



Leicester  
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2009 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Grant – Chair  
Councillor Bhatti – Vice-Chair

Councillor Glover  
Councillor Joshi

Councillor Hall  
Councillor Newcombe  
Councillor Potter

Also In Attendance

Councillor Connelly

Cabinet Member for Culture and  
Leisure

Councillor Russell

Cabinet Member for Environment

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**53. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - DRAFT CORE STRATEGY**

The Director of Planning and Economic Development submitted a report which outlined plans to publish the Local Development Framework Draft Core Strategy for public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The Director of Planning and Economic Development introduced the paper along with Alison Bowen, Planning Policy Team Leader. It was noted that the strategy incorporated the land use development elements of the One Leicester Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Strategy would be subject to a six-week full public consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State. The Board requested that an update on the results of the consultation be received prior to submission.

Further explanation was sought around the criteria used for forming the retail hierarchy. A Member of the Board questioned why the Queens Road retail area had not been listed as a proposed district centre. Alison explained that detailed consideration for every centre in Leicester had been undertaken, and

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that the decision was ultimately made according to the range of retail facilities and the total number of retail units. She also explained that the Queens Road retail area fell just outside of the retail criteria and this was partly due to it serving as a large student catchment area. On a relating matter, another Member of the Board felt that greater clarity was required in terms of the location of certain sites, as several different retail areas existed on certain roads. It was pointed out that the strategy was a strategic document and that its purpose was not to propose precise locations for development.

In terms of the city centre shopping core boundary, a question was asked around whether this limited the range of land and building use. Officers noted that the city centre shopping core boundary was the same as detailed in the Local Plan. It had been concluded that this area contained significant capacity to cater for Leicester's retail needs until 2017. It was also stated it was important that the core area had a focus towards retailing but that it did not exclude the possibility of alternative uses.

A further question was asked in respect of the degree of protection that existed around green wedges. Officers responded by stating that green wedges had the highest possible level of green space protection.

In terms of transport, a Member of the Board stated opposition to the possibility of introducing tram services in Leicester, and stated that he was not convinced of the environmentally friendly elements of tram developments. He felt that attention should be directed towards improving bus services. The Director of Planning and Economic Development replied by explained that the Local Transport Plan aimed to achieve a balanced approach to good quality public transport provision, and that a key element of this was to promote choice. He referred to evidence around the success of tram services in neighbouring cities.

A Member was of the view that there had been a significant amount of housing development in the Hamilton area in recent years, and this had not been complimented with the provision of suitable community facilities and public transport options. The member raised concern around the number of proposed developments in the same area given that there were very few community facilities in existence. The Director of Planning and Economic Development pointed out that all of the proposed housing sites in Hamilton had acquired a planning status through allocation in the local plan and some had planning permission. It was explained that the provision of community facilities could potentially form part of planning applications for housing developments where this could reasonably be expected arising from the development. Alternatively, community development facilities could be provided directly by the City Council where a need was demonstrated and resources were able to be prioritised in this way, though it was accepted that both processes were fairly complex.

Several Members expressed concern around the lack of reference towards the provision of land for cemeteries and crematoria. Officers explained that these services were included in the strategy, but that as it was a strategic document, no locations had been proposed, and that this would be explored in subsequent documents.

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In response to a request by a member of the Board, officers agreed to amend appendix 5 of the report so that the Asquith Boulevard local centre would include reference to Shackerdale Road and that the Queens Road local centre include reference to Clarendon Park Road.

### RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That the comments of the Board, as detailed above, be passed to the Cabinet
- (3) That a report that gave detail of the results of the six week public consultation be brought to the Board; and
- (4) That Supplementary Planning Guidance documents that related to the Draft Core Strategy be offered to the Board for their consideration.