

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm
Time Finished – 8.40 pm

Regeneration and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Board

13 January 2015

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)
Councillors Dhindsa, M Holmes, Jackson, MacDonald, Troup, Turner
and Wood

30/14 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

31/14 Late Items

There were no late items.

32/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33/14 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 October and 12 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34/14 Forward Plan

No items were requested.

35/14 To Let Boards - Update

The Board considered a report which stated that at its meeting on 24 July 2012 the Planning Housing and Leisure Board received a report on private sector housing – standards and issues related to rented properties. At that time Members enquired about the display of letting boards which appeared to breach Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations. In January 2014 another report was provided which looked at the issue and proposed a corporate option for pursuing any illegal signs.

It was noted that complaints from the public about 'to let' signs' were very low. A question was asked if information could be requested from the University in relation to students lets to get an idea of when the properties were let. It was noted that at proforma had been prepared to report problems but this had not been used.

Members of the Board suggested that Neighbourhoods Officers could have their remit extended and use their civil enforcement officers' powers to include this area of work.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To recommend that the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Regeneration and Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods empower planning officers to:**
 - a. Follow up on the use of the proforma and e mail this to all elected members.**
 - b. Work with Neighbourhoods Officers and elected members to identify which Wards would find the proforma most useful and communicate to residents in these areas as necessary, that they have the ability to complain about the sustained use of 'To Let' boards.**
 - c. To enquire if the University is able to share information on lettings to students and investigate if it is possible to work with the University to encourage agents to remove boards.**

**36/14 Derby Museums – Annual Review of Derby
Museums Trust**

The Board considered the Annual Review of Derby Museums Trust. The report provided a summary of the key achievements over the period April 2013 – June 2014 and also referred to some future developments. In the 2012-15 Business Plan the Museum Trust outlined five principle aims, which were summarised in the report. It was anticipated that by the end of 2014-15 all of the aim would have been achieved. Derby Museums became an independent trust in 2012 and had achieved a number of key successes in its first two years of trading. These successes were summarised in paragraph 4.1 of the report and were having positive impacts on people's lives.

Resolved to note the report and congratulate the Derby Museums Trust on the progress made.

**37/14 Festive Lights – Review of Provision and
Funding**

The Board considered a report which stated that the Council currently provided a range of festive lights across the city throughout the year, to mark a number of occasions.

The cost of providing the lights for these occasions was budgeted for each year at £114,000. In the 2014/15 to 2016/17 budget setting process consideration was given to stopping the provision of festive lights.

The current budget had delayed the budget savings for the festive lights until 2016/17. However it was still proposed that the Council seek to work with partners across the city to collectively look at how we could reduce the overall costs associated with festive lighting, as well as looking at how we might be able to encourage external contributions from across the city in an effort to reduce the dependence on the Councils budget for this discretionary service.

The report provided the current position in relation to festive lights.

Resolved

- 1. To defer the report until the next meeting and request that someone attend to present the report and answer questions.**
- 2. To request that the report include information on work being undertaken to engage with businesses and work in partnership to fund festive lights in future years.**

38/14 Derby After Dark – Lighting Strategy

The Board considered a report which stated that the Regeneration Projects Team working in partnership with Streetpride and Derby Live had commissioned the preparation of a lighting strategy for Derby City Centre.

The strategy outlined the underlying aspirational themes and key design principles regarding the use of artificial light in Derby city centre's public realm and buildings. A series of consultation events were organised to engage residents and various stakeholders in the process. The Derby After Dark Strategy and summary booklet were available online.

Members of the Board asked if the Market Hall and Friar Gate Square had been considered for inclusion in the project. The Market Hall was included but unfunded, but Friar Gate Square was not included.

It was suggested that LED lighting could change colour so that it could be used for events and give opportunities for festivals of lights.

Resolved

- 1. To note the Derby After Dark Strategy.**
- 2. To note that the strategy would be considered by Council Cabinet in March 2015 and if approved, would be adopted as material considerations for determination of planning applications in the city centre.**

3. To recommend to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Regeneration that:

- a. The Council consults the police and safety officers on the content of the strategy to ensure that community safety issues are taken into consideration and no 'dark areas' are created through implementation of schemes within the strategy.**
- b. The Council considers the use of colour changing LEDs in schemes within the lighting strategy to enable the use of specific coloured lighting for certain events which may benefit from this and reduce the possibility of incurring further costs in the future.**
- c. Careful consideration be given to the communication and marketing of any work carried out under the strategy to ensure that this was approached sensitively with consideration of managing public perception of the use of council funds.**

39/14 Enforcement Strategy for Illicit Tobacco and Alcohol

The Board considered a report which set out an update on the enforcement strategy for illicit tobacco and alcohol.

Members of the Board suggested that consideration be given to employing a financial investigator to pursue the recovery of costs of investigations and prosecutions. Consideration needed to be given to community safety and working with the police and other partners to pool teams possibly regionally. It was suggested that the Council work with the LGA to reduce the high volume of illicit tobacco.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To recommend to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Regeneration that the Council**
 - a. investigates the possibility of pooling resources with regional partners to enable the employment of a financial investigator to pursue the recovery of costs of investigations and prosecutions.**
 - b. To further consider community safety and relevant issues.**
 - c. To work with the LGA to ensure that they recognise that Derby has some of the highest incidences of illegal tobacco and alcohol issues and that further financial assistance was required to carry out prosecutions and reduce the high volume of illicit tobacco.**

40/14 Work Programme and Fracking Topic Review

The Board received a presentation on Fracking from Brian Davey of Feasta - the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability.

Members of the Board asked about what other countries policies were on fracking. It was noted that fracking had been banned in France and was mostly banned in Germany but was allowed in certain circumstances.

Resolved to note the presentation.

MINUTES END