



The Town Clerk reported that no petitions had been received.

## **120. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Town Clerk reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

## **121. PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 3: HOUSING**

The Corporate Directors of Regeneration and Culture and Adults and Housing submitted a report which informed Members of the Government's planning and housing policy changes in Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing, and advised Members of what these changes meant for Leicester's current planning policies.

Members asked if new criteria for affordable housing would supersede Leicester's Local Plan, and whether current applications which were due to be determined after 1 April 2007 would be affected. Officers explained that the new criteria would have to be used, and that these criteria were being applied to any relevant applications received during March 2007.

Discussion took place regarding what vacant buildings could be considered for Leicester's Empty Homes Strategy, and Members asked for a definition of which buildings could be compulsorily purchased for affordable housing. Officers agreed to investigate this.

Members asked if consideration could be given to producing supplementary planning documents to address gardens being considered as brownfield sites and the extension of boundaries for the retention of large family homes. Officers stated that these would have to be programmed into the future local development scheme work programme.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Committee note the report;
- 2) That Members of the Committee be provided with a definition of the types of buildings which could be considered for compulsory purchase, with a view to investigating some such buildings further;
- 3) That consideration be given to a review of the boundaries of areas for the retention of large family homes as part of the local development scheme work programme.

## **122. CITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES**

The Service Director, Regeneration, Highways and Transportation submitted a report which gave Members an initial opportunity to discuss the Government's agenda for City Development Companies (CDCs).

Members stated that they were supportive in principle of the proposals in the report, as long as no capacity or momentum was lost during the change. They agreed that current arrangements were confusing for businesses. They also felt that the Council should be in a position of leadership under the new arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the report and express its support for the proposals in principle, pending further detail to be supplied at a later date.

**123. CITY-WIDE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2006**

The Service Director for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation submitted a report which provided a short update on the report that was submitted to the Committee on 19 October 2006 regarding the Leicester Citywide Construction Project. The report highlighted future project activities and addressed queries from Members.

It was noted that two representatives from black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay and bisexual groups had been invited to the meeting at the request of the Committee, but they were unable to attend.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the report.

**124. 2006/07 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING PERIOD 9**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which updated Members on the progress of the capital programme for 2006/07 up to the end of December (Period 9).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the report.

**125. CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08**

At the request of the Chair and Spokespersons of the Committee, the Chief Finance Officer submitted a copy of a report which detailed the Corporate Capital Programme 2007/08.

Members acknowledged that the report had been considered by the Resources and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee and noted the resolution from their meeting of 15 March 2007. They also noted that the report would be given full consideration at the upcoming Council meeting and agreed not to discuss it at this time.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the report.

## **126. PRIVATE SESSION**

### **RESOLVED:**

that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because it involves the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)', and taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **127. CULTURAL QUARTER PHASE 2 - PHOENIX ARTS REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report which sought Members' approval to support work on a replacement for the Phoenix Theatre (known as the Digital Media Centre or DMC).

Members discussed the necessity for such a centre in the city and whether there would be sufficient demand for the project, considering how many similar centres were being set up in neighbouring cities. It was stated that the Leicester project was required and would be viable because of support from De Montfort University, as it would allow for graduate retention within the city. In addition, other, unique elements were to be included which made the project different to others within the East Midlands. The need to replace the Phoenix site was also explained and Members asked for supporting detail which identified this need to be provided prior to the issue's consideration at Council.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee note the report and ask that information which identified need of such a project be circulated to Members prior to consideration at Council.

## **128. LEICESTER THEATRE TRUST'S BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

The Acting Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report concerning the Leicester Theatre Trust's Business Plan for the operation of the Performing Arts Centre.

Members asked for further detail about sponsorship opportunities and clarification about breakdown of grants. These were explained to the Committee. Members also queried the terms of the warranty and insurance and who would be responsible for any repairs or maintenance needed. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate for the Environment and Culture

Scrutiny Committee to consider this aspect of the project.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the report.

**129. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

