

**LIMEHURST DEPOT SCRUTINY PANEL  
TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2012  
NOTES OF MEETING**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Miah)  
Councillors Harris, Jones, Seaton and Shepherd

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services, Simon Jackson, attended the meeting to assist the Panel.

18. NOTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING/SCOPE DOCUMENT

Considered the notes of the Panel's meeting held on 5th January 2012 and the updated scope document detailing amendments made at that meeting (attached as an annex to the notes).

It was **AGREED** that the notes of the meeting held on 5th January 2012 be confirmed as a true record subject to:

- it being noted that Councillors Harris and Jones submitted their apologies and did not attend the meeting; and
- that the two sentences under the first bullet point of minute 13, Loughborough Business Improvement District, be separated to make two individual bullet points.

19. INFORMATION REQUESTED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE PANEL

Following the previous meeting of the Panel, the Chair had agreed to a request from Neil Greenhalgh, Head of Waste, Engineering and Green Spaces to be afforded the opportunity to give evidence.

Neil said that the Derby Road depot was currently used by around 20 to 25 operatives from Engineering and Green Spaces. Further staff were based at 'satellite depots' at Nanpantan, the cemetery and the workshop at the Limehurst Depot. There were also a large number of files stored at the Limehurst Depot, although these were soon to be disposed of once they had been saved electronically.

The recent Review of Waste, Engineering and Green Spaces Review, agreed by Cabinet on 24th November 2011, had brought about changes in management structure and efficiency savings but further improvements were possible.

The Senior Green Spaces Officer's staff were mainly split between the Southfields offices and Derby Road and the possibility of achieving efficiency savings through co-location was being investigated.

Derby Road was a vast site that went beyond the current fenced boundary all the way to Dishley Pond and there was plenty of room for parking and skips and therefore potential rental income. There was not enough office space but there was

potential to convert the changing rooms into offices. Security was also a concern as there had been breaches despite there being CCTV on site and nearby privately owned properties had also been targeted. Potentially there could be value in relocating services to Derby Road but the full site would not be utilised fully.

One potential option was to co-locate with Serco, who had recently moved from their Railway Terrace site to a site in Mountsorrel. The site probably had capacity to accommodate all staff from the service but due to its location on an industrial estate facilities would need to be provided for staff.

Councillor Miah asked if, hypothetically, staff were relocated to the Limehurst Depot, there would be a need to retain a satellite office at Derby Road. Neil said there wouldn't.

It was **AGREED** that members of the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remainder of the item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

*The meeting reconvened in public session.*

Neil Greenhalgh left the meeting at this point.

At the meeting of the Panel held on 5th January 2012 it had been resolved to invite evidence from British Waterways and the Environment Agency. Following the meeting the Chair had also agreed that evidence be requested from Leicestershire County Council as the highways authority. Accordingly, information had been received from all three organisations and had been circulated as agenda item 3.

Councillor Harris likened the potential remediation of the Limehurst Depot site to that of a previous development of a waste site and asked if the cost of such a process was known. Simon Jackson replied that the cost would vary depending upon the proposed development but it was likely that it would be less for the conversion to a car park than it would be for a residential development.

It was **AGREED**

1. that Neil be thanked for assisting the Panel;
2. that the information received from British Waterways, the Environment Agency and Leicestershire County Council be noted; and
3. that it be noted that no viewpoint had been received from British Waterways with regard to the future of the Limehurst Depot site from a commercial point of view.

## 20. TIMETABLE FOR REVIEW

It had been anticipated that the Panel would complete the review by February 2012 with a view to their final report being considered by Scrutiny Management Board at their meeting to be held on 28th March 2012.

The Panel discussed the options for future utilisation of the Limehurst Depot site and the style in which they should report them to Scrutiny Management Board and Cabinet.

It was **AGREED**

1. that the Strategic Director of Corporate Services be authorised to draft a report on behalf of the Panel detailing the 'Pros and Cons' of the following five options for future utilisation of the Limehurst Depot, based upon the findings of the Panel:

- Residential use;
- Commercial use;
- Conversion to a ground level car park;
- Utilisation as office/depot space by Charnwood Borough Council;
- Recreational use;

Draft report to be circulated to Panel members via email by 15th February 2012; and

2. that the final meeting of the Panel be held on Thursday 8th March 2012 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Southfields (*confirmed with Panel Members following the meeting*).