

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

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

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.

WESTERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

We have had to delay a planning application for the Western Growth Corridor to do more work on the Highway aspects of the proposals. The project remains vitally important if we are to build the houses people need to live in and if we are to have better leisure facilities in Lincoln fit for the 21st century.

PARKING IN LINCOLN/TRANSPORT HUB

The Central Lincoln car park is now open. This gives greater choice to shoppers and commuters coming into Lincoln and replaces a tired and out of date facility. It also helps to regenerate the whole area along with the bus station and the works by the Co-op in the Sincil Street/Cornhill area.

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 and shoppers. 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. I was pleased to see that the Highway Authority has recently made a start by resurfacing Chelmsford Street.

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. Costs will be higher this year but I hope people will enjoy the market and the Christmas season.

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

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Executive Member for Planning Policy and Economic Regeneration