



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
HERITAGE CULTURE LEISURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Halford (Chair)

Councillor Dr Barton

Councillor March

I N A T T E N D A N C E :

Councillor Clair – Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services

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**63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Byrne, Pickering and Shelton.

**64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interest they had in the business to be discussed.

Councillor Barton declared an interest in the open spaces discussed for the Leicester Local Plan (2020-2036) item, as they had used, archaeologically studied and campaigned for the spaces in prior years.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the interest was not considered so significant that it was likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest. The Member was not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

**65. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members were asked to confirm that the minutes of the meeting of the

Heritage, Culture, Leisure, and Tourism Scrutiny Commission held on 9 August 2022 were a correct record.

Joanna Jones, Head of Arts and Museums, requested change to the Ugandan Asians 50 Anniversary item, as the commemorative statue was not funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which funded the exhibition for the Ugandan Asian Anniversary at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. It was also noted that the exhibition was not currently touring, and the deadline had been extended to January 2023, therefore the statement referring to the exhibitions return on 23 December 2023 was invalid.

AGREED:

That the minutes from the Commission meeting held 9 August 2022 be amended as noted above and confirmed as a correct record.

**66. UPDATE OF PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA)**

AGREED:

That the updates of the progress against actions of the previous meetings be noted.

**67. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

**68. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

**69. LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN (2020-2036) - PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SUBMISSION PLAN (REGULATION 19)**

Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission were invited to jointly participate in the agenda item.

The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation submitted a report and a presentation which outlined the main strategies and proposed site allocations of the Local Plan for the City of Leicester. Members of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism, and Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commissions were recommended to note the key local plan strategies, policies, site allocations, and provisions for consultation and provide comment to the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation if they so wished.

All Members were requested in an email sent out earlier in the day, to submit

their questions early to allow for a more detailed answer by Planning Officers present.

The Chair reminded Members present to limit any questions to be asked to the terms of reference of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission and the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission.

Grant Butterworth, (Head of Planning), Rachael Mkanza (Senior Planner) and Joseph Todd (Planner), were present to answer any questions put forward by Members of the two Commissions.

The Head of Planning presented the report and associated presentation and outlined the following:

- Comments made during the meeting would be referred back to in Overview Select Committee on Tuesday, 27 September, before being put forward to Full Council on 11 October 2022.
- The Draft Leicester Local Plan had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through since the last consultation, 3,500 representations had been received.
- According to Government changes to Housing guidance and legislation, Leicester was required to increase the housing available by 35%, equivalent to 39,424 dwellings, or 2,464 per annum.
- Policy changes and impacts on the hospitality sector, energy, environment, and public health and equalities had been assessed during the consultation stage to inform the plan and ensure the viability of the final proposal.
- The current proposed submission for the Local Plan includes 4 strategic housing sites, of which the Leicester General Hospital, part of land North of the A46 bypass had since been removed. A further 21 smaller sites had been removed on the grounds of representations, availability, biodiversity, and loss of open space.
- The Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire had sets the context for a Statement of Common Ground which had been signed by a number of Authorities, to secure redistribution of the shortfall number of 18,700 dwellings, and 23 hectares of employment land.
- An error was noted in the report regarding the hectares the proposed plan was able to meet for employment need, with 30 hectares being the correct number.
- Regarding the Central Development Area (CDA), capacity for provision of dwellings had been increased from 4,900 to 6,286. The focus of the area was for commerce, retail, culture, leisure, and entertainment. Emphasis was placed on protecting and enhancing historic sites and environment, as well as to improve current open green spaces. Further detailed Tall Building policies in the form of Supplementary Planning Guidance would need to be developed for consultation post the adoption of the Local Plan in line with the Government's New National Design Code.
- It was noted that some green wedge will be lost, and quantity of public open space would be reduced, although removal of sites had reduced

this loss significantly.

- It was noted that there would be a 30% policy provision of affordable housing on greenfield sites
- The Local Plan would link to Leicester's Local Transport Plan and Transforming Cities Programme, to improve transport hubs and connections. The Plan would promote walking, cycling and sustainable transport.

Members of the Commission discussed the report, which included the following points:

- An important factor was to meet the target set and to evidence that sites that were deliverable during the Plan period with an indication of when delivery might be achieved.
- The next consultation stage tested the suitability for the Plan to be submitted to Government.
- The Local Plan housing target had been informed by a range of factors including population growth, migration, and changes in housing markets, both locally and nationally. A new approach to setting housing targets was being developed by the Government.
- The increase in planned dwellings in the Central Development Area had been assessed allowed for delivery with National Internal Space Standards.
- Impact on green spaces would be minimised as much as possible and retained open spaces would be enhanced to mitigate any loss. Most of the Plan supply was planned to be delivered on brown field land..
- The number of sites proposed on playing fields had been reduced to three sites at Manor House (Narborough Road), Judgemeadow Community College and Welford Road playing fields. Two of these would retain sports use on part of the site. Sport England had objected to a range of sites and the consultation response was an important factor in the assessment process.
- Decisions regarding the Council's proposal to deliver the housing schemes on Council owned sites was a future matter for the Executive, and not set through allocation in the Local Plan. The Local Plan effectively established the acceptability of the principle of development, and subsequent decisions would be taken on the method of delivery, which would belong to the Council outside of the planning process. Future planning applications would be submitted to the Planning and Development Control Committee by whoever was developing the site after adoption of the Local Plan confirmed the acceptability of the proposed allocations.
- With regard to issues such as heritage and archaeology at strategic sites such as Western Park Golf Course, it was confirmed that all proposed sites had been sifted through and investigated for suitability and deliverability. Further detailed assessment and mitigation would need to be carried out at the planning application stage.
- Loss of open space such as at Rancliffe Crescent had been considered carefully in proposing sites for allocation including local sufficiency of

- provision and potential mitigation options on and off site.
- With regard to the allocation adjacent to the Great Central Railway at Redhill, it had been proposed to improve the facility in line with a previous Heritage Lottery Fund application. The whole of the allocation was not likely to be required as there were a range of constraints which would need to be considered in more detail when the scope of proposal was confirmed.

**AGREED:**

1. That the Leicester Local Plan report be noted.
2. That in taking decisions on the delivery of the allocations in the Local Plan (once it is confirmed), the executive seeks to maximise the social housing delivery on Council owned sites (wherever possible).
3. That in regard to green spaces used for non-housing uses, (such as leisure) the green space impact should be minimised and mitigated and be fully justified.
4. That new development should be designed to deliver a distinctive sense of place and character.
5. That the recommendations be passed to the Overview Select Committee on Tuesday, 27 September 2022.

## **70. HERITAGE PANELS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submitted a report on the progress of the Heritage Panels Project across Leicester city. Members were recommended to note the report and provide comment on future panel themes.

Clare Hudson, Project Manager, and Mark Simmons, Audience Development and Engagement Manager were present to answer questions put forward by Members of the Commission.

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services introduced the item.

Members discussed the report which included the following points:

- As of 16 September 2022, 193 of the targeted 300 panels had been achieved.
- The project was noted to be the biggest heritage interpretation project in the UK.
- The target of 300 panels by March 2023 was noted to be achievable and the project was ahead of schedule.
- Collaborative work with the Council Tourism team was underway to identify historical landmarks with communities in Leicester, as potential locations and themes for Heritage Panels.
- Concerns were raised regarding the Panels potentially obscuring their landmarks, and using names of individuals for Panel themes, which could cause confusion for both locals and tourists who were not aware

of the identity of the individual. It was noted that work was underway to identify ways to change named panels without changing the design and purpose.

- New staff with skills in writing and interpretation with archaeological or historical backgrounds were involved in the research of potential panels, which had led to two panels being shortlisted in the women's movement and Unitarian categories.
- Members were advised to contact Clare Hudson or Mark Simmons with any ideas for Heritage Panels.

The Chair thanked the officers for the report.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an update be brought to the Commission in a future meeting.

## **71. AUTUMN / WINTER EVENTS PROGRAMME**

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submitted a presentation on the Autumn / Winter events programme held in Leicester city in 2022. Members of the Commission were recommended to note the report.

Chris Hackett, Deputy Festival and Events Manager, was present to deliver the presentation and answer questions put forward by the Commission.

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services introduced the item.

The Deputy Festival and Events Manager summarised the Summer and Autumn programme of events. It was noted that the summer events had been successful with high rates of attendance. The programmed events were noted to vary in their delivery; either delivered in-house or in partnership with other communities or organisations.

Members were pleased with the success of the summer events programme, noting that it had brought back a sense of normality to the city after the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members were also happy with the environmental theme for the programme.

Members questioned how the events team would engage with local communities for future events. It was noted that engagement with different schools and communities were ongoing throughout the year to ensure the events and their sites were informed and held relevance.

Members discussed the importance of festivals and events for the city and their connection to the reputation and relevance of the city.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Commission thanked the staff involved in the events programme for their hard work.
3. That an investigation into the economic impact of festivals in the city be brought to a Commission meeting in the new year.

## **72. TASK GROUP REVIEW UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on the progress of the task group review into Women's Participation in Sport and Physical Activity in Leicester.

It was noted that the review continued to progress well, and that the survey attached was live to the public. The Chair requested Members present to publicise the work in hopes of increasing feedback received.

The survey was expected to run for six weeks. Members agreed that the survey be extended for an extra week due to the Queen's period of mourning.

Members considered the impact of external factors on answers provided; and questioned the relevance of the information gathered and the usefulness of the questions on the survey.

AGREED:

1. That the update be noted, and a final draft report be brought to the Commission later in the year.
2. That the findings presented in the final report inform the Council's new Sports Strategy work.
3. That the survey be extended a week's duration in light of the Queen's passing.

## **73. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

AGREED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

## **74. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:19pm.

