



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTES EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Hunt - Chair

Councillor Mrs. Chambers - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Henry  
Councillor Hunter

Councillor Soulsby  
Councillor Thomas

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### 66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hunt declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item entitled "Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for Abbey Park Road", on the basis of his employment offices being based within the site on which the guidance is based. He left the meeting for consideration of this item.

### 68. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR ABBEY PARK ROAD

The Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services submitted a report outlining the draft supplementary planning guidance for Abbey Park Road.

Also tabled at the meeting was an addendum report, which gave details of a meeting that was held between Officers and Councillors Soulsby, Chohan and Sood as a result of concerns raised at a previous Scrutiny Committee meeting. The addendum report raised a number of issues arising from that meeting for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration, these were as follows:-

- There was general support for the successful regeneration of the Abbey Park Road area.
- It was noted that due to the development pressures in the area, it was important to agree a basic planning framework for the area as soon as possible. It was therefore proposed that the Supplementary Planning Guidance, subject to additional comments from the Scrutiny Committee, be adopted now but it be subject to further consultation and refinement over

the next few months. This further consultation could be combined with the consultation planned for the Leicester Regeneration Company Masterplan to ensure that the two exercises and outcomes are consistent and compatible. Further consultation could also be organised by the Ward Councillors

- It was agreed that alternative bridge locations over the river and the canal should be explored. Pedestrian links to Abbey Park should be as direct as possible and to achieve this the bridge positions may need to be realigned.
- The Supplementary Planning Guidance made reference to the possible use of Compulsory Purchase Orders. It was suggested that the last three sentences of the CPO section in the Guidance, which qualified the statement of intent to use these powers, be deleted. It was felt this would strengthen to CPO policy statement.

Councillor Soulsby welcomed the opportunity for the meeting with Officers, noting that it helped overcome the concerns raised at the last meeting. He also welcomed the opportunity for further comments to be made on the guidance that met with the residents' aspirations and concerns of the Ward Councillors. It was also noted he had discussed the issue with the Leader of the Council who was sympathetic to concerns about developing pedestrian links between the communities, the City centre and Abbey Park. He also commented that the site across the river, opposite the National Space Centre should have a landmark building of high quality.

Members of the Committee also felt there were problems in the area with the Council's depot and the smell which emanated from there. There was also felt to be problems with the traffic particularly at the junction by B&Q and on Corporation Road. With regard to the depot, Officers stated this was due to be relocated in the near future. The issues regarding traffic were noted and it was stated that the guidance did seek to improve cycleways and walkways, also that any particular traffic issues could be given consideration as part of any prospective planning application.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Regeneration also commented that he welcomed the comments of the Committee and Cabinet would give them due consideration when it discussed the matter. He also stated he was satisfied with the consultation that had been undertaken at this stage, noting there were further opportunities for comments on each planning application and the Leicester Regeneration Company Masterplan.

The Committee then agreed to put forward to Cabinet the comments made at the meeting with Councillors Soulsby, Chohan and Sood.

**RESOLVED:**

that the comments outlined above be passed on to Cabinet as the comments of the Scrutiny Committee.

