

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 1000 hours in Chamber Suites 1 & 2, The Arc, Clowne

Item No.		Page No.(s)
	PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS	
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 16 th March 2016.	3 to 6
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>	7 to 11
6.	Monitoring Growth and Economic Prosperity – Discussion on performance indicators to assist the Growth Scrutiny Committee with monitoring Growth.	12 to 13
7.	Demonstration of the Public Assets Database.	Demonstration
8.	Work Plan 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.	14 to 18

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 Suites 1 & 2, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- Councillors T. Alexander, A. Anderson, J.A. Clifton, M. Dixey, S. Statter, B. Watson and J. Wilson.

Officers:- G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates)(to Minute No. 0869), P. Campbell (Head of Housing)(to Minute No. 0869), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Councillor S. W. Fritchley in the Chair

0863. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P. Barnes and P. Smith.

0864. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0865. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0866. MINUTES – 17th FEBRUARY 2016

It was noted that the Chair, Councillor Fritchley, had been left out of the names of Members present at the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that subject to Councillor Fritchley's name being included in the list of Members present, the Minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 17th February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

(Governance Manager)

0867. 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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Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and Items to be considered in private document be noted.

0868. UPDATE ON CORPORATE PLAN TARGET G09 – DELIVER A MINIMUM OF 100 NEW COUNCIL PROPERTIES BY MARCH 2019

The Head of Housing provided a short slide presentation to the meeting in relation to Corporate Plan target G09 – Deliver a minimum of 100 new council properties by March 2019.

In assessing the viability for new build council properties on an identified site in the District, officers would consider the waiting list to see if there was a demand for housing in the area. The next step would be to see if there were any obvious site problems, for example, access issues to the site. A judgement would then be made at the Asset Management Group where the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing also attended along with Housing officers.

The second stage of the process would be a high level feasibility assessment including, desk top assessment and a high level financial assessment carried out by independent consultants and signed off by the Asset Management Group.

A further detailed feasibility study of the site to outline planning permission would then be carried out. This would include engineering, ground conditions, utilities (drains etc) and layout. The size of the scheme would determine which consultants would be used. The scheme would then be approved by the Asset Management Group and presented to Council for budget approval.

A detailed design would be carried out by architects, planning officers and housing officers and costings would be checked by an Independent Quantity Surveyor.

The financial valuation assessment of a scheme could be difficult; consideration needed to be given to a 50 year Net Present Value (NPV) to ensure that the investment was viable. An example of a financial valuation for a recent housing scheme in Creswell was provided in the slide presentation.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Housing advised the meeting that each housing scheme was an investment of the Council and did not rely on any external funding. Previously, around £2m each year was put aside from the HRA for new build properties, for example, 20 properties; income, savings and the HCA grant meant the Council could build an extra 2 properties the following year but the Government's current programme of a 1% rent reduction on local authority housing meant less money in the HRA for housing schemes and the Council would have to borrow to build new properties and larger developments in the future.

The Council would seek to secure agreements long term with development partners and would have access to better borrowing rates from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) as the interest rate was below market rate. Housing was a long term investment and there

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would be no need for short term profit. Good quality buildings with good materials minimised the risk to the Council.

In response to Members questions, the Head of Housing advised that if a new build Council property was sold under Right to Buy within the first 15 years then the sale price would be at the full value of the property, the Council would lose an asset but would regain the cost of the property.

Housing's 30 Year Business Plan would be updated at the end of the current financial year to reflect the Government's 1% rent reduction on local authority housing and also the potential forced sale of the Council's high value properties of which full details were not yet available. The updated Business Plan would be presented to Members at a future meeting of Council.

Other Government proposals were Council tenants no longer having a tenancy for life and tenancies only being between 2 to 5 years; also 'pay to stay' legislation were rents could increase on a tenant earning over £40k per annum.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding how the Council could protect its housing income in the future and the consideration of a 'shell company' or Arms Length Management Company (ALMO).

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Housing advised the meeting that alternative housing options had been looked at in previous years but rejected by Members. Also, because Housing was only a small team of staff, it did not have the resources to devote time on larger project investigations. He added that he felt the time was now right to consider other options, including 'Joint Venture'.

The Head of Housing and the Assistant Director – Property and Estates left the meeting.

0869. ROLE OF GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Officer circulated notes from an informal Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2016 where Members had discussed the role of the Growth Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Council's Growth agenda.

The Scrutiny Officer and the Chair of the Growth Scrutiny Committee had then met with the Chief Executive Officer to discuss the issues raised by Members at the informal meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer had suggested that he and other relevant staff attend the Growth Scrutiny Committee meetings on a quarterly basis from June 2016 to provide Members with a general update on growth across the District. Updates on specific sites, i.e. Coalite, Sherwood Lodge, etc could be presented to separate Committee meetings as and when required.

Growth Scrutiny Members questioned whether the Growth Corporate Plan Targets were meaningful. As things changed so rapidly it was stated that there was perhaps a different way to monitor performance.

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It was suggested that Growth Scrutiny Members could develop a set of Performance Indicators (PI's) which would enable the Committee to monitor Growth in terms of NNDR received, Planning Applications approved, etc. Members were asked to consider a set of Performance Indicators to allow the Committee to monitor Growth in the District and agreed to consider this at the meeting on 20th April 2016.

Other suggestions for work programme items included an update and demonstration of the Council's database of public assets (land), rural broadband and considering what other Derbyshire authorities had done to enhance connectivity beyond Digital Derbyshire's footprint.

The Growth Scrutiny Committee had recommended that work on a Development Prospectus be prioritised and completed by 1st September 2016. It was suggested that the Committee could consider how a Development Prospectus could promote business and residential development opportunities and enhance the relationship with developers to generate Growth.

Members raised their concern that the Authority did not have a Growth Director when the key priority of the Council was Growth. Members agreed that a dedicated Growth Director was needed for the Authority.

Members requested that the Scrutiny Officer carry out investigations on other local authorities growth targets and how the reported these with a focus on those authorities who were mentioned in the APSE report.

0870. WORK PLAN 2015/2016

The Scrutiny Officer would update the Committee's Work Plan to reflect the items as discussed above.

The meeting concluded at 1130 hours.



The Arc
High Street
Clowne
Derbyshire
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: 27 March 2016

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.

The list can also be accessed from the Council’s website at 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:

2016 25 April

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

<i>Matter in respect of which a decision will be taken</i>	<i>Decision-maker</i>	<i>Date of Decision</i>	<i>Documents to be considered</i>	<i>Contact Officer</i>	<i>Is this decision a Key Decision?</i>	<i>Is this decision to be heard in public or private session</i>
Oxcroft House Refurbishment Contract To approve the contract for the refurbishment of Oxcroft House	Executive	April 2016	Report of Councillor A Syrett, Leader of the Council	Assistant Director – Property and Estates	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council's financial or business affairs
Site Acquisition, Clowne To consider the purchase of a development site	Executive	April 2016	Report of Councillor A Syrett, Leader of the Council	Assistant Director – Property and Estates	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council's financial or business affairs
Vehicle Replacements To consider the purchase of Council vehicles	Executive	April – May 2016	Report of Councillor B Murray-Carr, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Well-Being	Assistant Director – Streetscene	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Public

<i>Matter in respect of which a decision will be taken</i>	<i>Decision-maker</i>	<i>Date of Decision</i>	<i>Documents to be considered</i>	<i>Contact Officer</i>	<i>Is this decision a Key Decision?</i>	<i>Is this decision to be heard in public or private session</i>
<p>Acquisition of Enhanced Software for Revenues and Benefits Service</p> <p>To acquire a new software system to improve collection rates for Council Tax and NNDR, and to enhance services to the public by way of improved internet functionality</p>	Executive	April 2016	Report of Councillor T Connerton, Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Revenues and Benefits	Assistant Director - Finance, Revenues & Benefits	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council's financial or business affairs
<p>CCTV</p> <p>To consider future options for CCTV in the District</p>	Executive	April 2016	Report of Councillor J Ritchie, Portfolio Holder for Housing and IT	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC)	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Public
<p>Pleasley Vale Mills</p> <p>To consider options for Pleasley Vale Mill</p>	Executive	April-June 2016	Report of Councillor A Syrett, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Estates	Executive Director - Operations	Yes – involves savings or expenditure of £50,000 or more.	Private – relates to the Council's financial or business affairs

Monitoring Growth and Economic Prosperity

Briefing note to the Growth Scrutiny Committee

The Growth Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider how they wished to monitor performance and come up with a set of indicators that would ensure they could scrutinise growth performance.

The following examples were suggested and discussed:

- National Non-Domestic Rates received
- Number of planning applications determined
- Number of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants

It was decided that examples of other authorities would be considered which included Authorities identified through the Committee's research into Public Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Local Government;

- Rochdale Borough Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- City and County of Swansea
- Eastleigh Borough Council

Some examples are listed below;

Promoting the District for Investment

- Percentage of enquiries converted to investment

Business start ups

- No. of business start ups
- Percentage of commercial property occupied

Supporting the growth of existing businesses

- Number of jobs created and safeguarded

- No. of recorded businesses
- Number of business grants offered to local businesses

Supporting Regeneration

- Number of vacant sites and properties redeveloped
- Number of trainees recruited

Tourism

- Monitoring the value and volume of tourism expenditure
 - Number of visitors
 - Estimated economic impact (£'s)
 - Estimated direct jobs supported

Building the Economy

- Percentage of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers allowance
- Percentage of people aged 16 – 64 claiming Jobseekers allowance
- Number of people leaving Apprenticeships with a job
- Gross jobs created

Growth Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme – 2015-16

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

<p>21st October 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call- In of Executive Decision - Minute No 0310 – regeneration Strategy for the former Coalite Chemicals Site • Feedback from visit to Pleasley Vale. • Update on Corporate Plan Target. 	<p>Allison Westray-Chapman, JAD - Economic Growth</p> <p>Scrutiny Members</p> <p>Scrutiny Officer</p>	
<p>18th November 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half Year Corporate Plan Targets Performance Update • Business Support Review update 	<p>Kath Drury, Information, Engagement and Performance Manager.</p> <p>Update provided by the Scrutiny Officer</p>	<p>Members will receive an update based on the information on Perform.</p>
<p>16th December 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on how the Autumn Statement 2015 impacts on the Council’s Growth Agenda – deferred. 	<p>Bryan Mason – Director of Operations/Allison Westray Chapman, JAD – Economic Growth</p>	<p>Update requested by the Chair at the pre-meeting. Attendees to be confirmed.</p>
<p>20th January 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth update – including a Briefing on how the Autumn Statement 2015 impacts on the Council’s Growth Agenda. 	<p>Dan Swaine – CEO, Bryan Mason – Director of Operations/Allison Westray Chapman, JAD – Economic Growth and Councillor Dooley, Deputy Leader.</p>	
<p>17th February 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 3 Performance Update 	<p>Kath Drury, Information, Engagement and Performance Manager.</p>	

16th March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the Corporate Plan Target G09 – Deliver a minimum of 100 new Council properties by March 2019. 	Peter Campbell, Assistant Director of Community Safety and Housing/Grant Galloway, Assistant Director of Property and Estates.	The reason for this request is that Members were advised at the last meeting that the HCA had withdrawn funding and Members would like information on how the Authority intends to progress this target
20th April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Growth and Economic Prosperity – discussion on performance indicators Demonstration of Public Asset Database. 	Grant Galloway, Joint Assistant Director of Property and Estates	
25rd May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 4 Performance Update 	Kath Drury, Information, Engagement and Performance Manager.	

Growth Scrutiny Committee Membership –

Councillors: -

Steve Fritchley (Chair)

Jennifer Wilson (Vice-Chair)

Tom Alexander

Andrew Anderson

Paul Barnes

Jim Clifton

Mark Dixey

Philip Smith

Sue Statter

Brian Wilson

Growth Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme – 2016-17

Date of Meeting	Items	Lead Officer	Notes
25th May 2016, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarter 4 – Performance Monitoring	Jane Foley, Assistant Director of Customer Service and Improvement	
29th June 2016, 2.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth Update	Dan Swaine, Chief Executive Officer	
27th July 2016, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarter 1 – Performance Monitoring		
21st September 2016, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•		
19th October 2016, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth Update	Dan Swaine, Chief Executive Officer	
16th November 2016, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarter 2 – Performance Monitoring		
14th December 2016, 10.00 am			
18th January 2017, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth Update	Dan Swaine, Chief Executive Officer	

15th February 2017, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 3 – Performance Monitoring 		
15th March 2017, 10.00 am			
19th April 2017, 2.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Update 	Dan Swaine, Chief Executive Officer	
17th May 2017, 10.00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 4 – Performance Monitoring 		

Growth Scrutiny Committee Membership –

Councillors: -