

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor P Truswell in the Chair

Councillors D Cohen, P Davey, G Latty,
A Ogilvie, E Taylor, C Towler, P Wadsworth
and J Walker

10 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

No exempt items were identified at the meeting. The Chair advised members of the public that item 7 of the meeting was being recorded by a member of the public and also alerted members of the public to the 'Recordings by Third Parties Code of Practice.'

11 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared to the meeting.

12 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor S Lay.

13 Minutes - 15 June 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

14 Supertram, NGT and Beyond - Scoping the Scrutiny Inquiry

The Head of Scrutiny, The Director of City Development and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority submitted reports which facilitated the formulation of outline terms of reference for the Scrutiny Inquiry. In addition the reports provided initial background information on the development of the Supertram and NGT projects; including decisions made by the Council and the approvals and guidance from the Department of Transport.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Appendix A: Letter from Council Leaders to Secretary of State for Transport 16th September 2005
- Appendix B: Leeds Supertram decision letter
- Appendix C: Local Partnerships, Gateway Report February 2013
- Appendix D: DfT Rejection letter May 2016
- Appendix E: Timeline of events
- Appendix F: Table of expenditure year by year
- Appendix G: Summary of Inspector's Comments

- Appendix H: List of Project Board Members

The following representatives were in attendance to respond to Members queries and comments:

- Martin Farrington – Director, City Development
- Gary Bartlett – Chief Highways Officer
- Dave Haskins – WYCA
- Andrew Wheeler – NGT Project Manager
- Councillor Richard Lewis – Executive Board Member, Regeneration Transport and Planning

The key areas for discussion were:

- The requirement to submit an outline business case for transport to secure £173.5m of funding from Government in October 2016, and the intention to seek further funding required to deliver integrated transport for Leeds over the short, medium and long term.
- The transport summit held on the 10th June 2016.
- The intention to conduct initial City wide consultation in order to engage with communities and interested parties and organisations, with further more detailed consultation to follow.
- The need for national and international experts independent of NGT to inform the debate.
- The need for a clear transport strategy that everyone is working towards and which delivers economic growth and prosperity.
- The requirement to balance aspiration and the ability to finance and deliver schemes.
- Department for Transport conditions for funding with regard to assurance processes.
- The frustration of independent government processes; programme planning with the Department of Transport followed by transport and work act order with Planning Inspector which lacks coherence and has raised contradictory views.
- The amount of public money invested to go through lengthy government processes which had ultimately resulted in a negative outcome.
- The need to consider comparator schemes.
- The impact of the project lead leaving in 2013.
- Clarity about the function of the Local Partnership Gateway.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board;

- (a) noted the comments in the report of the Director of City Development and WYCA; and
- (b) requested that the Scrutiny Chair and the Scrutiny Officer consult with the relevant Director and Executive Board Member regarding terms of reference and report back to the September 2016 meeting with draft terms of reference for agreement.

15 Directors Response - Scrutiny Inquiry, Powering Up the Leeds Economy through Digital Inclusion

The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive (Strategy and Resources), Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities), Chief Digital Officer and Director of City Development submitted their response to the Scrutiny Inquiry, Powering up the Leeds Economy Through Digital Inclusion.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Appendix 1: Home loan library iPads help people with disabilities get online
- Appendix 2: List of organisations who attend the 100% Digital Leeds event
- Appendix 3: Scrutiny Inquiry Report – Powering up the Leeds Economy Through Digital Inclusion.

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

- Alan Gay – Deputy Chief Executive (Strategy and Resources)
- Dylan Roberts – Chief Digital Officer
- Lee Hemsworth – Chief Officer (Customer Access)
- Richard Hart – Deputy Head of Service (Leeds Library and Information Services)
- Jason Tutin – Digital and Learning Development Manager.

The key areas for discussion were:

- Confirmation that all recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board are accepted.
- The risk of digital by default and the anxieties that this may cause for service users. Clarification of 100% digital and reassurance that face to face and telephone contact options will be available to those who are not digitally engaged. The inclusion of consideration of digital inclusion or exclusion when considering schemes which introduce digital by default.
- The up skilling of LCC staff to facilitate the conversations and training with customers about the benefits of using digital.
- The inclusion of a skills audit within the appraisal process and tailored training for Council employees.
- Tablet lending scheme through the at home service which has helped people with multiple barriers to engagement. Concern about the limited time scale about the lend and the potential option for purchasing equipment. It was clarified that funding for the expansion of the project has not yet been secured.
- The social benefits of digital engagement.
- Feedback from the 100% Digital Leeds event and partnership engagement. It was acknowledged that there is work to be done to

identify supporting organisations in Leeds and make that information available to the public.

- The creation of a brand for '100% Digital' and gaining support for that.
- Assessment of skills gaps across the City in order to localise targeting and maximise the resource that already exists in communities.
- The need to improve in engagement with partners as private sector and to gain investment and commitment from those organisations.
- The need to measure impact of the investment made and report this back in future updates to the Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board;

- (a) noted the response to the recommendations;
- (b) endorsed the approach outlined in the report; and
- (c) identified that progress, impact and outcomes be reported to the Scrutiny Board as part of the recommendation tracking process.

16 Directors Response - Scrutiny Inquiry, Housing Mix

The Director of City Development submitted his response to the Scrutiny Inquiry, Housing Mix.

The following information was appended to the report:

- Appendix 1: Scrutiny Inquiry Report – Housing Mix.

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

- Martin Elliot – Group Manager, Strategic Planning.

The key areas for discussion were:

- The local need and how well it is understood. It was perceived that need is not being met in local areas in the schemes coming forward.
- The housing requirement for the City and the impending 16 month review of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- The provision of family housing in the housing mix and the need to improve the understanding of the demographics in Leeds in addition to having a planning view and a Children's Services view.
- Planning approvals defined in table 3 and the probability of these being progressed to build stage in the current market.
- Clarity regarding the Objectively Assessed Housing Need methodology to be employed.
- Resourcing for neighbourhood planning and how this is funded and the need for neighbourhood plans to conform with the Core Strategy.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board;

- (a) noted the response to the recommendations;
- (b) endorsed the approach outlined in the report; and
- (c) identified that progress, impact and outcomes be reported to the Scrutiny Board as part of the recommendation tracking process.

17 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at 10:30am (pre-meeting for Board Members at 10:00am).

(The meeting concluded at 12:45pm)