

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2007 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

<u>Councillor Mugglestone – Chair</u> Councillor J. Blackmore – Vice Chair

Councillor Bajaj Councillor Naylor
Councillor Newcombe

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr Mohammed Alauddin Al-Azad - Parent Governor (Primary / Special Needs)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Blower – Task Group Leader, Children Schools and Young People Councillor Hall – Task Group Leader, Community Cohesion and Safety Councillor Joshi – Task Group Leader, Adults and Housing

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32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests that they may have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Newcombe declared a personal interest in item C, 'Report on Private Fostering' as his parents were foster carers. Councillor Newcombe also declared a personal interest in Item G3) Regeneration and Transport Task Group – 'Movement of Bus Stops from High Street and its Impact' as he was a bus driver.

40. HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE

The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report

outlining proposals for the adoption of the document entitled 'Highways, Transportation and Development'. This document would provide developers with guidance on Highways and Transport matters in their plans for development.

The Chair invited Councillor Nigel Porter to address the Board on this report. Concern was expressed that the minute extract from the Planning and Development Control Committee was not attached with the report. Councillor Porter felt that this was an important document and was disappointed that no public consultation had taken place on its contents. He noted that there were errors with the proposed document which he had pointed out. He also felt that the issue of limits of numbers of properties on un-adopted roads needed further scrutiny. He noted that the County Council document, which the Council intended to utilise, had no fire prevention document which he felt should be included. He also noted that the document didn't refer to the Government's 'Manual for Streets' guidance, which he thought was required. He also felt that there was no immediate need to approve this document as the likelihood of the Council losing an appeal due to the document not being approved was minimal. He therefore recommended that the Board refer the document to the Regeneration and Transport Task Group for more detailed scrutiny to take place.

The Head of Transport Strategy in response stated that the 'Manual for Streets' guidance had only been recently published (June 2007). He expected this guidance to be included in the document in the future as part of the annual review process. He also noted that the latest Building Regulations Approved Document B – fire safety would still apply even though they weren't contained in the document. This along with other matters of detail brought to the attention of the Highway Development Control officers by Councillor Porter, prior to the meeting, would be included in the next revision of the document. The Head of Transport Strategy explained that the Highway Development Control officers had examined the document in detail and confirmed that this guide was a substantial improvement on the current out of date guide. He also explained that Cllr Porter's concerns regarding the issue of limits of numbers of properties off private drives was primarily a planning matter as opposed to a highway development control issue.

Members of the Board then considered the issues outlined by Councillor Porter and the feasibility of asking the Task Group to undertake further scrutiny into the proposed documents. The majority opinion of the Board was that it would make sense for the document to be scrutinised further before its adoption.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Cabinet be requested to defer approval of this document; and
- (2) that the Regeneration and Transport Task Group be requested to undertake further scrutiny of the proposed 'Highways, Transportation and Development' document.

