

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL - MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Councillor T Munro..... Chair
Councillor R Turner..... Vice Chair

Members:-

Councillors T Alexander, J E Bennett, G Buxton, T Cannon, J A Clifton T J Connerton, C P Cooper, P A Cooper, M G Crane, M Dooley, S W Fritchley, R A Heffer, A Joesbury, D McGregor, C Moesby, T Munro, S Peake, K Reid, J E Smith, P Smith, E Stevenson, A M Syrett, K.F. Walker, D Watson and J Wilson.

Officers:-

D Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), L Hickin (Strategic Director), S Sternberg (Assistant Director of Governance, Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer), D Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues and Benefits), D Cairns (Governance Manager - Acting), Allison Westray-Chapman (Assistant Director – Economic Growth) and Grant Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates).

0300. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Anderson, P Barnes, R J Bowler, P M Bowmer, H J Gilmour, B R Murray-Carr, J Ritchie, S J Statter, and B Watson.

0301. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

0302. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public or members at this meeting.

0303. REPORTS ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

There were no special urgency decisions submitted at this meeting.

0304. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Moved by Councillor R Turner and seconded by Councillor T J Connerton.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 September be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(Governance Manager - Acting)

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0305. MINUTE BOOKS

In relation to Minute No. 164 of the Planning Committee held on 30 August 2017, Councillor J Clifton commented that the calculation of the Road Network Contribution per dwelling as part of the S106 agreement was incorrect and should have stated £93,695.52. This amendment had been noted at the Planning Committee which took place on September 2017.

Moved by Councillor R Turner and seconded by Councillor A M Syrett.

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed in the Minute Books dated 11 October 2017 noted.

(Governance Manager - Acting)

0306. RECOMMENDED ITEMS

There were no recommended items submitted to this meeting.

0307. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following motion was moved by Councillor C Moesby and seconded by Councillor K Reid:

This Council notes that:

- *NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms*
- *NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012*
- *Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings*
- *NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector*
- *Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage*
- *There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation*

This council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. This council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

This council therefore resolves to:

- *Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard*

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- *Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review*
- *Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review*

Members discussed whether there were any indications of the amounts of the NJC claim. Councillor A M Syrett, Leader of the Council, advised Council that while the figures were not yet known, this motion was a statement of support in principle and not a commitment to a defined amount.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Council notes that:
 - NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
 - NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
 - Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
 - NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
 - Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
 - There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation
- (2) The Council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. The Council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.
- (3) The Council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.
- (4) The Council therefore resolves to:
 - Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard
 - Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
 - Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review

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0308. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Council received a presentation from the Assistant Director - Property and Estates which provided an update on Property and Estates Developments.

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates outlined the Corporate Plan Targets relating to Unlocking Growth Potential which the development projects went towards, and the strategic approach undertaken in their delivery.

The presentation provided information on:

- B@Home Programme
- Dragonfly Development Ltd
- The Tangent Phase 2
- One Public Estate (OPE) Derbyshire project

The developments included a number of sites already delivered, sites where construction was on-going, and sites identified as development opportunities where viability studies were being pursued in conjunction with public and private sector partners.

Council were advised that the Property and Estates team had been approached by other Councils to advise on the delivery of similar projects, such as the Joint Venture Company, as the Council was seen as a leader in the field. Members discussed whether there were opportunities for income to be generated through charging fees for this type of consultancy work. The Chief Executive advised that this would be explored where resources allowed for the time commitment necessary.

Members thanked the Assistant Director – Property and Estates for the presentation and the Property and Estates Team for their work.

Moved by Councillor T Munro and seconded by Councillor J Wilson.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

(Assistant Director - Property and Estates)

0309. GROWTH STRATEGY UPDATE

Council considered a report and presentation from the Assistant Director – Economic Growth which presented an update on the Growth Strategy 2014-2024 and sought approval for the production of a revised Growth Strategy in consultation with stakeholders and other agencies.

The Assistant Director – Economic Growth gave a presentation to Members which highlighted some of the achievements made under the current Strategy within the three strategic priorities:-

- Supporting Enterprise – maintaining and growing a business base;

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- Enabling Housing Growth – increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic growth;
- Unlocking Development Potential – unlocking the capacity of major employment sites.

The context in which the current Growth Strategy operated had been through a number of external changes and financial pressures, arising from the decision to leave the European Union, uncertainty regarding Business Rates Retention and New Homes Bonus, approval of the HS2 line, creation of LEP Growth Hubs and the devolution agenda. In light on these changes and pressures, it was proposed that the strategy be reviewed in order to continue to provide direction to the Council over coming years. It was commented that it was important to build the Council's resilience and independence from external variables and challenges, through economic growth.

Members discussed the uncertainty regarding the future of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority. Councillor A M Syrett, Leader of the Council, advised the Council that she awaited more information on the position of the Constituent Members of the Combined Authority but re-iterated that Bolsover District Council remained a non-constituent member at this time.

The Assistant Director – Economic Growth advised Members that the Robin Hood Line/Gateway projects were moving ahead in dialogue with partners, including Town and Parish Councils to progress the plans.

Members also discussed smaller renovations that would help to improve local areas. The Assistant Director – Economic Growth recognised that a number of smaller interventions had been identified during recent Town Centre/High Street walkabouts which were being included in plans for local areas. Members also commented that standards of Council housing was a responsibility of the housing service.

Members raised issues regarding the HS2 line and connectivity, including support for local business and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), which they were encouraged to raise with representatives from HS2 who would be providing a presentation following the conclusion of this meeting.

Moved by Councillor A M Syrett and seconded by Councillor M Dooley.

RESOLVED that Council:

- (1) Notes the progress made in achieving the objectives set out in the Growth Strategy.
- (2) Endorses a review of the Growth Strategy and notes that a revised version will be presented to Executive and Council in due course.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

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0310. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed the Council that donations for homeless people were being received in the Labour Members' Room and encouraged Members to bring in anything they wished to donate.

The Chair also remarked that he looked forward to seeing all those who would be attending at his Civic Service on 15 October 2017.

The meeting concluded at 1120 hours.
