

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on **25 NOVEMBER 2013** from 3.37pm to 5.39pm

- ✓ Councillor Michael Edwards (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Azad Choudhry
- Councillor Jon Collins
- Councillor Georgina Culley
- ✓ Councillor Chris Gibson
- Councillor Brian Grocock
- ✓ Councillor John Hartshorne
- Councillor Nicola Heaton
- Councillor Nick McDonald
- ✓ Councillor David Mellen
- ✓ Councillor Anne Peach
- ✓ Councillor Dave Trimble
- Councillor Jane Urquhart

(✓ indicates present at meeting)

Business Sector / Other

- Jeff Allen (Vice Chair))
- Steve Pashley) Retail/Leisure BID (Business Improvement District)
- ✓ Tom Waldron-Lynch)
- Sean Akins)
- Jim Taylor) IIN (Invest in Nottingham) Retail Forum
- ✓ Jennifer Spencer - Experience Nottinghamshire
- ✓ Janine Bone - Intu Victoria Centre
- Andy Rooke - Nottinghamshire Police

(✓ indicates present at meeting)

Also in attendance

- Kathy McArdle - Creative Quarter Company
- Ben Ireland - Nottingham Post
- Sue Flack - Director of Planning and)
- Transport)
- Hugh White - Director of Sports, Culture and) Nottingham
- Parks) City Council
- Catherine Mayhew - City Centre Coordinator)
- Rav Kalsi - Constitutional Services Officer)

14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Councillor Jane Urquhart – other Council Business
- Councillor Jon Collins – other Council Business
- Councillor Georgina Culley – non Council Business

Chief Inspector Andy Roke

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Edwards and Hartshorne both declared interests as Board members of EnviroEnergy Ltd, however they did not consider their interests sufficient to prevent them from speaking or voting on any item on the agenda.

16 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

17 UPDATE ON CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY CENTRE

Hugh White, Director of Sport, Culture and Parks, introduced the presentation, updating the Forum on plans to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop Nottingham Castle, which included the following key points:

- (a) the proposals included within the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid are targeted towards transforming Nottingham Castle into a world class attraction. The submission date for the HLF bid was due imminently and, last year there were 6 successful national HLF bids;
- (b) Nottingham Castle has a rich history and proposals to develop the site would also enrich the site as a world class family destination. The best glimpses of the Castle are seen via train travel into the city which is comparable to Edinburgh Castle. Following feedback from the public, there is a desire to see further developments made to the network of caves on site and for more to be made of the medieval story untold at the Castle;
- (c) there are three themes to the vision - firstly, uncovering the caves and providing access via a new glass lift. Secondly, developing the story of Robin Hood and the Rebels via a new attraction and finally, the creative city which would support the high quality attraction via exhibitions;
- (d) the proposals include a new visitor centre and providing enhanced city centre views of the Castle via improved landscaping. Improvements will include a new Robin and the Rebels gallery, a new courtyard including substantial exhibition space, enhanced audio and visual experiences and new cave tours with access from Brewhouse Yard via a glass lift;
- (f) creative developments in the city include proposals to relocate stores from the Waterworks building into the belly of the Castle. By improving the attraction available at the Castle the overall footfall of people into the city would increase, thereby providing an economic link;
- (g) the investment strategy for Castle improvements include £5.5 million funding and will include some match funding with the HLF. The bid for funding will be submitted by 29 November 2013 which will be followed by an assessment period. Stage 2 of the bid process will be between 14 April 2014 and 15 October 2014;

- (h) members of the public can show their support for the development via an online petition which has so far generated positive feedback to the proposals.

Following questions from members, the following information was provided:

- (i) although there is no guarantee that the HLF bid would be successful, the Council has taken heart from being asked to submit another bid by HLF and a great deal of work has gone into producing clear and attractive proposals. With the planned developments in the coming years, such as station improvements, the Broadmarsh redevelopment and NET Phase 2 tram works, there is a real chance of enacting a lasting change on the city;
- (j) English Heritage has proven to be a critical partner in the proposals for the Castle and the Council will continue to work closely with them as the proposals progress. The next stage of the HLF bid will go into more detail about what the proposals entail such as night time activities and attractions.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the presentation and to offer the Forum’s support to the bid;**
- (2) note the following motion and submit it to the Director of Sports, Culture and Parks in support of the bid:**

“this Committee welcomes the bid, recognises the efforts made to meet the ideas and suggestions of Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage, and believe it is right to celebrate the contribution the people of Nottingham and the Castle has made to Nottingham life. This provides an opportunity to further develop the city’s visitor economy thereby sustaining and growing employment and business opportunities;”

- (4) defer the update on Creative Developments in the City Centre by Kathy McArdle, Creative Quarter Company, until the next meeting on 24 February 2014.**

**18 CONSULTATION ON THE TIME AND PLACE PLAN – INCLUDING CANAL STREET / COLLINS STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSALS
(Presentation by Sue Flack, Director of Planning and Transport)**

Sue Flack, Director for Planning and Transportation presented the proposals to the Forum, which included the following key points:

- (a) consultation is currently underway on the Land and Planning Policies Development Plan Document (Local Plan Part 2) which include a list of sites designated for development. The document sets out land use policies and site allocations which will guide future developments decisions;
- (b) the Development Plan includes specific policies for city centre redevelopment and responses to the consultation will help inform the publication version of the Plan which will be independently assessed;

- (c) comments via the consultation process are welcome, ideally by 2 December 2013 and all relevant documents relating to the Plan are available online via the following link: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localplan;
- (d) as part of the city centre-wide proposals, work has started on reviewing and improving city centre direction signage which will include the use of new technology. There will be a re-emphasis on the City of Squares concept with better pedestrian routes between them;
- (e) the Time and Place Plan will aim to improve cycle routes across the city centre and look to encourage greater use of cycles and a means of local transport. A parking strategy will continue to be developed with partners to tie into city centre-wide proposals;
- (f) further proposals include encouraging shops and cafes to remain open later into the evenings and allocating more areas for outside seating, markets and other outdoor uses. In coordination with partners, a Heritage Strategy will be implemented across the city centre, in particular the frontages on Derby Road and Carrington Street. Improvements here will link to the retail core and the Castle;
- (g) developing the Southern Gateway will link the Castle Quarter, the Canal Quarter and the Station Quarter to the city's retail and Leisure Quarter. There is potential to develop employment and residential sites around the station;
- (h) a potential develop would see the pedestrianisation of Collins Street which would provide improved access from the station and links to Lister Gate. This would include removing the NCP Car Park which in turn would provide improved access and views of the Castle. Although this would see a reduction in car parking spaces, Intu are planning to create an addition 200 car parking spaces as part of the Broadmarsh redevelopment. This would remove the traffic from Collins Street and potentially restrict access to Canal Street to buses only.

Following questions and comments from the Forum, the following information was provided:

- (i) improvements to the Southern Gateway would need to be linked to the regeneration of Broadmarsh but in principle represented a sensible concept. Were the concept to be introduced, the Station would be accessed via Queen's Road, not via Station Street or Trent Street;
- (j) the redevelopment of the Southern Gateway is still 5 – 10 years away and will be progressed via incremental stages.

RESOLVED to thank Sue Flack for her informative presentation and note the contents.

15 UPDATE ON THE INTU VICTORIA CENTRE REMODELLING (Presentation by Janine Bone, General Manager, Intu Properties)

Janine Bone, General Manager of Intu Properties, introduced the presentation to the Forum, which included the following key points:

- (a) the proposed remodelling of the Victoria Centre includes opening up of the malls and the introduction of more light and more style. Improvements to the shop frontages will be enhanced with light to represent a 'sparkle';
- (b) plans to transform the column treatments, ceiling and flooring will enhance the visual aspect of the building. There will be a new and exciting food quarter at the Clock Tower bringing alfresco dining to the Victoria Centre. The proposals represent £40 million of investment;
- (c) in addition to the Clock Tower entrance and catering cluster, planning permission has already been granted to the Glasshouse Street entrance. A planning application is being reviewed for the Southern entrance. Laing O'Rourke has been appointed as the main contractor and exhibitions will remain open until 11 September 2013. The Mall mock up area will start on 16 September 2013 with remodelling scheduled to start early February 2014;
- (d) the investment in the food offer would be determined by what members of the public want. The investment would only be made if it proves to be sustainable, however, research shows that there is an appetite for more restaurants on offer.

In response to several questions and comments from Forum members, Janine Bone provided the following information:

- (e) Intu will look to improve disabled access and work will progress to upgrade the lifts and other facilities. In addition, there will be separate family rooms developed and a children's play area with TV screens;
- (f) no decision has been made on Emmet's Clock and proposals for its relocation are still under consideration. Intu will continue to listen to the comments of the public and feed their thoughts into the proposals where possible.

RESOLVED to thank Janine Bone for her informative presentation and note the contents.