

Time commenced 6.00pm  
Time finished 8.40pm

## **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 10 DECEMBER 2009**

Present: Councillor Poulter, in the Chair  
Councillors Harwood, Lowe and Repton

In attendance: Councillors Care, Graves, Holmes, Jennings and Richards

### **70/09 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **71/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **72/09 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **73/09 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 October and 10 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **74/09 Local Transport Plan: Vision Document**

The Commission received a presentation from the Assistant Director – Highways and Transport, Christine Durrant, on proposals for Derby's Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport informed Members that this document would combine a 15 year strategy for the development of Derby's transport infrastructure with an implementation plan for the delivery of LTP3. Officers intend to restrict the implementation plan to a time limited period. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport outlined a number of provisional goals that will form the core of the LTP3 strategy:

- Supporting economic growth
- Tackling climate change
- Contributing to better safety, security and health
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Improving the quality of life and promoting a healthy natural environment

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport informed the Commission that the proposals will go out to consultation to all stakeholders involved in the transport infrastructure to gain a focus on the future priorities for the plan. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the plan later in 2010.

Councillor Repton asked if this plan has funding allocated to it. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport stated that the Government has not yet given a clear indication on the funding that will back local authorities' LTPs. There is not a limitless supply of money and for this reason the Council needs to have clearly defined objectives. If the Council can work more closely with its partners such as the Primary Care Trust to encourage more people to cycle and take advantage of the initiatives available to them then the reliance on capital expenditure will be reduced.

Councillor Graves asked if the plan would be governed by the funds available or by the vision of the officers. He stated that a priority should be to improve the link between the city centre, bus station and the train station. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport said that the link between the city centre, train station and bus station is something that could be built into the plan.

Councillor Repton stated that any proposals for the Third Local Transport Plan need to ensure that the city is able to operate and the repairs programme should remain a priority.

Councillor Jennings said that any proposals to improve the equality of access for pedestrians and cyclists must not be to the detriment of essential car users. He added that any consultation should also include the implications of any proposals.

The Chair stated that to ensure flexibility the action plan should cover a period of three years and five years for aspirational objectives. This would enable the Council's vision to be ambitious but remain able to adapt to opportunities that may arise. The Chair asked when the neighbourhood boards would be consulted in the process. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport stated that they would be contacted when the plan went out for wider public consultation.

Councillor Rawson asked if the Highways Agency had been consulted and when the A38 improvements would begin. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport informed the Commission that improvements to the A38 improvements had been categorised as a regional priority but it is part of the second phase of works. Each phase of works lasts for five years and currently the Highways Agency is carrying out the first year of the first phase of the works. If transport funding is reduced in future Government budgets then the priorities for these works may change.

**Resolved to note the presentation and recommend the amendments proposed by the Commission.**

75/09      Call-in

There were no items for call-in.

76/09      Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

77/09      Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

**a) Minute 96/09 – Response to the Planning and Transportation Commission’s review of highways and footways**

The Commission noted the response of the Council Cabinet.

**b) Minute 120/09 – Call-in of Key Decision – Kedleston Road Integrated Transport Scheme**

The Commission noted the response of the Council Cabinet and stated to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport that more care needs to be taken when formulating consultation in future to ensure clear information is provided.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **78/09      Derbyroads**

The Commission considered a presentation by Councillors Harwood, Rawson and Poulter on their recent visits to Derbyroads on the 7 October and 16 November 2009. Councillor Harwood informed the Commission that he felt progress was now being made and the employees from Derby City Council and Derbyroads were now working well together. He said this had been aided by a new post acting as a co-ordinator between the two organisations. In his opinion the backlog had in part been caused by an underestimation of the amount of structural repairs that were required.

Councillor Rawson stated that works viewed on the visit had been completed to a good standard and was an improvement on the previous contractor. He said that progress was being made but expressed concern about the additional funds required to meet the backlog. First the Council needs to ensure that Derbyroads is value for money.

The Chair also praised the work of the link co-ordinator between the two organisations and said that this role appeared to have been the catalyst for the current progress. But he expressed concern that the current person in this role will soon be leaving and this could hamper the progress that has been made so far. For the works programme to be successful for the future this post needs to be secured. He said that he was concerned that if there were more delays then the cost to the Council would continue to increase.

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport said that initially 85 percent of the road network was inspected. The repair works for these sections has been ordered and is expected to be complete by February 2010. As work begins on the first 85 percent of the network, the remaining 15 percent of the network and the outstanding work will be inspected and work will then commence on this section. Currently 32 operatives are working in gangs to carry out the work. This number could be increased to speed up the repair programme but the Assistant Director – Highways and Transport suggested that this would not be wise as the work quality may suffer.

**Resolved to note the presentation and to request an update report on the Highways Asset Management Plan be brought to the March 2010 meeting.**

## 79/09      Review of Heritage Assets and the Management of the Historic Environment – Issues Report

The Commission considered a report on the review of heritage assets and the management of the historic environment by the Assistant Director – Regeneration.

Councillor Repton said he supported the work of the Built Environment Team and their work improves the quality of life of Derby residents. He expressed concern that funding for historic building grants had been reduced by 80 percent. He asked for an update on the plans to regenerate the Darley Abbey Stables Block and the Hippodrome Theatre.

The Assistant Director – Regeneration informed the Commission that budget cuts had to be identified across the Council. As many of the heritage projects submitted to the department were not up to the correct standard, and therefore less grants were approved, the decision was taken to reduce funds to the grant scheme. There are still some excellent examples of restorative work in the city to the many of the shop fronts in the Conservation Areas. This has been enabled by external grants from English Heritage. Work still continues to the same level to safeguard the future of Derby's heritage.

The Assistant Director – Regeneration said the Council is taking legal action against the owner of the Hippodrome Theatre which will begin in February 2010. There will severe penalties if the applicant is found guilty. Officers are continuing to monitor the condition of the building. Some of the enforcement conditions have been relaxed on the property to enable the owner to remortgage the property and carry out works to ensure its upkeep. An application to turn the building into a car park, retaining the existing exterior wall as the structure, has been received and will be considered through the proper channels.

The Assistant Director – Regeneration said that officers are applying to the East Midlands Development Agency for £140,000 of funding to carry out a feasibility study of the Darley Abbey Stables Block to consider the possible uses. This will then feed into the Darley Abbey Strategy.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. To note the report;**
- 2. To request English Heritage to undertake a full review of the Derby list of statutory listed buildings;**
- 3. To support the active promotion of the Derwent Valley Mills Worlds Heritage Site as a major heritage/tourism asset and as a major economic driver for the city;**
- 4. To acknowledge the historic environment as a major contributor to the character and economic well-being of the city within the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and within future reviews of the Sustainable Community Strategy;**

- 5. To request officers to continue to seek out external funding opportunities to assist bringing historic buildings back into use; and**
- 6. To recommend that Heritage Open Days be promoted by all those Council services that can contribute towards a varied programme of events.**

## **80/09      City Centre Car Parks – Planning Policy and Enforcement**

The Commission received a report that was considered at the Planning Control Committee on 26 November 2009 relating to the operation of Crompton Street Car Parking and its apparent lack of planning consent.

The Chair expressed concern that officers had not provided the Planning Control Committee with any alternative options for dealing with Crompton Street Car Park. The Assistant Director – Regeneration informed the Members that this report was commissioned following concerns about the clamping operations at the car park. It has formed part of a wider review of unauthorised car parks within the city. Officers found that this car park does not have planning permission. However, this car park is quite different to the others that are in operation in the city. Had the owner of Crompton Street Car Park applied for planning permission it would have more than likely been granted. The car parks at Willow Row and Chapel Road are designated as office use and are being used as car parks as a means to raise revenue while they are waiting for investment to begin development. Enforcement action has been taken and the owners of these sites have submitted planning applications. This means that enforcement action must halt until these applications have been dealt with and they will more than likely be refused. Officers then expect the applicant to appeal so it appears to be a delaying tactic. The two other car parks are NCP car parks with temporary planning permission that has expired. Officers have informed the owners that their permission has expired and are awaiting a reply.

The Chair expressed concern that unauthorised car parks operating within the city would impact on the Council's car parking strategy. He suggested that the existence of these car parks undermines public confidence in the planning process.

Councillor Rawson expressed concern that the continuing existence of these car parks sends out the wrong message to developers because these car parks have operated illegally and all the Council has done is invite the owners to submit a planning application. This could encourage developers to act as they wish. The Assistant Director – Regeneration said that officers must also consider whether planning permission would have been granted if it had been applied for and not just at the possibility of enforcement action.

The Chair asked for clarification of the grounds a car park could be closed. The Assistant Director – Regeneration stated that this could only be done if there was a threat to public safety.

The Chair asked why there were no other options in the report considered by the Planning Control Committee. Councillor Care stated that this is the usual style of

reports that Members would expect at the Planning Control Committee. If Members want to take a different action then they can refuse the officer's recommendation and propose an alternative course of action.

**Resolved to note the report and request a briefing note to update the Commission on any developments in the Crompton Street Car Park case.**

## **81/09      Performance Monitoring**

Members considered a report by the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the two National Performance Indicators which fall within the remit of the Commission.

The Chair asked for an update on both indicators and reasons for their current status. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport stated that for LAA 11 – Bus Services Running on Time the target was 86 percent and the output had been 84.46 percent. She stated that this indicator looks at how reliable the bus services are, so if you were to timetable a large amount of time between stops then this would be easily achievable and buses would never be late. There is a technical issue with the actual running times of the buses and the expected times displayed at bus stops. This is being investigated.

The Chair asked if it would be possible for the Commission to visit the new bus station. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport said that this may be possible to arrange in the New Year.

The Chair asked what the ramifications of missing the targets. The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport stated that less benefits would be available to the Council. However, it may mean that more funding is available to pay for improvements.

**Resolved:**

**To note the report;**

**To request a visit to the new Bus Station in the New Year; and**

**To request a detailed report on the two National Indicators Performance and an action plan to improve their performance.**

## **82/09      Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet**

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

## **83/09      Retrospective Scrutiny**

There were no items identified.

## 84/09 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

MINUTES END