

SCRUTINY BOARD (CITY DEVELOPMENT)

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor R Pryke in the Chair

Councillors C Beverley, B Gettings,
R Harington, A Hussain, J Jarosz,
M Lobley, R Procter, N Taggart,
G Wilkinson, J Matthews and A Ogilvie

29 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit to the agenda Members' comments on residents parking schemes referred to in Agenda Item 8 (Minute No. 35 refers) and the recommendation tracking schedule referred to in Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 38 refers). In both instances, this was in order to present the Board with the most up-to-date information that was available.

30 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Gettings declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda Item 12 'Major Arts Organisations Funded by Arts@Leeds 08/09' (Minute No. 34 refers) as a Director of the Grand Theatre Board.

(Councillors Jarosz and Taggart also declared personal interests later in the meeting under Minute Nos. 33 and 34 respectively.)

31 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Barker.

32 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

33 Request for Scrutiny regarding Delays in Adding Paths to the Council's Definitive Map as Rights of Way

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report attaching the report of the Director of City Development on the above matter. This report was submitted in response to issues raised when discussing the request for scrutiny by **Shadwell Parish Council** at the previous meeting of the Board, regarding delays in adding paths to the Council's Definitive Map as Rights of Way. After considering the evidence presented to them, Members would then be requested to decide whether further scrutiny of the issues raised would be appropriate.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Jean Dent, Director of Development, Martin Farrington, Acting Chief Recreation Officer and Joanne Clough, Countryside and Access Manager.

Parish Councillor Robert Dyson, who had attended the previous meeting of the Board on behalf of Shadwell Parish Council, was also welcomed to the meeting.

The Countryside and Access Manager presented the report and responded to queries and comments from the Board.

In summary, the following issues were discussed:

- **Shadwell Parish Council's application to the Secretary of State in 2005** seeking a direction requiring the authority to determine the application for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) - Officers reported that the Secretary of State was satisfied that the Council dealt with these applications in line with its published statement of priorities and did not therefore give direction.
- In view of the **lengthy delays in determining DMMO applications**, Officers advised that sworn affidavits by applicants were accepted.
- Details of the **applications outstanding** to add public footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement - As at March 2008 following 13 local public inquiries, 11 orders had been confirmed, 2 had not and three remained outstanding. Shadwell Parish Council's application was number 27 out of 50 on the list of applications.
- **Developers and Rights of Way (ROW)** – Officers advised that only once planning approval had been obtained could an application be made for a diversion order to a ROW.
- The **survey** being undertaken by City Development Department of city centre paths.
- Officers confirmed that there had only been two **ombudsman complaints** in Leeds regarding delays in the DMMO application process over the past few years.
- **Definitive Map and Statement on line** within this financial year - Officers reported that whilst this would not speed up the process, it would allow the information to be more widely available to the public and developers.
- Officers confirmed that it could **cost** anything between £4,000 and £45,000 to get a footpath on the Definitive Map depending on the legal challenges received and the necessary maintenance work required to the footpath.
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 imposed a cut off date on the Definitive Map of 1st January **2026** – After this date it would not be possible to add any public rights of way to the definitive map on the basis that they would be recorded in historical documents. Officers advised that it was likely that the Government would review this legislation as it was improbable that any Authority would meet this deadline. Leeds had a 90 year backlog of work. Officers acknowledged that before 2026 the Council would have to undertake a full historical path survey of the whole district

- **Staffing and resourcing levels.**
- **Rights of Way Improvement Plan.**

A vote was then taken and the majority of the Board voted in favour of the recommendation in the report of the Chief Recreation Officer to continue to support officers to progress the list of applications in line with the Council's published Statement of Priorities. The request for further scrutiny by Shadwell Parish Council was thereby turned down.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the reports of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and the Chief Recreation Officer be noted.
- (b) That support be given to officers to progress the list of applications in line with the Council's published Statement of Priorities.
- (c) That the request for scrutiny from Shadwell Parish Council be refused.

The Chair thanked Councillor Dyson and Officers for attending the meeting.

(Note1: Councillor Jarosz declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Ramblers Association.)

(Note2: Councillors Taggart and A Hussain joined the meeting at 10.20am and 10.25am respectively during the consideration of this item.)

34 Major Arts Organisations Funded by Arts@Leeds 08/09

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided the Board with information on the process for awarding City Council grant aid to major arts organisations.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Councillor J Procter, Executive Board Member with portfolio responsibility for Leisure, Jean Dent, Director of City Development and Andrew Macgill, Head of Arts and Events, City Development.

The Head of Arts and Events presented the report and responded to queries and comments from the Board.

In brief summary, the following issues were discussed:

- **Comparisons with the core cities** in terms of level of support for both performing and the visual arts. The Executive Board Member responded that this was not easy to do as each authority had different priorities, objectives and facilities.
- The **historical nature** of the development of the arts in Leeds and the other core cities and how this had depended on **individual champions** in the past.
- How the current **economic downturn** could affect arts organisations, in particular with regard to sponsorship and audience levels – Officers advised that the situation was being monitored and that organisations

tended to reduce the number of new productions in a recession, as they were more costly to produce.

- Members were advised that if the Council through Arts@Leeds stopped their funding, Opera North and the Northern Ballet Theatre would fold.
- The need for a **Vision for the arts** in Leeds.
- Officers agreed to provide Members with **details of funding for the last three years** to the seven major arts organisations mentioned in the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That details of the funding provided during the last three years to the seven major arts organisations referred to in the report be circulated to Members of the Board.

(Note: Councillor Taggart declared a personal interest in this item as a Board Member of Leeds Theatre Trust Ltd (West Yorkshire Playhouse).)

35 Inquiry on Residents Parking Schemes - Session 1

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which outlined the agreed terms of reference for the Inquiry on Resident Parking Schemes and the issues to be discussed at Session One of the Board's inquiry.

Attached to the main report was a report from the Chief Environmental Services Officer which provided the Board with an overview of the administrative and enforcement processes involved with Resident Parking Schemes. Also attached was a report from the Director of City Development which outlined the process and procedures that were applied for the installation of resident parking schemes.

Comments received from Members on parking "hot spots" and comments and requests for resident parking schemes were tabled at the meeting and had previously been circulated to Members by email. The Chair reported that no comments had to date been received from Members of the Labour Group as he understood that it wished to discuss this issue prior to Members submitting their comments to the Board.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Jean Dent, Director of City Development, Howard Claxton, Traffic Engineering Manager, City Development, Andrew Mason, Chief Environmental Services Officer, Environment and Neighbourhoods, Graham Wilson, Head of Environmental Action, Environment and Neighbourhoods and Helen Franklin, Acting Head of Highways Services, City Development.

The Head of Environmental Action presented the report of the Chief Environmental Services Officer and the Acting Head of Highways Services, along with the Traffic Engineering Manager, presented the report of the Director of City Development.

In summary, the following issues were raised:

- The **current arrangements** for residents parking in Leeds including the application process and rationale for a new residents parking schemes.
- **Length of time** from application to completion for resident parking schemes.
- The **cost** of resident parking schemes.
- The suggestion that resident permit parking schemes be made **self financing** by charging for permits on an annual basis instead of issuing them free for three years. Officers were requested to address this and provide details of authorities who charged resident parking fees in Session Two.
- **The suggestion of limiting the number of permits** per household - Officers advised that issues surrounding this would be provided in the next report to the Board at session two of the inquiry.
- The suggestion that residents be given the option to fund such schemes themselves to avoid the Council's waiting list and how revenue could be raised to offset the cost to residents by releasing spaces during the day for pay and display when they were at work ie "Dual Use" – Officers confirmed that they would report on this at Session Two of the Board's inquiry.
- **The suggestion that Leeds should be monitoring** and withdrawing residents parking schemes much more than at present. Officers agreed to report back to Session Two of the Board's inquiry.
- The **dispensation** arrangements for family events in RPPS.
- **Fraudulent use of resident parking permits** - Officers to bring back any available figures on this to the next meeting of the Board.

The Board agreed that the relevant Executive Board Member should be invited to Session Two of the Board's Inquiry, as would Elected Members who had provided the Board with their comments on resident parking schemes.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That a report be presented to Session Two of the Scrutiny Inquiry in accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference.
- (b) That the additional information referred to above be provided by Officers to Session Two of the Board's Inquiry.
- (c) That the Executive Board Member for Environmental Services be invited to attend Session Two of the Board's Inquiry.
- (d) That the Chair be authorised to invite appropriate Elected Members to attend Session Two of the Board's Inquiry who had commented on or who had "hotspots" within their Ward.

(Note: Councillor R Procter and the Director of Development, both left the meeting at 11.30am during the consideration of this item.)

36 Parks and Greenspace Strategy

The Chief Recreation Officer submitted a report which provided the Board with an update on the development of the draft Parks and Green Space

Strategy ahead of Executive Board approval which was to be sought at the end of the year.

Martin Farrington, Acting Chief Recreation Officer, and Mike Kinnaird, Recreation Projects Manager, both City Development, were welcomed to the meeting to present the report and respond to comments and queries from the Board.

In brief summary the following issues were discussed:

- **Resources** to implement aspirations.
- A **city centre park**.
- **Consultation** on the draft strategy.
- The preferred **cyclical repair approach** to maintenance, of playgrounds in particular, if finances were available.
- Discrepancies in the provision of green spaces in the Parks and Green Space Strategy and the **EASEL** plans – it was agreed that the Chair would speak directly with Officers on the details of this matter.

RESOLVED – That the report and related documents to the draft Parks and Green Space Strategy be noted.

(Note: Councillor Gettings left the meeting at 12.00 noon during the consideration of this item.)

37 An Agenda for Improved Economic Performance: Review of the Leeds Economic Development Strategy 1999

The Director of City Development submitted a report which sought Members' input to the development of the City's 'Agenda for Improved Economic Performance.' Background papers on the economic assessment produced at the start of the process and the national, regional and local policy context were also provided.

Paul Stephens, Chief Economic Services Officer, City Development Department, was welcomed to the meeting and gave a **presentation** to the Board on 'Leeds: An Agenda for Improved Economic Performance' and outlined progress to date. The presentation included:

- Who was involved.
- The context in which the agenda was set.
- Its purpose.
- Timescales.
- Aspirations and ambitions:
 - Growing the Economy/Growing the Market Share
 - Better performing assets.
- Risks (and opportunities) and Leeds' response.
- The Leeds Economy 2020.
- The Structure – three themes:
 - competitive business
 - skilled people

- A great place and cross-cutting themes of:
 - economic inclusion
 - diversity
 - sustainability.
- Action/Investment Plans to achieve the three themes and the cross cutting themes.

Comments were made by Members on the following issues:

- The **quality of life** in Leeds and **narrowing the gap**.
- The need to address **transport** issues in Leeds.
- The **conflicting aspirations** of economic growth and lowering the carbon footprint.
- **Education and skills being** the biggest challenge.
- Encouraging the **right kind of growth**.
- Leeds as the centre of the **city region**.

RESOLVED – That the report and Members’ comments be noted.

(Note: Councillors A Hussain and Beverley left the meeting at 12.25pm and 12.27pm respectively during the consideration of this item and Councillor Lobley left the meeting at 12.32pm at the conclusion of this item.)

38 Recommendation Tracking

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which outlined the process for tracking recommendations made by the Board and to confirm the status of scrutiny recommendations (City Development). Appended to the report was the recommendation tracking flowchart.

The draft status of recommendations was tabled at the meeting and had previously been circulated to Members by email. The Principal Scrutiny Adviser advised the Board that the tabled document was an update on the progress of the seven recommendations made as a result of the Board’s Inquiry into Reviewing Consultation Processes. A draft assessment had been suggested on the status of completion for each one of the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That the status of the scrutiny inquiry recommendations be agreed in accordance with the schedule submitted.

39 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 September to 31st December 2008 and the Executive Board Minutes of 16th July 2008 were also attached to the report.

RESOLVED – That the current Board's Work Programme be agreed as presented.

40 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday 14th October 2008 at 10.00am with a pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.30am.

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm.