

Time Commenced – 6.03 pm
Time Finished – 7.35 pm

Regenerating Our City Overview and Scrutiny Board

18 August 2015

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Naitta, MacDonald, Keith, Martin & West

01/15 Apologies for Absence

Councillor A Holmes

02/15 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Naitta declared an interest as an employee of Intu.

04/15 Items Referred from Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board

None

05/15 Regeneration of Normanton

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods asking them to consider a presentation put together by officers from the Regeneration Team after consultation with officers in Streetpride, Housing, Planning and Neighbourhoods. The presentation gave the Board background information on every day life in Normanton and look at what officers may be tasked with in order to make improvements. Officers had looked at Abbey, Arboretum, Normanton and Sinfin wards as a mass area for the purpose of this review.

It was acknowledged that Normanton was a very successful and vibrant retail area with mixed diversity of religions and cultures. It was also acknowledged that there was a lack of brownfield and open space in this area. Traffic issues, (high accident rates being recorded) along with fly tipping / street rubbish, housing (over crowding, affordable housing and rent levels) and health issues were also discussed.

Discussion was held on whether a long term 15 year plan or several short term 5 year plans would be the most effective. Urgent works needed (road repairs / housing) were discussed along with where the funding would come from.

The Board resolved to:

- 1) Consider the presentation from the Regeneration team officers**
- 2) Receive a report at next Board meeting, from Highways, on traffic flow on Normanton Road through to Stanhope Street**
- 3) Receive a report at next Board meeting, on usage of car parks in Normanton**
- 4) Receive a report at the next Board meeting, from Regeneration and Neighbourhood Boards on feasibility of having Business Improvement District Board setting up**
- 5) Receive details from officers on pros and cons of having either 15 year or 5 year plans.**
- 6) Explore further how links may be established with new Castleward development.**
- 7) Receive report, at next Board meeting, on work already achieved by Inner City Renewal Group**

06/15 Leisure Facilities Strategy – Update and Forward Plan

The Board received a report from the Acting Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods which provided details on the next phase of the Leisure Facilities Strategy on the replacement of the council's swimming pools with modern facilities. The report detailed the recommendations approved at the Leisure Project Board 26 May 2015.

The Leisure Project Board had agreed the establishment of a project team to develop the swimming pool options as the next phase of the Leisure Facilities Strategy. This project team will report back to the Overview and Scrutiny. As the council do not have an in house expertise to advise on the build cost the Leisure Project Boards agreed the release of £40,000 to appoint the necessary expert advisors.

Clarity was also given on the current position as outlined point 5.1 which referred to the sale of the Assembly Rooms and the fact that a dry leisure hub is also needed.

The Board resolved to:

- 1) Consider the report**
- 2) resolved to agree all the recommendations made by the Leisure Project Board**
- 3) To receive report detailing the project team's findings at future Board meeting**

07/15 Markets Strategy

The Board received a report from the Acting Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods, asking them to note the progress and strategies for the future of each of the council's markets. This covered the five city centre markets: Eagle Centre Market, Market Hall, Allenton Market, Cattle / Livestock Market and the Wholesale Market.

It was questioned if there was a role for both the Eagle Centre and Market Hall markets. Colliers Consultation had been appointed to look at the viability and sustainability of both markets. It was acknowledged that a bid had been put in to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Market Hall and there were ongoing discussions with Intu over the Eagle Centre Market. Findings were to be brought back to future Board meetings.

It was confirmed that the Wholesale and livestock markets were not sustainable and were making a loss. The proposal was to demolish the buildings although consultation and discussions were still in process and private sitting tenants had been invited to bring any proposals forward for consideration

Discussions were still in process with Tesco as the future of the site for Allenton Market was still uncertain after Tesco still own part of the site but had confirmed they were not going to develop it.

The Board resolved to:

- 1) Note the report**
- 2) Receive further reports and updates in relation to all five markets at future Board meetings**

08/15 Report on the Draft Housing Strategy 2015 - 2019

The Board received a report from the Acting Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing asking them to note the key elements of the draft strategy and make any comments or recommendations. The report identified four priority areas and the Board discussed these and heard from the Head of Strategic Housing on how these issues were being addressed.

It was acknowledged that there was a need to provide additional affordable housing as set out in the Review of Affordable Housing by the Cost of Living Overview and Scrutiny.

Resolved to:

- 1) Note the presentation**
- 2) Receive the responses to the Affordable Housing review requested by the Cost of Living Overview and Scrutiny at the Board meeting in December**

09/15 Remit, Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive asking them to receive a report agreed by Council on 20 May 2015 setting out the new arrangements for Overview & Scrutiny. The Board were asked to discuss and agree the future work programme and topic review for the forthcoming municipal year.

Resolved to:

- 1) Note the presentation**
- 2) Agree the draft work programme**
- 3) Agree to look at the regeneration of Normanton as the topic review**

MINUTES END