

# GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at 1000 hours in Chamber Suites 1 & 2, The Arc, Clowne**

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Page No.(s)</b>
	<b>PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS</b>	
1.	To receive apologies for absence, if any.	
2.	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4 (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:  a) any business on the agenda b) any urgent additional items to be considered c) any matters arising out of those items  and, if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	To approve the minutes of a meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015.	4 to 8
5.	List of Key Decisions & Items to be Considered in Private.  <i>(Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information).</i>	9 to 13
6.	Feedback from Members attending the site visit to Pleasley Vale on Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2015.	Verbal Report
7.	Update regarding Corporate Plan Target; Support 200 young people to raise their aspirations and provide them with relevant employability skills by December 2015.	Verbal Update
8.	<b>PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS</b> <i>The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a.</i>  <u>Paragraph 1, 3 and 5</u>	14 to 29
9.	Call In of Minute 0310 – Regeneration Strategy for the former Coalite Chemicals Site.	
10.	Update on the Scrutiny Review of Business Support.	Verbal Update
11.	Work Plan.	21 to 22

## **PART B – INFORMAL**

The formal meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee ends at this point. Members will meet informally as a working party to carry out their review work. This meeting is closed to the public, so members of the public should leave at this point.

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Chamber Suite 2, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at 1000 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor S. W Fritchley in the Chair

Councillors; T. Alexander, A. Anderson, M. Dixey, S. Statter, B. Watson and J. Wilson.

Officers; G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

### **0366. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Barnes, J.A. Clifton and P. Smith.

### **0367. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **0368. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **0369. MINUTES – 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson, seconded by Councillor J. Wilson

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

### **0370. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

Members considered the current List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private document.

Moved and seconded

**RESOLVED** that the current List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private document be noted.

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **0371. DRAFT EMPTY PROPERTY STRATEGY**

The Empty Properties Officer attended the meeting to provide an update to Members in relation to the Council's draft Empty Property Strategy.

The Empty Properties Officer post was created in March 2015 to deal with empty properties across both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Districts. There were 724 long term empty properties in Bolsover District, of which, 300 had been empty for over 2 years.

Returning empty properties to use had been identified as a government priority which had been reinforced by the introduction of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme in 2010. The New Homes Bonus scheme provided a financial reward equivalent to the council tax income for each new build or empty property returned to use for six years.

The draft Strategy outlined the measures available in the "Empty Property Toolkit" to help return empty properties to use in a sustainable manner so that they remained occupied for the long term.

Empty Property work also tied in with the Council's objectives to improve housing standards, provide additional affordable housing and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as detailed in corporate plans, policies and strategies.

The Empty Homes Strategy would build on the work being carried out by the Council's enforcement officers by developing robust procedures to implement further measures such as Enforced Sale, Compulsory Purchase and Empty Dwelling Management Orders.

The Strategy would make use of best practice currently being utilised successfully on a national scale whilst taking the opportunity to develop innovative schemes and projects and to work in partnerships at a local and community level.

The Strategy also concluded with a comprehensive action plan which detailed the specific objectives and targets relating to empty property work, the timeline for when they would be implemented and the lead officer in each case.

The Empty Properties Officer informed the meeting that he had carried out a survey of all long term empty properties in the District.

In response to a Member's question, the Empty Properties Officer replied that empty properties did not take derelict land into consideration, i.e., land purchased for the purpose of land banking.

A Member queried the percentage of response from owners of empty properties surveyed and also their feedback and comments. The Empty Properties Officer replied that 31% had responded to the survey with the main issue being around finance. Some empty property owners had inherited properties and were unsure of how to deal with them. Some owners were land banking and some were absent landlords who had purchased properties cheaply but had then found they were too costly to improve.

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A Member noted that even though some houses could be improved substantially, they remained empty due to being in undesirable areas across the District and this was an issue that also needed addressing.

The Empty Properties Officer also noted that councils' charged up to 50% council tax on an empty property but applied the full council tax charge after a 3 month period even if the property remained empty.

A Member referred to the appendix in the Strategy in relation to the Assessment Framework for prioritising empty properties for enforcement and asked for clarification on the definitions used for the point's scheme.

A question was asked regarding what Members could do to help and the Empty Properties Officer noted that local knowledge was key and as Members knew their wards/parishes very well this would be valuable to the Council's objectives in relation to empty properties.

Members agreed that the Empty Properties Officer should look to produce a local data base of ward information for the Committee, which would enable Members to be involved in tackling empty properties.

The draft Strategy would now be submitted to the Strategic Alliance Management Team and follow the route to Executive for approval from there.

Moved by Councillor S. Fritchley, seconded by Councillor T. Alexander

**RESOLVED** that (1) the draft Empty Property Strategy be noted and submitted to SAMT before being considered by the Executive,

(2) the Empty Properties Officer should look to produce a local data base of ward information for the Committee, which would enable Members to be involved in tackling empty properties.

(Empty Properties Officer)

The Empty Properties Officer left the meeting.

### **0372. UPDATE ON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GROUP (BEG)**

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates provided a verbal update to Members on the work of the Business Enterprise Group (BEG).

Members raised concern that as part of their work on the Growth agenda, they were not being properly notified of the work of the BEG, further Members had only had one meeting with Derek Mapp (at Creswell) but had heard nothing since.

Members were informed that two meetings of the Group had taken place with various business owners and trainers providing their services in an advisory capacity.

Advice from these business owners and trainers had also been sought for the Council's business hub, the Tangent, based in Shirebrook. The feedback received was that

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marketing of the Tangent required improvement and more engagement with tenants was also needed. The Tangent was now 91% occupied.

Phase 2 of the Tangent would be looking at a different type of letting, being light industrial, and plans for this were being drawn up. A business case would be needed along with Member approval at Council.

In response to a Members question, the Assistant Director – Property and Estates, stated that the Council was not currently paying for any business advice received from Derek Mapp.

A third meeting of the BEG had been arranged for October and some advisors would be travelling from Oxford. The Assistant Director – Property and Estates noted that all the advisors seemed genuinely happy to help and provide advice at any time.

One of the Council's major areas was Pleasley Vale, which would require £5 million investment over the next 30 years to bring some of the mills up to date so that they were fit for purpose. A recent Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Mill 1 had been unsuccessful and the Council was now looking for a Private Sector Investor.

It was suggested that Pleasley Vale could be more suited to a potential housing/retail mix. The Assistant Director – Property and Estates suggested that Committee Members visited Pleasley Vale before the tour of the District took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October in order for all Growth Scrutiny Committee to appreciate the site.

It was noted that the Council needed to encourage local businesses to grow and develop so that they stayed in the District.

As Members were aware, the Council was also looking to bring 200 empty properties back into use and 400 hectares of unused land to generate a capital receipt of £1m. Rogers Avenue Garage site in Creswell was earmarked for housing development and the Asset Management Group was looking at where there was a need for new houses (new builds) in the District.

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates further advised Members that a sweep of all public owned land in the District had been undertaken for potential business development. The Council had also purchased a Register of Public Ownership which was updated once per year. The Register was valuable to the Council as it showed instantly who owned land in the District.

A short discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor S. Fritchley, seconded by Councillor T. Alexander  
**RESOLVED** that the update be received.

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates left the meeting.

## GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### **0373. CORPORATE PLAN TARGET: SUPPORT 200 YOUNG PEOPLE TO RAISE THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH RELEVANT EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS BY DECEMBER 2015**

Members had previously queried the target date of December 2015 for Corporate Plan target, 'support 200 young people to raise their aspirations and provide them with relevant employability skills by December 2015', which was approved in July 2015 and whether this target was achievable given the timescale. The response received from the Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager indicated that when the team provided the SMART targets for the Talent Match Programme, this was on the basis that they were from April 2014 to December 2015 (however, the Corporate Plan was now from 2015). As this was an old Corporate Plan Target which crossed over into a new one, the team needed to include 2014.

In the new Corporate Plan the previous 2011-15 Corporate Plan Target had been re-written slightly and now read, 'support 200 young people to raise their aspirations and provide them with relevant employability skills by December 2015', with no reference to Talent Match solely but covered a more broader "Raising Aspirations" headline but it does not state when this is to start from.

Therefore, if the figures from 2014 to date are to be included, then the team had already achieved 230 which were made up of outputs from Talent Match, Apprenticeship Scheme, Raising Aspirations and Ambition.

Members requested that the target be reviewed in line with the Corporate Plan timescales and a revised, more challenging target be submitted for Members approval.

**RESOLVED** that Members' comments be fed back to the Chief Executive's and Partnerships Team and a reviewed target be requested in line with the Corporate Plan Timescale.

(Scrutiny Officer)

### **0374. WORK PLAN**

Members considered their 2015/16 work plan programme.

Members requested that the work plan be updated to reflect the extra work in respect of Empty Properties.

Moved and seconded

**RESOLVED** that the work plan be updated to reflect the extra work in respect of Empty Properties.

(Scrutiny Officer)

The meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee concluded at 1155 hours.



The Arc  
High Street  
Clowne  
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S43 4JY

## **Key Decisions & Items to be Considered in Private**

**To be made under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012**

**Published on: 2 October 2015**



## INTRODUCTION

The list attached sets out decisions that are termed as “Key Decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive or an officer under delegated powers.

Preparation of the list helps Executive to programme its work. The purpose of the list is to give notice and provide an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The list is updated each month with the period of the list being rolled forward by one month and republished. The list is available for public inspection at the The Arc, High Street, Clowne, S43 4JY. Copies of the list can be obtained from Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer at this address or by email to [sarah.sternberg@bolsover.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.sternberg@bolsover.gov.uk).

The list can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.bolsover.gov.uk](http://www.bolsover.gov.uk). The Executive is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the list, however, a notice will be published at The Arc and on the Council’s website explaining the reasons for the urgent decisions. Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change.

The names of Executive members are as follows:

Councillor A M Syrett - Leader  
Councillor M Dooley – Deputy Leader  
Councillor T Connerton  
Councillor B R Murray-Carr  
Councillor K Reid  
Councillor J Ritchie

The Executive agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public five clear days prior to the meeting of the Executive. The papers can be seen at The Arc at the above address. The papers are also available on the Council’s website referred to above. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Executive and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they contain exempt or confidential information. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer.

Meetings of the Executive are open to the public and usually take place in the Chamber Suites at The Arc. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are exempt and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. This list shows where this is intended and the reason why the reports are exempt or confidential. Members of the public may make representations to the Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer about any particular item being considered in exempt.

The list does not detail all decisions which have to be taken by the Executive, only “Key Decisions”. In these Rules a “Key Decision” means an executive decision, which is likely:

- (1) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (2) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District.

In determining the meaning of “significant” the Council must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State. The Council has decided that income or expenditure of £50,000 or more is significant.

**The dates for meetings of Executive in 2015/2016 are as follows:**

2015	2 November 30 November
2016	4 January 1 February 29 February 4 April 25 April

The Council hereby gives notice of its intention to make the following Key Decisions and/or decisions to be considered in private:

<b><i>Matter in respect of which a decision will be taken</i></b>	<b><i>Decision-maker</i></b>	<b><i>Date of Decision</i></b>	<b><i>Documents to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Contact Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Is this decision a Key Decision?</i></b>	<b><i>Is this decision to be heard in public or private session</i></b>
<b>Accessing and Benefitting from Devolved Funding via D2N2 for Employment and Skills Programmes</b>	Executive	October 2015	Report of Councillor A. Syrett, Leader of the Council and Growth Portfolio Holder	Assistant Director – Economic Growth	Yes – could impact on two or more District wards.	Public
<b>Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18</b>  To update Members regarding the current position and to agree financial savings in respect of this period whilst maintaining service delivery at agreed levels.	Executive	October 2015	Report of Councillor A. Syrett, Leader of the Council and Growth Portfolio Holder	Executive Director - Operations	Yes – involves expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Public
<b>Flat Roof Tender</b>  To approve the award of contract.	Executive	October 2015	Councillor J Ritchie, Portfolio Holder for Housing and IT	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC)	Yes – involves expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council’s financial or business affairs

<b><i>Matter in respect of which a decision will be taken</i></b>	<b><i>Decision-maker</i></b>	<b><i>Date of Decision</i></b>	<b><i>Documents to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Contact Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Is this decision a Key Decision?</i></b>	<b><i>Is this decision to be heard in public or private session</i></b>
<b>Refurbishment of Cotton Street property</b>  To agree costs of refurbishing a Council property on Cotton Street, Bolsover	Executive	October 2015	Report of Councillor A. Syrett, Leader of the Council and Growth Portfolio Holder	Executive Director - Operations	Yes – involves expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council's financial or business affairs
<b>Waste Services Review</b>  To adopt a new local agreement for waste services and amend the Waste Services staffing budget and establishment	Executive	October 2015	Report of Councillor B Murray-Carr, Portfolio Holder for Environment	Assistant Director - Streetscene	Yes – significant impact on two or more District wards.	Public

**Growth Scrutiny Committee****Work Programme – 2015-16**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing a Scrutiny Review – CfPS skills briefing</li> <li>• Selection of Scrutiny Review subject</li> <li>• Scoping Scrutiny Review</li> </ul>	<p>Claire Millington</p> <p>Claire Millington</p> <p>Claire Millington</p>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment properties</li> <li>• Review work</li> </ul>	<p>Grant Galloway - Assistant Director of Properties and Estates.</p> <p>Allison Westray-Chapman – Assistant Director of Economic Development.</p>	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts – looking at what we will do differently as a result of the developments at Bolsover and Shirebrook not going ahead.</li> </ul>	<p>Jim Fieldsend - Principal Solicitor, Grant Galloway - Assistant Director of Property and Estates</p>	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Empty Properties Strategy</li> <li>• Update on Corporate Plan Target relating to Raising Aspirations programme</li> </ul>	<p>Adrian Anderson – Joint Empty Properties Officer</p> <p>Update provided by Pam Brown, Chief Executive's and Partnerships Manager</p>	

<b>21<sup>st</sup> October 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call- In of Executive Decision</li> <li>• Business Support Review update</li> <li>• Feedback from visit to Pleaseley Vale</li> <li>• Update on Corporate Plan Target.</li> </ul>	Sonia Coleman, Economic Development and Investment Manager Members  Scrutiny Officer	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half Year Performance Update</li> </ul>	Kath Drury/Jane Foley	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review work</li> </ul>		
<b>20<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review work</li> </ul>		
<b>17<sup>th</sup> February 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter 3 Performance Update</li> </ul>	Kath Drury/Jane Foley	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2016</b>			
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>			
<b>25<sup>rd</sup> May 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter 4 Performance Update</li> </ul>	Kath Drury/Jane Foley	