

Time commenced 6.00 pm  
Time finished 7.15 pm

## **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 15 JUNE 2009**

Present: Councillor Repton, Vice Chair, in the Chair  
Councillors Batey, Harwood, Ingall, Lowe and Rawson.

### **01/09 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Poulter.

### **02/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit a briefing paper to aid members in connection with minute 11/09

### **03/09 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **04/09 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 and 16 March were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **05/09 Engaging Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways & Transport and Neighbourhood Boards**

The Commission considered a report by Consultant Shaun Whelan on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership on Engaging Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways & Transport and Neighbourhood Boards. It was reported that the review of this area had identified four key themes, namely; expectations, the current arrangements and why they are perceived to not be working, what level of influence do stakeholders expect and how relationships can be managed in the future. The review identified five main pressures which affect the performance of the Highways Division: resources, regional and national performance indicators, political pressures, individual demands for service provision and neighbourhood board priorities. The demand for services from neighbourhood boards has grown exponentially and the Highways Division cannot deliver every request placed on it by a limitless neighbourhood agenda.

It was reported that for the Division to adapt and progress with the current and future demands it will have to meet, it will first need to:

- Ask for more clarity from neighbourhood boards when they submit service requests;

- Be less technical with the advice it provides neighbourhood managers and be less solution focussed. More attention needs to be paid to the cause of the problems identified;
- Strengthen the role of the neighbourhood manager. The neighbourhood manager should filter some of the service requests rather than forwarding them straight on the Highways Division. They also need to gain an understanding of what pressures they are placing on the Division;
- Assess its total capacity - then it can prioritise its workload;
- Redesign the consultation process.

Councillor Rawson suggested that any technical advice provided by the Highways Division should have a number of proposed solutions to any problem identified by a neighbourhood board. It would then be the responsibility of the neighbourhood board to select the best solution.

Councillor Ingall expressed concern that if the Council were to spend money on managing people's expectations and perceptions of issues in their area that this funding could be better spent on solving the particular problems they experience.

Councillor Batey suggested that the Division often states that a particular course of action is the best practice. However, he would need reasons in future why this is the case to reassure the neighbourhood board.

The Vice Chair expressed concern that there is a lack of transparency in gaining responses to issues. He stated that he has experienced difficulty in obtaining responses from officers when he has asked for potholes to be repaired. The Director for Regeneration and Community stated that if any Councillor experiences any difficulty gaining a response to an issue then they should contact him directly.

The Vice Chair also suggested that neighbourhood managers, either collectively or individually, should have regular contact with a senior officer with members support if required.

The Vice Chair expressed concern with last year's budget and stated that it needed to provide a clear picture of the expenditure and budget reductions.

**See minute 10/09, resolution 1.**

## **06/09      Call-In**

Members received a report setting out the Call-In process. There were no specific items for call-in.

## **07/09      Councillor Call for Action**

Members received a report setting out the new Call for Action procedure. There were no specific issues.

# Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

## 08/09 Discretionary Home to School Transport

The Commission noted that the joint meeting of the Planning and Transportation and Children and Young People Commissions on 22 June would be considering this report which will be considered by Cabinet at their next meeting on 7 July 2009.

## 09/09 Duffield Road Bus Lane

The Commission noted the decision taken.

## Items for Discussion

## 10/09 Remit and Work Programme 2009-10

Members considered a report on the Commission's proposed remit and work programme for 2009-10.

It was reported that all Commissions are expected to consider and agreed their annual work programme near the start of each municipal year and submit them to the Scrutiny Management Commission for approval.

### Resolved:

- 1. For the Chair, Vice Chair, a Liberal Democrat Commission Member and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer to evaluate the findings of the review on Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways & Transport and Neighbourhood Boards and report back to the next meeting of the Commission;** i) To take forward the 8 proposals in 'Engaging Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways & Transport and Neighbourhood Boards'; ii). To be undertaken by the Chair, Vice Chair and an LD nominee working with the H&T Division, Neighbourhood Team and CSP to produce a draft Protocol making Neighbourhood Boards more central in decision making and enhancing the role of Neighbourhood Managers iii) As a prelude, the co-ordination officer hold an initial meeting with whole Neighbourhood Manager Team [Dan, your choice or mix of the two]
- 2. To add the briefing paper on Scrutiny of Buildings of Heritage to the work programme as a time limited piece, incorporating approaches of other authorities to this issue;**
- 3. For the findings of the Ombudsman's inquiry into the handling of the City Gate planning application to be reported back to the Commission.**
- 4. To receive a six month update regarding the Derbyroads contract on 27 July.**

**5. To consider the proposals for a Kedleston Road Bus Lane on 27 July**

**11/09      Performance Monitoring**

Members considered an oral report by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer on the performance targets relevant to the Commission's remit.

Councillor Ingall stated that he would like additional training on the performance monitoring system.

**Resolved to note the update and receive an explanation about the two stretch LAA targets within the Commission's portfolio.**

**12/09      Matters referred to the Commission by Council  
Cabinet**

**13/09      Retrospective Scrutiny**

There were no items identified for retrospective scrutiny.

**14/09      Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

There were no items identified.

MINUTES END