

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 8.25 pm

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (in the Chair)
Councillors Berry, Care, Chera, Lowe and Repton

17/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jennings and Tittley.

18/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

19/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21/07 Call-In

There were no items

Items for Discussion

22/07 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the items on the Performance Eye. It was noted that there was some confusion over how the indicators were monitored and who was responsible for updating them. Natalie Tuckwell, Performance Management Advisor, was scheduled to present a report on the indicators to the Scrutiny Management Commission and the Planning and Transportation Commission requested that this was also circulated to members of this Commission for information. The Commission also requested a briefing at future Commission meetings on any Planning and Transportation indicators marked as red and declining. Members were also advised that they were able to request items on the Performance Eye to come to the Commission in addition to the red and declining items, which would come automatically.

Resolved:

1. To request the Performance Eye Report going to SMC to be presented to this Commission.
2. To automatically bring commentaries on indicators marked as red and declining to the next Planning and Transportation Commission Meeting

Items in the Performance Eye noted as needing attention:

5.2di (2006-09 CP3.1cii) Numbers of secure cycle undercover parking places at schools and colleges.

Councillor Care noted that much work had been done in this area to make improvements, and asked why was this item still showing as red and declining.

Resolved to ask David Gartside – Head of Traffic for an update on this item

BV103 (CO 3.2eiii) % of respondents satisfied with local provision of public transport information

Information was requested as to why this item was still showing as a declining indicator

Resolved to ask for an update on this item

BV111 – Percentage of applicants satisfied with the Planning service

The Head of Development Control and Land Searches was present at the meeting and was able to respond to the Commissions queries. It was noted that the response rate to the questionnaire sent out to measure satisfaction of the Planning Service was very low, although still in the statistical bounds of acceptability. It was mainly the refused applicants who had returned the survey and this had contributed to the low level of satisfaction with the service.

Resolved to note the information

23/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

No items were identified.

**24/07 Report on Street Lighting Performance Indicators
BVPI215a and BVPI215b**

The Commission received a briefing on the street lighting performance indicators.

BVI215a

It was reported that performance indicators had dramatically improved since the new street lighting contract had come into effect. At the end of last year the average time to repair a street light was just under 10 days, and currently the figure for this year stood at just under four days. The target for repair was currently for all repairs to be made in under five days. The report also warned members that the latest figures were from the summer when there were less lighting failure reports received and

although there was no cause for concern at the current time, the winter would be a better test of meeting targets.

Resolved to monitor progress and report back to the January 2008 meeting

BVI215b

It was reported that although information for this indicator was collected by the authority, it did not measure the authority's performance. The information was used by OFGEM in comparisons with private energy companies. It was noted that Derby City Council was a good performer in comparison with neighbouring authorities. As before, it was noted that it was difficult to get accurate results during the summer months when fewer faults were reported.

Resolved to monitor progress and report back to the January 2008 meeting

**25/07 Report on the Percentage of Planning Appeals
Allowed against the Authority's Decision to Refuse
Planning**

The Commission received a report on Performance Eye indicator BV204. The Government target for appeals allowed against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission was 30%. In 2006/07 Derby City Council had a 39% refusal rate. It was noted that one reason for this was split decisions in the appeal, which always counted against the council.

**Resolved to monitor the situation and to request a further update to the
January meeting.**

26/07 Planning White Paper

The Commission received an update on the Planning White Paper: Planning for a Sustainable Future.

The Commission raised concerns that they had neither seen the consultation papers before they had been submitted nor had the opportunity to contribute to them, but were informed that the short consultation period had not enabled this to happen..

There was also concern that there was a continued reliance on the Planning Delivery Grant. It was felt that fee income should be enough to cover the cost of planning developments.

The Commission also raised concerns that back gardens were classed as brownfield sites. Members were informed that the Council had powers to refuse planning permission on back garden development, but it was felt that this would lead to an increase in appeals against the decisions. It was reported that the Council could also make decisions on the appropriateness of the development on back gardens. The Commission noted that there would be further discussion of backland development at its evidence gathering meeting on 25 September. The concerns that had been raised were in the response to consultation on the White Paper,

The Commission also raised questions over the timescale for decisions as it was felt that 13 weeks was not long enough. It was reported that these concerns had been raised in the response to the White Paper.

Resolved to note the update and to receive more information on policy interpretation and the appeals process to a future meeting.

27/07 3 Cities New Growth Point

The Commission received a report from Rob Salmon, Head of Plans and Policies on the programme of development for the 3 Cities/3 Counties Growth Point. This was a joint initiative with Nottingham and Leicester to produce a 20% increase in annual planned new homes. The report outlined the possibilities for development on greenfield land, industrial land and cityscape sites, but not back garden development.

The Chair asked for a more structured housing plan to be produced to take the new plans into account. The Planning and Policy team had already begun research in to the percentage of the past supply of land which was back garden land, and the areas of available garden land that had already got planning permission or a planning application.

The Commission felt that t, in addition to the policy development hey should have involvement in the development of the core strategy and site allocation..

It was reported that the plans would not take into account windfall land for the first 10 years. The Commission commented that if windfall land should become available in this period, then it should be utilised in developments.

A discussion was had on the consultation process for this meeting and it was noted that as this was a living document it could be reviewed and amended annually.

Resolved:

- 1. To request that the Planning and Transportation Commission be consulted further on the development of the strategy**
- 2. To be provided with future reports on the percentage of land classified as back garden land in developments**
- 3. To receive report on windfall sites**

28/07 Draft Scoping Report – review of Carriageway and Footway Maintenance

The Commission considered the draft report. The members asked if it was possible to add extra questions to the questionnaire regarding environmental sustainability of the plans and the carbon footprint.

Resolved:

- to agree the proposed review
- to consult with the Climate Change Commission regarding collecting carbon emission information
- to extend the questionnaire to include questions on environmental sustainability and carbon emissions.

29/07 Draft Scoping Report on proposed review of development on former Domestic Gardens

The Commission considered the draft scoping report for the proposed review of development on former domestic gardens report. The Commission agreed that the timetable outlined in the report may need to be extended to enable more evidence to be considered. It was noted that extending this report would cause timing problems for completing the Commission's other review. It was agreed that the start of the Highways Maintenance review could be delayed if necessary..

Resolved to approve extension to scoping report timescale as the report has wider implications than first understood

30/07 Duffield Road Bus Lane

The members discussed the Bus Lane on Duffield Road, which had also been discussed at Full Council.

Resolved to take no further action on this issue.

31/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission identified the following item on the Forward Plan for consideration at a future meeting:

19/07 Proposed changes to the council's transport procurement and operations services

62/06 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2006 – Gating Orders

78/06 City Centre Eastern Fringes Area Action Plan – Publication of Amended Preferred Option Report for Public Consultation

08/07 Section 106 Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

32/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no items

33/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council
Cabinet/Council Cabinet Members

There were no items.

MINUTES END