

Council Minutes

Date: Thursday, 17th December, 2009

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Guildhall, Hull

Under Item 128: Questions (with written notice) TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHERS

Councillor Woolmer asked the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing Strategy if the Portfolio Holder would agree with him that the consultation process surrounding regeneration plans for Orchard Park would be vitally important and that consultation should be taken at the inception of the process of creating detailed plans to ensure that any and all plans that came forward had had feed in from the residents of Orchard Park?

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing Strategy replied that the short answer was yes, that he agreed with his ward colleague that the consultation process surrounding plans for Orchard Park would be critically important. The Administration would be developing a detailed master plan for the area in partnership with the local community. He was determined that the Administration would be providing opportunities for people to shape the future of their own neighbourhood. The Orchard Park Public Finance Initiative (PFI) would be managed alongside the Gateway Programme under the recently appointed Strategic Director for Housing Investment and Renewal. This should ensure the successful communication and engagement approaches and the lessons learnt through Gateway, particularly, in Newington and St. Andrew's, were taken forward into Orchard Park. In this respect, he would try to ensure, in future, that newsletters, and similar regeneration communications, were delivered to all the households in the Orchard Park area, not just those in the intervention areas that were indicated in the initial expressions of interest. Cabinet had already agreed that the Orchard Park PFI Advisory Board should be set up on similar lines to the two Gateway Regeneration Advisory Boards and that they would include the local ward councillors, community and resident board members. A key role for the Board would be to work with the City Council to ensure that the whole community was thoroughly involved in the regeneration of Orchard Park. The Tenants' Participation Officer had now been seconded to the PFI team and that person would ensure that these arrangements were put in place promptly. He had also asked officers to look at ways of enhancing the quality of the City Council's engagement by using community architecture techniques, planning for real events and capacity building around planning and design for local residents. It went without saying that this was a fantastic opportunity for the City Council to improve the quality, the range and the tenure mix of housing on Orchard Park as part of the wider renewal of the area. He fully recognised that for this to be a success it needed to take into account the needs and wishes of all the residents on Orchard Park.