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SCRUTINY BOARD (SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND CULTURE)

THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor M Rafique in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, S Bentley, D Cohen,
C Fox, M Lyons, J Matthews, V Morgan
and P Wadsworth

73 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

74 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

75 Late Items

There were no late items. However the Chair admitted Supplementary with respect to Agenda Item 9. 'Scrutiny Inquiry Into Maximising Powers to Promote, Influence And Create Local Employment And Training Opportunities' which provided the draft scrutiny inquiry final report. Also admitted by the Chair was supplementary information with respect to Agenda Item 10. 'Scrutiny Inquiry Into The Engagement of Young People In Culture, Sporting And Recreational Activities' which provided the draft scrutiny inquiry final report.

76 Declarations of Interest

Councillor's Lyons and Morgan declared personal interests in Agenda Item 7 (Minute 79) refers as Members of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority.

77 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Atkinson and G Hyde.

78 Minutes

The Minutes of the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) held on 22nd March 2012 were approved as a correct record.

79 Session 3 - Inquiry into the impact of existing major sources of travel movements within the City, and the plans being made to address the impact of known future developments on the City's transport infrastructure.

The Acting Head of Transport Policy presented a report of the Director of Development which provided information to the third session of the Board's

inquiry into transport challenges and issues in the City as set out in the terms of reference agreed at their 1st December meeting 2011.

The following officers were in attendance:

Andrew Hall - Acting Head of Transport Policy

Gary Bartlett - The Chief Officer Highways and Transportation

Mark Philpott - Transport Projects Manager

The Board were advised of the Park and Ride proposals for the City as detailed in the report.

In response to the received report the following areas were discussed:

Consultation on placement of park and ride sites

The Board stressed to officers the importance of Ward Members and the public being fully consulted at an early stage on park and ride sites under consideration so that local people and elected Members were fully aware of what was happening in there ward.

Location of Park and Ride sites

The implications for the Bodington site if NGT is not approved by the Dft and the serious traffic congestion problems on the A660 road which could be addressed by a park and ride site at Bodington. The Board requested that careful consideration be given to the placement of sites to ensure that when in operation they genuinely have an impact on traffic congestion in Leeds.

The Board also sought confirmation from officer that future planned housing developments were taken into account when considering potential park and ride sites.

Section 106 Monies

Also in relation to this matter the Board sought clarification on the section 106 monies available for transport and the potential loss of S106 funding in August if any delays are encountered in delivering transport schemes. If this was to be a problem the Board requested that relevant variation to S106 terms be sought by officers to ensure that the money is utilised.

Development Cost of Park and ride Sites

The Board acknowledged the considerable cost associated with developing and delivering park and ride schemes and expressed concern regarding how the necessary funding would be obtained.

Viability of Bus Park and Ride

The Board considered the effectiveness of park and ride schemes and whether they are an appealing way of getting people to travel by other modes

of sustainable transport and not commute into the city centre by car. It was stated that travelling by bus was often not as attractive as using park and ride train stations which have proved to be very successful at getting people to refrain from bringing their cars into the city centre. The Board considered the success of bus park and ride schemes in other cities as set out at Appendix A to the report.

Charging Policy for Park and Ride

The potential charging structure was queried. The Board stated that park and ride would need to be an affordable option. It was felt that details of any charging policy and negotiations should be brought back to Scrutiny for discussion.

RESOLVED – The Board resolved to note the contents of the report.

80 Reducing CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Estate

The Head of Corporate Property Management presented a report of the Director of City Development. The report outlined the progress made to date on the reduction of CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Estate. It was noted that the annual 2011/12 figures were not yet available but would be reported with the Quarter 4 Performance Report.

The following officers were in attendance:

Anne Chambers – Head of Corporate Property Management

Jon Andrews - Environment Policy Manager

Philippa Toner - Senior Executive Manager – Project and Technical Management.

The following areas were discussed:

a) targets for improvements to the energy efficiency of buildings occupied by the Council. Members also queried why only a small number of buildings have had photo – voltaic systems installed.

b) temperature control in large Council buildings

c) the number of buildings which have been vacated as detailed in the report and considered that this would make a difference to heating figures which will become apparent in the near future.

d) street lighting - where energy savings could be made both in terms of reducing the number of hours that street lights are left on and also the power of the lights. However Members were keen to stress the importance of maintaining safety and security at all times.

e) environmental performance of our contractors, how they are monitored and targets that are set. The Board were advised that as part of the Transforming Procurement programme environmental performance contract requirements will be reviewed. Work will be completed in the autumn of 2012.

Members requested a further update in this area be scheduled into the work programme in the Autumn.

RESOLVED - The Board resolved to:

- (a) Receive the 2011/12 CO2 annual performance figures when the Quarter 4 Performance Report is presented;
- (b) request a report detailing the work undertaken to review current procurement policies with regard to environmental performance; and
- (c) note the contents of the report.

81 Scrutiny Inquiry into Maximising Powers to Promote, Influence and Create Local Employment and Training Opportunities

The Principal Scrutiny Advisor presented a report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development. The report was brought before the Board for their agreement of the final draft before publication following the inquiry into Maximising Powers to Promote, Influence and Create Local Employment and Training Opportunities.

Following consultation, the Principal Scrutiny Advisor informed the Committee that the Chief Planning Officer had been in contact with regards to concerns about recommendation 8 of the inquiry report. Members agreed that further legal advice should be obtained in relation to this.

RESOLVED – The Board resolved to agree the Board’s report following its inquiry into Maximising Powers to Promote, Influence and Create Local Employment and Training Opportunities and legal advice be obtained in relation to recommendation 8 before publication.

82 Scrutiny Inquiry into The Engagement of Young People in Culture, Sporting and Recreational Activities.

The Principal Scrutiny Advisor presented a report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development. The report was brought before the Board for their agreement of the final draft before publication following the inquiry into The Engagement of Young People In Culture, Sporting and Recreational Activities.

RESOLVED – The Board resolved to agree the Board’s report following its inquiry into the Engagement of Young People in Culture, Sporting and Recreational Activities.

83 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED – The Board resolved to note that the date and times of the next meeting will be agreed by full Council on 23rd May 2012.