

Bolsover District Council

Executive

6 October 2014

**Developing The Bolsover Economic Development and Housing Strategy -
Consultation**

Report of Cllr A Tomlinson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the approach, scope, timeline and consultation programme for the Development of the proposed Bolsover District Economic Development and Housing Strategy 2015-2020 which will support the Council's Growth agenda.

1.1 Background and Timeline

1.2 The current Economic Development Strategy for Bolsover was developed jointly with Chesterfield Council and North East Derbyshire Council. This will expire at the end of 2014. Therefore there is a need to renew this strategy. Given the overlapping nature of economic development and housing, it is now proposed to develop a single strategy that embraces both of these areas. This will be the Bolsover Economic Development and Housing Strategy. Having such a strategy will help meet the aims identified in the Corporate Plan (to develop healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities), the Sustainable Community Strategy, meet some of the requirements of the National Policy Planning Framework, and meet the Councils statutory obligation to assess and plan to meet housing needs.

1.3 The Councils Economic Development, Housing Strategy, and Partnership teams at Bolsover Council have begun initial work to progress development and it is expected that the Consultation on the proposed Strategy will be completed by the end of November 2014, with adoption of the agreed Strategy by full Council in March 2015.

1.4 Approach

1.5 To maximise impact, help co-ordinate resources and offer a more integrated approach and to help identify priority areas for action, this proposed strategy will, where appropriate, take a spatial approach, and this spatial element will be guided by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which identified the main sub-market areas within Bolsover district as Clowne, Shirebrook, Bolsover and South Normanton. These sub-markets reflect the influence of surrounding areas in terms

of areas of search of people moving home, commuting, relationships and where people travel for shops and services.

1.6 While it is envisaged that the strategy be developed in the context of, and with links to other relevant national, sub-regional and local strategies (such as those produced by the Local Economic Partnerships and those developed in partnership with the local authority), this consultation will be based around the local housing and Growth agenda as follows:

- Supporting enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base
- Enabling Housing Growth:
- Maximising employment, skills and training opportunities
- Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites
- Town Centre Development: ensuring the vitality and viability of town centres
- Developing and Supporting the local rural economy
- Maximising affordable housing delivery (including to rent and buy) through new build, and making best use of existing stock
- Enabling people to live in and sustain their own homes
- Prevention of homelessness

1.7 Consultation

1.8 At this interim stage it is recognised that a significant stage in the development of the Economic Development and Housing Strategy is in consultation with the wider public, partners, staff, members and businesses in the district.

1.9 As stated in the Council's Consultation Policy under the Local Authorities Duty of Best Value, authorities are under a duty to consult representatives from a wide range of local persons liable to pay non domestic rates, those who use, or are likely to use, the services provided by the authority and those appearing to the authority to have an interest in any area within which the authority carries out functions. It therefore provides the basis for the Authority to seek information, advice and opinions about our strategies.

1.10 The development of the Bolsover Economic Development and Housing Strategy is only in the very early stages and is in line with the Council's Consultation Policy, which states consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage. Therefore in taking forward the consultation it is envisaged that an early stage document be taken forward to offer some structure on the likely issues the Council would like to address, while offering the scope for the consultation to shape and inform the final strategy.

1.11 The consultation mechanisms in Appendix 1 have been identified and developed through discussion with the Partnership Team and the Council's Engagement Officer. The Citizens Panel use will be explored, but its current timeframe does not fit with the strategy timeline. Members of Bolsover Partnership will be consulted via electronic communication together with the hosting of a partnership event. A further

event open to the public will also enable the Authority to capture feedback. Such events will enable the public and other stakeholders to shape and inform the strategy.

- 1.12 It is anticipated in the interests of transparency that those consulted will receive feedback on how their views have contributed to the strategy. This includes wider partners and Bolsover District Council staff and members.
- 1.13 It is recognised that there will be directly affected staff and departments who will have a key role in delivering the Joint Economic Development and Housing Strategy. It is suggested, therefore, that for those directly affected departments, a series of focus groups/ workshops are held. This will include Planning, Housing, Environmental Health and Property and Estates.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Bolsover Economic Development and Housing Strategy will provide the strategic framework for assessing and meeting the housing needs of the area, and provide the opportunity to steer, drive and deliver economic growth and inward investment.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Appendix 1 provides the proposed consultation programme.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The option exists to do nothing – i.e. to not deliver this proposed strategy. However, this is not recommended as the Council, to fulfil its broader corporate aims needs to put in place effective local actions to deliver its vision. Publishing a Housing Strategy will also meet the Local Housing Authorities housing obligations.
- 4.2 The delivery of such a strategy will also contribute towards greater income for the Council, as it will help deliver new homes and businesses to the District, increasing income from both the New Homes Bonus and the Business Rates retention scheme. The do nothing option should also be rejected on these grounds.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

There may be a small financial cost in carrying out the Consultation and in publishing and agreed final strategy. However it is expected that such costs will be met from existing service budgets. There are no risks identified in developing or publishing this strategy.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

There are no legal implications.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

This Strategy will be developed in-house. The average number of staff working in this area for this size authority is typically about 5 FTEs. The Bolsover team has only 3.5 FTEs and the capacity of the team may need to be reviewed in the future as the work programme evolves.

6 Recommendations

Cabinet support the process to develop of the Economic Development and Housing Strategy and agree to the proposed method of consultation that will conclude in November 2014.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	All
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Links to the Corporate Plan. Links to the Growth Plan.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Consultation Timetable.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Julian Cosgrove	Ex 2325

Appendix 1

Audience	BDC	BDC Timescale	Contact	Lead	*Method
People with Disabilities & BME	Equality panel	Sept or October 2014	Lynne Cheong	PB/JC	C
	Equality event (Lynne Cheong)		Lynne Cheong	PB/JC	C
	Bolsover Partnership & Disability Partnership	As required	Pam Brown	PB/JC	C C
Tenants	Tenants Meetings	As required	Cathy Ford & Sarah Clow	SC	C
Voluntary sector/community groups	Bolsover Partnership CVP & Thematic Action Groups	As required	Pam Brown	PB/JC	C
Members	4 Member Workshops	As required	Pam Brown	PB/JC	C
Staff	ERIC	Weekly- Friday	Scott Chambers	Julian C	C
	Focus Groups/Workshops	As required	Julian Cosgrove	Julian C	C
housing providers	Landlords Forums (Sarah Clow)	As required	Sarah Clow	SC	C

Appendix 1

Businesses	Bolsover Partnership Business & Employment Group	As required	Pam Brown Helen Jenkins	PB/JC Julian C	C C
	Business Advisers Network				
	Bolsover Town Team	As required	Theresa Garrod	Julian C	C
	Attractions Group	As required	Therasa Garrod	Julian C	C
	Developer Forum	As required	Therasa Garrod	Julian C	C
	Bolsover Business Networks	As required	PB, AW-C, CD	PB	C
		As required			
Audience	BDC	BDC Timescale	Contact	Lead	*Method
General Public	Citizens Panel	Nov 2014	Corinna Beatson Scott Chambers	Julian C Julian C	C N
	In Touch- article	October 2014	Scott Chambers	Julian C	N & E
	Council website homepage link to Ask Derbyshire website	As required	Alison Donohoe		N

Appendix 1

	National customer service week	October 2014		Julian C	
Young people	Young Voice	2 October (full agenda) 22 January	Corinna Beatson	Julian C	N & E
Older people	50+ Forum	5 September and 5 December 2014	Pam Brown	PB/JC	N & E
People with Disabilities & BME	Lynne Cheong's mailing list	As Required			N & E
Parish Councillors	Bolsover Partnership Parish Council Liaison Group	As Required	Pam Brown	PB/JC	N & E
Businesses	Chesterfield Area Tourism Partnership	Oct-Dec 2014	Helen Jenkins	Julian C	N