

REPORT UNDER RULE 2(vi) OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Report by Councillor Neil Murray, Portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration and Planning Policy.

Economic Regeneration remains pivotal amongst the council's main objectives. We have made great progress on major projects and are delivering on longstanding ambitions.

TRANSPORT HUB

Our transport hub project is progressing well and, when it is complete it will transform that part of the city centre. The car park will be open in November and the new bus station will be open in January.

WESTERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

This project is massive and vitally important in terms of the sustainable growth of the city and in providing housing at a time when housing growth is very poor. It will also deliver sporting and recreational facilities which Lincoln needs.

PARKING

Our parking services staff have done extremely well in the last year to continue providing an excellent service amidst the changes which have taken place in the construction phase of the new Multi storey car park and the bus station. I would like to thank all staff for their efforts and patience during this time.

The end result will be an increase in car parking spaces mostly provided directly by the city council itself and with weekend shared car parking with partners of 3,437 places. Officers have reached agreement with the County hospital and Lincoln University for weekend parking and we are in discussion with other potential partners.

REGENERATION IN PARK WARD

A good deal of work has gone into creating a better future for the Sincil Bank part of Park ward. I am hoping that residents will support a number of projects which different bodies have come up with.

RESIDENTS PARKING

Part of the problem with the Sincil Bank area is that road surfaces are in a very poor condition and, at the moment, the area is used as a free car park by commuters. I hope the Highway Authority will work with us to improve the parking and street surface situation. The area needs an uplift in the way it looks and how it is perceived by others.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

This time last year I was looking forward to a successful Christmas Market and I was not disappointed. It was an excellent event because of the huge amount of good work done by our staff over the course of a year. I am confident we can maintain that high standard of event again this year.

HERITAGE

Work is continuing on the council's new Heritage database. We are the first English local authority to adopt the ARCADE system which will provide the public with online access to heritage data, including records of historic buildings, archaeological discoveries, historic maps and a library of photographs and reports. Our officers are working with the Los Angeles based Getty Conservation Institute and Heritage England and it is hoped that the service will be available to the public next summer.

Our conservation areas have not been reviewed for some considerable time and we will be looking at conservation area "character zones". A fresh look will better inform the planning process and recognise how the city has changed over time.

The council has been successful in enforcing planning law in relation to an historic building and we are trying to bring another into occupation. It is important we do this to protect our historic environment and respect the law. We could do so much more but are hampered by the Austerity programme of central government which prevents us doing more to look after our historic environment.

Councillor Neil Murray

Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Planning Policy