

Overview & Scrutiny Task Group

Meeting Notes



| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Review topic | Date of Meeting |
| Lichfield City Centre Masterplan | 18 January 2024 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Attendance | Venue |
| Members: C. Ball (Chair) J. Checkland A. Hughes R. Harvey-Coggins P. Ray J. Smith Apologies D. Cross P. Whitehouse Officers: Will Stevenson Patrick Jervis Witnesses: | Committee Room |

Areas Discussed

The Chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

The Chair thanked Patrick Jervis for the information he had provided to members and asked if members had any questions.

The First Homes scheme was highlighted as something that should be considered.

Members asked about the mechanics of how housing associations can develop homes, including the possibility of applying for government grants. Officers explained how that system worked. The idea of "pepper potting" any social/affordable homes, rather than allocating all in one block was also discussed.

Members asked how LDC can ensure that the homes constructed in the city centre are truly affordable, given their prime location and price of other comparable properties nearby, or whether social housing should be pursued.

Members agreed a social mix in the city centre is important.

The Chair read out the email of Cllr Whitehouse who had provided his views in absence.

The Chair noted the council has a difficult decision over whether to focus on achieving the maximum possible capital receipts on the BRS, or to focus on ensuring elements of that site included affordable/social housing. There were a variety of views expressed on this subject. The task group highlighted that not all of them were privy to the exact numbers that had been provided to cabinet/shadow cabinets.

Members agreed that an overall plan, outlining which areas of the site would be allocated for which purposes, was key. It was questioned whether the video presentation released last year was still valid.

The Chair undertook to ask that Cllr Doug Pullen attend the next meeting, as well as Cllr Alex Farrell, and that he would ask John Smith to provide an up to date programme for the next meeting.

Outcomes

- Members had a robust discussion on the questions raised and agreed to follow these up at the next meeting.

Further Work Required/Next Steps:

- Members would return on February 8th for a follow up meeting with John Smith and Cabinet Member Cllr Farrell.