

21 May, 2008

Attribute to Manningham Mayor, Cr Geoff Gough:

Manningham is carefully assessing the initiative announced today by the State Government to implement joint Local and State Government Development Assessment Committees to make planning decisions on key projects, in line with the Melbourne 2030 vision.

Doncaster Hill has been selected as one of the five principal activity centres to be included in the roll-out of this new initiative in 2008. Council has been implementing the Doncaster Hill Strategy since 2002, and it is entirely consistent with Melbourne 2030.

Council needs to be fully briefed on the details of the State Government's initiative to thoroughly understand the new structure/system, and what the changes will potentially mean for planning and development in Doncaster Hill. We will then be in a position to provide fully-informed comment on the initiative.

In particular, Manningham is seeking clarification from the State Government on the timing, resourcing, process and practical implications of this initiative. We need to clearly understand the impact on local government planning controls, whether this would apply to all planning matters or all major applications, and about appeal rights. We would also be interested in finding out full details of the proposed new activity centre zone.

Council understands that Melbourne has a growing population and needs a greater supply and variety of housing options, along with suitable transport and associated retail, commercial and community facilities. Manningham has recognized this through its Residential Strategy, the Doncaster Hill Strategy – which provides a 20 year vision that was endorsed by the Minister for Planning, and its Activity Centre Strategy.

In March 2008, Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, said he was pleased to provide Manningham City Council with a copy of the Priority Development Panel report which showed a positive performance review of the Doncaster Hill Strategy. He said: "I commend Manningham City Council for its commitment to the Doncaster Hill Strategy and for identifying the need for this peer performance review. He said: "I encourage Manningham City Council to continue working closely with the Department of Planning and Community Development to implement these additional opportunities for Doncaster Hill," Minister Madden said. (*Source: Media Release: 19 March, 2008 'Panel Report Endorses Doncaster Hill Strategy'*.)

Until we receive clarification on each of these issues we cannot make more definitive comments.