

Commenced – 6.01 pm  
Concluded – 7.55 pm

## **Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**30 July 2013**

Present: Councillor Pegg (Chair)  
Councillors Dhindsa, J Khan, MacDonald, Troup, F Winter and Wood

### **10/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes and Jackson.

### **11/13 Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **12/13 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **13/13 Call-in**

There were no items

### **14/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2013**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **15/13 Forward Plan**

Members considered items within the Forward Plan published on 16 July 2013 relating to the board's terms of reference.

The Chair reported that item 61/12 was on the agenda for the meeting, items 45/12, 62/12 and 10/13 were already on the board's work programme, and item 11/13 was on the work programme for the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change O&S Board.

**Resolved to note the Forward Plan.**

### **16/13 Planning Process Review - Update**

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods providing an update on how the Development Control team and partners had progress with the planning process review and service implementation.

The Development Control Manager detailed how the review was focused on examining how the service managed applications, handled customer contacts, advertised applications, reported to Planning Control Committee, dealt with decision notices, handled planning enforcement and sought to achieve efficiencies and value for money following a cost recovery exercise in 2011.

Members stated that it would be useful if more updates were provided on the progress of Section 106 agreements, particularly with relation to those which were time limited. The board was advised that an implementation team monitored progress made on the agreements and accepted that this focus did need to remain in order to ensure the agreements did not lapse.

It was also asked whether neighbourhood officers could be utilised to ease the burden on the one remaining Planning Enforcement Officer, following a 50 per cent reduction in that part of the service.

Clarification was sought and provided on the criteria for deciding which residential properties would be consulted on proposed local developments.

Following questions by members, the board was advised that the expenditure on statutorily advertising relevant applications in the local newspaper was £30,000 in the last year. Members asked whether the council had investigated whether the applications could be advertised in local free publications.

Members asked whether restrictions could be placed on objections in order to prevent replicated objections from single addresses being given the same weight as individual and unique objections from separate addresses.

**Resolved to:**

- 1) note the report;**
- 2) request that officers examine whether neighbourhood officers could be suitably resourced and empowered to support the work of the Planning Enforcement team;**
- 3) request that officers investigate alternative options in relation to the statutory advertising of planning applications in the press;**
- 4) request that officers review the processes relating to planning application objections to better define unique and valid objections, and prepare a report for the scrutiny board on any proposed changes to this process; and**
- 5) request that officers examine how progress on Section 106 agreements and reasons for delays to developments that have been approved could be better reported to members.**

Councillor Dhindsa left the meeting at this stage.

## **17/13      Multi-Use Sports Arena - Update**

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods providing an update on the development of a multi-use sports arena. The report included a

summary of facilities to be contained within the building, milestones that had been completed to date and the next steps of the project.

It was reported that the facility would include:

- 250m indoor cycling track
- 125 station health and fitness suite
- Two aerobics and dance studios
- 12-court sports hall based within the cycling track, which could be opened into a single multi-purpose space
- Spinning studio (static exercise bicycles)
- Meeting rooms
- Café and bar
- Outdoor cycling circuit (subject to separate planning approval).

The Director of Leisure and Culture confirmed that key milestones had included planning approval being granted in April 2012, Bowmer and Kirkland being appointed to build the facility in October 2012, construction of the new car park in November 2012 and completed in March 2013, ground breaking in November 2012 and piling work being completed in April 2013.

It was reported that contractors were slightly ahead of schedule. Various stages for completion were detailed culminating in the scheduled completion of the facility by November 2014. Photographs and design ideas were circulated. It was reported by the director that Sport England had provided £3m of funding and that more funding streams looked likely to be accessible in the event that the outdoor cycling circuit proposal was progressed.

Following questions by members, more detail was provided on the facilities that would be included in the health club, and those that would not such as a sauna and spa.

Members expressed a view that the value of the facility, the reasons for investment and the way in which it has been funded needed to be communicated to the public in order to justify the nature of these developments in times when other services were being cut and the cost for delivering other council services to residents was being introduced or increased. Members also felt that there needed to be a separate pricing structure offering concessions to Derby citizens. It was confirmed by the director that this was already in hand through utilisation of the Passport to Leisure scheme.

Some members expressed concern over the location of the draft proposals for the outdoor cycling circuit. The director confirmed that as much mitigation as possible would be undertaken in order to reduce disruption to the natural environment. Feedback had been gathered from approximately 130 attendees at a public exhibition which outlined the proposals and these would be used to inform the planning application, which would also involve a formal public consultation process.

**Resolved to:**

- 1) Note the report;**
- 2) Endorse the implementation of price concessions at the multi-use sports arena for Derby residents;**

- 3) Request that officers report the draft proposals and options for pricing structures for the two new leisure facilities to the scrutiny board prior to making any final decisions;
- 4) Request that the results of the feedback following the planning consultation on the outdoor cycle circuit be reported to the board.
- 5) Request that the design proposals for the Riverlights/pool development be reported to a future meeting of the scrutiny board as soon as possible after they have been prepared; and
- 6) Request that the leisure facilities governance/management options appraisal is reported to the scrutiny board for input as soon as possible after completion.

## 18/13      Management and operation of the council golf courses

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods detailing proposed changes to the management and operation of council golf courses at Allestree and Sinfen as well as the pitch and putt facility at Markeaton Park. It was reported that a soft marketing tendering exercise had been undertaken following Council Cabinet approval in November 2012, while an in-house operating model was concurrently developed.

It was reported that there had been six expressions of interest received, with respondents interested in taking on a contract ranging from eight to 40 years.

The board was advised that the council was also updating its Outdoor Sports Strategy to ensure the existing and future needs of outdoor sports provision were fully assessed and taken into account. It was proposed by officers that any final decision on the management and operation of the council golf courses should take account of the Outdoor Sports Strategy.

Proposed Heads of Terms which would form the basis of the assessment to inform the procurement of an external operator to manage and operate the council's golf courses were also detailed. The board was informed that it was proposed to maintain the in-house interim management arrangements while the further options were being explored.

It was asked whether disposing of the golf courses had been considered as an alternative. The director confirmed that this was not being considered as part of the process detailed in the report. Following further questions, it was also confirmed that it was anticipated TUPE would be likely to apply if an external operator was appointed, but that this could not be guaranteed as further HR and staffing details would need to be assessed before a firm decision could be made.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 19/13      Museum Trust progress update

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, responding to a request from the board summarising key initiatives being progressed by the trust with the support of the council. This included the development of the Vision for Derby Silk Mill. A summary of the project was included in the report.

The Director of Leisure and Culture reported that the trust was progressing a number of key initiatives relating to developments in customer experience, information technology, human resources and programming and projects. It was reported that the vision for the Silk Mill would focus on the status as a world heritage site, the history of the site and the city's enlightenment heritage including the international significance of Joseph Wright, and Derby's engineering foundations.

The Interim Executive Director of the Museums Trust addressed the board and detailed his duties to fulfil both the demands of the city council and the Arts Council. The interim executive director detailed four programme aims, namely:

- Delivery of the Silk Mill development scheme;
- Maximising the opportunities that the Joseph Wright collection could offer to Derby;
- Transforming the Art Gallery to make improvements through incremental changes, with the support of accessible funding streams where possible; and
- Engaging with communities and stakeholders.

The Silk Mill Development Manager addressed the board to give more details on the plans to utilise the facility. It was reported that the full development of the building would cost around £15m and that applications would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the ambitious programme. The development would include refurbishing the ground floor of the building to make it a more useable space. The focus on encouraging Derby's younger people and future generations to embrace the city's history of creativity was emphasised.

Following questions by members, it was confirmed that it was proposed to reopen the Silk Mill by the end of October. However, the interim executive director emphasised that the facility that would reopen was different to that which was previously mothballed as the reopening of the ground floor marked the start of a new concept for the building. It was also explained that the opening hours would need to be considered in order to balance the amount of activity which could be undertaken and the building's unfinished state.

Members expressed a desire that the focus of the facility was not just on heritage, but also on learning and how the increased footfall arising from it could support the local economy. Following a question from the board, the interim executive director confirmed addressing the need for visual improvements to the entry to the Museum and Art Gallery was a longer-term ambition, but that the improvements to the Silk Mill would be likely to remain higher priority. Further questions about the elements of Derby's and Derbyshire's industrial heritage were asked, with the interim executive director confirming that the three industrial revolutions – the Silk Mill, the railways and aviation advances – would form the basis of the museum offer, with other industrial advances also being covered.

The director confirmed that the bid for Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund would be submitted by November 2013 and that the results of the bid would be announced in April 2014.

**Resolved to note the update and request that the board be kept updated on progress made.**

## 20/13      Work Programme

A report of the Strategic Director of Resources was considered. The report invited members of the board to propose items for inclusion in the board's work programme and potential topic reviews for 2013/14. A detailed breakdown of items that had been proposed for consideration at future board meetings was included at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Chair reported back to the board on the final meeting relating to the topic review on homelessness that had been undertaken by the board in 2012-13. It was proposed that the Derbyshire NHS Healthcare Foundation Trust be asked to address the board to report on how it engages with homeless people in Derby.

**Resolved to:**

- **Consider the response to the consultation on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan at the November meeting; and**
- **Request that the Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Community Mental Health Services address the board to report on how it engages with homeless people in Derby.**

MINUTES END