



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ARTS, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Clair - Chair
Councillor Mrs Maw - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Sandringham - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Green
Councillor Hall

Councillor Keeling
Councillor Seare

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12. 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 Sandringham declared a non prejudicial interest in Item 22 as she was a manager at the Healthy Living Centre.

Councillor Seare declared a prejudicial interest in Item 23 as her Partner worked for the Braunstone Community Association. Councillor Seare left during consideration of this item.

19. DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development presented a report introducing the draft protocol and working procedures for negotiating developer contributions that could be sought by the authority from developments in the City. Contributions could be sought towards open spaces, public art and local infrastructure, such as link roads and bridges. The process by which the assessment of the type and scale of these contributions should be determined was explained and clarified. It was reported that Cabinet had approved a dedicated 'Developer Contributions' post which it was suggested be funded for a twelve month period from the Planning Delivery Grant, a bid to fund the post had also been submitted to the Leicestershire Economic Partnership.

Following discussion with legal services it had been recommended that a

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Members Advisory Panel on developer contributions would not be necessary as it was felt that the Development Control Committee adequately served this function already and also prevented any issues of overlap, conflict, delay and duplication. It was reported that other scrutiny committees were being consulted on the draft protocol, after which comments would be passed to Cabinet.

Members welcomed the report and expressed their opinion that the management of Developer Contributions would benefit from a corporate, strategic approach. They felt that guidance would make it clearer to developers how the authority expected them to contribute to public open spaces and public art. Some concern was raised regarding the effect the protocol could have on land prices and the possibility that it may discourage some developers. In particular it was felt that the decision to appoint a dedicated officer to manage developer contributions was a good idea and members asked for clarification on the progress made on appointing to this post. Members noted that it had been recommended not to create a Members Advisory Panel but expressed their opinion that should issues arise that fall within the Committee's remit they should be involved.

The Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development accepted that a balance needed to be sought to prevent reduction in land prices. It was also explained that the skills required for the Developer Contributions Post were very specific and that should it prove difficult to appoint to the post it may be necessary to initially use a consultant.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Members noted the draft protocol as set out in Appendix A as Corporate Procedure for the assessment of development proposals, and the production of Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- (2) That Members noted the Cabinet decision in January 2003 to create the Developer Contributions post and agreed to fund this for a 12 month period from the Planning Delivery Grant. A bid to fund the post had also been submitted to the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership.
- (3) That in light of advice from the Assistant Head of Legal Services and the issues highlighted in this report, Members recommended that a Members Advisory Panel should not be established.