

SCRUTINY BOARD (REGENERATION)

TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor J Procter in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, P Ewens, P Grahame,
J Harper, G Hussain, M Iqbal, T Murray,
R Pryke and G Wilkinson

Mr G Hall – Co-opted Member

83 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the March meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Regeneration).

84 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

85 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

86 Update on Discussions with Leeds Bradford International Airport - Proposed Taxi Rank on Whitehouse Lane

Referring to Minute 59 of the meeting held on 19th December 2011, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report updating the meeting on discussions with Leeds Bradford International Airport in relation to a proposed taxi rank on Whitehouse Lane.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- Leeds Bradford International Airport Taxi Access – Report of Director of City Development – Executive Board – 10th February 2012 (Appendix 1 refers)
- A request from Scrutiny Board (Regeneration) to Executive Board to reconsider the Provision of Taxi Facilities on Whitehouse Lane – Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development - Executive Board – 10th February 2012 (Appendix 2 refers). It was noted with concern that this report from Scrutiny Board was not submitted to the Executive Board for the reasons specified

Mr Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation, City Development was in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments concerning where Leeds Bradford International Airport were with the development of the Forecourt Management Plan.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- clarification of the timetable/deadline for submission by the Leeds Bradford International Airport of the Forecourt Management Plan to Plans Panel (West)
(The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation responded and agreed to provide the Board with this information)
- clarification as to whether the Director of City Development knows what Leeds Bradford International Airport intended to do at the end of the current contract. Was it likely that it will again simply go again to the highest bidder rather than it take an holistic approach to resolving this problem?
(The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation responded with his view on the latest position and confirmed that the Director of City Development's views had been consistent regarding the problems and concerns regarding the provision of a taxi rank on Whitehouse Lane. The Directorate was now waiting to see firm proposals from the airport on this issue which would be set out in the Forecourt Management Plan and which was a condition of the planning consent for the airport extension)
- clarification as to the Council Officer who would receive and consider the Forecourt Management Plan submitted from Leeds Bradford International Airport for consideration by Plans Panel West
(The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation responded and informed the Board that it was Mr M Sellens, Head of Planning Services who was dealing with this matter)
- reference was made to copies of all relevant correspondence previously submitted to this Board between the Director of City Development, other relevant officers and the Leeds Bradford International Airport on this issue between 7th October 2010 to 4th October 2011. Members asked to see any further relevant correspondence on this issue from 5th October 2011 to date
(The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation agreed to provide this information)
- discussed the offer made by Leeds Bradford International Airport at an early stage in the negotiations regarding the "Voyager" short stay facility which was to extend the waiting period from 15 minutes to 30 minutes for taxis and private hire vehicles. This enabled vehicles to drop off and collect fares within a reserved and designated area adjacent to the short stay car park and in proximity of the airport terminal
(The Chief Officer, Highways and Transportation confirmed that discussions were ongoing but were no new developments to report in terms of taxi provision by Leeds Bradford International Airport at this stage)

RESOLVED –

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

- b) That this Board notes that the scrutiny process had now been amended and in future scrutiny reports making recommendations to the Executive Board would be submitted direct to the Executive Board. It was further noted that a copy of the Scrutiny Board's report would continue to be sent to the relevant Director seeking his/her comments to the Scrutiny Board's proposals for his/her submission to Executive Board.
- c) That the Director of City Development submit by email to the Principal Scrutiny Adviser the information requested by the Board concerning clarification of the timetable/deadline for submission by the Leeds Bradford International Airport of the Forecourt Management Plan to Plans Panel West.
- d) That the Director of City Development submit details of any further relevant correspondence with the Leeds Bradford International Airport concerning hackney carriage provision and private hire from 5th October 2011 to date.
- e) That Mr M Sellens, Head of Planning Services be invited to attend the next full Scrutiny Board meeting in May (date to be confirmed) to update Members on the position with regard to the Forecourt Management Plan and to respond to Members' questions.

(Councillor P Ewens joined the meeting at 10.30am during discussions of the above item)

87 Recommendation Tracking - Housing Growth in Leeds

Referring to Minute 79 of the meeting held on 28th February 2012, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on recommendations arising from the previous Scrutiny review of Housing Growth in Leeds.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents were submitted for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- Recommendation tracking flowchart and classifications: Questions to be considered by Scrutiny Boards (Appendix 1 refers)
- Review of Housing Growth in Leeds (Appendix 2)
- Housing Growth Scrutiny Inquiry Report (Appendix 3 refers)

The following representatives were in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments:-

- Councillor R Lewis, Executive Board Member, Development and the Economy
- Councillor P Gruen, Executive Board Member, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration
- David Feeney, Head of Forward Planning and Implementation, City Development
- Susan Morse, Programme Delivery Manager, City Development
- Andy Haig, Regional Policy Team, Planning, Policy and Improvement Directorate, City Development

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

RESOLVED-

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the Principal Scrutiny Adviser make changes to the proposed category status of Appendix 2 of the report as follows:-
 - Recommendation 1 remains at category 4
 - Recommendation 2 remains at category 4
 - Recommendation 3 remains at category 4
 - Recommendation 4 remains at category 2
 - Recommendation 5 change from category 4 to category 3
 - Recommendation 6 remains at category 2
 - Recommendation 7 change from category 4 to category 3
 - Recommendation 8 remains at category 4
 - Recommendation 9 (a) change from category 4 to category 3
 - Recommendation 9 (b) remains at category 3
 - Recommendation 10 change from category 4 to category 3
 - Recommendation 11 remains at category 4
 - Recommendation 12 remains at category 2
- c) That in relation to Recommendation 2, the Board welcomes the offer by the Executive Board Member, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration to pursue this recommendation on behalf of the Board.
- d) That in relation to Recommendation 5, the Director of City Development circulate to all Members of the Scrutiny Board details of the number of new affordable homes which had come to fruition since the interim affordable housing policy was introduced by the Executive Board in November 2011.
- e) That in relation to Recommendation 7, the Board conveys its concern at the "duty to cooperate" and the lack of tangible progress with regard to the Scrutiny Board's proposals to "pool" under and over provision of houses across the city region. (It was reported that the Leaders Board on 2nd February 2012 had considered a paper on future arrangements for Spatial Planning which included an exploration of how directive the Partnership wished to be in regard of strategic planning. It was confirmed that the Leaders Board was a long way from considering the "pooling" of their collective housing provision)
- f) That in relation to Recommendation 9 (a), the Board notes that this recommendation should be directed via the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer and Access) portfolio and not through Environment and Neighbourhoods.
- g) That in relation to Recommendation 9 (b), the Head of Forward Planning and Implementation, City Development be requested to Circulate SI 2012 No 637 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to Board Members via the Principal Scrutiny Adviser.

(Councillor B Atha joined the meeting at 11.15am during discussions of the above item)

88 2011/12 Quarter Three Performance Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report on a summary of the new quarter three performance data for 2011-12 which provided the meeting with an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the Council Business Plan 2011-15 and City Priority Plan 2011-15.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- Appendix 1a – Performance Reports for the Housing and Regeneration City Priorities
- Appendix 1b – Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate Priorities and Indicators relevant to the Board
- Appendix 1c – City Development Directorate Priorities and Indicators relevant to the Board

The following representatives were in attendance and responded to Board Members' queries and comments:-

- Councillor R Lewis, Executive Board Member, Development and the Economy
- Councillor P Gruen, Executive Board Member, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration
- Paul Maney, Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance, City Development
- Heather Pinches, Executive Officer, Performance Management, Customer Access and Performance
- Debra Scott, Head of Performance and Service Review, Environment and Neighbourhoods

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- The Core Strategy approved by Executive Board on 10th February 2012 recognised the need to identify around 30% of new housing to be built on "Protected Area of Search" (PAS) and greenbelt sites. Members asked how this figure of 30% had been calculated and how many hectares are involved. Members also wanted an indication of the percentage of PAS sites included in the 30% figure *(The Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance, City Development responded and agreed to provide this information for Board Members via the Principal Scrutiny Adviser)*
- The concern expressed about the amber rating in the Red/Amber/Green system and whether there were alternative options available. Members suggested that it would be helpful in future reports if changes were made to include the definitions for the ratings (previously agreed with Members) *(The Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance, City Development responded and agreed to raise this at the next Performance Board)*

- The concerns raised about the affordable housing targets and how realistic they were in the current climate
- That consideration be given to establishing an additional indicator to monitor the impact of the reduction in S106 Affordable Housing targets
- Members asked how many apprenticeships were converted into real jobs?

(The Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance, City Development agreed to make enquiries and provide a response to Board Members via the Principal Scrutiny Adviser)

RESOLVED –

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That this Board notes the progress in relation to the delivery of the Housing and Regeneration City Priorities Plans as set out in the Directorate Priorities and Indicators.
- c) That the information requested above be provided to the Principal Scrutiny Adviser for circulation to all Members of the Scrutiny Board.

89 Work Schedule

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing Members with a copy of the Board's current draft work schedule. The Executive Board minutes of 7th March 2012, together with the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st March 2012 to 30th June 2012 were also attached to the report.

RESOLVED-

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the Executive Board minutes of 7th March 2012, together with the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st March 2012 to 30th June 2012 be noted.
- c) That the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to revise the work schedule to incorporate the recommendations made at today's Board meeting.

90 Date and Time of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 24th April 2012 – meeting cancelled and to be replaced by a meeting of the Board's Working Group on affordable housing and private developers to which all Members of the Board would be invited to attend
- Additional Meeting to be held in May – date and time to be advised

(The meeting concluded at 12.10pm)