

ITEM 8

Minute Extract Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Review Board

22 January 2019

24/18 Update on Facilitating Inward Investment in Derby

The Board considered a presentation by John Forkin from Marketing Derby giving an update on facilitating inward investment in Derby.

The presentation included progress in Marketing Derby being consulted on planning applications and the development of an economic development advisory committee which engaged with 20 – 30 businesses to comment on major planning applications. There were some areas where progress was still to be made.

John Forkin reported that comments made by Marketing Derby had been integrated into the reports considered by the Planning Committee. These provided a different view to the comments of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

In relation to planning consultation processes it was noted that the council resourced the Conservation Area Advisory Committee but not the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

John Forkin referred to the challenges across the UK particularly in relation to the loss of retail in city centres and the need to diversify to become a place to live, work and visit. New office blocks were welcome as they attracted people into the city centre. In Derby there was a particular issue with the biggest employers being located outside of the city centre.

John Forkin concluded with trying to get a balance with people wanting to come to Derby, protecting the heritage but developing the area to attract inward investors to create a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Paul Clarke – Head of Planning explained about the numbers of planning applications dealt with over the last twelve months and the consultation process that they needed to follow. There was a service protocol on the council's website which set out the process and support offered to applicants for planning consent.

There was a need to have joined up working to enable the city to be vibrant and attract people in but there needed to be balance to make it work.

There was a discussion about consultation on planning applications and making sure there was a balance of views. Marketing Derby kept an eye on emerging trends and made an assessment of what was needed. Planning had a role in protecting what already existed.

There was a need both to plan for the future but also to be able to act quickly when the market demanded it to make sure the best outcome was achieved for the city.

Consideration needed to be given to linking lunchtime shopping opportunities and getting people to spend money in the local community. It was noted that the district centres in Allenton and Ascot Drive were making the areas vibrant. There were also retail opportunities at Kingsway being close to the hospital.

Members of the Board asked about where the economic development committee would sit best, within the Council or independent of it. It was felt that the comments received helped to give a more balanced view in reports. It was reported that Derby Renaissance Board was an already hosted Board with a voice that could be used as the vehicle to provide comments on planning applications and that it may be set up as a sub group of the Renaissance Board. It was useful to engage the wider business community to help shape the future of the city.

It was suggested that Council Cabinet be asked to acknowledge the contribution, being made by the group established through Marketing Derby, to improve information on the economic aspects of planning applications for major developments.

Resolved

- 1. To note the presentation.**
- 2. To recommend Council Cabinet to acknowledge the contribution, being made by the group established through Marketing Derby, to improve information on the economic aspects of planning applications for major developments.**