



Leicester

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2010 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Grant– Chair

Councillor Hall – In the Chair until Minute 49.

Councillor Glover

Councillor Newcombe

Councillor Potter

Councillor Senior

Councillor Thomas

Councillor Suleman

Also In Attendance

Councillor Westley

Cabinet Lead Member for Housing

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**143. CHAIR OF MEETING**

RESOLVED:

Under Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6c, in the absence of Councillor Grant, the meeting agreed that Councillor Hall would Chair the meeting until the arrival of Councillor Grant.

**144. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bhatti and Joshi. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Glover and Grant.

**145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Senior declared a personal interest in Item 6 'Tracking of Petitions – Monitoring Report' as her partner worked in Transport Strategy and had been involved in dealing with an ongoing petition listed in the report. She also

declared that she had been consulted as a Ward Councillor in respect of the petition opposed to the Spinney Hills Schools Cycle Link.

Councillor Senior declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 'Culture and Leisure Task Group Review of the Special Olympics Leicester 2009' as she was a volunteer director on the Special Olympics Board. She undertook to leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Senior declared a personal interest in Item 10 'Local Development Scheme 2010-2013' as her partner worked in transport strategy.

Councillor Potter declared personal interests in Item 13 'Final Report of the Adults and Housing Task Group Review of HomeCome Limited' and Item 14 'Final Report of the Adults and Housing Task Group Review of Housing Repairs' as she was a Council tenant.

**155. FINAL REPORT OF THE REGENERATION AND TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINY TASK GROUP REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF HIGHCROSS LEICESTER**

Councillor Hall submitted a report that presented the findings of the Regeneration and Transportation Scrutiny Task Group Review of the impact on the City Centre of a year of trading of Highcross Leicester.

Councillor Hall introduced the report and explained that the Regeneration, Highways and Transportation Division would be asked to provide comments in response to the recommendations following this meeting. The response would then be presented to the Board in two months for further scrutiny.

Councillor Hall paid thanks to those officers within the Council who had provided written and verbal information, as well as the input of the Cabinet Lead Member. He was also particularly pleased with the level of contribution from private sector contacts.

Councillor Hall stated that the recommendations that arose from the review were split into large scale and strategic recommendations and short-term, imaginative steps. It was further noted that there was a need to improve the gateway approaches into the City

In response to the report, a comment was made in relation to the fact that 1% of those who gained employment as part of the Highcross Development had a disability and it was felt that this was particularly low. Councillor Hall agreed to ensure that the department would be asked to refer to this within their overall response to the report.

In light of the recommendation that major routes into the city should be improved, it was stated that this should be considered more widely than just in the interests of the Highcross.

A further view that arose from the discussion was that more should be done to

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encourage cycling between the Highcross and other city centre developments such as Phoenix Square and Curve. Councillor Hall shared the view and hoped that discussions in relation to promoting this would take place.

Members of the Board shared the view within the recommendations that bus operators should run services that reflected the more flexible opening hours of city centres stores. It was also felt that the report should be sent to the bus companies for their information. Councillor Hall stated that there was a need to look at bus provision as part of an overall city centre strategy and that initial discussions on some of the key issues would take place with the City Centre Director. Furthermore, Councillor Hall stated that it would be useful to review how bus services could meet modern needs.

### RESOLVED:

- (1) That along with the comments set out above, the recommendations of the Task Group be supported
- (2) That the report be re-submitted to the Board on 15 April 2010 to include a departmental response; and
- (3) That the report be sent to the local bus companies for their information.