



Leicester
City Council

**MINUTE
EXTRACT**

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

Held: WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Farmer - Chair
Councillor Thomas - Labour Spokesperson
Councillor O'Brien - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Draycott
(for Cllr. Waddington)
Councillor Fitch

Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Ramsdale
(for Cllr. Saleh)

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17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Draycott declared a non-prejudicial interest in Report C, "Affordable Housing in Leicester" as a member of her family was a Council house tenant.

Councillor Thomas declared a non-prejudicial interest in Report B, "Greater Humberstone SRB Programme: Mundella Site Disposal" as he was Ward Councillor for part of the area covered by the SRB programme.

All Members of the Committee declared that they had received letters from organisations in support of Homeworkers Campaign for Change and the Leicester and County Co-operative Development Agency. This was in relation to Report A "Voluntary Sector Budget Reductions".

Councillors Farmer, Fitch and Kitterick also declared that they had been personally lobbied by both organisations also.

23. GREATER HUMBERSTONE SRB PROGRAMME: MUNDELLA SITE DISPOSAL

The Service Director, Regeneration submitted a report which provided the

Committee with an update on the proposal by the Greater Humberstone Community Development Ltd. to acquire part of the former Mundella Community College site for a range of community uses. The report followed on from a meeting which was held between the Chair and Spokespersons of the Committee and the SRB programme's Mundella Steering Group.

The Chair welcomed Merrick Platts from the Greater Humberstone Community Development Ltd. (GHCDL) and invited him to speak to the Committee. Mr Platts noted that the area affected by the GHCDL included parts of Charnwood ward further to those indicated in the report. He requested that the GHCDL be fully informed of the timetable for the disposal of the site to a property developer. He also requested that the playing fields at the Community College be made available for community use during the school holidays.

The Head of Lifelong Learning also attended the meeting and outlined the Lifelong Learning opportunities available in the local area and the options for developing these further. He gave in principal support for the project but commented that any possible relocation of services to the Mundella Site would have cost implications.

Members of the Committee requested that the signage advertising the sale at the site be amended to fit in with the requests of the GHCDL.

The Committee was also informed that a timetable and a booklet for the marketing of the site had now been produced. It was explained there would be two bidding rounds before a Cabinet decision.

The Committee requested it be noted that they were in unanimous support of the sale of the site at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair then summed up the discussion and the following recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED:

that the following be recommended to Cabinet;

that the relevant Departments of the City Council assist Greater Humberstone Community Development Ltd. in its aim of acquiring part of the Mundella site for use by the community, in particular it is recommended:-

- (1) that a clear timetable is established for the disposal of the site to a developer which is made available to the Committee, the Greater Humberston Community Development Ltd and the Cabinet;
- (2) that all necessary legal and property arrangements associated with the sale of the site receive prompt attention;

- (3) that professional support is provided to the Greater Humberstone Community Development Ltd in negotiating a Section 106 agreement with the eventual developer;
- (4) that the commitment of the Life Long Learning Division is obtained as to its Cluster / Local learning Plans and operational intentions in regard to the proposed community learning facility;
- (5) that signage be displayed at the site advertising the sale which is agreeable to all stakeholders including the Greater Humberstone Community Development Ltd.;
- (6) that it would be desirable for the playing fields to be made available for community use during the summer holidays;
and
- (7) that the Committee receive a further report on progress.