

ANNEX C

LRC Masterplan Stage 2 Strategic Framework

PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF S P & R SCRUTINY (To which all Council Members, Directors and LRC Board members were invited)

July 1st 2002

Present

Councillors; Bhatti, Farmer, Henry, Hunt, Hunter, O' Brien, Osman, Sood and Soulsby.

Officers and others in attendance; John Nicholls(LRC), Kishor Tailor, Nick Rhodes, Diana Chapman, Frazer Robson, Yolanda Courtney, Joanna Bunting, Martin Field, Tony Hill.

A presentation by Nora Galley from Roger Tym & Partners the lead consultants preparing the masterplan, was followed by a question and answer session. The key points raised were;

Access and movement / ring road

- The pedestrian perspective must not be forgotten from design details and designs, in particular in the removal of the ring road (MH).
- Enthusiasm for removal the western portion of ring road.(KH)
- If the ring road is removed where does the traffic go? (GH)
- NG explained that traffic modelling is being done and results will be available in Sept/Oct. These will help answer the question but the other schemes do not rely on the removal of the ring road.
- Has enough emphasis been placed on the opportunity and need for Belgrave connections, n/s and e/w?(GH)
- NG said that there were ambitions to remove Burleys and Belgrave flyovers.
- Support for vision although it is a huge challenge. Removal of the flyovers would be good and eyesores need to be tackled (MS).
- In relation to getting rid of the ring road we can learn from Birmingham (PS)

Deliverability

- The framework is impressive but can only be delivered if all partners sign up to it. What matters is the commitment of all. The Council needs to provide land, people and use of appropriate powers. (PS)
- Working on delivery mechanisms behind the scenes will be crucial for all partners, emda, ep and the council's corporate programmes. Direct development via emda or ep may be appropriate. There will be a need to

align outputs and strategies to secure development and investment that would otherwise go elsewhere (GH)

- It will be crucial for the Council to be committed to the final vision and geared up to deliver its part. An early session with members and officers was requested to hear the formal responses to the masterplan ideas (PS).
- KT explained the next step in the current work programme was Leader's Briefing on 8 July. Cabinet and Scrutiny dates would be discussed then.
- It was agreed that the stage 2 report was a good start and it was supported for taking forward to public debate, subject to the other comments made. The momentum should be maintained.

Retail

- A non fractured retail circuit is essential to make the city centre work (PS)
- Concerns about the cost and deliverability of relocating the market but if the market relocation can be successfully funded and delivered, returning the area to the flexible use it once had (only as far back as the early 20th century), would be an important part of the masterplan (PS).
- An Italianate piazza would enhance the City centre, if the market can be accommodated elsewhere in a location where heavy bags can be taken to nearby bus stops and access improved (KH)
- Clarification was asked about terms such as "compact core" (KH)
- Is the retail core too small? (GH)

London Road station project/ Performing Arts Centre

- Welcome PAC on Charles St. police station site, or another high profile use. (PS)
- In relation to the performing arts centre proposals would the relocation to the police station site be possible in terms of timing and cost? (KH)
- NG responded that work was underway immediately to fully investigate how this could be accomplished. The City Council team and Haymarket Theatre chief exec. are fully involved and supportive if it could be done in time and costs met.
- The future of the station building? (KH)
- NG assured that there were no proposals to demolish the facade but rather seek an appropriate, active use such as gallery shops, restaurant or an art gallery.
- The Charles St. police station site has time constraints and site difficulties such as ground conditions that need investigating (TO'B)
- In relation to the relocation of the theatre, the priority must be getting the best site for long term success. (PS)

Waterfront

- Ideas for the waterfront are interesting and even more could be made of this asset (PS)
- Waterside is a hidden asset to be rediscovered. A lido is a good idea (KH)

Complementary Projects

- The complementary DMU masterplan needs to make more of the waterfront/riverside and links to the old town (PS).

Abbey Lane/ Park Road area

- Proposals around Abbey Park Road area need to improve links to the Belgrave Road area (PS).

Saint Georges North/new residential community

- The proposals for a new residential community sound good but how can we ensure that support facilities such as a school are provided for families (KH)
- NG said that the live/work area ideas would need infrastructure to be provided step by step, there would be direct development as part of the development package from the public sector to be paid back later by the developers. The details would need to be worked out in stages 3/4 of the masterplan as part of the feasibility work and delivery plan.

General Comments

- How can we be sure that these ideas are better than the mistakes of the past, such as the ring road?(KH)
- NG said that in relation to ideas such as the ring road the masterplan sees infrastructure serving functions/activities. LRC would listen to what the market could deliver and what is needed to serve the new developments before deciding on project elements. The LRC is about organic growth.
- Could a burial area for ashes be provided?(MS)
- How far will the masterplan be able to address issues of housing and employment in the Abbey area? Will there be jobs to address shortages and help retain and attract graduates to the City ? (MS)
- The masterplan needs to reflect, the rationalisation of Leicester College, features such as the Roman remains, Holy Bones, ethnic performing arts activities etc (MS)
- Could area be extended to include the Brunswick St. area of St. Matthews?(AO)

Public Involvement and ownership

- There needs to be greater involvement of local people in the preparation of the masterplan(MS)
- The Shires event is not enough consultation. Could something be done for the Mela and Caribbean carnival? (GH)

Diana Chapman
July 3 2002