



Leicester
City Council

**MINUTE
EXTRACT**

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Farmer - Chair
Councillor Kitterick – Labour Spokesperson
Councillor Porter – Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Bhatti
Councillor Renold (for Cllr. Garrity)

Councillor Clair

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20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were 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 applied to them.

There were no declarations.

26. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY OF LEICESTER

The Service Director, Regeneration, Highways & Transportation submitted a report meeting the Regeneration and Culture Department's obligation to report to the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations set out in the final report of the Night Time Economy Review Group.

With regard to crime and disorder, members of the Committee welcomed the reduction in crime figures and noted that further resources were being put into CCTV in the city centre. The initiatives which were currently being undertaken to reduce crime and disorder were also welcomed. Concerns were expressed regarding the way drug crime was being monitored. Members noted that the Licensing Forum, to which all licensees were invited was taking place regularly.

It was noted that there hadn't been any real progress on the development of a city centre forum. One member of the Committee felt it was particularly unsatisfactory that no forum of any kind had been set up for the city centre. He also commented that there was a particular need for high profile leadership for the city centre, which was something which other cities had, who had become successful.

A member of the Committee commented that the Chair and Spokespersons should oversee the monitoring of the recommendations of the review to ensure they are carried out and that regular reports should go to the Chair and Spokespersons for consideration.

A Committee member queried the progress being made with the cultural strategy. The Service Director, Culture commented that efforts were being made to extend the festivals programme; this was however dependent on funding being made available. The Chair suggested that the Crime and Disorder Partnership could assist with funding for festivals.

A member of the Committee commented that there needed to be a greater focus on providing attractions for a wider range of people. He noted that elderly people and families were afraid to visit the city centre at night. Taking this further another member of the Committee commented that there was a general lack of facilities for residents in the city centre. He recommended that each Council department provide a response on how they are addressing the needs of city centre residents.

Members of the Committee raised further points about the incompatibility of licensed premises and residential premises being in close proximity. The Licensing Team Leader outlined how residents could get involved in the licensing process. She noted however that there had generally been few complaints regarding city centre licensed premises. A further point was raised about the hours of operation of the Council's noise pollution service. It was felt that residents faced the worst noise problems after the service had finished for the night and therefore it should be extended. Officers commented that complaints could be raised with the new 101 number and ongoing early morning noise problems could be investigated. It was also noted that Licensing Officers would visit premises in the early morning if it was found they were causing a nuisance. A Committee member further recommended that closer working should take place between Licensing and Noise Pollution Officers. Officers commented that this had been tried but had proved ineffective.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Chair and Spokespersons undertake quarterly monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Night Time Economy Review Group;
- (2) that Corporate Directors be requested to provide a response on how they are meeting the needs of city centre residents;
- (3) that Cabinet be requested to provide an extended noise monitoring service, which operates later into the early hours of the morning;
- (4) that further analysis be undertaken on the potential areas

of conflict in the city centre between residential and licensed premises, ideally with the production of a map showing where these areas are.