

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.05pm

COMMUNITY REGENERATION COMMISSION 8 MARCH 2005

Present: Councillor Bayliss (in the Chair)
Councillors Blanksby, Chera, Higginbottom, Lowe, Richards and Willitts

Also present: Councillor Redfern

69/04 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brown.

70/04 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The following late item was introduced by the Chair as a matter of urgency, because it needed to be considered before the next meeting: Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005-08.

71/04 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in minute number 77/04 BME Housing Strategy as he was a member of the Derby Millennium Network. Councillors Bayliss and Lowe declared personal interests in minute number 77/04 BME Housing Strategy, as they were Council appointed board members of Derby Homes.

72/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

73/04 Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which highlighted the progress made so far in tackling anti-social behaviour, in partnership with key agencies and the communities that suffer most harm from anti-social behaviour – ASB. Andy Thomas presented the report and detailed the progress made so far.

Councillor Bayliss commented that it was good to see that persistent offending families were being targeted. He also commented that it was good to see that witnesses were being given greater support to make it more comfortable for people to come forward and be witnesses.

Councillor Bayliss went on to say that the Home Secretary had mentioned naming and shaming people with Anti-Social Behaviour Orders - ASBOs, and asked about local practice in Derby.

Andy Thomas replied that this was already done, as it was important that the public were aware of the person who had an ASBO. The leaflet included details of the person and what their ASBO involved, generally it did not include a photograph because an individual's appearance could change drastically from the picture and keeping it up to date would be extremely difficult. In an ideal world, a picture would be used, but this is not possible currently.

Councillor Blanksby commented that it had previously been reported that the high crime rate was fuelled by drug addicts and asked whether the reduction in crime rates had been mirrored by the reduction in drug use.

Andy Thomas replied that there had not been a reduction in the drug figures. Drugs were becoming increasingly cheap, which might reduce the amount of criminality needed to buy a fix. Fast track drug treatment intervention was being developed which it was hoped would produce a further reduction in the drug figures.

Councillor Chera commented that, regarding deprived areas where people tended not to report crimes, the issue could be low awareness and language barrier issues. He suggested multi-language communications.

Andy Thomas replied that they were trying to work within areas and to get local contacts who would be able to communicate with local people.

Councillor Redfern raised concerns about how long it takes to get an ASBO, and the effect this had on people who were living with the situation next door, day in day out. She also queried about the amount of detail required by Derby Homes Diary Sheets and what happened to them.

Councillor Bayliss responded that the ASBO process had speeded up considerably compared to when it first started but it was still too slow.

Craig Keen, ASB Team Leader, responded to Councillor Redfern's query about diary sheets detailing how important they were in making successful ASBO applications as the quality of data was so good. They also provided emotional evidence of the effect of the events, which was invaluable.

Resolved to note the report.

74/04 Private Finance Initiative Housing Project

The Commission considered an oral report from David Enticott and Ian Fullagar about the Private Finance Initiative – PFI – Housing Project. The PFI Housing Project would deliver more affordable housing in Derby if the Council decided to go ahead with it.

PFIs took a long time to go through and tendering was not expected to start until November 2006. Changes had become apparent since the initial expression of interest. The credit approval sought was originally £4.4 million which had now risen to £11 million. The initial expression of interest only looked at sites gained through section 106, but it had now changed to consider using Council land as a fall back option. Shared ownership properties were also being considered whereas the expression of interest had only covered rented properties.

Councillor Bayliss commented that affordable housing was desperately needed.

Resolved to note the report.

75/04 Implementation of Previous Topic Reviews

Report 1362: Community Based Finance Institutions

The Commission considered a presentation by Andrew Baker, Chief Executive of DerbyLoans. At March 2005 the total lending of DerbyLoans exceeded £400,000. Of that £300,000 was personal loans and £100,000 was business loans. 30% of applications were rejected and were judged on both ability and intention to pay. DerbyLoans was an independent business with a social purpose. The supporters of DerbyLoans were mainly financial. A lack of public funding was noticeable for personal loans. Derwent Living was the prime funder for personal loans covering 60-70% of those loans.

Andrew Baker highlighted concerns over long-term funding, especially with the personal loans.

Councillor Higginbottom queried who DerbyLoans referred people to if they were not granted the loan. Andrew Baker replied that they usually referred people to Derby Advice or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Higginbottom went on to ask whether the DerbyLoans was getting the support that it had been pledged from the Council. Andrew Baker replied that he had not got the expected support from Derby City Council only from Derby Homes. Sue Glithero commented that the Council had just awarded Derby Homes an additional £15,000 for 2005/06 and 2006/07 so that it could continue funding DerbyLoans.

Councillor Blanksby commented that the review had recommended that support from the Council would be required for three years. He commented that he was disappointed that the support was not there and that it should be recommended to Cabinet that the support be reinstated for the three years as originally recommended.

An update report from the Director of Corporate Services was also submitted.

Resolved:

1. to note the report.
2. to receive updates annually in October.
3. to reaffirm to Council Cabinet the Commission's original recommendation 14 that support would be needed for at least seven to ten years.

Social Inclusion and the Physical Environment

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services on the Commission's earlier report on Social Inclusion and the Physical Environment. An update on the recommendations was received.

Resolved:

1. to note the report.
2. to receive updates annually in October.
3. to request the attendance of the relevant Council Cabinet member(s) at the next meeting to discuss progress on the recommendations.

76/04 Performance Eye

The Commission received a report of the Director of Corporate Services regarding Performance Eye. Rob Davison, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer, advised the Commission that seven indicators were highlighted in red. The report included commentaries of the reasons for this.

Andy Luscombe, Crime Reduction Strategy Manager, advised that performance indicators for the Community Safety Partnership were being amended. Sue Glithero commented that she hoped that performance on the BVPI 164 would improve in Quarter 4.

Resolved to note the report.

77/04 Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005-2008

The Commission received a report of the Director of Policy on the Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy for 2005/2008. The Council's Housing Needs and Market Study, 2001 identified a number of distinct issues of inequality in relation to Black and Minority Ethnic - BME – households and related gaps in housing provision, including primarily, but not exclusively...

- BME groups are more likely to be living in housing which is unsuitable for their requirements.
- Pakistani and Indian households are far more likely to be overcrowded than any other group.
- BME households have far lower incomes on average than white households so are limited in their ability to remedy their housing problems.

It was noted that the Strategy had been taken to the Council's Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory committee as part of the consultation process. A BME Housing Strategy Monitoring Group had been set up to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan and progress would be reported on each of the action points to the group on a six-monthly basis.

Resolved to note the report and commend the officers involved for producing a good report.

78/04 Call-in

There were no call-ins.

79/04 Matters referred by Council Cabinet

Community Safety Action Plan

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Policy which was referred to the Commission from Council Cabinet on 18 January 2005.

Resolved to note the report but express regret that the Commissions earlier views had not been accepted by Cabinet and incorporated.

80/04 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission.

81/04 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission were asked to consider the following key decisions in the Forward Plan at the most appropriate time.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Item</u>
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47/04	Anti-Social Behaviour Powers
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- 100/04 Community Grants Budget Review
- 67/04 Private Sector Housing Area Renewal Programme
- 81/04 Redevelopment of the Derbyshire housing blocks (and, if taken with the Isle of Wight blocks, to invite the three Spondon members to attend for this item.
- 205/03 Sale of Land, Leytonstone Drive, Mackworth

MINUTES END