

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 17th February 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- Councillors A. Anderson, P. Barnes, J.A. Clifton, M. Dixey, S. Statter and J. Wilson.

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

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor M.J. Dooley (Portfolio Holder for Corporate Plan, HR and Leisure) (substituting for Councillor A. Syrett (Portfolio Holder for Growth), B.R. Murray-Carr (Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing), T. Connerton (Portfolio Holder for Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits) and M.J. Ritchie (Portfolio Holder for Housing and IT).

0805. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T. Alexander, P. Smith and B. Watson.

0806. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no items of business to consider.

0807. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0808. MINUTES – 20th JANUARY 2016

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor M. Dixey
RESOLVED that the minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th January 2016 be approved as a correct record.

0809. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Members considered the list of key decisions and items to be considered in private document.

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The Executive Director – Operations referred to Vehicle Replacements on the list of key decisions and advised Members that revised methods of working had been implemented with regard to the refuse collection service and larger, (4ft longer), refuse vehicles would be purchased with a smaller refuse vehicle being kept from the current fleet.

0810. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2015 (QUARTER 3 – 2015/16)

Members considered a report which provided an update of performance against Corporate Plan targets in relation to Growth for the third quarter.

The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager noted that there were no material updates since the report was published.

G 01 - Through the use of Key Account Management develop a relationship with a minimum of 50 local businesses by March 2019.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16) Three businesses engaged this quarter. Support provided to businesses on completing D2N2 Local Growth Fund 3 infrastructure bids including Bolsover Land/Coalite; Bolsover North housing site; Penny Hydraulics, Clowne. 7 businesses engaged to date.

G 02 - Establish business support programme by engaging with D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) and SCR (Sheffield City Region) Growth Hub by March 2016.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16) Meetings held with D2N2 and SCR Growth Hubs. Attended SCR Investment/UKTI event and a D2N2 Growth Hub Business Breakfast and hosted the D2N2 EAFRD/LEADER launch event. SCR Growth Hub service launched December 2015.

G 03 - Optimise business growth (as measured by gross NNDR) by £2.5m.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16) Estimated NNDR income figure at 31/3/16 is £23,370,950. (Baseline: £23,476,638 Gross NNDR for 2014/15).

G 04 - Support 200 young people to raise their aspirations and provide them with relevant employability skills by December 2015.

This target had been achieved.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). A number of different strands of activity contributed to this overall target. To date, 322 young people had been supported to raise their aspirations. This was broken down as follows: Raising Aspirations (193), Talent Match (63), Ambition (42), Traineeship/Apprenticeship Programme (24).

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G 05 - Through the Bolsover North East Derbyshire LEADER Approach collectively support the creation of 65 sustainable jobs in the combined programme area by December 2020.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). BNED LEADER opened for business on 19th October 2015, widely publicised through the local press and targeted mailings, officially launched on 16th November 2015 (attended by 78 people). A range of business networks in the District had been attended to promote interest. Five outline applications (OAs) had been received (all NEDDC area), from 45 initial enquires, (12 from BDC area [one previously noted has been reclassified]). Nationally, OAs cannot be progressed until Defra provide the Applicant Handbook, which had been significantly delayed, although expected shortly.

G 06 - Undertake statutory public consultation on the Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) in line with the adopted Local Development Scheme timetable by July 2017

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Consultation took place on the 'Identified Strategic Options' during Oct/Nov 2015, in line with the adopted Local Development Scheme timetable. Currently analysing consultation responses and evidence base to work up a Draft Plan for public consultation in September 2016.

G 07 - Submit Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) for examination by the Planning Inspectorate by November 2017.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Consultation took place on the 'Identified Strategic Options' during Oct/Nov 2015 in line with the adopted Local Development Scheme timetable. Currently analysing consultation responses and evidence base to work up a Draft Plan for public consultation in September 2016.

G 08 - Process all major planning applications 10% better than the minimum for special measures per annum.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). As at 31st December we achieved 83.3%. (Target 2015/16: 60%, National Target 50%).

G 09 - Deliver a minimum of 100 new Council properties by March 2019.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Rogers Avenue, Creswell, started on site (7 units to be built). Other sites being progressed.

G 10 - Enable the development of at least 1,000 new residential properties within the District by March 2019.

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This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Figures for completions are collected annually so will be reported following the end of the financial year. The planning application for the Bolsover North site for 950 homes was currently being processed. The B@home scheme to provide new council housing had commenced with 7 units to be built at Rogers Avenue, Creswell.

G 11 - Through a programme of targeted refurbishment bring 15 empty private sector properties back into use per annum.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Action Housing had submitted and won a bid for funding to the HCA for refurbishment of 15 empty properties. The Empty Property Strategy had been formally adopted by Council in January 2016. One of the key measures contained within the strategy was a proposed loan renovation scheme. Funding for this scheme is now being investigated.

G 12 - Achieve an increase of £850,000 in additional New Homes Bonus from the government by March 2019.

This target was reported as being on track.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). Private Sector Leasing Scheme was subject to a bid to the HCA from Action Housing. Outcome expected early 2016. Matching service had been developed to match owners of empty properties with developers.

The empty property strategy had been formally adopted which would enable operational processes to be developed around empty property work.

Work had started with regeneration to identify empty property hotspots and how these could tie in with regeneration areas.

Work on development of a loan scheme was in the early stages to enable owners of empty properties to access funding to renovate the properties to standards suitable for reoccupation.

Note: Proposed changes to the New Homes Bonus scheme were currently being consulted on by the Government. Any changes subsequently implemented may have consequences for the amount of New Homes Bonus achieved by the Council.

Members requested a report in relation to land availability be presented to them by the Assistant Director – Property and Estates to a future meeting of the Committee.

G 13 - Work with partners to deliver an average of 20 units of affordable homes each year.

There was an alert on this target.

Quarter 3 (2015/16). B@home scheme had commenced at Rogers Avenue, Creswell where 7 units would be built. Ongoing contact with Registered Providers partners to bring

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forward sites outside the Council's ownership. Year to date 9 affordable units brought back into use (empty properties funding in Q1 and 2).

The Portfolio Holder for Housing noted that the term 'affordable' had changed.

G 14 - Identify with partners key actions and funding mechanisms to bring forward priority employment sites at Markham Vale, Shirebrook and former Coalite site by March 2016.

Quarter 3 (2015/2016). Former Coalite site - D2N2 Local Growth Fund 3 bid submitted for infrastructure funding for remediation. Enterprise Zone bid submitted, however, it was unsuccessful. Officer seconded two-days per week (from November to May 2016) to work with NEDDC to progress the residential planning application.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing noted that since October 2015, meetings were being held on a weekly basis with the Authority and Marcol. The housing land was in the ownership of NEDDC and the remediation land was in the ownership of BDC.

A discussion took place regarding the unsuccessful bid for Enterprise Zone status for the site and if there was any value in revisiting this.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing replied that the Assistant Director – Economic Development would provide an update to Members at a future meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing noted that plans for the site had included a primary school. ATLAS was re running the model. Remediation works would take 5 years and before any housing could be started which would also take 5 years to build. The site would be a long term project. Funding gap talks were taking place with Sheffield City Region and North Midlands – the biggest risk was if nothing happened with the site.

Councillors M.J. Dooley, B. Murray-Carr, T. Connerton and M.J. Ritchie left the meeting.

0811. WORK PLAN

Members considered their updated Work Plan for 2015/16.

Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the Work Plan 2015/16 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1120 hours.