

Commenced – 6.01 pm
Concluded – 7.11 pm

Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board

11 June 2013

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

01/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen.

02/13 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. In relation to item 06/13, it was noted that Councillor Dhindsa had been the Council Cabinet member with responsibility for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme. Councillor Dhindsa was advised that he should leave the meeting in the event that the debate moved away from the update and instead focused on reviewing the previous decisions that had taken place.

04/13 Terms of Reference and Remit of the Board

The Scrutiny Officer introduced the terms of reference and highlighted some anomalies relating to the museums and library services that had been highlighted by the Director for Leisure and Culture. Members expressed concern that any amendments ought not to reduce the Museums Trust's status as an arms-length organisation. It was also suggested that it would be timely to receive an update on the work of the Museums Trust.

Members sought clarification on the reasoning behind reports for overview and scrutiny boards being reviewed by chief officers prior to publication. It was explained that this was part of the internal process to ensure reports were in the best possible shape before consideration by members and to ensure chief officers were aware of the business before the boards. Members requested that the Chair and Scrutiny Officer review this process to ensure it did not lead to delays in matters being presented to the board.

Resolved to:

- 1) Request the Director of Leisure and Culture bring an update report on the work of the Museums Trust before the board.**
- 2) Agree the terms of reference and remit of the board.**

05/13 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, which was presented by the Environment Team Leader. It was reported that changes to policy at local and national level had resulted in the council reappraising its rights of way network. A draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17 had been drafted, and it was proposed that this be consulted upon with the public for six weeks before being reported back to Council Cabinet.

Members questioned whether a six-week consultation was sufficient for such a large piece of work, given that a great many organisations would need to be involved such as ramblers associations. The Environment Team Leader explained that the consultation was only relating to the improvement plan but that the more comprehensive work, of compiling and collating a map of the city's rights of way, would come later and could take up to two years. It was also suggested by a member of the board that many of the rights of way were unused and unusable, and that the routes used by walkers and cyclists were already established.

Resolved to:

- 1) Recommend that the consultation for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013-17 be extended to 10-12 weeks; and**
- 2) Request that the outcome of the consultation be reported to the board.**

06/13 Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme – Better Ways to Work

A report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods was presented by the Director of Planning and Property Services. Further information was then provided by the Better Ways to Work Coordinator.

The report updated the board on the aims and objectives of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme including details on the five key strands and projects. These comprised:

- Improving sustainable transport options for commuters and businesses
- Encouraging behaviour change through a smarter choices package
- Enabling job seekers to access employment and targeted sites
- Working with employers to support sustainable travel
- Ensuring new developments build in sustainable travel options from the start.

Members discussed the branding of 'Connected – Keeping Derby Moving' which had been chosen for Derby. It was felt that more could be done to increase awareness of the brand. It was suggested that cycling vests sporting the brand could be made available, with councillors and employees of the authority cited as an easy target group to begin with.

Following further questions by members, the Better Ways to Work Coordinator provided more details of the 'Pocket Places' scheme by sustainable transport organisation Sustrans. It was explained that Sustrans had opted to trial the scheme in Normanton.

The officer also made the board aware of the launch of the project, on Friday 28 June.

Resolved to note the update and progress made to date.

07/13 Work Programme

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director of Resources outlining the board's potential work programme and topic reviews. The report was presented by the Scrutiny Officer. A list of issues for potential inclusion in the work programme was circulated.

It was highlighted by the Scrutiny Officer that a decision would need to be made on whether to complete a topic review which had been started by the board in the previous municipal year, focused on homelessness provision. Following some debate as the benefits of the review, it was agreed that it would be completed.

It was further highlighted that officers had requested that the board seek to review processes relating to planning application objections. Members felt this review could be wider and involve more areas relating to planning control processes, but agreed to look at this element as a report from officers to the scrutiny board.

Resolved to:

- 1) Continue with the topic review on homelessness and request that the Scrutiny Officer circulate dates for evidence gathering in relation to the unfinished topic review on homelessness provision; and**
- 2) Undertake a review on processes relating to planning application objections and request that the Scrutiny Officer request a report to the next meeting on proposals to change the planning control processes; and**
- 3) Request that members of the board respond to the Scrutiny Officer with comments on items for inclusion in the work programme.**

09/13 Forward Plan

An extract of the Council Cabinet Forward Plan, comprising items under the board's terms of reference, was considered by members.

Resolved to consider item 56/12 in the Forward Plan (Strategic Plan for Delivery of Affordable Housing) at a future meeting of the board.

MINUTES END