

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 25th May 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Councillors:-

Councillor S.W. Fritchley in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander, A. Anderson, P. Barnes, G. Buxton, J.A. Clifton, M. Dixey, S. Statter, B. Watson and J. Wilson.

Also in attendance with the permission of the Chair were Councillors A.M. Syrett (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth) and M.J. Ritchie (Portfolio Holder for Housing and IT).

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), J. Foley (Assistant Director – Customer Service and Performance), G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates), M. Broughton (Commercial Property and Developments Manager), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Brownsword (Governance Officer)

38. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

39. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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41. MINUTES – 20TH APRIL 2016

Moved by Councillor B. Watson and seconded by Councillor M. Dixey

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 20th April 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

42. 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.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson

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

43. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – JANUARY TO MARCH 2016 (QUARTER 4 2015/16)

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Transformation presented the report which gave details of the performance outturn for those targets which sit under ‘unlocking our growth potential’ corporate aim as of 31st March 2016. The information was correct as of 10th May 2016. Most of the targets were on track.

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

It was noted that 42 houses were currently under construction at Rogers Avenue in Creswell.

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

It was noted that a report would be forthcoming once the figures were calculated at the end of the financial year.

G 11 – Through a programme of targeted refurbishment bring back 15 empty private sector properties back in to use per annum

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Transformation noted that this target had been flagged as an alert as the target had not been achieved for 2015/16.

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The current Empty Property Officer was due to leave the authority and there was a possibility that the Housing Strategy Department would be re-structured.

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

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Transformation noted that this target had been flagged as an alert as the target had not been achieved for 2015/16.

It was noted that the final figures would be available from the Planning Department in June.

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

A question was asked regarding progress on a start date for the land remediation on the former Coalite site. The Chief Executive Officer informed Members that monthly progress meetings were being held with Mercol and funding was still being sought which would have an impact on when the work would start. Negotiations were ongoing with Derbyshire County Council to ensure that funding would still be available if LEP monies were not forthcoming. Planning permission had been obtained for both sides and it was important to maintain momentum.

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor S.W. Fritchley
RESOLVED that (1) year one progress against the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 targets be noted,

(2) a report on progress made on the former Coalite site be submitted to a future meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

(Chief Executive Officer/Governance Officer)

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Transformation left the meeting.

The Chairman gave his permission for the following two items to be taken together.

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44. ASSET BACKED JOINT VENTURE COMPANY JOINT VENTURE/HOUSING

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates and the Commercial Property and Developments Manager gave a presentation which included details of work carried out so far at Rogers Avenue, Creswell which was currently nearing completion. It was hoped to start marketing to tenants shortly. An open day was to be held on 3rd August 2016. Other sites were being looked at.

Members praised the development at Rogers Avenue and noted that the build quality was very high.

Due to the success of the joint venture at Rogers Avenue, a further investigation into the formulation of a joint venture company was proposed in order to build on other sites within the Council's ownership and investigate the possibility of facilitating build on sites outside the ownership of the Council. Members noted the social benefits of such a scheme.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson

RESOLVED that (1) the presentations be noted,

(2) a further report on progress of investigations into the possibility of a Joint Venture Company be presented to a future Growth Scrutiny Committee

(Assistant Director – Property and Estates/Governance Officer)

45. SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2016/17

The Scrutiny Officer presented the list of suggested work plan items which had been formulated following the Annual Scrutiny Conference and a discussion took place regarding the Committee's priorities.

1. Creation of a Development Prospectus

It was felt that there was the potential to carry out a review into the production and content of a Development Prospectus for the District.

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2. Rural Broadband
3. Rural Mobile Signal

A review was currently being undertaken by BT and the Chief Executive Officer explained that the possibility of a local project was being investigated in Shirebrook and a survey was being commissioned.

Members asked whether a review of the 30 Year Housing Business Plan was underway and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and IT noted that it was currently being worked on with regard to the new Housing and Planning Acts.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson

RESOLVED that (1) the Growth Scrutiny Committee carry out a review into the production and content of a Development Prospectus for the District,

(2) an update on the 30 Year Housing Business Plan be submitted to a future meeting of Budget Scrutiny Committee.

(Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC)/
Governance Officer)

46. SCRUTINY REVIEW – SELECTION AND SCOPING

Further to Minute No. 45, a review of ‘The Production and Content of a Development Prospectus for the District’ was to be carried out. A draft scoping document was formulated to be approved at the next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor S. Peake

RESOLVED that a review on ‘The Production and Content of a Development Prospectus for the District’ be carried out and the draft scoping document be submitted to the next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee for approval.

The meeting concluded at 1135 hours.