

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor R Pryke in the Chair

Councillors C Beverley, B Gettings,
R Harington, J Jarosz, G Wilkinson,
A Barker, J Matthews and A Ogilvie

41 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and Members and Officers introduced themselves.

42 Declaration of Interests

The following Members declared personal interests in relation to agenda item 10 entitled 'Sustainable Education Travel Strategy and the Development of an Integrated School Transport Policy for Children's Services' (Minute No. 50 refers):

- Councillor Pryke as a Governor of Ebor Gardens Primary School and Primrose and City of Leeds Federated High Schools.
- Councillor Ogilvie as a Governor of Cottingley Primary School and Cockburn High School.
- Councillor Jarosz as a member of West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority and as Governor of Pudsey Tyersal Primary School and Pudsey Grangefield High School.
- Councillor Harington as a Governor of Oakwood and Bankside Primary Schools.
- Councillor Barker as a Governor of Horsforth Featherbank School.
- Councillor Matthews as a Governor elect of Spring Bank Primary School.
- Councillor Gettings as a Governor of Drighlington Primary School and Bruntcliffe High School.

43 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lobley and R Procter.

44 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

45 Deferral of Agenda Item 9

The Chair reported that the Chief Planning Officer was now unable to attend the meeting and suggested that Agenda Item 9 'Update on the Strategic

Review of Planning and Development Services' be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That Agenda Item 9, 'Update on the Strategic Review of Planning and Development Services' be deferred to the November meeting of the Board.

46 Inquiry on Residents Parking Schemes - Session 2

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which outlined the purpose of the second session of the Inquiry on Residents Parking Schemes. Attached was a joint report of the Chief Environmental Services Officer and the Director of City Development, which provided Members with an overview of the process for the introduction of Resident Parking Schemes (RPS) and information requested by the Board at the previous meeting.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Councillor Steve Smith, Executive Board Member with portfolio responsibility for Environmental Services and Councillor Ryk Downes, Ward Councillor for Otley and Yeadon who had been invited to attend as a witness.

Also in attendance to present the report and respond to queries and comments from the Board were Andrew Mason, Chief Environmental Services Officer, Graham Wilson, Head of Environmental Action and Parking, Helen Franklin, Acting Head of Highway Services, Howard Claxton, Traffic Engineering Manager and Mark Jefford, Parking Manager, Enforcement.

Councillor Smith outlined his responsibilities for this Board which solely related to parking enforcement and then, along with officers, responded to the following issues raised by Board Members:

- **Parking Restrictions** and the overall impact they could have on other areas.
- The **Allocation of Resources** to enforce parking restrictions and keep traffic flowing in the city.
- Process of **Resident Parking Schemes**. The Executive Board Member was confident that the balance between parking and enforcement was about right and thought the system firm but fair.
- Members were advised that the **Current Budget** for RPS was only sufficient to complete approximately one new scheme a year.
- **Objectors** to new RPS was raised. It was reported that an officer group considered objections to such schemes and where objectors had vested interests they were overruled.
- The possibility of **residents funding RPS** was discussed. The Executive Board Member stated that, whilst this was worthy of consideration, it would be wrong to accelerate lower priority schemes in advance of an area where residents were experiencing severe parking issues because of their ability to pay. In addition it was also essential that the Council retained a

strong and clear policy and criteria on where RPS was appropriate and only proposals that met this criteria should be considered if residents were allowed to fund such schemes. However, the proposal would enable more schemes to be injected into the programme. He emphasised that RPS might not be the solution to parking problems and one size did not fit all.

- The Executive Board Member stressed that any recommendations which the Board might make under this review should include undertaking cost benefit analysis and **consultation** with residents affected.
- Parking at **Trinity and All Saints College** – A Member of the Board advised that the College had accepted that the parking difficulties around the College were their responsibility and they were to fund an RPS.

Councillor Downes was invited by the Chair to outline the particular **parking problems experienced around Leeds Bradford International Airport**.

Councillor Downes reported that car parking charges at the airport were very high and consequently travellers parked their cars in local residential streets up to two miles away from the airport and left them there for two to three weeks whilst they went on holiday. There were unofficial signs to deter people, but these were unenforceable. He emphasised that no one parking system for the city as a whole would suit all situations. He suggested that restrictions be applied, for instance 20 hours out of 24 and that residents around the airport be included in the consultation.

Members of the Board were then invited by the Chair to question the witness and Officers on any specific concerns regarding parking around the airport. The following issues were raised:

- **Parking schemes already in place around the airport** – Members were advised that there were no existing schemes as such, although there were now double yellow lines up to ½ mile around the airport to prevent anyone parking due to terrorism concerns.
- Options for **Park and Ride** near the airport – Members were advised that as Leeds City Council no longer owned the airport, sites for possible Park and Ride would be difficult to identify.
- Use of **Parking Restrictions around the airport** – Members were advised of a successful scheme of a one hour parking restriction between 10am and 11am around Garforth Station.

The Chair then invited Officers to highlight any particular issues of note. The Acting Head of Highway Services summarised the report and drew attention to information in the report in particular on:

- **Abuse** of the permit system.
- Income from fines as compared to the **cost of enforcement**.
- The withdrawal and **monitoring** of RPS.
- How the suggestion that residents should pay for the implementation of RPS would **work in practice**.
- The **positive and negative benefits** of charging for permits.

Officers also reiterated that **one size did not fit all**, that local circumstances had to be taken into consideration. They also emphasised that if residents

were allowed to fund RPS, that **clear policies** on where they should be provided were needed, that these schemes should not be fast tracked and that a **priority approach** should still be adopted.

Officers then responded to queries and comments from the Board in brief summary on:

- **Misuse** of the blue badge and residents parking permits – Members were advised that for **blue badges** a parking ticket was issued and if paid, this was a proved offence. On the third offence the person could be prosecuted and the badge taken from them. **Residents permit abuse** was enforced using a combination of parking tickets and withdrawal of permits.
- **Displacement** of parking if charges were introduced – Officers advised that there were no perceived problems in other cities that charged, although detailed information was not available.
- **Parking Charges and Raising Money** – Officers advised that this was not a money raising exercise but about improving the highway infrastructure and parking facilities.
- The perception that Leeds was perhaps too **lenient on enforcement** – Officers advised that they did not believe this to be the case in general. RPS were for the benefit of residents and therefore Officers did take a more lenient approach to appeals lodged by residents who may have received a parking ticket.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and the joint report of the Chief Environmental Services Officer and Director of City Development be noted.
- (b) That a draft final report and recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Board in accordance with the terms of reference for this Inquiry and incorporating the issues raised at today's meeting.

(Note: Councillor Wilkinson joined the meeting at 10.15am during the consideration of this item.)

47 Accountability Arrangements for 2008/09 and Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) submitted a report which set out the new approach to performance reporting and accountability resulting from the introduction of the Leeds Strategic and Council Business Plans 2008 to 2011 and changes to the national performance reporting regime. The quarter one performance results for City Development using this new format were also provided.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Paul Maney, Head of Policy Performance and Improvement, City Development and Steve Clough, Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement Team in Executive Support.

Officers summarised the report and Members made the following comments and raised the following questions:

- **Monitoring of indicators dropped from the official list** - Officers confirmed that although some indicators had been dropped from the official list, they were still being monitored by managers.
- **The time it took for information to filter through** to the quarterly reports – Officers advised that City Development had monthly reporting. If problems were identified, then necessary action would be taken immediately. As a consequence, therefore, the quarterly information came to the Scrutiny Board after remedial action had already been taken.
- With regard to **indicator nos. 15 and 16** in Appendix 2 to the report regarding street lighting repairs, which had been identified as causing some concerns, Officers advised that there had been a general improvement in these areas.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the new performance reporting arrangements be noted and approved in accordance with appendices 1 and 2.
- (b) That the Quarter 1 Performance Report 2008-09 be noted.

(Note: At this point in the meeting, at 11.20am, the meeting was adjourned for approximately ten minutes.)

48 Update on the Strategic Review of Planning and Development Services

Due to the unavailability of the Chief Planning Officer, it had already been agreed by the Board to defer this item to the November meeting of the Board (Minute No. 45 refers).

49 Current Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing Members with a copy of the Board's current Work Programme. The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st October 2008 to 31st January 2009 and the Executive Board Minutes of 2nd September 2008 were also attached to the report.

RESOLVED – That with the following changes and additions, the Board's Work Programme be agreed:

- Today's deferred item '**Update on the Strategic Review of Planning and Development Services**' be considered at the November meeting of the Board.
- The item on **Climate Change** be moved from the November to the December meeting of the Board.
- The Executive Board Member with portfolio responsibility for Leisure be invited to the November meeting of the Board to respond to questions regarding the promotion of Leisure events, specifically **Light Night**.
- That an update report on the **City Varieties** be received at either the November or December meeting of the Board.

- That a report on the lack of signage to the **Carriageworks Theatre** be received at a future meeting of the Board.
- That a report on financial issues surrounding the **Grand Theatre** be considered at a future meeting of the Board.

50 **Sustainable Education Travel Strategy and the Development of an Integrated School Transport Policy for Children's Services**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report attaching the joint report of the Director of City Development and the Chief Executive, Education Leeds and the draft Leeds Sustainable Education Travel Strategy which had been considered at the Executive Board on 8th October. The report had been included on the agenda in response to the possibility of the Board considering undertaking an inquiry into the need for a sustainable transport policy for young people.

Members had been advised that the joint report had been approved by the Executive Board on 8th October 2008 when it had been resolved:

- (a) That the adoption and publication of the Leeds Sustainable Education Travel Strategy be approved.
- (b) That approval be given for the development of a Children's Services School Transport Policy and to the intention to integrate this with the Leeds Sustainable Education Travel Strategy by September 2010.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting to present the report Ray Hill, Team Leader, Smarter Choices, City Development and Allan Hudson, Transport Services Manager, Education Leeds.

In brief summary the following issues were discussed:

- The support structure for the **Walking bus initiative** – Members were advised of the schemes to encourage schools to maintain this initiative but that it was ultimately the responsibility of the schools and parents to maintain this facility.
- The accuracy of the data which indicated that **25% of journeys to school were made by car** – Officers advised that this was comparable with other core cities. Data was collected through school censuses but they were not compulsory for schools to fill in. Work was being carried out to improve returns.
- **Supervision of young people on school buses** – Officers confirmed that there was no statutory requirement to provide such supervision out of school hours and this was a consideration when parents were deciding whether to take their children to school by car. School trips were supervised.
- **Three practical activities to promote sustainable travel behaviour in schools** – The Smarter Choices Team Leader listed these as:
 1. Continue the programme of providing cycle routes to schools.
 2. Continuation of pedestrian training and walking initiatives such as the Walking bus project.
 3. Continue the promotion of the National Walk to School month.

- **Targets in the School Travel Plan** – Officers advised that the first target to maintain car modal share to school at its current level was included in the School Travel Plan. Second targets would be set by schools individually.
- **School Travel Plans** – Officers confirmed that there was no compulsion at present on schools to provide travel plans although 70% of schools now have them. Officers agreed to provide all Members of the Council with information on the schools in their Ward which did not have an approved travel plan. Officers also agreed to provide Members of the Board with the template that was provided to schools to create a travel plan.
- The possible use of **Shopabuses** by schools – Members were advised that Shopabuses were run by private businesses and did not have all the necessary safety facilities required for school children. Metro however was looking at **dual use vehicles**.
- **School trips and Mybus** – Officers advised that Mybuses were available for private hire to schools and any other youth activity. As they were dedicated as school vehicles, they had the advantages of CCTV, seatbelts and CRB checked drivers.
- **Cycle routes to school** – Officers advised that funding was currently being sought to improve core cycle routes and the Department would seek to build in local links to schools.

The Chair thanked Officers for their attendance and stated that a follow up report might be requested in a year's time.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the joint report of the Director of City Development and the Chief Executive, Education Leeds and the draft Sustainable Education Travel Strategy be noted.
- (b) That all Members of the Council be provided with information on the schools in their Ward which did not yet have approved travel plans.
- (c) That Officers provide Members of the Board with the template that was provided to schools to create travel plans.

51 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday 18th November 2008 at 10.00am with a pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30am.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm.