

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 8.00 pm

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
21 JANUARY 2008**

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

51/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Chera and Berry.

52/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair allowed a submission of an additional paper from Councillor Care to be included with minute number 56/07 Cathedral Green Decision Making Process

53/07 Declarations of Interest

There were none

54/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55/07 Call-In

There were no items

Items for Discussion

56/07 Retrospective Scrutiny – Cathedral Green Decision Making Process

The Commission received a report from Dave Marshall, Development Director for Derby Cityscape, on the Cathedral Green and River Derwent Footbridge Project. It was reported that this project was now substantially underway. The project had been funded entirely from Central Government and the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, and had been a catalyst for Derby becoming a New Growth Point for housing.

Councillor Care raised concerns about the process by which the funding had been accessed and scrutinised. She acknowledged that the process to submit the bid had not been unconstitutional, but felt that more consultation could have been done regarding the submission.

Cllr Care claimed Members were not made aware of the bid until 2006, she felt there were some wards in Derby that had concerns about future housing developments and in her opinion should have been consulted about further growth. The Commission discussed whether or not bids should continue to be submitted without consultation with Members.

In this particular case it was noted that there had been very little time to respond to the bid, and that Cathedral Green had been chosen as a site because it was already in the masterplan as a growth point for housing allocation. There was also information in the regional plan about housing allocation for the city, which cited Cathedral Green as a growth point.

Additionally, it was reported that extensive public consultation was often not possible in the time frame available to submit bids, and that increased consultation would have possibly led to a missed opportunity to access the funding. The Commission agreed that on this occasion the timescale that officers were working to meant that using a pre-approved site for the scheme was advantageous and allowed the Council to successfully bid for funding. However, it was felt that releasing further information about bids the Council was applying for would be useful to Members.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the report**
- 2. To note the bidding process for Cathedral Green, and;**
- 3. To request a report to the next Commission meeting on how bids for funding can be reported to Members in future.**

57/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

No further items were identified

58/07 Revenue Items relating to the portfolio of the Planning and Transportation Commission

The Commission considered the revenue items relating to their portfolio.

It was reported that the outcome of the legal schemes by bus companies would not be known until March 2008 at the earliest, but an indicative sum of £1million had been included in the budget to cover any potential costs. Should the £1 million not be required, then it could be reallocated across all the Cabinet portfolios. It was noted that there was no further contingency in the budget if the bus companies' claims were successful and the award was higher than the £1 million. This would result in a further budget pressure. Officers felt that the risk of this happening was low. It was reported that there was an expected loss of income from Highways properties. This would be due to demolition of rent earning properties, which had been acquired by the council as part of the Connecting Derby scheme.

It was reported that there would be an additional budget pressure due to the renegotiation of the Highways Contract, which would lead to above inflation

increases in rates. However, it was noted that all eventualities had been covered in the £127,000 figure and so no further pressures were expected.

It was reported that work done nationally regarding CCTV coverage in cities had revealed that it was not cost effective to monitor large numbers of CCTV cameras and that targeted monitoring produced far better results.. The Commission felt the decrease in partnership investment in CCTV was reasonable as the system would be more productive.

The Commission considered the cost of the new bus station. It was noted that the estimated costs were high as the new bus station would be very modern and therefore cost more to run. However, it was anticipated that the station would eventually become budget neutral.

Following their review on Backland development, the Commission discussed the lack of additional funding in the budget for the Development Control and planning departments. Members were told that despite an increase in planning applications, the quality of decisions made had not suffered and officers were still able to provide a high quality service. It was also noted that if resources for additional staff were made available, savings would need to be found elsewhere, which would produce additional strains on the service

Councillor Care was keen to increase the number of schools with Travel plans. It was reported that at this stage it was felt that the budget could maintain the current level of work, and as it was a rolling scheme, new schools could be taken on when other schools complete their action plan. However, the Commission felt that this would be an important issue to address as school travel plans should be high on the list of priorities through the safer routes to school strategy.

Resolved:

- 1. To request that the Council Cabinet Member explore what can be done to maximise work on the Safer Routes to School Scheme.**
- 2. To recommend that if funding allows, particularly if income generation for planning charging exceeds expectations, the Council Cabinet Member should take action to address the current high workload of the officers of the Development Control and Plans and Policies teams and that in the medium term regard should also be taken of the additional capacity and support that will be required if these teams are to effectively deliver the new 'place shaping' role that is envisaged by central government.**

59/07 Capital Budget 2008-2011 – Funded Programme for Transport

The Commission received a report on the proposed Regeneration and Community Services Capital Programme. The report outlined proposed uses of available funding, including the allocations that were specific to the Regeneration and Community

department. It was reported that should congestion charging go ahead in Derby, then funding would be available from the government to move the preparations forward.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the report**
- 2. To establish a date for a future meeting before the March Council Cabinet meeting to discuss LTP Block Funding in more detail.**

60/07 Corporate Capital Programme 2008/9-2010/11

The Commission received a report on the corporate Capital Programme for 2008/9 to 2010/11. The Commission raised concerns about the level of funding for footpath maintenance in 2008/09, as the public had raised many complaints about the current state of the footways. It was reported that the 2008/09 Capital programme was mainly growth point funding, and so funding for footway improvement would only become available in 2009/10. The Commission felt that this was not acceptable, especially as the budget had allocated £300,000 to 'wayfinding' in the city. 'Wayfinding' was not felt to be a local priority. The Commission felt that there should be a consideration to reallocate the budget to try and find some additional funding for footpath maintenance.

Resolved to ask the Council Cabinet to look again at the funding for new schemes in the Corporate Capital Programme 2008-11 (Appendix 2) to see if half of the proposed £300,000 funding for 'Way Finding design and construction costs' could be spent on Footway Maintenance in 2008/09.

61/07 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the latest information from Performance Eye. It was reported that the data had not changed from the last meeting and that all the red indicators had already been before the Commission.

The Commission discussed whether Performance Eye was the most efficient use of Officer time, and the most efficient way of getting Best Value, especially because of the pressures of data collection. The Commission considered the indicators reporting the data confusing as there was no key to the arrows showing change in performance.

Resolved

- 1. to note the update**
- 2. to request confirmation that the upwards and downwards arrows reflect positive and negative outcomes**

62/07 Review of Residential Development on Former Domestic Gardens Final Report

The Commission considered the final draft of the report on the review of the development of former domestic gardens. The report was presented with the original recommendations, to which were appended the suggested amendments to the recommendations from Rob Salmon, Head of Plans and Policies. The report was welcomed and the Commission gave thanks to all involved.

The Commission noted that the recommendations from Rob Salmon were constructive and well articulated and felt that they could be broadly accepted.

The Commission discussed how best to utilise S106 funding for neighbourhood priorities. They decided to ask the Council Cabinet Member to explore possibilities to involve Local Members and Neighbourhood Boards more closely in discussions to agree the use of S106 funding.

Resolved:

- 1. to include thanks to witnesses in the report**
- 2. to endorse the amended recommendations subject to the following changes:**

(a) Recommendation 3 to read:

Recommend that if funding allows, the Council Cabinet Member should take action to address the current high workload of the officers of the Development Control and Plans and Policies teams and that in the medium term regard is also taken of the additional capacity and support that will be required if these teams are to effectively deliver the new 'place shaping' role that is envisaged by central government.

(b) Recommendation 4a to read:

That the Cabinet member should consider how the Planning Obligations SPD, as recently approved for consultation by Cabinet, can be strengthened in its final form in order to better offset the load on local infrastructure created by backland developments. In particular, consideration should be given to the scope for reducing thresholds for different types of contributions.

(c) To add Recommendation 4c:

The Council Cabinet Member is recommended to ensure that Local Members and Neighbourhood Boards are involved in discussions to agree the use of Section 106 monies paid to the Council by the developer, subject to planning policies.

63/07 Update on Highways and Footpaths Maintenance Review

The Commission received an oral update on the Highways and Footways Maintenance Review. It was reported that questionnaires had been sent out to 16 Local Authorities on 14 December 2007, and 5 responses had been received. Questionnaires had also been sent to 475 members of the Pointer Panel, and there had been a very good response. The data was being analysed by a data company,

and the results were expected shortly after the 8 February deadline for responses. A final draft review report would be brought to the Commission's next meeting for approval.

Resolved to note the update.

64/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

It was reported that one item on the Forward Plan related to the portfolio of the Commission – 60/07 City Centre Eastern Fringes Action Plan, publication of preferred option.

Resolved to request a report on Forward Plan item 60/07 to the next Commission meeting.

65/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no items

66/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet/Council Cabinet Members

There were no items.

MINUTES END