



Leicester
City Council

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

Held: THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 2005 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Scuplak - Chair
Councillor Thomas - Labour Spokesperson
Councillor Farmer – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Shelton
Councillor Fitch
Councillor J.Blackmore
(for Cllr Wann)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Keith Beaumont – Chief Executive, Braunstone Community Association
Dave Brennan – Deputy Chief Executive, Braunstone Community Association

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88. DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Service Director, Environment submitted a report advising the Committee of the requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to prepare a Local Development Scheme and to seek views of the scheme prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

A Member of the Committee queried how often the scheme could be modified. The Head of Development Plans commented that this was not entirely clear but the guidance pointed at least to an annual review and possibly more often if required. The Member then indicated that he would be voting against giving support to the scheme as he felt it did not provide sufficient community involvement in the planning system. The Head of Development plans stated that the Scheme would have to contain a Statement of Community Involvement, this would be classified as a Non - Development Plan Document which would be consulted on to consider which would be the preferred methods of community involvement.

Members of the Committee discussed further the issue of community involvement in the planning process. It was queried whether matters arising from community involvement could be considered as a material consideration

in a planning application and therefore causing it to be refused. Officers commented that this wasn't the case. Members were generally of the opinion that the public needed to be more aware of how the planning system worked, in particular the small amount of discretion the Council had over planning applications. The Head of Development Plans commented that the Statement of Community Involvement could be created in a variety of ways with different trigger points for community involvement. The Service Director, Environment also commented that a balance needed to be struck between the need to consult on planning applications and the need to process them quickly to meet requirements for performance, although he expected the further use of electronic communications would aid this process.

Members of the Committee suggested that an article in link would raise public awareness about the Council's discretion in planning matters. The Service Director, Environment commented this would be possible in a future edition that was proposed to focus on regeneration issues.

RESOLVED:

that the Committee gives its support to the Draft Local Development Scheme.

Councillor Farmer asked that his opposition to the above be recorded.