



SCRUTINY BOARD (DEVELOPMENT)

Meeting to be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on
Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 at 10.00 am

A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board
in a Committee Room at 9.30 am

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

B Cleasby (Chair)	-	Horsforth
P Davey	-	City and Hunslet
D Hollingsworth	-	Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
G Latty	-	Guiseley and Rawdon
R Lewis	-	Pudsey
M Lobley	-	Roundhay
A Lowe	-	Armley
A Millard	-	Wetherby
A Ogilvie	-	Beeston and Holbeck
N Taggart	-	Bramley and Stanningley
Whips Nominee	-	

Please note: Certain or all items on this agenda may be recorded on tape

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A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p>	
2			<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public.</p>	
3			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstance shall be specified in the minutes.)</p>	
4			<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>To declare any personal/prejudicial interests for the purpose of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Members' Code of Conduct.</p>	
5			<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p>	
6			<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th March 2007.</p>	1 - 4
7			<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>To receive the Executive Board minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2007.</p>	5 - 14

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
8			<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES</p> <p>To note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5th March 2007.</p>	15 - 18
9			<p>TOWN AND DISTRICT CENTRE CAR PARKING STRATEGIES</p> <p>To consider a report of the Director of Development which updates Members on ongoing town and district centre car parking.</p>	19 - 28
10			<p>ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007</p> <p>To consider a report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presenting the draft of the Board's contribution to the Scrutiny Board Annual Report.</p>	29 - 36

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Agenda Item 6

SCRUTINY BOARD (DEVELOPMENT)

TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor B Cleasby in the Chair

Councillors P Davey, D Hollingsworth,
G Latty, R Lewis, M Lobley, A Lowe,
A Millard and A Ogilvie

Apologies Councillor N Taggart

78 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest declared at this point in the meeting, however Councillor Cleasby declared a personal interest during Item 10 - Facilities for the Growing City Centre Population - (Minute No. 85 refers).

79 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Taggart.

80 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2007 be approved as a correct record.
- (b) That, in accordance with Minute No. 74, an update report on the issues raised at the meeting under the item on the Travelwise Campaign, be added to the Work Programme for 2007/2008.

81 Executive Board Minutes

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 9th February 2007 be noted.
- (b) That apparent delays in the disposal of Council assets be included in the Board's future Work Programme.

82 Overview and Scrutiny Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5th February 2007 be noted.

83 Sustainable Design and Construction and Sustainability Assessments

The Head of Sustainable Development submitted a report summarising the work that had been completed and the timetable for the adoption of three

guidance documents that the authority had recently commissioned. The three documents were:

- Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document
- Sustainable Assessment Supplementary Planning Document
- Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Dr Tom Knowland, Head of Sustainable Development in the Development Department, to present the report and respond to Members' queries and comments.

Members voiced their satisfaction at the progress so far on the preparation of the guidance documents. Issues discussed by the Board were in summary:

- Sustainability of increased **housing density** in developments.
- The **reuse of existing buildings**.
- Building materials, in particular the aesthetics of using **recycled materials** which should not be allowed to override the quality of the design.
- **Light pollution**.
- **Drainage**.
- **Energy efficiency**.
- **Conservatories**.
- **Greywater** and the necessity to avoid being too prescriptive in the standards being proposed, due to the pace of change of new technology.
- **Heating water and wastage** of running off cold water – the possibility of proposals to avoid wasting water being included in these standards.
- Support for the proposal that the Council should become a **pathfinder** for the city to encourage more sustainable buildings by applying these guidance standards to any work that the Council commissioned itself.
- The opportunity for the Board to scrutinise the guidance documents again before they were submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the project timetable and summary on the development of the draft guidelines referred to above be noted.
- (b) That the draft Leeds Householder Guide to Sustainable Design and Construction, attached to the report, be also noted.

84 Licensing Act 2003 and Partnership Working

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report outlining the partnership working, administration and enforcement of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Seamus Kennedy, Principal Liaison and Enforcement Officer for Entertainments Licensing in the Chief Executive's Department, to present the report and respond to Members' queries and comments. Also in attendance was Cath Follin, City Centre Manager from the Development Department.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 24th April, 2007

Members discussed the report and referred to:

- The process for **reviewing licences** for the sale of alcohol and the number of reviews and outcomes which have been completed to date.
- **Enforcement** of the laws of alcohol consumption and smoking.
- The forthcoming **smoking ban**.
- The **rules regarding the consumption of alcohol** in beer gardens, on the street and the particular regulations operating in the city centre.
- The concern that the number of enforcement staff might be insufficient, particularly having regard to the additional duties and responsibilities they would be required to undertake as a consequence of the **Gambling Act**.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

85 Facilities for the Growing City Centre Population

The Director of Development submitted a report outlining the current population growth of the City Centre and the facilities for residents.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Cath Follin, City Centre Manager, Development Department, to present the report and respond to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, reference was made to the following issues:

- Whether the Council was doing enough to **encourage residents to continue to live in the city centre**.
- The lack of **food stores**.
- **Shopping**, rents, the viability of small shops and a request that figures regarding rents be supplied to Members.
- Encouraging **mixed usage**.
- **NHS dentistry** and a request by Members for information on whether the potential new dental practice in The Light would remain NHS.
- The lack of **enforcement of planning conditions**, for example the bridge over the River Aire at City Island.
- The lack of **taxis at night time** and **car parking** provision.
- Building design and the **sound proofing** of properties.
- The **expectations** of city centre residents.
- The **population** and **demographics** of city centre residents and the request that more up to date information be supplied to Members.

Officers also advised the Board that consideration was being given to:

- extending the **Free City Centre bus service** to the Royal Armouries and Holbeck, subject to funding.
- extending the opening hours of the **Central Library and Art Gallery**.
- the viability of extending the opening hours of **Leeds Market**.
- introducing a **parking payment system by mobile phone** enabling city centre residents to extend overnight parking at a meter remotely.

Councillor Cleasby declared a personal interest during the discussions on this item as a Member of the Development Plan Panel.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the City Centre Manager report back to Board Members on the issues identified.
- (c) That the results of the 2007 residents' survey referred to in the report be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

(Note: Councillor R Lewis left the meeting at 11.25 am during the consideration of this item.)

86 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted the Committee's current Work Programme, updated to reflect decisions taken at previous meetings, together with the Forward Plan of Key Decisions pertaining to this Board's Terms of Reference covering the period 1st March to 30th June 2007.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.
- (b) That the topics as listed below be added to the future Work Programme of the new Board:
 - Sustainable Design and Construction Guidance Documents – update on progress
 - Transport and the Travelwise Campaign update
 - City Centre Facilities update report, including the results of the 2007 residents' survey
 - The apparent delays in the disposal of Council assets

87 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 24th April 2007 at 10.00am with a pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30am.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11.35am.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor A Carter in the Chair

Councillors M Harris, D Blackburn, R Brett,
J L Carter, R Harker, P Harrand, J Procter,
S Smith, K Wakefield and J Blake

Councillor Blake – Non-voting Advisory Member

190 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of the exempt information so designated as follows:

- (a) Appendix 1 to the report referred to in minute 207 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because it deals with the financial and business affairs of another body and also publication could be prejudicial to the Council's interest in terms of any ongoing negotiations.
- (b) Appendix A to the report referred to in minute 209 under the Terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(4) and (5) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as negotiations on equal pay, in particular pay protection arrangements, are ongoing, the Council is currently defending a large number of equal pay cases before the Employment Tribunal and release of the information at this time could prejudice negotiations and the outcome of tribunal claims proving costly to the Council and thereby having an adverse impact on the public.

191 Declaration of Interests

Members declared personal interests in relation to school governorships, as contained in the register of interests, in the item relating to the Leeds Scheme for Financing Schools (minute 198).

Further declarations of interest made during the meeting are referred to in minute 194 (Councillor J L Carter) and Minute 214 (Councillor Harris).

192 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2007 be approved.

Minutes approved at the meeting
held on Wednesday, 4th April, 2007

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING

193 Disposal at Less Than Best Consideration - Shay Street Woodhouse

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on a proposal to grant a long lease at less than best consideration for 56 three bedroomed flats at Shay Street and Holborn Terrace to Connect Housing Association, for the purpose of refurbishing and improving the buildings for accommodation for mature students with families.

The report identified the benefits to be brought by the schemes as being preferable to the option of marketing without restrictions.

RESOLVED – That the principle of a disposal to Connect at less than best consideration be approved, subject to obtaining the Secretary of State's consent and subject to approval by the Director of Development of the terms of the lease and a reasonable rental level to be payable during the term of the lease, having regard to the level of social rents receivable and costs of refurbishment, subsequent maintenance, management and other outgoings.

194 Establishment of a Strategic Partnership to Deliver Affordable Housing

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the options for the establishment of a Strategic Partnership to make a significant contribution to the increase of affordable housing in the city.

The report examined the three options of a Leeds Partnership Homes model, the establishment of an arms length company or of a strategic partnership.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That a Strategic Partnership, as described within the submitted report, be established with the purpose of increasing the supply of affordable housing in the city.
- (b) That the transfer or utilisation of 77 acres of Council land to the Strategic Partnership or other social housing partners for the purpose of developing affordable housing schemes across the city be approved
- (c) That necessary capital receipts generated from the sale of the 77 acres of Council land be made available to the Strategic Partnership to deliver 375 affordable housing units per year for the next 6 years.
- (d) That this Board notes that any additional capital receipts over and above those needed to develop 375 units per year and any subsequent equity generated from shared equity schemes, resulting from the development of the 77 acres, will be returned to the Council to allocate to its capital spending priorities, including the further expansion of affordable housing.
- (e) That the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing be authorised to make arrangements for the establishment of the Strategic Partnership.

(Councillor J L Carter declared a personal interest in this minute as Chair of Renew and Renewal Ltd)

195 Progress report on Regeneration and Development issues in South Leeds

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report on the proposed principles to underpin the development of a regeneration strategy for the South Leeds area with a view to detailed proposals being presented to a future meeting of the Board in the summer of 2007.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the decision of the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Beeston Hill and Holbeck Round 5 Housing PFI scheme be noted.
- (b) That an Outline Business Case for the Beeston Hill and Holbeck PFI scheme be prepared.
- (c) That a Regeneration Investment Plan for South Leeds, which includes the following specific priorities be prepared:
 - Developing and progressing regeneration proposals for the Beeston Hill and Holbeck area
 - Developing and progressing a scheme that will integrate the major private sector housing development at Sharp Lane, Middleton with adjacent older housing areas
 - Strengthening the role of the Parkside industrial area and the John Charles Centre for Sport and South Leeds High School as an employment/recreation/learning campus and improving accessibility from adjacent communities
- (d) That the Council owned land off Throstle Road, Middleton marked as A on the plan attached to the report be retained in Council ownership until the potential to integrate the development of adjacent areas has been assessed.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

196 The Leeds Play Strategy and Big Lottery Play bid

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report on the proposed Leeds Play Strategy to be implemented through local action and supported through the bid for 'Big Lottery' play funds.

RESOLVED – That the Leeds Play Strategy be approved and that further information be provided to members of the Board on the processes by which specific bids for funding are being determined.

197 Provision Of Children's Centres

The Director of Learning and Leisure submitted reports on the proposed provision of children's centres at Horsforth Broadgate, Swinnow and Yeadon Queensway.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That £534,500 be transferred from the Phase 2 Children's Centre Parent Scheme 12394 and that authority be given to incur expenditure on the provision of a Children's Centre at Horsforth Broadgate at a total cost of £534,500.

- (b) That a £23,000 contribution from Swinnow Primary School devolved capital be injected into the Learning and Leisure Capital Programme, that £525,800 be transferred from the Phase 2 Children's Centre Parent Scheme 12394 and that authority be given to incur expenditure on the provision of a Children's Centre at Swinnow at a total cost of £548,800.
- (c) That £526,000 be transferred from the Children's Centre Phase 2 Parent Scheme 12394 and that authority be given to incur expenditure on the provision of a Children's Centre at Yeadon Queensway at a total cost of £526,000.

198 Changes to the Leeds Scheme for Financing Schools

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on statutory amendments to the scheme for financing schools as required by the Secretary of State and on a proposed local scheme amendment to protect the financial interest of the City Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Statutory Scheme Changes required by the Secretary of State be noted.
- (b) That the proposed local scheme change as described in paragraph 3.2.1 of the submitted report be approved.
- (c) That the Secretary of State be requested to approve the revised Leeds Scheme for Financing Schools incorporating the amendments.

199 Education and Inspections Act 2006

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on the implications for the City Council arising from the key provisions of the Education and Inspections Act.

RESOLVED – That the detailed requirements in the Education and Inspection Act 2006 be noted together with the issues raised in regard to each of the specific areas of the Act described in the report.

200 Proposed Prescribed Alteration at Harehills Primary School

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on a proposal to permanently increase the admission number at Harehills Primary School from 60 to 90 places establishing a three form entry school.

RESOLVED – That formal public consultation be undertaken on a proposal to make a prescribed alteration at Harehills Primary School by raising the admission number from 60 to 90 pupils with effect from September 2009 to permanently establish a three form entry school.

201 Harehills Primary School - Provision of Additional Classrooms

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on a proposed scheme to provide additional accommodation at Harehills Primary School.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the design proposals for additional accommodation at Harehills Primary School be approved.
- (b) That expenditure of £579,700 from capital scheme 13286 be authorised.

202 Primary Review: Alwoodley Primary Planning Area

Further to minute 123 of the meeting of the Board held on 13th December 2006 the Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on the outcome of the statutory representation period for the reorganisation of primary provision in the Alwoodley Primary Planning Area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That having considered the representations received authority be given to proceed with the proposal to close Fir Tree Primary School and Archbishop Cranmer Church of England (Aided) Primary School on 31st August 2007 and for the Church of England Diocese to establish a one and a half form entry voluntary controlled school in the existing Archbishop Cranmer building on 1st September 2007.
- (b) That it be noted that as a result of the representations the determination of the notice falls to the School Organisation Committee.
- (c) that the comments prepared by Education Leeds and contained in the submitted report serve as the Local Authority's response to the representations for consideration.
- (d) That the Fir Tree site be declared surplus to educational requirements if the proposal proceeds and that the capital receipt generated from the site be used to fund educational improvements including the improvements proposed on the Archbishop Cranmer Primary School site

203 Horsforth West End: Outcome of Statutory Notice

Further to minute 71 of the meeting of the Board held on 21st September 2005 the Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on the outcome of a statutory notice posted in January 2007 about a proposal to close the resourced provision for deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School.

RESOLVED – That the resourced provision for deaf children at Horsforth West End Primary School be closed with immediate effect.

204 Bracken Edge Primary School - Extension and Adaptation Project

The Chief Executive of Education Leeds submitted a report on a proposed scheme to provide Bracken Edge Primary School with suitable and sufficient accommodation to meet curriculum needs.

RESOLVED – That the design proposals be approved and authority be given to incur expenditure of £757,800 on the scheme.

205 Leeds Building Schools for the Future

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report giving an update on progress towards financial close of the BSF programme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and progress towards Financial Close be noted together with the decision of the Chair of the Education PFI/BSF Projects Board to enter into an Early Works Agreement with Interserve Project Services Limited on behalf of the E4L Consortium
- (b) That a revised PFI affordability threshold of £13,148,000 be approved, being the first full year Unitary Charge in 2010/11 to protect the programme against further adverse upward movement in interest rates
- (c) That approval be given to the incurring of additional capital expenditure above the current Capital Programme provision of £30,934,000 amounting to £947,192 on Cockburn and Temple Moor High Schools

(This decision was exempt from Call In by reasons of urgency as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report)

LEISURE

206 John Davies

Noting that this would be his last meeting of the Board before retirement the Board expressed thanks to John Davies for his work for the Council, for his dedication to the City and wished him a happy retirement.

207 Roundhay Park Golf Course

Further to minute 294 of the meeting of the Board held on 18th May 2005 the Director of Learning and Leisure submitted a report on the current position with regard to the bid for a 75 year lease of the Roundhay Park Golf Course.

RESOLVED – That it be noted that the 75 year leasing of Roundhay Park Golf Course will not now proceed and that management and maintenance of the Course will remain with the City Council's Parks and Countryside service.

208 Middleton Park Equestrian Centre

The Directors of Learning and Leisure and Corporate Services submitted a joint report on current arrangements with regard to the Middleton Park Equestrian Centre and on options for its future operation.

Following consideration of Appendix 1 to the report designated exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) and (3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted and confirmation given of the Council's support to maintaining a riding for the disabled facility at the centre.
- (b) That the contents of the exempt appendix be noted and approval given to the action proposed in paragraph 3.4 of the appendix in the event that the revised governance proposals detailed in paragraph 3.3 are rejected by the trustees.

CENTRAL AND CORPORATE

209 Leeds Comprehensive Performance Assessment Scoreboard 2006 - 2007

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Council's CPA rating for 2006.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a report be brought back to the Board on the result of the Audit Commission's review of the Council's Direction of Travel judgement.
- (c) That the recommendation of this Board be put to Overview and Scrutiny Committee that an inquiry be undertaken on this matter, with a particular focus on the Council's predicted CPA position for future years.

210 Implementation of New Pay and Grading Structure - Phase 1

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report on the proposed new pay and grading structure and pay protection proposals for the Council and on issues associated with implementing the new pay and grading structure.

Appendix A to the report was designated exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(4) and (5), was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, and it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the new pay and grading structure as presented in the report be implemented.
- (b) That, subject to final negotiations with the Trade Unions, the pay protection arrangements as set out in the report be approved.

211 Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report on the proposed amendment of Part F of the Council's statement with regard to the manner in which the Council should determine any competing applications for a large scale casino in Leeds.

RESOLVED – That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a consultation on a revision to Part F of the Council's 'Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy' as soon as practicable.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillor Brett required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on this decision)

DEVELOPMENT

212 Leeds Local Development Framework - Revised Local Development Scheme

The Director of Development submitted a report following a recommendation by Development Plan Panel to consider proposed updates, rolling forward and

new injections into the Local Development Scheme for submission to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the updated and revised Local Development Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved for submission to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- (b) That the revised Local Development Scheme shall be brought into effect as from 1 June 2007, subject to one of the requirements set out below having been met. Namely that either:
- during a period of 4 weeks starting on the day the Council submits the scheme to the Secretary of State the Council receives from the Secretary of State notice that he does not intend to give a direction to amend the scheme, or
 - the Council has received such a direction and has either complied with it or received notice that it has been withdrawn, or
 - the Council has received notice that the Secretary of State requires more time to consider the scheme and either has subsequently received notice that the Secretary of State does not intend to give a direction or a direction has been complied with or withdrawn, or
 - the 4 week period has ended and the Council has not received either:
 - (i) a notice that the Secretary of State does not intend to give a direction
 - (ii) a direction
 - (iii) notice that the Secretary of State requires more time to consider the scheme.
- (c) That Director of Development be authorised to make any necessary changes to the revised Local Development Scheme prior to it coming into effect in order to comply with a direction from the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 15(4) should one be received.

213 UDP Saved Policies Review

The Director of Development submitted a report on recommendations of Development Plan Panel that this Board consider and agree which planning policies of the UDP should be 'saved' and which should be 'deleted' and agree that the proposals be submitted to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED – That proposals to save and delete UDP policies as set out in the Appendix to the report be approved for submission to the Secretary of State.

214 Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

The Director of Development submitted a report on the successful outcome of the Round 2 Leeds LEGI bid.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the three year programme set out in the bid and the indicative funding allocations detailed in Appendix A to the report be endorsed.

Minutes approved at the meeting
held on Wednesday, 4th April, 2007

- (b) That the £500,000 grant and the disposal of the former Hillside Primary School as set out in Appendix B to the report be noted.
- (c) That it be noted that decisions on expenditure will be made by the Director of Development in consultation with the LEGI Board
- (d) That reports on progress of implementation be brought to this Board as appropriate.

(Councillor Harris declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this decision as a Fellow of Leeds School of Entrepreneurship. He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the decision referred to in minute 215 in relation to his business interests and left the meeting during the discussion and voting on both matters)

215 Elland Road Master Plan

The Director of Development submitted a report on the work undertaken towards the development of a Masterplan proposal for land in the vicinity of Elland Road Football Ground and on proposed public consultation to enable the development of an informal planning statement for the site.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Director of Development be authorised to procure consultants to undertake a preliminary public consultation exercise on the draft masterplan proposals contained in Appendix 1 of the report.
- (b) That the Director of Development be authorised to develop an informal planning statement for the site, taking account of the outcome of the public consultation exercise.
- (c) That a report be brought back to this Board with a revised masterplan/ planning statement produced, prior to inviting bids from developers for their arena proposals.
- (d) That a report be brought back to this Board with proposals as to how any development of the Elland Road site may be brought forward once the preferred site for an arena development has been identified.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16TH MARCH 2007
 LAST DATE FOR CALL IN : 23RD MARCH 2007 (5.00 PM)

(Scrutiny Support will notify relevant Directors of any items Called In by 12 noon on 26th March 2007)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor G Driver in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, J Bale, B Cleasby,
P Grahame, T Leadley and R Pryke

Apologies Councillor B Lancaster

81 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor Anderson – General Fund Financial Health Monitoring 2006/07 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2007/08 – personal interest in his capacity as a Director of Leeds West/North West Homes ALMO (Agenda Items 8 and 12, Min No 83 refers)

Councillor Grahame - General Fund Financial Health Monitoring 2006/07 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2007/08 – personal interest in her capacity as a resident of Swarcliffe (Swarcliffe PFI Scheme) and as Chair of Swardale Swarcliffe Eastwood Residents Association (Agenda Items 8 and 12, Minute No 83 refers)

Councillor Bale – Request for Scrutiny – Disability Equality Scheme – personal interest in his capacity as a joint carer for his disabled daughter (Agenda Item 7, Minute No 82 refers)

Councillor Leadley – (a) Request for Scrutiny – Disability Equality Scheme – personal interest in his capacity as a relative of a disabled person (Agenda Item 7, Minute No 82 refers) and (b) Planning Performance – Final Inquiry Report – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of Plans Panel West and the Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item 11, Minute No 86 refers)

Councillor Cleasby – (a) Planning Performance – Final Inquiry Report – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item No 11, Minute No 86 refers) and (b) Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 9th February 2007 in his capacity as a Member of the Leeds Bradford Airport Consultative Committee (Agenda Item 12, Minute No 87 refers).

82 Minutes - 29th January and 5th February 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 29th January and 5th February 2007 be confirmed as correct records.

83 Request for Scrutiny - Disability Equality Scheme

Final minutes - approved at the meeting
held on Monday, 2nd April, 2007

The Committee considered a request from a Leeds resident, Mr Doug Paulley, for an inquiry into why the City Council had not produced a formal Disability Equality Scheme under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act, with separate policies covering the various equality strands of race, disability, gender, religion and faith, sexual orientation and age. Other local authorities had done so, but Leeds had instead chosen to adopt an all-encompassing Equality and Diversity Strategy 2006-2008. Mr Paulley's request also made reference to other alleged defects in the Council's approach to the subject – lack of evidence gathering and insufficient involvement of disabled people in producing the current Strategy document, action plan and performance monitoring.

In addition to hearing verbal evidence from Mr Paulley and Ms Jill Jones, who accompanied him, the Committee had before them a report from the Chief Officer (Executive Support) and also took evidence from Anne McMaster and Pauline Ellis of the Council's Equality Unit.

The Committee concluded that whilst it accepted that the Council's current Equality and Diversity Strategy met the Council's legal obligations, it could not at this stage make a judgement as to whether the Council's current approach, involving an all-encompassing Strategy, could be regarded as best practice compared, say, to the Disability Equality Scheme suggested by Mr Paulley and Ms Jones. The Committee also wished to see the performance indicators and timescales associated with the Action Plan for the current Strategy.

The Committee therefore agreed that a further report was required in April, which would include information on the practices adopted by other comparable local authorities, and would also show in greater detail the Action Plan, performance indicators and timescales associated with the current Strategy, in order that the Committee was in a better position to judge whether or not further scrutiny was regarded as necessary.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted, and Mr Paulley and Ms Jones be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (b) That a further report be submitted to the April meeting containing information relating to the approach of other similar local authorities to this subject, further explanation of the reasons behind Leeds' approach and further information in relation to the Action Plan, performance indicators and timescales to assist the Committee to form an opinion regarding best practice
- (c) That on receipt of this further report the Committee consider whether or not to recommend to its successor Committee to pursue an Inquiry in the new municipal year

84 General Fund Financial Health Monitoring 2006/07 - Month 9 Update Report

Further to Minute No 46, 6th November 2006, the Committee considered a financial monitoring report submitted by the Director of Corporate Services, first submitted to the Executive Board meeting held on 9th February 2007.

Alan Gay, Director of Corporate Services and Helen Mylan, Corporate Services Department, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:-

- The continuing trend for year on year increases in expenditure on Social Services , and the monitoring process
- The under-estimate of the take-up by landlords of the HMO Licensing scheme
- The current financial situation of Roseville Enterprises
- Various matters included in the separate report on the HRA budget for 2007/08, including the increases in ALMO management fees, service charges for blocks of flats, additional costs in respect of Little London PFI scheme and the current surplus in respect of the Swarcliffe PFI scheme, and the effects of any possible re-financing scheme. Councillor Pryke stated an intention to pick up some matters at the Scrutiny Board (Neighbourhoods and Housing) and Councillor Grahame indicated that she would be pursuing the latter point separately outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.

85 CPA - Comprehensive Performance Assessment

In the light of the recent CPA announcement regarding the Council's drop from a four star to a three star rated authority, the Committee had invited Steve Clough, the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement, to the meeting to discuss whether revisions to the performance monitoring framework, recently adopted by the OSC, required amendment. The Committee also discussed the CPA service assessment framework in general.

The Committee concluded that whilst the framework for quarterly reporting on Corporate Plan indicators which measure the delivery of the Council's priorities, together with any performance indicators which could impact on the Council's CPA score, was robust and should be continued, this could be enhanced by 'in-year' statements on predicted CPA scores. This would provide an opportunity for scrutiny to make appropriate interventions.

RESOLVED – That the existing performance monitoring arrangements adopted by this Committee be maintained, but be enhanced by timely 'in-year' predictions on CPA scores.

86 Development of Information Management in Leeds

Further to Minute 77, 5th February 2007, the Committee considered the draft final report of its review of the development of information management in Leeds and progress in implementing the recommendations of the April 2006 Inquiry Report of the Scrutiny Board (Transforming Services).

RESOLVED –

- (a) That subject to the addition of an extra recommendation regarding the proposed establishment of a Lead Member with specific responsibility for Information and Knowledge Management within the Council, the draft final report be approved.
- (b) That OSC receive six monthly update reports on this subject, in order to monitor progress.

87 Planning Performance - Final Report

Further to Minute 74, 29th January 2007, the Committee considered the draft final report of its Inquiry into Planning Performance.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the draft final report be approved;
- (b) That a formal response to the Committee's recommendations be requested from the Chief Planning Officer;
- (c) That OSC receive regular update reports on this subject, in order to monitor progress.

88 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted the Committee's current work programme, updated to reflect decisions taken at previous meetings, together with a relevant extract of the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and a copy of the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 9th February 2007.

RESOLVED – That subject to any changes necessary as a result of today's meeting, the Committee's work programme be approved and accepted.

89 Dates and Times of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd April 2007, at 10.00 am (Pre-meeting at 9.30 am)



Report of the Director of Development

Scrutiny Board (Development)

Date: 24th April 2007

Subject: TOWN AND DISTRICT CENTRE CAR PARKING STRATEGIES

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

This report details the work being undertaken to develop a framework to set the priorities and guide the future development of parking strategies for town and district centres.

A study has been commissioned and is now in progress to conduct an appraisal of the 28 town and district centres identified in the Leeds Unitary Development Plan.

The study will identify recommendations as to which centres should receive priority for further detailed work to develop specific strategies and their associated packages of highway measures.

The final study report is expected to be completed by the end of May this year.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report updates Members on ongoing town and district centre car parking.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 A detailed report concerning the future approach to the development of car parking policy and strategies for town and district centres was approved by the Executive Board at its 20 September 2006 meeting.

2.2 This report secured approval to commence work to develop a strategy framework and establish priorities for future work to develop detailed local parking strategies..

2.3 The basis for the review is the 28 town and district centres identified in the Unitary Development Plan.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 A town and district centres parking study was commissioned in February 2007 with the purpose of:
- Developing a framework to assess the parking issues and needs of town and district centres.
 - Provide advice and recommendations as to which centres should be given priority for the preparation of strategies and identification of measures.
- 3.2 At this stage the work is not intended to make detailed recommendations for individual centres, but to provide the basis for prioritising and targeting future resources to the development of future schemes.
- 3.3 The study which is based on the principles set out to the Executive Board and guidance provided by the Institute of Highways and Transportation and will form the basis for discussion with Members, area management and local stakeholders.
- 3.4 This report is due to be completed by the end of May 2007. A report to Executive Board will then be prepared to set out the findings and recommendations for future action.

4 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The development of local parking strategies is consistent with the objectives of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11 and with the Council's corporate policies.
- 4.2 Any detailed scheme proposals arising from this work will be the subject of separate reports and funding approvals.

5 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The cost for undertaking the aforementioned study is being met from the Transport Policy budget. Any further financial implications arising from the final study report and recommendations, including those relating to specific locations and the preparation of schemes, will be reported to the Director of Development and as required to the Executive Board.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report and the attached Executive Board report have outlined the approach being followed to support the future development of policy and parking strategies for the town and district centres.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are requested to note, comment and support the general approach adopted by the Executive Board.

8 Background information

- 8.1 The following document provides background information to this report: Car parking strategy in town and district centres, report to Executive Board, 20 September 2006.



Originator: A W Hall

Tel: 247 5296

Report of the Director of Development

Executive Board

Date: 20 September 2006

Subject: CAR PARKING STRATEGY IN TOWN AND DISTRICT CENTRES

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community and Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The planning principles that influence car parking policy in Leeds' town and district centres is set out in the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan and the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

At present the 28 individual centres identified in the UDP do not have specific local parking strategies. It is considered that a more integrated approach could provide a greater consistency when reviewing parking issues and considering developments in the future.

This report sets out proposals for a future approach to the development of local car parking strategies for town and district shopping centres in Leeds District, in particular:

1. the possibility of developing a general approach to car parking in towns and district centres based on interventions to control provision and short/long stay including on and off-street parking.
2. use of parking controls for the management and improvement of car parks
3. priorities for any more detailed consideration of particular centres.
4. sources of funding to allow the strategy work to be progressed, including appropriate use of the Town and District Centres fund.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To outline proposals for a strategy approach to the future development of car parking strategies for town and district shopping centres in Leeds District.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The planning principles that influence car parking policy in Leeds' town and district centres is set out in the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan, key policies being:

- Policy S2 supports measures to enhance the vitality and viability of 28 identified town centres (Appendix 1).
- Policy S3 aims to secure improvements to parking, recognising the primary role of the centres for retailing.

- 2.2 These policies are operated alongside the strategic transport policies for parking set out in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11.

- 2.3 Shoppers and visitors need good quality short-stay parking (typically 1-3 hours) and a secure, good quality central location is required.

- 2.4 Employees need long stay car parks. A peripheral location is satisfactory where central space is limited and utilised for short stay.

- 2.5 Much of the parking stock in towns - typically 50% - is privately owned and not available for public use.

- 2.6 Town centres often have a supply of car park spaces which are available for both short and long stay use. Long stay users can quickly fill up central spaces and sterilise them for short-stay use.

- 2.7 General objectives of Town Centre Parking (identified by the Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT) in their "Parking Strategies & Management" 2005 guidelines) are as follows:

- To provide parking to support the local economy
- To manage parking to encourage short stay visits in the town centre – Choices need to be made as to whether long stay spaces for workers and traders in the town should be available at the expense of short stay spaces provided for those visiting the town.
- To charge for parking to ensure a reasonable balance between demand and supply of parking at all times – Controls on the length of stay will differentiate between long and short stay use. Charging is required to control the overall demand for parking and provide a source of revenue for the operation of the parking business. The current view is that it is generally preferable to charge a modest amount for short stay parking rather than attempting to provide a readily enforceable system that is free.
- To integrate any charges for parking with objectives for other modes of transport – Costs of car travel are only likely to be comparable with those for public transport if parking charges are levied. This objective reflects an integrated approach to the management of transport demand by all modes.
- To ensure that parking revenues cover parking costs – There is pressure from central government that parking enforcement should be self financing.
- To ensure that parking supply is consistent with good traffic and pedestrian access – Inadequate turnover of spaces can cause extensive traffic circulation,

resulting in congestion and a poor pedestrian environment. Adequate and well enforced short stay spaces which are close to core facilities are important in meeting this objective.

- To ensure parking supply does not sterilise positive land-use development that can assist the economy of the town

2.8 The general strategy for a town centre is seen as using parking management to influence the location of where people park, and their length of stay, as follows:

- Favour on and off-street central spaces for short-stay only
- Use parking controls to favour short stay parking and promote good compliance.
- Provide for long-stay use in peripheral areas, either on-street or off-street.
- Control, where necessary, the use of kerb-side parking space on residential streets.
- Separate parking where it is dedicated to park and ride use (i.e. rail stations), from parking available for general town centre use
- Recognise the role that alternative public transport modes (which might include park and ride for some suburban centres), and walking/cycling can play in reducing parking demand..

Any management of on-street spaces will of course need to consider other demands on the kerbspace of the highway, such as bus boarding and deliveries.

2.9 The total amount of parking for a town centre needs to be related to the size of retail and office (or employment) floorspace in use, and local characteristics. A general strategy will include a comparison of parking supply and floorspace figures across many towns to reveal those that are relatively well provided with parking, and those which are underprovided. This can also be combined with the available intelligence in terms of centre vitality and economic performance, although this information may well be sparse and have a very limited relationship to the parking supply.

2.10 All towns and district centres will have individual characteristics that will need to be assessed to refine this initial comparative view of the adequacy of provision. These characteristics will be the key determinant in formulating and tailoring future action plans to local circumstances.

2.11 Consultation is expected to form an integral part of determining both the priorities and also informing the proposed course of action. In terms of the local centre parking strategies it is envisaged that there would be close collaboration with the Area Management Teams. This will be especially important in understanding the needs of the local economy (where detailed data may not be available) and facilitating an effective dialogue with the local community.

2.12 Any actions to address a shortfall in car parking will require a sound policy basis, and mechanisms established to secure parking through capital expenditure or within new development. Regard will need to be given to the overall policy framework in terms of the Local Transport Plan and the aforementioned planning guidance.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 At present individual S2 centres do not have specific local strategy statements, rather reliance is placed on the overarching policies provided within the Local Transport Plan and Unitary Development Plan when considering new development and changes in management. This approach can lead to seemingly ad hoc solutions which can sometimes appear different and inconsistent to those at other locations. The development of a more integrated strategy framework that could be applied across the District would have value as a guide to the use of parking controls and charges; to assist in realising improvements; and to inform decisions about new provision through public or private investment and development.
- 3.2 Based on the information under Section 2 above, it is proposed that the way forward with respect to developing parking strategies for the town centres should be to:-
- Agree the parking management principles as set out in para 2.8 above.
 - Commission the next stage of study work to develop assessment criteria and a framework that can be applied to the consideration of parking issues, then use these in conjunction with stakeholder consultation to prepare and agree an action list of town centres to inform priorities for the development of proposals..
 - Identify the funding sources needed to support further strategy development and implementation (noting that the preparation of detailed strategies and fully worked proposals with the associated surveys, research and consultation will involve the allocation of significant financial resources)
 - Develop action plans and scheme proposals for the priority town centres based on the agreed priority action list.
- 3.3 Appendix 2 outlines recent work in Otley which illustrates a case study of potential strategy application and implications. It is intended that future detailed work for priority centres will look in a similar way at:
- Parking spaces and availability both public and private
 - The needs of visitors, retailers and employers
 - Quantum of retail and employment uses
 - Present and forecast levels of new development
 - Measures of economic and community vitality
 - The role of other forms of transport including public transport
 - Associated highway matters including traffic congestion and road safety considerations.
- 3.4 This information will then be used to prepare a report and recommendations for action for the centres under study which will form the basis of parking strategy proposals.

- 3.5 Although the assessment framework will form the impartial basis for targeting key problems, in the first instance due regard will be given to existing work and discussions with the local area management teams to identify those major centres likely to benefit most from the early introduction of parking policy changes.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 National, regional and local policy is supportive of promoting the vitality and viability of town centres. Provision of long-stay car parking essentially to be used by car commuters is not supported, particularly as town centres generally have a relatively high level of public transport accessibility and large walk-in catchment. Each town centre would, however, need to be considered separately as their situations vary considerably. The character of towns and district centres varies widely between the inner suburban centres such as Headingley and Beeston
- 4.2 Provision of car parking for long stay use in town centres can only be justified against a strategy which, through re-allocation of spaces, effectively delivers central short stay spaces to the benefit of the town's economic vitality.
- 4.3 In developing and applying parking strategies, full account must be taken of compatibility with Local Transport Plan objectives, concerned with accessibility, congestion, safety, air quality and asset management.
- 4.4 New development, especially in the larger towns, may provide opportunities to negotiate the provision of public car parking in private schemes. A firm strategy basis which is soundly rooted in policy will be required which can support such negotiations, and preferably retain such parking in Council control. Where such proposals are significant, a general strategy may need to be refined by in-depth local investigations to support the Council's case.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 This report does not have any specific legal implications. The development of appropriate strategies will require additional revenue resources in 2007/08 for which the Department does not have specific budget provision. The funding of these one off costs will be identified as a budget pressure in 2007/08, as part of the Department's overall budget submission. The initial work to develop assessment criteria and a framework can be funded from the Development Department's Transport Policy revenue budget.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The lack of a defined car parking strategy, either at a general level or for specific town centres, is likely to lead to increasing dissatisfaction with parking. Whilst parking management and intervention may have some effects that may initially prove unwelcome, the overall consideration is to ensure that parking can contribute to the well-being of a town or centre. The preparation of effective strategies and measures will entail careful and well informed research which will be aided by effective consultation through the Area Management Teams.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members of Executive Board are requested to:

- i. note the content of this report;
- ii. endorse the development of a general approach to car parking in towns and district centres based on the principles described in paragraph 2.8 of this report;
- iii. subject to the endorsement of recommendation (ii), give approval for the initial work to establish the appropriate parking assessment criteria and framework and to identify an action list of town centres, together with cost estimates for the strategy development work.

APPENDIX 1

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SHOPPING POLICY S2 CENTRES

Policy S2: “The vitality and viability of the following town centres will be maintained and enhanced, in order to secure the best access for all sections of the community to a wide range of forms of retailing and other related services”:

1. Armley
2. Boston Spa
3. Bramley
4. Chapel Allerton
5. Cross Gates
6. Hunslet
7. Kippax
8. Kirkstall
9. Middleton (Ring Road)
10. Moor Allerton
11. Dewsbury Road
12. Farsley
13. Garforth
14. Guiseley (Otley Road)
15. Halton
16. Harehills Corner
17. Headingley
18. Holt Park
19. Horsforth (Town Street)
20. Meanwood
21. Morley
22. Oakwood
23. Otley
24. Pudsey
25. Rothwell
26. Seacroft
27. Wetherby
28. Yeadon

Note: This UDP based list does not differentiate between the different character and functions of these centres. But in parking policy terms the needs of the “suburban district centres” (e.g. Dewsbury Road) will be markedly different from the more established free standing town (e.g. Otley) and major retail centres (e.g. Cross Gates)

APPENDIX 2

EXAMPLE OF PARKING STRATEGY APPLICATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR OTLEY

Using recent parking survey information in Otley and applying the principles identified in paras 2.7 and 2.8 of the report for Otley shows that:

- Overall parking supply is generally adequate but long stay use diminishes the number of central short stay spaces available. On Market Days, the only available parking is mainly on-street in peripheral, residential streets.
- The modest charges (now 40p per hour) at some Council car parks are effective in confining those car parks to short stay use.
- Imposing charges or time limits on other central on- and off-street car parking to inhibit long stay use would displace around 100 cars.
- The main effect would be for long stay parking to take place on peripheral residential streets. Whilst this is a resource generally available during the working day, it is likely to result in concern for residents and requests for residents permit parking.
- Alternatives are to:
 - seek provision of new off-street long-stay spaces in the periphery, through either public car parking in new development, or new Council-run sites.
 - maximise use of private non-residential spaces in the town centre through co-operative arrangement with site owners.
- Additional car park revenue from extending current charges to other Council car parks could be used to improve parking quality.
- Whilst Otley has a relatively high accessibility by public transport, it also has high car ownership which results in parking demand.
- There are several active development proposals on car park sites which raise issues of replacement car parking.



Originator: Richard Mills

Tel: 2474557

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Development)

Date: 24th April 2007

Subject: Annual Report 2006/2007

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft of the Board's contribution to the Scrutiny Board Annual Report.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Members will be aware that the operating protocols for Scrutiny Boards require the publication of an Annual Report to Council. This year the report will combine a commentary on each of the Board's work, progress on the Action Plan 2006/07 and details of the Action Plan which has been developed for 2007/2008 and an overall summary in bar chart form representing the types of work that the Scrutiny Boards have done during the year.

2.2 This is the Board's opportunity to contribute to the Annual Report which will be presented to Council.

3.0 Draft report

3.1 Attached is a draft of this Board's proposed submission which includes an introduction from the Chair and details of the work undertaken by the Board in this municipal year.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to approve the Board's contribution to the composite Annual Report.

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Scrutiny Board (Development)



*Cllr Brian Cleasby
Chair of Scrutiny Board (Development)*

Membership of the Board:

Cllr Brian Cleasby (Chair)
Cllr Patrick Davey
Cllr David Hollingsworth
Cllr Graham Latty
Cllr Richard Lewis
Cllr Mathew Lobley
Cllr Alison Lowe
Cllr Andrew Millard
Cllr Adam Ogilvie
Cllr Neil Taggart

The Chair's Summary

I am once again delighted to present this year's Annual Report for Scrutiny Board (Development). I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Board for their support through out this municipal year. I am constantly surprised at the range of expertise and knowledge that members are able to draw upon and which adds value to the scrutiny process.

The Local Government and Participation in Public Health Bill refers to scrutiny as a way of ensuring that members are in a stronger position to support citizens in challenging policies and practices in the local area. This for me is an extremely exciting and positive development for scrutiny. In addition the proposed strengthening of the scrutiny role that will require other public bodies as service providers to report and give evidence to our Scrutiny Boards is welcomed.

This year the Scrutiny Board concluded its inquiry on the Leeds City Region. Since starting this inquiry last year the City Region Development Programme has now been prepared and agreed by the 11 Councils which makes up the Leeds City Region Partnership. This initiative focuses the economic plan for the city region on areas where we can add value and deliver our Vision for the City. This will require a more co-ordinated and complementary action from all partners and stakeholders within the city region. Scrutiny will have a further role to play here. In the meantime we were pleased to have been involved at an early stage in this initiative.

The uncertainty around Supertram last year demanded that we review alternative transport plans. We received a presentation on the short, medium and long term transport policy for the city. We monitored what had been delivered against targets set in the Local Transport Plan (LTP1) and what was being planned for the future. We heard from METRO on the work being undertaken with the bus companies to beat the traffic and heard from First Bus about operational issues.

We have actively monitored and challenged the performance indicators of the Development Department particularly those which could impact on the Council's CPA score. We have continued to receive and comment upon ongoing plans and strategies which provide a framework for many other projects. We considered two formal requests for scrutiny during the course of the year. The Board has had a busy and productive year and a brief summary of our work follows.

As Lord Mayor elect I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the Board's work throughout the 3 years I have Chaired this Board. I look forward to seeing scrutiny develop further in 2007/2008.

Cllr Cleasby
Chair of Scrutiny Board (Development)

Inquiry on the Leeds City Region

We commenced this inquiry last year on the Leeds City Region. We wanted to know what the current Government thinking was on this issue and obtain details of other city region initiatives. We were keen to examine more specifically the implications of this work for the delivery of the aspirations in the Council's Corporate Plan. In particular we were interested in what difference it could make to the development of high quality transport and the delivery of the skills agenda? Since concluding our inquiry the Leeds City Region partners have joined forces to deliver a dynamic, successful and prosperous city region that supports innovation and enterprise and is capable of competing with the best that Europe has to offer. It has agreed the City Region Development Programme which has been signed by the 11 Councils which make up the partnership.



Scrutiny Board (Development)

Our other recommendations were

- That the Board endorses Leeds City Council's contribution to the broader city region partnership and to its efforts to enhance overall economic performance.
- That the Board endorses the view that other regional and national public bodies, government agencies and departments with a remit to promote economic growth, improve transport connectivity, improve skills levels etc, should seek to align their strategy and delivery plans to the city region.
- That the Board recognises that developing a city region strategy and policy in all areas will proceed at different rates dependent on the level of existing understanding, so for example transport thinking at a city region level is well advanced and moving forward, whereas a distinct city region skills offer is less well developed.

Our main recommendation was:

That the Board supports the city region approach as the functionally coherent unit for developing interventions aimed at achieving enhanced economic growth, particularly relating to interventions around transport connectivity; economic development (including innovation); skills and housing / building sustainable communities (i.e. places where people choose to live) where city region working can bring real added value.

“Our shared vision for the Leeds City Region is to develop an internationally recognised city region to raise our economic performance to spread prosperity across the whole of our city region and to promote a better quality of life for all of those who live and work here.”

Leaders of 11 Local Authorities which make up the Leeds City Regions Partnership

Other recommendations continued

- That an update report be presented to the Board in a year's time or when there were significant developments particularly with regard to governance arrangements.

“Our growth strategy identified 8 Northern city regions, Liverpool, Central Lancashire, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Hull and the Humber ports, Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear as the places where our ambitions to create a step change in economic growth in the North can be achieved.”

The Northern Way

Request for Scrutiny

We considered a request for scrutiny from a community safety representative on behalf of residents of Shancara Court opposed to the sale, demolition and redevelopment of the former Blackgates School at Tingley. The Board agreed unanimously on the evidence presented that further scrutiny was necessary. We investigated thoroughly the concerns and allegations raised by residents and received a detailed report from the Director of Development and heard from a number of witnesses. Our conclusions are set out below. We are grateful to the residents for raising this matter with us.

Our main recommendation was:

That the Director of Development be asked to expedite the Heads of Terms with Mintons as quickly as possible, preferably within 30 days



New Blackgates Primary School

“We noted in our discussions the capital spent on remodelling Blackgates and Drighlington schools under the Primary School Review and Leeds Primary Schools PFI programmes and the anticipated income from the sale of the former school sites”

Cllr Cleasby Chair Scrutiny Board

Our other comments were the view:

- That in order to ensure transparency in assessing whether best consideration had been achieved in negotiations of this kind that more than one tender should be obtained.
- That consultation with residents, Parish and Ward Councillors on the disposal of the site had sometimes been misleading and lacked transparency.
- That where a second external valuation is obtained that this should be from a different company.
- That consultation procedures with Parish and Ward Councillors should be strengthened, and in particular all Members of Council should be advised as to the proper course of action to be taken to enlist the help of a sponsoring department in the event of an asset becoming surplus.

Request for Scrutiny

We considered a request for scrutiny from Drighlington Parish Council / Drighlington Conservation Group, relating to the disposal of the former Drighlington Primary School.

We heard from Councillor James Durning, Parish Councillor for Drighlington, who outlined in detail the reasons for the request for scrutiny.

Officers responded to the two main grievances raised by Councillor Durning, namely the legal ownership of the asset and the lack of consultation over its disposal and answered questions raised by the Board.

We were satisfied with the responses received from officers and agreed that no further scrutiny was required on this matter. However, we did make the following recommendation.

Our recommendation

That with regard to the consultation process concerning the disposal of property assets in general, that the Board's concern regarding the Department's reliance on Ward Councillors forwarding information to Parish Councillors be conveyed to the relevant senior officers and that it be recommended in future that the Development Department consult directly with Parish Councils.



Civic Hall

Presentations

We received during the course of the year a number of reports and presentations on a wide range of issues as part of our monitoring and review role.



Guided Bus



Cyclists Kirkstall Road

- *Climate Change*

We considered a report summarising the latest evidence for climate change and reviewed the timetable for the development of a climate change strategy and action plan for Leeds. We have continued to monitor progress on this important issue. We have shown the documentary “An inconvenient Truth” and made a DVD available and encouraged all Members of Council to see it.



- *Transport*

We received a detailed report on the short, medium and long term transport strategy for the city in the light of the Government’s decision not to support the Council’s supertram application.

We took this opportunity to consider what had been delivered against the actions and targets set in the first West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2001 - 2006 and in particular progress on the key areas for Leeds over this period.

We also discussed with Metro and First Bus a range of issues and concerns including modernisation of the buses, investment, fares and the social needs of communities set against the operation of a commercial bus service.



- *Sustainable Design and Construction and Sustainability Assessments*

We received details of the three draft guidance documents being prepared by consultants EDAW on the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document, the Householders Guide and the Developers Assessment Supplementary Planning Document. We also considered the timetable for completion of these drafts and continued to monitor progress through the year.

- *Water Asset Management Working Group*

We monitored the progress being made by the Water Asset Management Working Group which was established following a series of flooding incidents affecting Leeds in 2004.



Drainage Works

- *Planning a Better Future – Planning and Development Services*

We received a detailed report from the Chief Planning Officer in order that we could consider and comment on the progress being made on implementing the solutions within the five improvement themes of the strategic review for the Planning and Development Services.



Plans

- *Travelwise Campaign Update*

We received a report providing information on the development of the Council's TravelWise campaign to promote sustainable methods of travel, and highlighted key achievements and progress in Leeds since 2004.

The paper showed how this activity has been fully integrated into the objectives of the Local Transport Plan and of the resource pressures in the Unit. Members were pleased to note how the Leeds TravelWise was closely involved in the development and launch of the West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network.

- *Night Time and Evening Economy*

We reviewed the impact of new licensing laws and considered whether partners are working effectively together. We also examined what facilities are being provided for the new burgeoning community in the city centre.

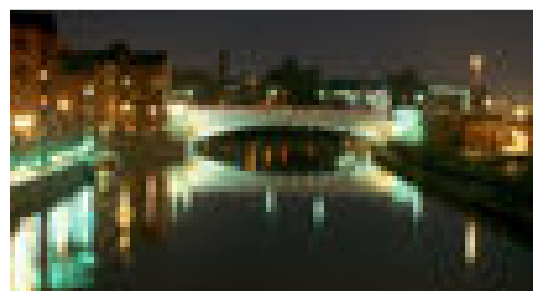
Leeds Waterfront

- *Addressing Worklessness*

We considered a number of papers on the work being carried out to address worklessness in the city. We continued to monitor progress during the year. We made two specific recommendations

Our recommendations were

- ◇ That responsibility for tackling Worklessness be brought under one body or department within the Council.
- ◇ That a framework be developed, aligned to Local Area Agreements that will enable effective monitoring of the objectives and targets set to drive forward the changes necessary on Worklessness and that a paper on this be brought to the Scrutiny Board for consideration.





Scrutiny Board (Development)

- *Parking in Town and District Centres*

We considered the framework and prioritisation for introducing parking policies in our 28 town and district centres.

The Board's full work programme 2006/07

- **Leeds City Region inquiry concluded**
- **Request for scrutiny former Blackgates School site**
- **Presentation on transport strategy for the city**
- **Presentation by METRO and First Bus on bus services in the city**
- **Reviewed procedures for applications to erect Telecom masts**
- **Presentation on sustainable design & construction and sustainability assessments**
- **Request for scrutiny former Drighlington school site**
- **London 2012 Olympic Games**
- **Climate Change**
- **Progress of the Water Asset Management Group**
- **Tackling Worklessness**
- **Ring Road Moortown Road safety**
- **Performance management indicators for quarters two and three**
- **Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report**
- **Presentation from the Chief Planning Officer**
- **Update on the Strategic Review of Planning & Development Services**
- **Development of the Travelwise campaign**
- **Parking in town and district centres**
- **Night time and evening economy**