

Bolsover District Council

Executive

2nd March 2015

Scrutiny Review on Business Support

Report of Councillor Keith Bowman, Chair of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To consider the outcome of the scrutiny review on Business Support.

1 Report Details

1.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee has completed its review on Business Support.

1.2 The aims of the review were to: -

- To identify existing support available to businesses directly and indirectly within the district
- To identify any gaps in service provision across the district, either by location, size or sector
- To identify the Local Enterprise Partnerships, Sheffield City Region and D2N2 intentions with regards to the Growth Hubs
- To assess whether the Growth Hub plans meet the needs of Bolsover businesses.
- To consider the effectiveness of the Council's website and potentially social media as the main conduits of communication to businesses
- To identify whether best use is being made of corporate resources such as Firmstep

The Objective of the Review was to ensure that Bolsover District Council provides effective and efficient support to new and existing Businesses to support the priorities within the Growth Strategy.

Members carried out the review with key issues in mind. These included:

- Is the Council clear on the support offer required by businesses and are the appropriate resources available to deliver this directly or indirectly?
- Is the council making best use of technological resources to provide support?
- Are there comprehensive monitoring and data sharing practices in place to assess the impact of business support interventions?
- How will HS2 impact our business sites? (e.g. Sawpit Lane, Tibshelf where the proposed route runs through an existing business site).

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 The Improvement Scrutiny Committee has made recommendations based on evidence gathered during the review. The comments of the relevant Portfolio Holder and the Assistant Director of Economic Growth were sought prior to the final report being approved by the Scrutiny Management Board.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 None

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

None

5.3 Human Resources Implications

None

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Executive consider the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee recommendations set out in the report following the review of Business Support.

6.2 That the Executive provide a response on the review recommendations within six weeks in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in order that recommendations can be inputted on the Perform system to allow implementation of the recommendations to be monitored.

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)	*****
District Wards Affected	None.

Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	REGENERATION – Maximise Employment Opportunities GROWTH STRATEGY STRATEGIC PRIORITY – Supporting Enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base.
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8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Copy of Scrutiny Review Report
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)	
None.	
Report Author	Contact Number
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Report Reference –