



Leicester  
City Council

**MINUTE  
EXTRACT**

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

Held: WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2005 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor A. Vincent- Chair  
Councillor Kitterick- Labour Spokesperson  
Councillor Porter-Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Henry  
Councillor Smith (for Cllr. Renold)

Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Waddington

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**22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

There were no declarations.

**30. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Service Director submitted a report giving members of the Committee an opportunity to make comments on the Draft Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document.

The Head of Development Plans circulated a summary of responses to the consultation which had been undertaken on the Document.

One Member of the Committee suggested that the Document should seek a move away from using polystyrene in building development. He felt that more use should be made of locally sourced and recycled materials. He also suggested alternatives to Portland cement should be promoted, as large amounts of CO2 were emitted during its production. He also recommended that greater emphasis be placed on refurbishing existing buildings as it was less environmentally damaging than new builds.

Another Member of the Committee felt that the opportunities had been missed with regard to developing cycling provision in the city. It was felt that greater

emphasis should have been placed on the provision of cycling facilities in the student accommodation that was built in the city in recent years. It was also felt that, in general, stronger policies should be in place to encourage things like car clubs. He also felt that there needed to be better co-ordination on new developments with bus routes. He felt they should be in place when the development starts and that this should be the case for Ashton Green.

Another member commented further on cycling. It was felt that it could only be encouraged with suitable cycle lanes as roads were too dangerous.

The Head of Development Plans responded to these points. He felt it was an interesting point about locally sourced building materials. He noted that some development schemes recycle the material from the previous building onsite and use it in the new build. He noted that the East Midlands did have a high level of recycling of building materials. He also agreed that refurbishment of buildings was better than new build.

He stated that the Council's Better Buildings Officer was working towards producing literature which embedded good practice such as including high quality cycling facilities. He agreed that you need separate facilities for cycling. A plan was currently being developed for a cycle route which nearly mirrored the outer ring road. There were also new planning regulations requiring the demonstration of meeting cyclists needs.

He noted that there was a recent development in Hamilton where a bus route was in place on the development even though it had not been completed. He expected this to be the case in Ashton Green.

The Chair said he would recommend the greater use of district heating systems. He also welcomed the comments in favour of using double glazing in old buildings for their thermal value. The Head of Development Plans commented that it should be possible to develop district heating schemes on a smaller scale and felt that there could be opportunities as part of the upcoming Building Schools for the Future programme and the NHS Pathfinder projects.

**RESOLVED:**

that the comments of the Committee be noted.