

Efficiencies through the adoption of different enforcement models in food safety and food standards services (£50k)
The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that this saving had been achieved by combining the back office functions that support Trading Standards, Food Safety and Food Standards.

Highways Maintenance

Removal of one off funding for Highways Maintenance - replaced with £400,000 permanent funding (£500k)
The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that the £500,000 was initially allocated to deal with the backlog. LTP3 funding had been allocated to cover this however, this was not enough. Revenue funding had been allocated to cover the shortfall.

Councillor Rawson expressed concern that not enough funding was being allocated to cover the ongoing repairs that were needed or a contingency if

there was a severe winter. The Director of Finance and Procurement stated that this was not a £100,000 loss. This would cover the £500,000 and the shortfall would be met by capital.

Leisure and Culture Department

Attract external funding for Leisure & Culture services through being commissioned by other organisations to help deliver their outcomes (£11k)

Delete play officer post by covering any remaining duties within the Leisure and Culture Services (£17k)

Reduce arts grants (£216k)

Neighbourhood Management

Review of staffing establishment to deliver efficiencies in providing Neighbourhood Management Support (£135k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that the admin support for the neighbourhood teams was transferring into the Chief Executive's Office. The Commission expressed concern that the workload for the neighbourhood teams was becoming unmanageable. Councillor Poulter stated that the neighbourhood teams were receiving more funding than ever. The Chair stated that this was an issue of staffing not funding. Councillor Poulter stated that the neighbourhood managers would be adequately staffed by resources from within the Chief Executive's Office.

4. Resolved to register the Commission's concerns with the reduction in funding to the neighbourhood management support and to monitor the proposal

Recycling

Closure of the remaining 31 recycling bring sites now that the recycling service to households has been rolled out citywide (£100k)

The Chair asked if some of these sites were viable and could be offered to the city's supermarkets. The Director of Streetpride, Tim Clegg, stated that the cost was in emptying the recycling sites and the supermarkets had been approached already.

Councillor Redfern asked when all homes in the city would receive a recycling service. The Director of Streetpride informed the Commission that the recycling scheme would soon be rolled out to the rest of the city. Councillor Poulter informed the Commission that the recycling scheme now extended to 94 percent of the city.

5. Resolved to recommend that phasing the closure of the bring sites over the two years should be co-ordinated with the roll out of domestic recycling to the remaining households not currently on the

three bin system and that efforts should continue to persuade supermarkets to take over sites

Reduction in capital finance requirements for the Rethink Rubbish recycling scheme implementing the target savings agreed in the indicative budget (£54k)

Refuse collection

Review the paper recycling collection service from 1 June 2011 in order to deliver service efficiencies (£75k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that this would be achieved by restructuring the refuse rounds. The city would be divided into regions and then all the refuse teams would focus on one region a day. Councillor Redfern asked why these changes were not made last year when the refuse rounds were restructured. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that this was because that was based on each street retaining its existing collection days.

School Crossing Patrol

Reduce the number of School Crossing Patrols by 3 from 38 patrols to 35 and provide cover where necessary by the mobile service (£14k)

Structures

Deletion of vacant post - Structural building engineer following reduced levels of service demand (£39k)

Traffic

Implementation of Network management Permit scheme to improve control and coordination of works in the highway (£100k)

Traffic Management & Road Safety

Reductions in capital & Local Transport Programme (LTP) funding has led to less schemes to be built & therefore a reduction of 1.5 posts (£37k)

Transport

Review of transport associated with Children and Young People service provided across Neighbourhoods. Further details included within Children and Young People section (£15k)

Councillor Redfern asked what kinds of transport were being cancelled. The Director of Planning and Transportation, Christine Durrant, stated that many were taxis and mini buses for children with specialist educational needs. But these collections had been restructured so that one taxi would pick up multiple children or a bus would arrange several pick ups.

Transport Planning

Deletion of vacant post - Transport co-ordination and programming. Reduced LTP programme will require less resource to manage. Half of post is Capital funded so does not contribute to revenue saving (£20k)

Transportation Derby to East Midlands Airport

Skylink bus service to cease receiving temporary support (£40k)

Wild Derby

Withdraw all revenue funding for this service. Consultation is underway and alternative delivery mechanisms are being investigated (£60k)

The Chair expressed concern that the Cabinet was considering withdrawing funding to this service as it met all the requirements of the Government's Big Society project.

6. Resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the proposed withdrawal of £60k from Wild Derby should not proceed

Cremation

Revision of burial and cremation charges (£200k)

Councillor Harwood asked how the Council's price increases compared with neighbouring authorities. Councillor Poulter stated that the proposed charges had brought the Council in line with the national average.

Leisure facilities

To transfer the management of the remaining community centres to voluntary/community groups and to cease support to the remaining centres (£100k)

Councillor Jackson expressed concern that if the voluntary/community groups did not receive adequate support then would fail. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that the community centres would retain the Council's support. The community groups would only manage the centres.

Transfer Shaftesbury Leisure Centre to third sector (£100k)

Withdraw from management of Derby College Leisure Facility (£30k)

Review Leisure Centre provision (£200k)

Libraries

Reduce materials fund and citywide service development budgets, and end 8pm closing at Mickleover and Alvaston libraries (£100k)

Restructure information, learning, caretaking services, weekend pay arrangements and opening hours (£276k)

Museums

Adjust Opening Hours to suit visitor patterns and rationalise all weekend pay arrangements so that all weekend work is at standard rate of pay (£75k)

Community Transport

Consultation and review of services is underway (£293k)

The Director of Planning and Transportation stated that a full review of this service was carried out two years ago and the service put out to tender. The service was now run by an arm of Trent Barton.

Revenue support for local bus services, including Pride Park and Ride

Reduction in service (£93k)

Grounds maintenance

Reduce Grounds Maintenance service provision including:

- reducing grass cutting from 18 to 12 cuts per year
- reduce flower bedding by 40%
- close the Glass House
- reduce non-routine maintenance by 15% (£475k)

Councillor Rawson expressed his disappointment in the reduction in funding to the glass houses. He asked if this had been offered to the private sector. Councillor Poulter stated that staff had been consulted, a number of possible options of alternative savings had been considered and commercial businesses had been approached.

The Chair asked if savings could be achieved by running the glass houses cold rather than hot. The Director of Streetpride stated that the plants would take too long to grow if the buildings were not heated.

7. Resolved to recommend Cabinet to use its best endeavours to reduce the impact of these proposals

*Refuse collection

Review the refuse and dry recycling collection service from 1 June 2011 (£500k)

Conveniences

Reduce the number of public conveniences, but improve City Centre conveniences (£100k)

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods stated that the city centre facilities would receive investment but those outside the city centre would be closed.

Councillor Redfern expressed concern that this issue had still not been resolved and the city's facilities were in a dismal state. She added that the Council should be providing good facilities to residents. Councillor Poulter stated that action needed to be taken on the facilities. Some of the automated toilets cost the Council money but were not used. The city centre facilities would receive investment.

Councillor Redfern stated that she could not agree to closure of the toilets outside of the city centre as there were no alternatives for the public to use.

Resolved to note and endorse this proposal to Cabinet

Under CP69: Councillors Jackson Redfern and Rawson requested that their votes against the resolution were recorded.

Natural environment

Deletion of vacant post - Tree preservation officer. Responsibilities of the post have been split across other posts in Neighbourhoods to enable this statutory service (£27k)

Resolved to note the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 – 2013/14

69/10 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer reported the items on the Forward Plan relevant to the Commission's remit.

Councillor Rawson asked for an explanation of both key decision and the call-in procedure to be drafted and circulated to the Commission.

Resolved to request a briefing paper on key decisions and the call-in procedure to the Commission.

MINUTES END