



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Waddington (Chair)
Councillor O'Neill (Vice Chair)

Councillor Dawood
Osman

Councillor Porter
Councillor Whittle

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148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Waddington as the Chair of the Commission welcomed the Members to the Commission and led on introductions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rae Bhatia and the Director for Planning, Development and Transportation.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

150. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development, Transportation and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission, held on 23 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

151. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

AGREED:

That the Membership of the Commission be noted.

152. DATES OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

AGREED:

That the dates of the Commission for the municipal year be noted.

153. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

With pedestrian crossings, I would like to see more time for crossing and, ideally, a timer to tell how long we have to cross. This is because parents with small children need time, so do disabled people.

In response to the Statement from the member of the public, The Deputy City Mayor for Climate, Economy and Culture noted that conversation were ongoing to consider options for crossing times and the City Transport Director noted that the signals provision was for the country and the various options were considered.

The Chair of the Commission drew the Commissions attention to an Active Travel England article in the Guardian and suggested that the option for countdown timers should be considered.

I propose at least one information board, but possibly more, to remember and inform us about Mary Attenborough and her role in hosting refugees from the Civil War in Spain, children affected by the Guernica bombing, and Jewish children and adults affected by fascism in Germany. All this happened in Leicester when she lived at College House on the uni. Campus.

The Deputy City Mayor welcomed and commended the work by Mary Attenborough in the city and suggested that there was a continued commitment to producing heritage panels to tell a tale of the city and would be happy to take this forward.

154. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

155. OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Deputy City Mayor for Climate, Economy and Culture introduced the item and noted that the work delivered through the portfolios that were to be presented were delivered for the economy to thrive.

The City Transport Director provided an overview of the Transport Strategy, and the City Highways Director provided an overview of the Highways Service. as part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- The Environmental impacts be clearly assessed as part of planning for new proposals.
- The introduction of 20MPH schemes which had been delivered across cities had not proven to be effective whereas the approach to capture

certain streets and blocks had proven to be a more effective approach, with a further programme of streets being developed.

- Members of the Commission suggested that the bus services had improved and that the current cost of journeys were fare although these were set to rise at the end of the year.
- It was suggested that there were business reasons behind bus companies operating certain routes and that recent changes on how bus services were tendered could consider the possibility for alternative routes to connect neighbourhoods in the city.

The Head of Planning delivered an overview of the Planning Service. As part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- Members of the Commission requested information on the Knighton conservation area review and it was suggested that there was a programme of appraisal that would review the conservation area in Knighton, the team was now fully staffed, and more information could be provided to the Member of the Commission if requested.
- There were an increasing number of applications for external insulation of buildings and that there were ongoing conversations with contractors and Trading Standards for improved detailing of installations and the use of appropriate designs. Half of the enforcement cases had been dealt with by the team.

The Chair and Members of the Commission suggested that an active approach to informing residents on the rules surrounding the external wall insulation and the alternative internal options in local areas would be beneficial and reduce the need for enforcement.

The Programme Manager provided an overview of the Waterside regeneration and noted that the focussed approach around the riverside stimulated development in the area.

As part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- Members of the Commission commended the Waterside regeneration
- The redevelopment at Ashton Green continued to be delivered with other infrastructure work being delivered alongside the various building work at various patches on the site and there was competitive bidding and delivery was based on the best value for money
- The redevelopment of the railway station was in progress and the funding had been secured. There had been dissatisfaction with the current layout of the station and the main constraint was the size of the ticket gates which the redevelopment would address delivering a larger gate line and concourse.
- In response to the Chairs query on future targets and goals in other parts of the city, it was noted that there were ongoing conversations around what parts of the city would benefit from council intervention
- Carbon Monitoring was part of all development proposals.

The Change Manager (Climate Emergency), provided an overview of the

Sustainability Strategy and action plan. It was noted that the Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan would be added to the work programme and come to Commission in due course.

As part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- Following the flooding events which effected certain parts of the city in June, investigations were ongoing and it was suggested that the sewer systems were overwhelmed and that an update would be provided on this.
- Members suggested that with ongoing change in weather, information on how to protect properties from incidents such as flooding should be circulated to help keep people's properties safe in such incidents.
- The Deputy City Mayor noted that environmental education was being delivered across the city and the city was leading the way across the country
- Some Members of the Commission suggested that with the ongoing climate concerns, green spaces need to be protected and some of the proposals in the local plan needed to be reviewed.

It was also suggested that the Bio-Diversity Net Gain item could be a potential item to come to the Commission at a future meeting and was proposed to be added to the Work Programme.

The Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment delivered a presentation providing an overview on Economic Development. As part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- LLEP were managing less money what they were use to and this was a live area at the moment with ongoing changes with a desire for more control to locally elected authorities
- The rebranding of the city was delivered in consultation with over 200 partners
- More focus on the fashion technology profiles and sustainability and the potential to bring this to Commission indue course.
- The Shared Prosperity Fund assessment was yet to be done and could be bought to commission at a future date
- Councillor Haq addressed the Commission at the Chairs discretion and spoke in relation to interventions designed to get people back into the labour market and better paid jobs.

156. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair noted that the propsed items would be programmed in on the work programme and Members of the Commission were requested to forward any items they may have to the Chair or the Scrutiny Policy Officer.

157. ANY OTHER BUSINESS