

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor R Pryke in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, C Beverley,
R Downes, M Lobley, T Murray, A Ogilvie,
D Schofield and N Taggart

14 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the July meeting of Scrutiny Board (City Development).

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the following Board Members; Councillor S Armitage, Councillor T Grayshon and Councillor G Wilkinson.

The Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser informed the meeting that apologies had been received from Councillor A Carter, Executive Member, Development and Regeneration and Jean Dent, Director of City Development who were unable to attend today's meeting.

16 Declaration of Interests

RESOLVED – The following personal interests were declared:-

- Councillor R Downes in his capacity as Chair of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (Agenda Item 8) (Minute 20 refers)
- Councillor R Pryke in his capacity as a Member on the West Yorkshire Flood Defence Committee (Agenda Item 8) (Minute 20 refers)

17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

18 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Input to the Work Programme 2009/10 – Sources of Work and Establishing the Board's Priorities (Minute 8 refers)

The Chair informed the meeting that the Principal Scrutiny Adviser had circulated a number of dates in July /August for the Board's proposed visits to the South Leeds Sports Centre, John Charles Aquatic Centre and Roundhay Park Mansion.

The Chair also informed the meeting that the Board's proposed visit to the new well being PFI leisure centre at Morley would be arranged later in the year when construction was more advanced.

Councillor M Lobley referred to the Board's previous interest in relation to traffic pinch points and the Principal Scrutiny Adviser agreed to contact Andrew Hall, Transport Strategy Officer with a view to providing the Board with an update on this issue at the next meeting in September.

19 Request for Scrutiny of the Consultation Process Carried out to help Determine Whether to Go Ahead with a Designated BBQ Area on Woodhouse Moor

Referring to Minute 9 of the meeting held on 9th June 2009, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on a request for Scrutiny of the consultation process carried out to help determine whether to go ahead with a designated BBQ area on Woodhouse Moor.

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

- a) Letter addressed to the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development dated 22 May 2009 regarding the consultation exercise on whether to go ahead with a designated BBQ area on Woodhouse Moore from Councillors J Matthews, J Monaghan, M Hamilton, K Hussain, P Ewens and L Rhodes Clayton
- b) Report of the Director of City Development - Scrutiny Board (City Development) – 9th June 2009 – Woodhouse Moor Park Consultation on Barbecue Use
- c) Questionnaire – Have Your Say? Designated Barbecue Area in Woodhouse Moor (Hyde Park)
- d) Report of the Director of City Development Scrutiny Board (City Development) – 7th July 2009 - Woodhouse Moor Park Consultation on Barbecue Use

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

Councillor J Procter, Executive Board Member for Leisure
Councillor P Ewens, Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward Member
Martin Farrington, Chief Officer Major Projects, City Development
Mike Kinnaird, Recreation Project Manager, City Development
Steve Thomas, Distribution Business Services (DBS) Ltd
Sue Buckle, Spokesperson on behalf of North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association, South Headingley Community Association and Friends of Woodhouse Moor

The Chair invited the above attendees to provide relevant background information and to highlight key issues in relation to the consultation process and Board Members sought clarification on the points raised. In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- the process for dealing with complaints of non delivery, the mechanics involved and records maintained by DBS Ltd
- clarification of the statistical/delivery information outlined in Section 3.0 of the report of the Director of City Development dated 7th July 2009
- assurances that the latest e mails received by Members from the public concerning non delivery of the questionnaire and forwarded to the department would be included where validated in the final results
(The Chief Officer, Major Projects responded and confirmed that these emails would be included and registered as part of the consultation process)
- clarification of the 5.88% return rate and whether this was a reasonable rate of return for this type of questionnaire
- clarification of the number of returns received from the three consultation sessions
- a concern that a closing date had not been included on the questionnaire
(The Chief Officer, Major Projects stated that a closing date should have been included and that they were still waiting for a response from the West Yorkshire Police Authority to the proposals)
- recognition that this consultation process was not a referendum where the number of votes cast for or against would determine the outcome but a mechanism by which a range of views and opinions from individuals and interest groups could be obtained to assist officers to decide whether or not to proceed with a particular course of action.

RESOLVED:-

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the additional information provided by the Director of City Development requested at the last Board meeting and the evidence provided by the representative from Distribution Business Services (DBS) Ltd be received and noted.
- c) That on the evidence presented, the Board rejected the request for further scrutiny, as the consultation process had been carried out in a proper and thorough manner whilst acknowledging that some properties and individuals had not received the questionnaire for a variety of reasons.
- d) That the City Development department be recommended to establish a closing date of 31st July 2009 for this consultation process and that all valid questionnaires or other observations or objections returned by this date be included in the results in order to assist officers to determine whether to proceed with a designated BBQ area on Woodhouse Moor.

(During discussion of this item Councillor N Taggart indicated that he was a Member of the Plans Panel (West) and could possibly be considering matters from this item at a later date in that capacity. He stated that he would remain in the meeting to listen to the debate, but not to take part in the discussion of this issue. In order to avoid any perception of pre-determination, Councillor Taggart agreed that he would not be bound by any discussion taken at the meeting when issues from this matter came before Plans Panel (West) for

determination, but would consider all representations and viewpoints presented at the planning meeting before reaching a conclusion based on the merits of the case)

(Councillor N Taggart joined the meeting at 10.40am during discussions of the above item)

20 Leeds Strategic Plan Performance Report for Quarter 4 2008/09

The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement submitted a report which provided a strategic overview of performance against those improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan (LSP) which related directly to City Development priorities. The report and appendices provided an overall assessment of progress against the improvement priorities relevant to the Board and, in addition, provided performance indicator (PI) information for the full National Indicator Set and locally agreed indicators that were appropriate. Performance indicator targets were included across the range of priorities in this area and highlighted areas of under-performance and/or concern in relation to improvement priorities and actions being taken to remedy matters.

Paul Maney, Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement, City Development was in attendance and responded to Members' queries and comments. He introduced the report and provided the Board with a brief overview of the main Leeds Strategic Plan themes where the directorate take a lead role and drew attention to some of the key areas of performance related to the directorates objectives and priorities for 2009/10.

For ease of reference, the Chair invited Board Members to comment on those areas of under performance and/or of concern in relation to the improvement priorities.

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

- whether some of the targets may not be sufficiently challenging or appropriate
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and explained that although he considered the amount of green indicators to be a reflection of good, focused performance, the situation for amending/setting targets was quite complex. Some targets were agreed with the Government; statutory partners; and from the National Indicator Set and have fixed levels of achievement which can be process based milestone indicators. This meant that performance would be shown as green, provided certain targets had been reached. There were also a range of locally set targets where performance can be measured in relation to more specific issues)
- a view was expressed that the performance indicators were too city-wide and not area based for Members who wanted information at a ward level in order for it to be meaningful
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and explained that whilst this was often desirable, in most cases the information was not available at this level; also, where information

could be broken down, it was often the case that low numbers or insufficient data meant the information then became meaningless. It had been recognised that better intelligence was needed and work had commenced both corporately and within the directorate, to identify where this level of information was available and how it can then be developed)

- the lack of an indicator relating to high infant mortality rate, especially within deprived areas of the city
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded that although this area resides in the Health & Wellbeing theme of the Leeds Strategic Plan and does not directly relate to City Development, he confirmed that he was aware of work being undertaken by the Council and its various partners on this issue)
- (Ref PI NI 8) - the need to raise cultural awareness to enable more people to become involved in sport
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and referred to the work currently being undertaken in relation to introducing a new 'City' card which would provide the directorate with more statistical information on the cultural use of facilities)
- (Ref PI NI 48) – Members welcomed the reduction in the number of road accidents resulting in children being killed and the initiatives to promote the use of seatbelts
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement confirmed that in relation to casualties, although the 2008 figure had been the lowest recorded since 1974, the downward trend had flattened. However a number of initiatives were being pursued to address this. He also confirmed that there was an upward trend in pedestrian fatalities within the 20-29 age group. According to a number of roadside surveys undertaken by City Development, on average one in four adults were observed not wearing seat belts and this supported the need for initiatives such as the Seat Belt On? campaign where the directorate was undertaking seatbelt awareness campaigns at schools and colleges and had good media support)
- (Ref PI LKI 215A) - clarification of street lighting response times for repairs
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and outlined the current protocol with Scottish Electric Contracting (SEC) concerning repairs and progress with the street lighting replacement programme under a PFI scheme and the significant improvement in this respect. He also referred to some historic problems with YEDL which were still affecting the performance in relation to LKI 215B)
- (Ref PI NI 166) - clarification of the impact of the current economic downturn and whether the performance indicator was conveying the true picture
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and informed the meeting that the figures were not yet available in relation to the employment rate)
- the need for recycling centres to extend their hours of opening on a week-end

(The Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser responded and agreed to refer the above issue to the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) to consider)

- (Ref PI NI 175) - the need to continue to develop safer routes for cyclists
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and informed the meeting that cycling in the city was increasing, but as a consequence, the number of accidents involving cyclists was also increasing. The Board noted that there was a proposed strategy to introduce 16 cycle routes into the city as one measure to combat this trend and that this work would continue as funding has been secured for the next two years)
- (Ref PI NI 176) - the need to have access to more local targets/statistics in relation to Metro issues
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and informed the Board that the information was collected at a regional level and whilst there were cost implications related to obtaining this at a more local level, discussions were continuing with the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority to try and resolve this issue)
- (Ref PI NI 198) - Members expressed concerns that only 50% of schools had travel plans in place
- the need for regular monitoring of infrastructures to identify potential problems at an early stage i.e. inadequate electricity to tower blocks and the maintenance of collapsed sewers
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded that in planning terms, building regulations were continually updated and covered the health and safety aspect related to appropriateness of lifts/fire escapes in tower blocks. It was suggested by the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser that the inadequate supply of electricity to tower blocks was a matter for Scrutiny Board (Environment & Neighbourhoods). In relation to the state of the city's sewer and drainage systems, it was confirmed that over the past 2 years considerable survey work had been undertaken in relation to the flood alleviation scheme design guide and vision currently under consultation in partnership with the Environment Agency)
- clarification if changes could be made to the Local Area Agreement
(The Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser responded and confirmed that changes could be only made to the agreement, which was incorporated in the Council's Strategic Plan, when it was due for renewal)

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That Area Committees should receive performance information which was area based and that the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) consider how this data could be developed at a ward level.
- c) That a working group be established to review performance targets which have been set locally comprising of the following Members:-
 - Councillor R Pryke
 - Councillor S Bentley

- Councillor T Murray
- Councillor N Taggart

21 Work Programme, Executive Board Minutes and Forward Plan of Key Decisions

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 July to 31st October 2009 and the Executive Board Minutes of 17th June 2009 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 17th June 2009 and the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st July to 31st October 2009 be noted.
- c) That the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to update the work programme to incorporate inquiries relating to the review of the loop; the Council's play strategy and a review of the Council's open spaces policy.
- d) That the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to email Board Members clarifying the current position in relation to the proposed city centre park at Sovereign Street.

22 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 10.00 am (Pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30 am)

(The meeting concluded at 12.05pm)