

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting held 15th March 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Mazher Iqbal (Chair), Roger Davison, Denise Fox,
Pat Midgley, Cate McDonald, Robert Murphy, Joe Otten,
Tim Rippon, Geoff Smith and Joe Taylor

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Paul Scriven and no substitute was nominated.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were identified where a resolution may be moved to exclude the public and press

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted and responses to public questions were provided as follows:-

1. In response to a question from Vonny Watts, the Chair explained that the purpose of the agenda item regarding Strategic Planning Policy in Sheffield was to provide an overview of the Sheffield Development Framework (SDF) and not to discuss individual sites. Consultation on the SDF had only recently been completed and officers were in the process of assessing the responses. In time, a report would be presented to Cabinet which would be available to the public and on which representations could be made.

2. The Chair indicated that a written response would be provided to the series of written questions on the SDF submitted by Mr Richard Pearson.

5. MAKING THE MOST OF THE 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

5.1 Gary Clifton, Major Events Manager, gave a presentation on Making the Most of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, during which he highlighted the benefits for Sheffield so far, 2011 successes, high performance success and important events in 2012, including the torch relay and Games send off. He also provided details of the 2012 Major Events Programme and the Council's partners.

5.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- It was a source of frustration that some events, such as the Olympiad event at the City Hall, had not been given better publicity.
- Sports associations and teams using the City's facilities were making a payment for their use.
- The Council and its partners were always learning in terms of getting teams to come to the City and it was felt that the long term investment made in sport and relationships with the various sporting associations had assisted this process. The City had a long term history of hosting major events and had a good reputation in terms of deliverability and service to the athletes and teams who visited and this would hopefully encourage them to come to the City again.
- The number of additional visitors to the City had been calculated from people visiting events and those who had made online bookings could be contacted. People visiting the City were probably not provided with as much information as they could be and further consideration needed to be given to this issue.
- It was of the highest importance for the City to strategically understand what sport meant to it and what the associated business opportunities were.
- In terms of promoting the City offer, officers were working with the Marketing Sheffield team and also needed to work more closely with Welcome to Yorkshire.
- The 2012 Games appeared to have made the local media interested in other sports and it was felt that event organisers were pushing more at an open door with the local media.
- The City's transport services had done an excellent job in relation to disability events which had been held. Furthermore, other successes had involved diving, table tennis and the UK School Games.
- It was felt that sports should now put money back into the City and there was a need to start influencing this issue.
- It was important to look for additional benefits from the events for the people of Sheffield and it was considered that more could be done in relation to this.
- The take-up of the Get Set education programme at any individual school was considered to be dependent on the members of staff at that school.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Gary Clifton for his presentation and congratulates him on the achievements associated with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- (b) notes the information report; and
- (c) asks Gary Clifton to attend a future Committee meeting in the Autumn to provide a debrief on activities associated with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and to assess how this work could be built upon.

6. STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY IN SHEFFIELD

6.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Place, which was supported by a presentation delivered by Peter Rainford, Principal Planning Officer, on Strategic Planning Policy in Sheffield. The presentation provided an update on the report presented to the Culture, Economy and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in November 2010 and highlighted major current issues, namely national policy changes, Sheffield's share of regional development, the housing market and the need for new sites and infrastructure and the proposed new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

6.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows

- In order to achieve a more joined up approach, Planning Officers were working with Licensing Officers to produce supplementary guidance on areas such as Broomhill and Ecclesall Road where there was a high incidence of public houses, restaurants and takeaways.
- With regard to the CIL, a formal decision needed to be made on what was meant by 'meaningful proportion' for local spending. It was possible that Community Assemblies would make local decisions regarding the CIL, but a decision on this had not yet been through the Council's formal decision-making process.
- Neighbouring districts were under a duty to co-operate with each other and this needed to be demonstrated to the Planning Inspectorate. The Council had suggested that Rotherham MBC should maintain its housing requirement or include additional reserve provision in its Green Belt proposals.
- It was anticipated that most Authorities would review their CIL every three years.
- It was hoped that "sustainable development" would be independently defined so that national policy was not based on circular reasoning.

- The Council used the definition of sustainable development as outlined in the UK Sustainability Strategy and even though the Sustainability Commission had been abolished this didn't mean that their definition couldn't be used.
- Flexibility could be viewed as a strength and a weakness; it was not helpful to prescribe too much certainty but flexibility could create ambiguity.
- There would be consultation on local plans at each stage in which Members would be involved.
- Existing policy was clear in relation to greenfield sites with priority being given to brownfield sites. However, the Core Strategy had a trigger mechanism which would bring in additional greenfield sites if it was considered that housing targets would not be met using only brownfield sites.

RESOLVED: That the Committee thanks Peter Rainford for his presentation and notes the information reported.

7. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January 2012 were approved as a correct record. Arising from their consideration, it was noted that representatives of the Sheffield Climate Alliance had met with the Council's Economic Strategy Team in relation to the refresh of the Economic Strategy.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd February 2012, were approved as a correct record, subject to Councillors Joe Otten and Joe Taylor having their votes against the resolution recorded at Note 1 and their votes in favour of the alternative resolution at Note 2 at Item 5 being recorded.

8. **WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

8.1 The Scrutiny Policy Officer submitted the Committee's Work Plan for 2011/12 and the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period 29th February 2012 to 25th April 2012, for consideration.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That:-

- (a) the contents of the Committee's Work Plan 2011/12 be approved and that the following be noted:
 - (i) an item on the Upper Don Railway Trust was to be included for consideration at a future meeting; and

- (ii) there would be a Special Meeting of the Committee on 28th March 2012, at 2.00 pm to consider the Call-In of the Cabinet Highways Committee Decision on 20 mph Speed Limits; and
- (b) the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period 29th February 2012 to 25th April 2012, be received and noted.

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