



meeting	Communities Department Briefing
date	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2006 (commencing at 2pm)

## Membership

Councillor Reg Adair	Councillor John Knight
Councillor Steve Carroll	Councillor Bruce Laughton
Councillor Jen Cole	Councillor Tom Pettengell
Councillor Mike Cox	Councillor David Shaw
Councillor Sybil Fielding	Councillor Stella Smedley
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle	Councillor Mark Spencer
Councillor Keith Girling	Councillor John Stocks
Councillor Helen Holt	Councillor Brian Wombwell

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Coun Steve Carroll opened the meeting and explained the purpose of the event to update members and the public on key areas of development within the Communities Department.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councs Reg Adair, Mike Cox, David Shaw, John Stocks, Sybil Fielding

### 3. Membership

The core membership was agreed.

### 4. NET Phase 2

Coun Stella Smedley advised members of programme entry approval granted to NET Phase 2 by the Department for Transport on 25 October 2006.

Members asked questions about funding and were keen to move as quickly as possible to the final decision stage to avoid 'blight' in Beeston and Chilwell.

## 5. **Departmental Priorities**

Mick Burrows, Strategic Director (Communities), updated members on the development of the new Communities Department and outlined the major issues facing the Department over the next few months and the delivery of core strategic priorities.

Members asked whether a site had been identified for the new Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and what would happen if we were unsuccessful in securing this site.

A question was asked in relation to wider transport choice and how the Department was tackling the cancellation of bus routes which might affect the most vulnerable users.

## 6. **Regional Spatial Strategy**

Coun David Kirkham introduced this item and Richard Ling, Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the draft strategy which had been published by the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

Members asked how housing in itself would achieve regeneration as it puts a burden on existing facilities. The point was made that there needs to be employment first before housing is planned. There was a question about how the strategy fits with a projected drop in population. There were concerns about the lack of consultation with local parishes and local people and the fact that a regional body of unelected people should be making decisions about local issues. Also there were concerns about the timescale to reply to the regional body.

## 7. **Anti Social Behaviour**

Coun Glynn Gilfoyle reported on some key areas of work within the County Council, and with partner agencies, to reduce the impact of anti social behaviour in the County.

Members welcomed the good things contained within the report. Concern was expressed about the Police's 'no chase' policy on mini-motos and members asked whether more could be done to repossess and crush mini-motos and untaxed vehicles in general.

## 8. **Questions from the Public**

All questions from the public related to the proposals in the draft regional spatial strategy to develop land south of Clifton. The main areas of concern were lack of consultation, time given to reply, losing Green Belt land forever and a regional body of unelected people making decisions on local issues.