

Minutes of the Meeting of the LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2005 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

<u>Councillor Shelton – Chair – Cultural Services Stream</u>) Councillor Mrs. Maw – Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Thompson – (Chair – Highways and Transportation Stream)

Councillor Panchbhaya – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Wann – Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Allen Councillor Seare (for Councillor Sandringham

Councillor Green Councillor Shelton
Councillor Hall Councillor Tessier
Councillor Ramsdale Councillor Vincent

Also in Attendance

Councillor Connelly – Cabinet Member for Leisure Councillor Kitterick – Cabinet Member for Transport

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(Councillor Thompson in the Chair)

63. LEICESTER ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report that gave details of Leicester's Environment Strategy as developed by the Leicester Environment Partnership (LEP) on behalf of the Leicester Partnership.

The Committee gave full consideration to the objectives set out in the report and a number of comments were made. Members were informed that under recent legislation the City Council had been granted wider powers to tackle a number of previous problem areas, identified within the report, and that a list of these powers would be circulated to members.

A member of the Committee stated that he generally supported the aims of the strategy but was totally opposed to the objective regarding the possible introduction of work place car parking charges. This view was supported by several members who felt that this measure would, in effect, represent a wage cut for many workers.

A member of the Committee welcomed the strategy and felt that it was important that the document be kept to the forefront and that a number of the objectives justified being fed into the local school curriculum, therefore bringing aspects of the overall strategy to the attention of local children. Other objectives within the report, such as dog fouling, fly-tipping and illegal trading, were areas that had been of concern to members for some while and it was important that regular feedback was given on progress made to meet the objectives, this view was generally supported.

The Committee were informed that with regards to litter in the City Centre, that following 2 years of PSA funding, the effects were becoming noticeable and it was intended to expand these measures into other areas of the City. From April 2005 the night time deposit of fast food wrappings on streets and footways would be looked at closely with a view to tackling the problems.

A Committee member questioned whether local produce could be promoted in the markets under City Council control, on farmers market days. County based farmers should be encouraged to sell their produce in the City on these days. The officers stated that these comments would be referred to the Markets Manager.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that the Leicester Environment Strategy be endorsed.
- 2) that the preparation of action plans and monitoting arrangements to ensure the effective delivery of the strategy be supported.
- 3) that Cabinet be recommended to support the suggestion of this Committee that the matters referred to in the Environmental Implications section of all Committee and Cabinet reports be linked, where possible, to the appropriate objectives within the Leicester Environment Strategy.