

Bolsover District Council

Executive

1st December 2014

The Creation of a Business Executive Advisory Group (BEG)

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

To create a Business Executive Advisory Group (BEG) to support the Council's High Growth Strategy of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's).

1 Report Details

In June of this year, 2014, the Council approved an Economic Growth Strategy establishing economic growth as its number one priority moving forward. The Growth Strategy identified three strategic priorities:

1. Supporting Enterprise : maintaining and growing the business base;
2. Enabling Housing Growth : increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic growth;
3. Unlocking Development Potential : unlocking the capacity of major employment sites.

Objectives and transformational intervention projects were also identified to support each strategic priority and work is ongoing to deliver a range of these projects.

This report concentrates on the Supporting Enterprise Strategic priority and puts forward a proposal to address a number of objectives and interventions.

The objectives in respect of the Supporting Enterprise Strategic priority are:

- Identifying and supporting business capable of growth
- Encouraging competitiveness, creativity and enterprise, particularly amongst small and medium sized enterprises
- Accelerating new business start-ups and ensuring survival
- Developing and promoting Bolsover as a competitive business location
- Increasing the number of business that export
- Support the growth and development of the tourism products

The attached proposal to create a Business Executive Group (NEG) under the guidance of the ex Chairman of the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA),

Derek Mapp, who is also a very successful business man in his own right addresses a number of these objectives.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

The attached proposal is self-explanatory and the Council is extremely fortunate to receive such an offer of support and help from such a person.

The proposal if successful will fulfil a number of the objectives under the Supporting Enterprise strategic objective.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

Some initial consultation has taken place with Unison but more detailed consultation and equality impact will be undertaken following development of the Business Plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

The Authority has a number of alternative options but primarily these come down to an internal or external solution. The Authority has had some considerable success in supporting business growth at our centres and this should not be undervalued. However the support and expertise of successful private sector people and in particular being led by Derek Mapp should mean the Authority ensuring greater success in the growth of SMEs.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

In order to ensure greater purpose for the BEG to operate it is proposed that all of the BDC existing assets are assigned to the management of the BEG. This primarily means Pleasley Vale and the Tangent Business Centre. The BEG will be charged to optimise the outcome in use and income from these assets.

Implicit in this plan is to see a long term sustainable SME strategy and to have an ability to grow the influence and success of the BEG by dedicating the income received from the assets to be hypothecated specifically for future SME growth. It is also possible that the Authority may consider additional funding to ensure SME growth as directed by the BEG but approved by BDC.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

The BEG will be an advisory group and will have no separate legal identity. However in order to operate efficiently in its decision making in support of the BEG there will need to be a Councillor and Senior Officer in the BEG and a series of delegations in place.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

Staff employed directly to work in respect of Pleasley Vale and The Tangent will be diverted by the BEG but will remain employed by the Council. Development of a

business plan will be the first priority of the BEG and therefore more detail of how it will operate and impact on employees will be further assessed at that point.

6 **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Executive:

1. Agrees to the creation of the Business Executive Group (BEG).
2. Agrees to the BEG taking management lead over the current dedicated assets and personnel directly involved whilst the properties remain in the ownership of the Authority and the personnel remain employed by the Authority.
3. Accepts and supports the principle of hypothecating the income from the assets to be reinvested in supporting the SME strategy as part of the High Growth Strategy.
4. Agrees that the Portfolio Holder of Regeneration being the Councillor representative on the BEG for the remainder of the civic year.
5. That the Assistant Director, Property and Estates be the Officer representative on the BEG.

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)	Yes/No
District Wards Affected	
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 **Document Information**

Appendix No	Title
A	Proposal to Create a Business Executive Advisory Group (BEG)
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

Report Reference –