

# ITEM 4

Time started – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7.45pm

## **RESOURCES COMMISSION 15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillor Naitta (Chair)  
Councillors Atwal, Chera, Davis, Leeming, Repton and S Khan

In attendance: Councillors Jennings and Rawson

### **14/10 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L Winter.

### **15/10 Late Items introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **16/10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **17/10 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 19 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **17/10 Call-in**

There were no call-ins to report to the Commission

### **18/10 Councillor Call for Action**

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

### **19/10 Progress report on the Derwent New Deal Programme**

The Commission considered a presentation of the Director of the Derwent New Deal on the current proposals for the final year's remaining grant. The Director stated that the programme had identified three priorities for the remaining funding which were:

1. Developing a community gym at the Gateway Centre
2. Restructure of the Revive Healthy Living Centre

### 3. Redevelopment of various residential properties.

The Director stated that a number of delays had beset the programme which meant that there was insufficient time to complete the projects. The Derwent New Deal Team had asked the Department for Communities and Local Government to release the remaining funds and also for a six month extension to the programme which the leadership of the Council supported.

The Strategic Director of Resources stated that none of the delays to the project have been the fault of the Derwent New Deal Team or the Council. They had been caused by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This was caused by a request by the previous Government to see if there has been value for money on the commissioned projects. The programme team have had to show them their action and delivery plans are robust going forward.

The Chair stated that the key issues were to secure the remaining funding and to extend the timeframe so that the projects could be completed. Councillor Repton agreed with the Chair and suggested that this issue needed cross party support if it was to be successful.

Councillor Davis asked for more information on the proposed redevelopment of the residential properties. The Director of Derwent New Deal stated that the programme intended to purchase around 12 to 17 properties and then rent them to high need residents. However, work on this priority would only begin once the other two priorities were secured.

Councillor Leeming asked to be provided with a full break down of the expenditure of the Derwent New Deal programme and a tour of the ward to see where the money was invested.

#### **Resolved to:**

##### **A. To note the presentation**

##### **B. To arrange for a break down of the spending projects to be sent to the Commission and to organise a tour of the Ward for the Commission**

##### **C. To write to the leader of the Council and the Cabinet urging them to lobby the Department for Communities and Local Government for the additional funds and an increase to the timeframe of the programme as well as the MPs for Derby North, South and Mid Derbyshire for their support and the Department for Communities Local Government and the Secretary of State.**

## 20/10 Update on the Transformation Programme

The Commission considered a presentation of the Chief Executive providing Members with an update on the transformation programme. The Chief

Executive explained the reasons behind the transformation programme and what the Council hoped to achieve through this process. He stated that as part of this there would be a new operating model which would improve the efficiency of the authority and reduce the amount of avoidable contacts with the public. Part of the programme is to refurbish the Council House to provide a single location for the public to come and increase the energy efficiency of the building. He stated that the transformation programme was intended to save £20.8m on staffing by 2013/14.

Councillor Chera asked about the proposed customer self service elements and whether those without access to the internet would still be able to speak to someone on the phone. The Chief Executive stated that the self service online facilities were expected to empower those with the ability to use the internet but those without access could still speak to a customer services advisor. Councillor Chera asked if new computer systems would be purchased to better integrate the existing systems. The Chief Executive stated that the network would receive significant investment to ensure it is reliable and supports all the necessary computer systems.

Councillor Repton asked if any departments would be outsourced. The Chief Executive stated that the original intent of the transformation programme had not changed. It had been agreed by the three group leaders that the Council should reduce its full time employees by 465 posts through natural wastage. He stated that he had been quite confident that this reduction could have been handled in this manner. However, the situation had changed and the pressure on the Council's budget had increased. The programme would now have to be expanded because the Council needed to find an additional £41m over and above the original savings. To minimise the effect on the services and to the staff any redundancies were to be scheduled in a staged way. He stated that this now meant that the Council now needed to find 250 posts per year and this still left a £6m budget deficit.

Councillor Davis welcomed the proposals and stated that the Council would benefit being based on a business model rather than a bureaucracy. She added that the change to the Council's business culture needed to be communicated to the public.

Councillor Leeming stated that any streamlining to the staffing structure needed to be explored in the correct manner. He praised Streetpride's new approach to customer service. The Chief Executive stated that Streetpride was an early example of what can be achieved by this change in working practice.

The Chair urged the Chief Executive to avoid compulsory redundancies when making savings. The Chief Executive stated that he would attempt review empty posts, those which became vacant and voluntary redundancies before he considered compulsory redundancies.

Councillor Leeming stated that to use the phrase refurbishment to describe the works to the Council House did not properly convey the message. The Council House should be referred to as being rebuilt.

**Resolved to note the presentation.**

21/10      Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items of retrospective scrutiny.

22/10      Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items on the Forward Plan relevant to the Commission's remit.

23/10      Responses of the Council Cabinet

MINUTES END