

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor R Pryke in the Chair

Councillors S Armitage, C Beverley,
R Downes, T Grayshon, R Harington,
M Lobley, T Murray, A Ogilvie, D Schofield,
S Smith and N Taggart

30 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the September meeting of the Scrutiny Board (City Development). He also welcomed Councillor S Armitage to her first Board meeting.

31 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 Items 8 and 11) (Minutes 35 and 37 refer)
- Councillor R Pryke as a regular user of Roundhay Road (Agenda Item 11) (Minute 37 refers)

32 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor G Wilkinson.

33 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 7th July 2009 and 5th August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

34 Request for Scrutiny - Need for Cost Benefit Analysis - Proposed Designated BBQ Area on Woodhouse Moor

Referring to Minute 19 of the meeting held on 7th July 2009, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on a request for scrutiny in relation to a need for a cost benefit analysis regarding a proposed designated BBQ area on Woodhouse Moor.

Appended to the report was a copy of a letter entitled 'Protect Woodhouse Moor' dated 15th July 2009 addressed to the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development on behalf of the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association; South Headingley Community Association; Marlborough Residents' Association and Friends of Woodhouse Moor.

The reason for the request for scrutiny was the alleged "failure by Parks and Countryside to include in its report of 8 October 2008, a cost benefit analysis to enable meaningful comparisons to be made between enforcing the existing

byelaws on Woodhouse Moor, and Parks and Countryside's preferred option of designated barbecue areas".

In addition to the above document, a copy of the report of the Director of City Development submitted to the Executive Board meeting on 26th August 2009 entitled 'Woodhouse Moor Park Barbecue Use' was circulated as supporting information.

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

Councillor J Procter, Executive Board Member for Leisure
Jean Dent, Director of City Development
Mike Kinnaird, Recreation Project Manager, City Development
Sue Buckle, South Headingley Community Association
Bill McKinnon, Friends of Woodhouse Moor

The Chair informed the Board that Councillor A Carter, Executive Member for Development and Regeneration was not available to attend today's meeting having had a prior engagement.

The Chair stated that there had been a request that the Executive Board on 26th August 2009 defer consideration of the City Development department's report on the designated barbecue area, pending the outcome of the Scrutiny Board's deliberations today, but the Executive Board Member for Leisure had refused.

The Board also further noted that a subsequent request for scrutiny regarding byelaws on Woodhouse Moor had been received by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development.

The Chair invited the above attendees to provide relevant background information and to highlight key issues in relation to the request for scrutiny and Board Members sought clarification on the points raised.

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

- clarification of the proposed layout of the designated barbecue area *(The Executive Member for Leisure responded and outlined the proposals in relation to grass-crete, a cellular hard block concrete system which allowed grass to grow through and confirmed that such proposals would be discussed with the North West (Inner) Area Committee)*
- clarification as to whether the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services had been consulted in relation to fire regulations *(The Executive Member for Leisure responded and confirmed that both the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the West Yorkshire Police had been consulted on the proposals contained within the Executive Board report of 26th August 2009 meeting. He acknowledged*

- that more work would be undertaken by officers on the process of disposing of temporary barbecues)*

 - clarification of the date when the Parks Management Plan was adopted and became operative and whether there was a dedicated management team who looked after Woodhouse Moor
(The Executive Member for Leisure responded and confirmed that the Parks Management Plan was implemented in 2005. He briefly outlined the current management structure at Woodhouse Moor with specific reference to a post of a site based gardener who was supported by mobile teams)
 - clarification as to whether having a designated barbecue area in place would prevent other fires occurring on Woodhouse Moor
(The Executive Member for Leisure responded with specific reference to the benefits which the proposed designated barbeque area would have in terms of enabling more effective enforcement)
 - clarification as to whether the universities had been consulted on providing any extra resources for enforcement
(The Executive Member for Leisure responded and made reference to the Cultural Partnership network where discussions were ongoing in this regard)
 - clarification of the potential costs and benefits in relation to enforcing a whole ban of barbeques on Woodhouse Moor
 - clarification as to whether there would be an opportunity for constructive discussion between the Friends of Woodhouse Moor and the Council
(The Executive Member for Leisure responded and welcomed an early dialogue between the Council and Friends of Woodhouse Moor in relation to the current Parks Management Plan and the trial of the designated barbecue area on Woodhouse Moor. The point was made that £250k of Section 106 money was available to be spent on the park, and has so far been held up due to objections to all proposals by the Council from local community groups)
 - reference to photographs submitted to all Members of Council from the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association

The Chair then allowed Sue Buckle, Bill McKinnon and Councillor J Procter to sum up prior to the Board making a formal resolution on the request for scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the request for scrutiny from the North Hyde Park Neighbourhoods Association, South Headingley Community Association, Marlborough Residents Association and Friends of Woodhouse Moor in relation to a need for a cost benefit analysis regarding the options available for a proposed designated barbecue area on Woodhouse Moor be refused.
- c) That a copy of the report on the outcome of the trial of a designated barbecue area on Woodhouse Moor be submitted to this Board for consideration in due course

- d) That this Board recommends that arrangements be made for a meeting between the Council (Parks and Countryside), Friends of Woodhouse Moor and other interested parties as soon as possible.
- e) That, in relation to a request for scrutiny in relation to the practices and procedures regarding the Park Byelaws on Woodhouse Moor, this matter be referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Board for consideration.

35 Climate Change Update

The Director of City Development submitted a progress report on climate change.

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

Councillor J Monaghan, Executive Board Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods

Jean Dent, Director of City Development

Steve Speak, Chief Strategy and Policy Officer, City Development

Jon Andrews, EMAS Officer, City Development

Helen Miller, Principal Planning Officer, City Development

Peter Lynes, Group Manager, Energy Unit, City Development

At the request of the Chair, Councillor J Monaghan provided the Board with a brief overview of the action being taken within the authority regarding climate change, with specific reference to the following key issues:-

- officer support arrangements in relation to climate change
- Climate Change Strategy/Climate Change Partnership, including the inaugural meeting and composition
- a broad acknowledgement of the need to reduce carbon omissions by 80% by 2050 worldwide
- the need for the Board to support a more realistic target of reducing carbon omissions by 40% by 2020 throughout the city and within the Council in order to work towards the 2050 target

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

- the need for the Board to acknowledge a previous White Paper on climate change which recommended the Council taking a lead on the possibility of putting micro-generation into Council buildings, in particular the Civic Hall, in view of the flat roof space availability (*The Executive Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods responded and agreed to look into this issue but stressed the need to reduce omissions on a much wider scale across the city*)
- clarification of the amount of carbon dioxide produced in 2006 within the city and the reasons why total omissions had only declined by 1% in the past four years
- the need to recognise that it was the Council's partners who were responsible for the majority of emissions and for a better system to be

introduced to enable the Council to work strategically with those partners and to monitor and scrutinise progress
(The Director of City Development responded and outlined the major challenges facing the city in terms of reducing omissions. She stressed that tackling climate change was not just a linear strategy, and that a whole matrix of activity needed to be taken into account, including transport, planning and traffic policy)

- reference to the incentives and penalties use to reduce omissions (the 'carrot and stick' approach)
(The Director of City Development responded and provided the Board with a number of examples i.e. national schemes for home insulation and better public transport systems)
- the suggestion that the Council implement high occupancy vehicle lanes on every arterial road in Leeds; introduce work place charges on parking places in central Leeds to discourage people from commuting by car and consider implementing congestion charges
(The Director of City Development responded and informed the meeting that the funding for the Next Generation Transport (NGT) had now been secured. She also outlined the proposals in relation to a major piece of research being undertaken in Leeds, funded through the Transport Innovation Fund, on transport issues within the city)
- clarification of the process in relation to publishing a clear strategic framework with parts of the city zoned as suitable for different renewable energy technologies which would minimise the number of speculative or inappropriately located planning applications
(The Chief Strategy and Policy Officer responded and outlined the process via the Local Development Framework)
- the need for the Board to address low zero carbon energy and renewable energy, with a focus on large scale projects
- the suggestion that the Council trial solar energy panels on civic buildings to promote this technology to the citizens of Leeds and to businesses
- the need to encourage more car sharing within the business community in Leeds and to look at re-regulating the buses
- clarification as to whether there were any developments in the pipeline regarding the use of water as a means of generating electricity
(The Group Manager, Energy Unit responded and outlined the current proposals in relation to hydro-electricity)
- clarification as to why the department was experiencing increased applications from private developers for renewables, particularly for large scale wind projects
(The Chief Strategy and Policy Officer responded and outlined the provisions and priorities within the Regional Spatial Strategy)
- whether or not the 2.1% target for reductions from local authority operations was acceptable

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report be noted.
- b) That this Board concentrates on the following key issues in relation to climate change in order of priority:-

- evaluating options for installing LZC (Low/Zero Carbon) energy as part of the corporate estate, with a focus on small, medium and large scale projects
 - development of control processes to ensure that developments of over 10 dwellings or 1000 m² have at least 10% on-site LZC technologies
 - the appropriate delivery structure to ensure that LZC energy, particularly large grid connected or on-site in major regeneration areas, was delivered
- c) That, in relation to the item on progress in planning policy to strategically plan for large-scale grid renewables, this issue be discussed at a future meeting of the Board.

(Councillor N Taggart joined the meeting at 11.25 am during discussion of the above item)

36 Leeds Strategic Plan Performance Report for Quarter 1

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) for Quarter 1 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.

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

Jean Dent, Director of City Development
 Phil Crabtree, Chief Planning Officer, City Development
 Paul Maney, Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement, City Development

The Chair invited Board Members to comment on those areas of under-performance and/or concern in relation to the improvement priorities.

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

- clarification of whether or not the department were aware of a letter sent by the Conservative Party to Conservative Councils requesting them to ignore local spatial strategy targets at the present time, and the effects this would have on this authority

(The Chief Planning Officer responded and informed the meeting that he was not aware of this correspondence. He outlined the current Regional Spatial Strategy objectives for the information of Board Members)

- (Ref PI NI LSP – TP1e) – clarification as to why the target was so low in relation to increasing the number of new customers on low incomes accessing credit union services
(The Director of City Development responded and informed the Board that the target reflected current difficulties being faced by the credit union. She was confident that it would achieve its target of 3,500 new customers for the total year)
- the need for a report on planning enforcement and whether there was a mechanism for achieving more Section 106 monies within the Council
(The Chief Planning Officer responded and informed the meeting that a report on planning enforcement would be submitted to the Board in the autumn. In relation to Section 106 monies, he outlined a number of incentives being offered to encourage house builders to get back into business on those brown-field locations which could result, in the short term, in the Council cutting back on their Section 106 aspirations)
- (Ref PI NI 157 – Majors) – the need for the Board to look at this target in more detail and to be supplied with a list of those major schemes and to address the reasons why some major planning applications had not been determined in time/on time
(The Chief Planning Officer briefly explained the reasons and protocol behind the major planning applications. Following discussions, it was agreed that a report would be submitted to the Board in six months time with a view to focussing on two major planning applications which had achieved the target, together with looking at two major planning applications which had not achieved the target, for whatever reason, to allow the Board to form a conclusion in this regard)
- (Ref PI NI LK1 215b) – the need to address this target with the aim of reducing the number of street lights which were switched on during daylight hours
(The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement responded and outlined the historic delays between SEC and Yorkshire Electricity which were outside of the department's control. It was noted that there had been a considerable improvement in repairs to street lighting, but a number of contact problems still remained at this present time)

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That a report be brought back to the Board in six months time relating to the target (NI 157 – Majors)

(Councillor C Beverley left the meeting at 11.50 am during discussion of the above item)

(Councillor S Armitage left the meeting at 12.10 pm during discussion of the above item)

37 Traffic Congestion - Key Locations Update

The Director of City Development submitted a report on progress in relation to traffic congestion.

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

Jean Dent, Director of City Development

Andrew Hall, Transport Strategy Manager, City Development

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

- concern that progress had not been made in relation to traffic pinch points in North Leeds and along the Ring Road and the need to make improvements to the area
(The Transport Strategy Manager responded and outlined the current Ring Road improvements presented to the Regional Transport Board)
- whether an HOV lane scheme was the best solution for inbound Roundhay Road traffic and for a highways officer to monitor the traffic flow in this area
(The Transport Strategy Manager responded and confirmed that this issue was being addressed. Discussions were continuing around bus lanes and on improving the flow of traffic. Public consultation would also take place on proposed road closures and parking)
- the need to build more railway stations within the city and to re-address the current piecemeal approach towards the future road network
(The Director of City Development responded and provided the meeting with an overview of the review of the Strategic Transport Plan for the city region with specific references to NGT for Leeds, Outer Ring Road, connections to the airport, importance of park and ride and the work on the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF))
- clarification as to whether any work had been undertaken following the recent announcement by Network Rail of their preference for a high speed rail link to Manchester, over the one to Yorkshire, and the possible impact this may have on housing and jobs
- the concern expressed over the reduction in the number of extra carriages being provided for the local rail network and the need to increase the number for this area, together with increased car parking at railway stations
- concern expressed over the fact that the inner ring road stage 7 did not appear to feature on the most popular satellite navigation maps, resulting in continuing congestion
(The Transport Strategy Manager responded and confirmed that there was a protocol whereby Highways communicated new schemes to the mapping companies. However, he acknowledged that more work was required in this area)
- the concern expressed about speeding in Temple Newsam ward, as a result of reduced congestion following the opening of the East Leeds Link Road

(The Transport Strategy Manager responded and confirmed that this issue was being monitored)

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

(Councillor N Taggart left the meeting at 12.40 pm at the conclusion of this item)

38 Playbuilder Initiative

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on the Playbuilder Initiative.

Appended to the report was a copy of the report of the Director of Children's Services, submitted to the Executive Board on 17th June 2009, on the Playbuilder Initiative for the information of the meeting.

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

Sally Threlfall, Chief Officer Early Years and Youth Services
Vicki Marsden, Strategic Play Officer

The Board noted that at the Executive Board meeting held on 26th August 2009, a decision had been taken to defer consideration of a capital programme update on this project.

Board Members were requested to identify any areas for scrutiny at today's meeting.

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

- clarification as to whether or not changes were apparent following the former Leisure Services department's intention to match play facilities with population resulting in more densely populated parts of the city receiving greater concentration of play areas
(The Strategic Play Officer responded and outlined the current strategy. It was noted that this new strategy did attempt to change this current arrangement)
- clarification as to whether the new mapping exercise looked at distance to playgrounds
(The Strategic Play Officer responded and confirmed that the mapping exercise did address this specific issue)
- the need for the Board to be supplied with a copy of the mapping exercise and the analysis
(The Chief Officer Early Years and Youth Services responded and agreed to email a copy to the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser for dissemination to Board Members)
- clarification of the life span of the equipment and informal play spaces to be installed

(The Chief Officer Early Years and Youth Services responded and confirmed that any equipment installed would be robust and previously tested)

- clarification of whether the department looked at other sources of funding to top up and support their programme i.e. Section 106 monies *(The Chief Officer Early Years and Youth Services responded and confirmed that most of the schemes in the Playbuilder Initiative did have some match funding from Section 106 or lottery schemes)*
- clarification of the revenue funding within other authorities
- clarification of when the consultation would be undertaken in relation to Harehills Park
(The Strategic Play Officer responded and outlined the current consultation arrangements)
- clarification of when the first Playbuilder scheme would open
(The Strategic Play Officer responded and confirmed that it would be undertaken within this quarter i.e. in the run up to Christmas, and she agreed to provide the Board with an update on further projects in March 2010)

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That a further update be provided on the Playbuilder Initiative to the Board in March 2010.

(Councillor M Lobley left the meeting at 12:45 pm during discussion of the above item)

39 Informal Visits by Scrutiny Board

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report in relation to Scrutiny Board visits.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

40 Recommendation Tracking

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on recommendation tracking.

The report provided Board Members with progress on implementing recommendations on the A660 corridor improvements.

The Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser informed the meeting that in relation to the A660 statement, recommendations 1 and 2 were completed. However, in relation to recommendations 3 and 4, there was a need to bring back these to the Board as they were still outstanding.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That, in relation to the A660 statement, recommendations 3 and 4 be brought to the Board in due course.

41 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 August 2009 to 30th November 2009 and the Executive Board Minutes of 22nd July 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 22nd July 2009 and the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st August to 30th November 2009 be noted.
- c) That the Board's Principal Scrutiny Adviser be requested to update the work programme to incorporate those updates requested at today's meeting.
- d) That, in relation to the rents issue at the City Market, the Director of City Development be requested to provide an email response on this issue to the Board.
- e) That the Board Members request for including City Centre management as part of the Performance Indicator data be discussed at the working group for performance of locally determined targets to be held on 2nd September 2009.

42 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 13th October 2009 at 10.00 am in the Civic Hall, Leeds
(Pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30 am)

(The meeting concluded at 12:55 pm)