

Time started – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.45pm

**NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMISSION
27 JULY 2010**

Present: Councillor Batey (Chair)
Councillors Barker, Graves, Harwood, Jackson, Redfern and
Troup

01/10 Appointment of the Vice Chair

**Resolved to appoint Councillor Rawson as Vice Chair of the
Neighbourhoods Commission.**

02/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry and Rawson.

03/10 Late Items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

04/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

05/10 Call-in

There were no call-ins to report to the Commission

06/10 Councillor Call for Action

There were no Councillor Calls for Action to report to the Commission

**07/10 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any
reports of the former Commissions**

Golf Courses Contract

Members considered a response of the Council Cabinet to a report of the former Community Commission that asked the Cabinet to expand those to be consulted on the new golf courses contract and objecting to the proposed 50 year duration. It was reported that the neighbourhood boards at Allestree and Sinfen had now been consulted and officers would also be consulting the members of the golf courses. If no adverse comments were received then the contract would be signed.

Councillor Graves expressed concern that unlike the private sector companies the Council was not able to make a profit from in-house management of the courses. He was disappointed that the authority's officers did not have the necessary expertise to make the facilities a success.

The Commission again expressed concern that the contract was too long. Officers explained that this was because the company was going to refurbish the facilities at both courses. The Co-ordination Officer reported his understanding that a fifty year contract was apparently the only way for any prospective company to recoup this investment and was not untypical for this industry.

Councillor Redfern stated that officers needed to carefully consider the wording of any consultation. If a decision had already been taken then consultation documents had to reflect this.

Resolved for the Chair to liaise with the Sinfin and Allestree Councillors to request their views on the consultation and to add this item to the retrospective work programme if they felt the consultation was not sufficient.

08/10 Local Transport Plan – Strategic Alternatives

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Planning and Transportation on the third Local Transport Plan which must be in place by April 2011. The Transport Planning Project Officer, Catherine Martin, informed Members that this plan would provide a fifteen year strategic framework for the provision of transport in the city. Members were asked for their views on the strategic alternatives to the plan and how they wanted funding to be allocated to four grouped themes:

- Active Travel – Walking and cycling
- Public Transport – Bus and community transport including rail and taxis
- Traffic Management – Strategic and local traffic management schemes and initiatives
- Asset Management – Maintenance of roads, traffic lights and environmental infrastructure

Councillor Graves expressed concern that the consultation was difficult to understand and needed to be simplified for the public with practical explanations of what changes in funding actually meant.

Councillor Barker expressed concern about creating a strategy when the exact funding the Council was likely to receive was still not yet known. The Head of Spatial and Transport Planning, Rob Salmon, stated that it was intended that the plan would be flexible and could be reviewed if the funding received was drastically different from their forecasts.

Councillor Redfern stated that it was vital that the strategy needed to link all the separate elements together, including park and ride and taxis. She stated

that public transport needed to be safe, convenient and affordable. Any bus routes needed to take into account the needs of the public. If routes weren't available then the bus companies needed to be approached to ask if a subsidised scheme would be viable. She added that taxis also included private hire vehicles. These vehicles did not have the same access rights to the city centre as Hackney Carriages so this had a knock on effect to the users of private hire vehicles. She stated that often disabled people will opt to regularly use a private hire vehicle driver who they can become accustomed to and can trust. The current arrangements did not allow for these vehicles to access either Sainsburys in the Westfield Centre nor Tesco Metro on St Peters Street. This did not allow private hire vehicles to fully provide a service to disabled members of the public. Councillor Redfern stated that it was very hard to comment on a strategy for which the Council had no money or any idea of what they were likely to receive. Rob Salmon stated that officers had a general idea of what they were likely to receive based on Government spending plans and on what had been allocated in the past. He stated that short term uncertainty of funding should not necessarily be a barrier to more aspirational plans for the future.

Councillor Troup asked which funding stream would support park and ride schemes. He added that any park and ride scheme would need to be far enough out of the city to be effective. He stated that the focus for the future should be to encourage motorists out of their vehicles and the city centre. It was explained that park and ride was mentioned under two of the four themes.

Councillor Harwood stated that if the Council is going to have to a flexible strategy then there needs to be ongoing consultation. He added that bus shelters were needed on the A608 at Breadsall Hilltop.

Councillor Harwood requested that consultation with members of the public would be ongoing. Rob Salmon stated that neighbourhood priorities had been protected in the Transport work programme despite in-year budget cuts, and that consideration of local issues will be ongoing in the future.

Resolved to note the consultation and the Members' responses.

09/10 Regional and Local Planning – Changes implemented and proposed by central government

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Planning and Transportation on the changes that were being proposed and implemented by the Government to regional and local planning policy. The Policy Team Leader, Andrew Waterhouse, stated that on 6 July, Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had revoked all Regional Strategies, including the East Midlands Regional Plan. He informed Members that in the longer term, the legal basis for Regional Strategies would be

abolished through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. The Regional Plan had provided 2026 housing growth targets for each district council and a strong steer as to where this growth should be accommodated. He stated that the Council needed to reassess and consult on options for the overall amount of housing required for Derby and the best way this can be delivered.

He added that the Government was developing a new national policy framework, to be in place by April 2011. The new policies would replace the existing Planning Policy Statements and the Planning Policy Guidance. The Government also confirmed its intention to abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and replace it with a new infrastructure planning unit within the Planning Inspectorate.

Councillor Jackson expressed concern that in removing the regional strategies this would open the floodgates with neighbouring district councils opting to build large scale housing developments on the city's boundary. Andrew Waterhouse stated that the authority would continue to work in partnership with neighbouring councils to formulate strategies for housing provision in the county.

Councillor Troup stated that the city was already built up to the boundary on the western side apart from the green wedges. He said that the council must work with its neighbours to influence their decisions. He also asked who would be responsible for providing travellers sites. Andrew Waterhouse stated that this would remain the Council's responsibility. Councillor Barker added that the authority should also communicate with Erewash Borough Council as well despite the authority previously being linked with Nottinghamshire.

Councillor Graves welcomed the proposals and stated it was an ideal opportunity to place decisions back in the hands of local people. He stated that there was a great deal to consider before any plans are drawn up for the future. He said that the types and mix of housing in any development needed to be proportionate.

Councillor Redfern expressed concern that in expanding the boundaries of the city this would expand the problems. She stated that the provision of housing in the future needed to be based on the requirements of residents and not developers. She added that there are 11,000 residents currently on the waiting list for affordable housing but the placement of housing, affordable housing and social housing needed to be carefully considered. Councillor Redfern asked what this change in policy would cost the Council and whether consultants would be used. Rob Salmon stated that there would be a cost but it would be more in terms of officer time than an actual cost. He said that the Council would have to consult otherwise it would not be able to create a plan that could be successfully defended in planning appeals. He added that consultants were used in the past to gather some of the evidence needed and he would provide her with the cost figures.

Councillor Troup also expressed concern with the Council's provision of social housing and that this would need to be addressed.

Resolved to note the update.

10/10 Remit and Work Programme 2010-11

Members were asked to reflect on both the new Commission's portfolio and relevant items reviewed or scrutinised in the previous year's by the former commissions and to suggest new items for inclusion on the 2010-11 work programme.

Resolved a) to request that the Chair, Councillor Redfern and other former Community Commission members be allowed to attend the Adults Health and Housing Commission meeting that considers the Homelessness Review; b) to agree that the impact of the budget proposals for this Commission's portfolio areas be the principal focus as soon as the scale of public expenditure cuts becomes revealed in the Comprehensive Budget Review; c) to consider the following items for possible inclusion in the work programme for 2010-11:

- 1. Public Toilets and to invite the Cabinet Member responsible to explain why the future strategy for refurbishment and reprovision has not been completed;**
- 2. Future of the Museum and Art Gallery with specific reference to the possibility of it becoming a trust;**
- 3. Kedleston Road Bus Lane – members resolved to 'consider the effectiveness of the Kedleston Road bus lane, dependent upon decisions following the current trial.'**
- 4. Social Cohesion**
- 5. Derby Live**
- 6. Connecting Derby, with particular reference to the potential need for a bus service to the Royal Derby Hospital**
- 7. Brown Bin Waste – An investigation into the potential benefits from moving from an aerobic to an anaerobic break down of the waste collected in brown bins**
- 8. Libraries – opening times and the 'offer' to increase usage by local people**
- 9. Highways and Footways maintenance programme contract**
- 10. Enforcement Action against unauthorised developments and the frequency of retrospective planning applications**

and d) to authorise the Chair and Vice Chair and a Conservative nominee (plus Cllr Graves, if wished) to agree a first review subject for the early autumn.

11/10 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet.

12/10 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items of retrospective scrutiny.

13/10 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Co-ordination Officer reported the items on the Forward Plan relevant to the Commission's remit.

MINUTES END