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MEDIA RELEASE

PANEL REPORT ENDORSES DONCASTER HILL STRATEGY

A Priority Development Panel (PDP) report prepared for the Minister for Planning, Justin Madden has endorsed Manningham Council's Doncaster Hill Strategy "as sound planning policy designed to drive growth and create a vibrant activity centre".

Manningham Mayor Cr Geoff Gough said the recently released report was very complementary of the Doncaster Hill Strategy but also pointed out some opportunities for improvement.

"It is great news that the PDP report was a very positive evaluation but the purpose of this "peer" review was not for Council to look for a pat on the back but to seek critical analysis of the Strategy."

"The report has some very positive things to say about the Doncaster Hill Strategy. But equally important from Council's and the community's perspective is that the report also provides us with a fresh independent look at the Strategy and has raised the profile of the Strategy at senior levels of State Government."

The PDP report identified a number of opportunities for Council to pursue, including:

- Completion of comprehensive master planning for the Civic Precinct;
- Simplification of the existing planning controls
- Working with the State Government to give prominence to public transport (bus lanes, interchanges and priority lanes) pedestrianisation of the hill and traffic calming of Doncaster Road ; and
- Creation of an ongoing place management regime to help progress the Doncaster Hill Strategy into the implementation phase.

"Council will take on board the recommendation of the PDP review and continue to work with the local community, developers and the State Government in delivering the best result for the Doncaster Hill area and the residents of Manningham," Cr Gough said.

Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, said he was pleased to provide Manningham City Council with a copy of the PDP report which showed a positive performance review of the Doncaster Hill Strategy.

“The Doncaster Hill Strategy envisages a bold future for the centre and I’m delighted the PDP report shows the strategy’s underlying policy assumptions are accurate.”

“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.

Council will consider the initial recommendation of the PDP at its meeting on 29 April, 2008, with a further report to Council expected to be delivered by Officers in June 2008.

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