

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

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

Officers:- D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), G. Galloway (Assistant Director - Property and Estates), M. Broughton (Commercial Property and Developments Manager) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance in the public gallery were Councillors D. McGregor, J.E. Smith and M.J. Dooley.

Councillor S.W. Fritchley in the Chair

0948. APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor T. Cannon.

0949. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0950. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0951. MINUTES – 16TH MARCH 2016

Moved by Councillor B. Watson and seconded by Councillor A. Anderson

RESOLVED that the minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16th March 2016 be approved as a correct record.

0952. 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.

In response to Members' questions, the Assistant Director - Property and Estates provided an update to the meeting with regard to the situation with the chimney at Pleasley Vale

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Mills. It was noted that further discussion would be necessary with regard to the future of the chimney.

0953. MONITORING GROWTH AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY – DISCUSSION ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TO ASSIST THE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WITH MONITORING GROWTH

Members considered a presentation of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to a list of proposed performance indicators to assist the Committee with the monitoring of Growth in the District.

Members had previously discussed the role of Growth Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Council's Growth agenda and also whether the current Growth Corporate Plan Targets were meaningful.

After considering how they wished to monitor performance of Growth, Members had proposed the following indicators to scrutinise;

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

With regard to the number of planning applications determined, the Chief Executive Officer referred to current performance indicator, G08 – *Process all major planning applications 10% better than the minimum for special measures per annum*; he suggested that more relevance could be given to how quickly applications were processed, for example, showing the reasons why some applications had been able to be processed more quickly than others, and with comparisons against previous years.

With regard to the value of business rates collected in a year, the Chief Executive Officer suggested that this information could be accompanied by graphs to show trends.

Further suggestions were sought from Members.

A lengthy discussion took place.

The following points were made by Members;

- more challenging targets *were* needed,
- Members should be involved in the setting of targets,
- the PERFORM system should be kept updated on an ongoing basis and not just quarterly so Members could see targets developing,
- any financial impact on the Council should also be included with a target.

It was also suggested that a process be put in place for reviewing targets on a six monthly basis if Members felt that any targets needed addressing.

The Chief Executive Officer would liaise with officers regarding the points raised by Members and provide an update to the Committee in June. The Chief Executive Officer

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would also ensure that relevant officers attended future Growth Scrutiny Committees when required by Members.

Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

(Chief Executive Officer/Scrutiny Officer)

0954. DEMONSTRATION ON THE PUBLIC ASSETS DATABASE

The Commercial Property and Developments Manager provided a demonstration of the Public Assets Database to the meeting.

The database was a good visual aid and used by Property and Estates to help focus on delivery, for example, engaging with parish and town councils regarding joint working and joint ventures.

The presentation slides highlighted the following;

Ownership and Extent Datasets; The system was a Spatial (Polygon) service only for local authorities and was defined by administrative area, District or County, and based on the Land Registry's internal map data layer. It provided free information on Public Sector ownership and information was supplied under a Data Sharing Agreement. Refreshes were also available.

Potential Benefits; The system helped the Authority to meet obligations under the Government's Transparency Agenda. The Land Registry dataset complemented and built upon existing geographic datasets. Information data repository, on a centralised GIS layer, aids fast and accurate information access and retrieval via 'My Maps'. It identifies how many titles and ownerships cover an area (30,133). The data is used to assist with projects, it reduces ad hoc checks and general Land Registry spend but doesn't include 'unregistered' land.

Data Costs; Polygon, title number, class of title and tenure information, for 5p per title. Registration = £1,506

A range of additional data was also available;

- Ownership records for £1.00 per title
- Registered on dates for 1p per title
- Lease Details on Leasehold Titles for 25p per title

All public/Government owned title registrations were provided for free and ownership information on this sector was also supplied. The annual update cost was £400

Land Registry defined public owned assets; Local health authorities / town councils / parish councils / NHS / Primary Care Trust / Local Authority / Secretary of State / Government departments / Majesty / Crown Estate / emergency services: Fire, Ambulance and Police.

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The system also included other specific information such as areas of 'high risk' of flooding, political boundaries, bus stops etc. The system was populated by the GIS team and all departments had access to the system.

The Chief Executive Officer noted that the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority was developing a prospectus of housing opportunities and putting together an indication of what was in the pipeline for developers. The Chief Executive Officer felt that Bolsover could do this locally; the public assets database was used for identifying areas of Council owned land as part of the Authority's proactive approach to housing development opportunities in the District.

The Chief Executive Officer advised Members that Bolsover's development prospectus was being progressed and would include information relating to B@Home and Joint Ventures such as Pleasley Vale etc. The Chief Executive Officer had also met with the Housing Lead at DCLG who was aware of the prospectus and both Councils' innovative approach to housing development. DCLG's Local Government Policy Localities Lead, Chrissie Farrugia, would also be visiting Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils on 29th April and would be shown a number of development sites in both Districts' areas.

The Assistant Director - Property and Estates added that in a lot of cases the Authority was leading the way on joint working, especially in relation to sharing accommodation with partner organisations.

A short discussion took place.

Councillors McGregor, Smith and Dooley left the meeting.

Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

0955. WORK PLAN 2015/16 AND 2016/17

Members considered the Committee's Work Plans for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Moved and seconded

RESOLVED that the Committee's Work Plans for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted.

The Chief Executive Officer, the Assistant Director - Property and Estates and the Commercial Property and Developments Manager left the meeting.

The formal part of the Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting concluded at 1110 hours and Members then met as a Working Party to continue their review work.

The Working Party concluded at 1120 hours.