

**Minutes of:** POLICY TASK GROUP

**Date of Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillor H. Steen (in the Chair)  
Councillors A. Barnes, D. Barnes, Dickinson  
(substitute for Thorne), Entwistle, Hancock and  
S. Pawson (substitute for J. Pawson)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive  
Steve Jackson, Housing Market Renewal Manager  
Philip Mephram, Environmental Health Manager  
Heather Moore, Committee Services Manager

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Challinor, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Dr Lee, Co-Opted Member and Councillors J. Pawson and Thorne.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 October 2006, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were raised under this item.

**5. CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Chair reported that following a request at the last meeting, the empty properties list had been circulated to members of the Task Group.

An update was given on the amendment to Contract Procedure Rules and the Chair outlined the approach to be taken whereby a report would go to Cabinet and then Full Council. The Task Group endorsed the approach which would enable all members of the Council to be able to contribute to the debate.

## **6. FORWARD PLAN**

The Task Group considered the items detailed in the Forward Plan and whether they wished for any Policies to be submitted to the Group prior to a decision being made by the Cabinet.

The meeting discussed the Asset Management Plan and requested that a report be submitted to the Group for consideration.

A request was made for the Legionella Policy to be circulated to members of the Task Group. The Committee Services Manager informed the meeting that the Policy had been agreed at a previous Cabinet Meeting.

Consideration was given to Planning Policies and a request was made for information on planning policies in respect of wind farms and mobile phone masts.

The meeting discussed non key decisions taken by the Cabinet and requested a list of items for consideration at each Task Group meeting. The Committee Services Manager agreed to action this.

### **It was agreed:**

1. That the Acting Head of Planning be requested to submit a report at the next meeting in respect of Planning Policies relating to wind farms and mobile phone masts.
2. That a list of non key decisions be provided at each meeting for consideration.

## **7. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

The Task Group considered the report of the Chief Executive which set out the proposed way forward for the Council in strengthening its Community Leadership role.

The Chief Executive informed members that she was facilitating a Members' session on Community Leadership on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November in order to receive Members' views on Community Leadership.

The meeting discussed supporting the role of the Ward Councillor and improving links with Members and Officers. The Chief Executive informed the meeting that she had requested a weekly list of Member Enquiries so that she had an awareness of the key issues faced by Members. She also outlined proposals for Ward Walks with Members and Senior Officers.

**It was agreed:**

1. That subject to any amendments following the Member's session on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006, the Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Community Leadership Policy Statement and Action Plan.
2. That Overview and Scrutiny Performance Task Group be requested to monitor the Community Leadership Action Plan.
3. That Portfolio Holders be requested to monitor their specific actions through their meetings with Heads of Service.

**8. CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL: PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The Task Group considered the report of the Chief Executive which set out a proposed way forward for the Council in improving its approach to working in partnership as part of developing the Capacity Building Model of Local Governance.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that the Policy Statement would be the framework in which the Council could ensure roles and responsibilities were clearly defined and monitored. She highlighted that a review of the current partnerships would be undertaken which would inform the Partnerships register.

The Task Group discussed the need to review the Outside Bodies Membership as part of the process.

**It was agreed:**

1. That the Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Partnership Policy Statement and Action Plan.
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Task Group be requested to monitor progress of the Action Plan.
3. That the Portfolio Holder for Community and Partnerships be requested to monitor the action plan through meetings with the Head of Community and Partnerships.

**9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY**

The Task Group considered the report of the Head of Economic Regeneration and Strategic Housing which outlined the Affordable Housing Strategy for 2006-2008 and associated Action Plan.

Steve Jackson, Housing Market Renewal Manager reported that the Strategy would help generate awareness and increase the provision of affordable housing for local people.

Councillor Challinor informed the meeting that the Strategy would ensure that guidance was available for developers and he reported that a developer's forum had been established.

The meeting discussed the benefits for residents and Steve Jackson highlighted that an affordable housing register would be set up. He pointed out that those on Green Vale Homes' waiting list would be contacted to see if they wanted to be owner/occupiers and it was suggested by a Member that those on the transfer list also be included.

Consideration was given to publicising the Home Buyers Scheme and a request was made for a press release and advertisement in the local media to raise awareness.

**It was agreed:**

That the Cabinet are recommended to approve the Affordable Housing Strategy 2006-2008 together with the targets set out in the Action Plan.

**10. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

The Task Group considered the report of the Head of Street Scene and Liveability which outlined proposals to commence consultation in respect of the development of an Environment Policy and Strategy.

Philip Mepham, Environmental Health Manager reported that the Policy and Strategy would ensure that the Council were taking a positive leadership role in improving and protecting the quality of the Borough's environment.

Philip Mepham informed the meeting that an energy efficiency event had been held last week and there had been a lot of local interest and support on the subject.

In response to a question from a Member, Philip Mepham reported that an action plan would be developed following the consultation.

Consideration was given to the Climate Change Group and the meeting suggested that they be invited to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

The meeting discussed the principles of the "Nottingham Declaration" which was a commitment to tackle climate change and it was agreed that Full Council be requested to consider the matter.

**It was agreed:**

1. That Full Council be requested to consider signing up to the Nottingham Declaration and that they endorse the approach to consultation on the Environment Policy and Strategy.
2. That a further report be presented to the Task Group in February 2007 outlining the results of the consultation and making recommendations for further progress.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30 and finished at 8.15pm**

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**Chair**