

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Chamber Suites 1 and 2, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 27th May 2015 at 1400 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S. W. Fritchley in the Chair

Councillors; T. Alexander, A. Anderson, P. Barnes, (from Minute No. 0038) J. Clifton, M. Dixey, P. Smith, S. Statter, B. Watson (from Minute No. 0038) and J. Wilson.

Officers: - C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer)

0035. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

0036. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

0037. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

Councillors B. Watson and P. Barnes entered the meeting.

0038. KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Members considered the list of key decisions document and raised the following points;

- It would be helpful if the amount above the £50k was made known to Members.
- Is further information available on the types of properties considered as investment properties? - relating to the decision due to the taken by Executive in June 2015
- The Scrutiny Officer to request further information relating to investment properties from the Assistant Director – Property and Estates to include the

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process of identifying appropriate properties, location of the properties and purpose and usage of investment properties.

Moved by Councillor S. W. Fritchley, seconded by Councillor A. Anderson
RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Officer request further information relating to investment properties from the Assistant Director – Property and Estates to be reported at the next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

(Scrutiny Officer)

0039. MANAGING A SCRUTINY REVIEW – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY SKILLS BRIEFING

The Scrutiny Officer took Members through the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) briefing note document, 'Managing a Scrutiny Review'.

The briefing document was one of a series exploring the skills required by Members for effective scrutiny. The paper specifically examined the process of managing a 'task and finish' scrutiny review.

0040. SELECTION OF SUBJECT FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW 2015 – TO AGREE THE SUBJECT FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW FROM THE SHORTLIST PRODUCED AT THE ANNUAL SCRUTINY CONFERENCE ON 19TH MAY 2015

At the Annual Scrutiny Conference held on 19th May, Members had suggested two areas to be reviewed by the Growth Scrutiny Committee; 'Progress on Major Development Sites' (employment sites) in the District and Empty Properties in the District.

It had been agreed that the Committee would look at 'Progress on Major Development Sites' (employment sites) as their first review and Empty Properties later in the year, which would allow the newly appointed Empty Properties Officer to settle into their post.

In relation to looking at major development sites in the District, Members raised the following points;

- What is the current situation with existing sites?
- What future development plans, if any, are there for the sites? For example, are there any expansion plans etc?
- Suggested sites to look at;
 - Markham Vale,

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- Barlborough Links and
- The former Coalite Site.
- Stalled development sites in Bolsover and Shirebrook.

0041. SCOPING THE SCRUTINY REVIEW – TO CARRY OUT A SCOPING EXERCISE ON THE CHOSEN SUBJECT FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW AND COMPLETE THE SCOPING DOCUMENT

A discussion took place on what defined a ‘major’ development site and the following points were raised;

- The Committee’s remit for the Review needed to be defined because of associated issues regarding sites, for example, in Bolsover, there were no longer any public toilets because of the delay to Morrisons being built on the Sherwood Lodge site
- The Regeneration Team may have a remit/definition of what they considered to be a major development site.
- Social impact of sites – sites that have the biggest impact on their communities and creation of new employment.

0042. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN – TO NOTE THE WORK PLAN FOR THE 2015/16 YEAR AND SUGGEST ANY FURTHER ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

The Scrutiny Officer circulated the Committee’s Work Plan to the meeting which provided details of items to be discussed by the Committee during the year including Growth performance targets.

Members were advised that the first performance monitoring would take place in November which would be a half year Performance update due to the fact that Council was not due to adopt the new Corporate Plan until July 2015.

Members would receive a briefing on relevant Corporate Plan targets in July to give Members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the relevant targets to the Committee.

Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the Work Plan be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1450 hours.