

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 27th July 2016 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S.W. Fritchley in the Chair

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

Also in attendance was Councillor A.M. Syrett (Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth)

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), J. Foley (Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement) (until Minute No. 00214), G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates), A. Westray-Chapman (Assistant Director – Economic Growth) (until Minute No. 00215), K. Drury (Information Engagement & Performance Manager) (until Minute No. 00214), K. Apps (Housing Strategy and Growth Manager) (until Minute No. 00215), S. Chambers (Communications, Media and Design Officer), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

00210. APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J.A. Clifton

00211. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

00212. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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00213. MINUTES – 29TH JUNE 2016

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 29th June 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

00214. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – APRIL TO JUNE 2016 (Q1 – 2016/17)

The Information Engagement & Performance Manager presented the report which gave details of the performance outturn for those targets which sit under 'Unlocking our Growth Potential' aim as of 30th June 2016. The information was correct as of 14th July 2016. Most of the targets were on track.

G 03 – Optimise business growth (as measured by gross NNDR) by 2.5m by March 2019

A question was asked regarding the value of appeals and the Information Engagement & Performance Manager noted that the level of appeal was unknown at this stage.

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

Final completion figures would be available in Quarter 2.

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

An update would be available in Quarter 2.

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

It was noted that the new build Council properties would count towards this target.

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement circulated a document which provided Members with an update on how the new Performance Indicators for Growth would be presented. Baseline data was being collated to provide a growth strategy update and the data would be presented at six monthly intervals.

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Members felt that more information was necessary and the Chief Executive Officer noted that this was first time the indicators had been discussed and more information would be added as the Performance Indicators evolved over time. The information needed to be meaningful and for a purpose e.g. House prices could give an indication on how effective development had been at regenerating an area.

The Assistant Director – Economic Growth noted that more detailed information regarding house prices in the District could be provided separately.

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement noted that the document would be finalised with Cabinet to establish the baseline data for 2015/16 and brought back to Growth Scrutiny Committee with half year figures for 2016/17.

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

RESOLVED that (1) progress against the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 targets be noted,

(2) the format of the new Growth Performance Indicators be approved and brought back to Growth Scrutiny Committee on a bi-annual basis.

(Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement/
Scrutiny Officer/Senior Governance Officer)

The Assistant Director – Customer Service and Improvement and the Information Engagement & Performance Manager left the meeting.

00215. EMPTY PROPERTY SCHEME UPDATE

The Assistant Director – Economic Growth introduced the new Housing Strategy and Growth Manager who gave an update on the Empty Property Scheme. A list of nine privately owned properties that had been brought back into use was circulated to Members and it was noted that the post of Empty Property Officer was currently being advertised.

Action Housing who were the Council's preferred partner had been provided with five more addresses and they had £18,000 per property to spend. There were also links to the apprenticeship programme and homeless charities.

Local residents referred properties to the Council, but the reporting routes needed to be better advertised, it was hoped to provide a text number which could be responded to quickly.

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Members asked how closely other departments were worked with and the Housing Strategy and Growth Manager noted that joint visits were undertaken with Environmental Health as properties which could not be referred to Action Housing would then be subject to enforcement approach. The new Empty Property Officer would be the co-ordinator and contact for local residents.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The Assistant Director – Economic Growth and the Housing Strategy and Growth Manager left the meeting.

00216. DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEW BUSINESS WEB PAGES

The Communications, Media and Design Officer noted that unfortunately the new system could not be demonstrated due to a server issue. The Committee was informed that the template had been tweaked and reduced down. A back to top button had been added and images from around the District were being added.

Local plan data was being used and GIS information was being uploaded so that if a site was clicked on, it would inform the user who owned the site and give contact details. GIS information would be embedded into the system so that when GIS was updated, the site would be updated.

It was hoped that the site would go live next week.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

00217. WORK PLAN

The Growth Scrutiny Committee Work Plan was circulated for Members' information. It was suggested that the Committee consider looking at items such as regeneration plan update, provision of Traveller Sites within the District, the impact of the new HS2 route, the Business Rates arrears process or the Business Rate Retention Consultation.

It was noted that the consultation had been launched by the Government on 7th July 2016 and the deadline for responses was early September. It was suggested that a Special meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee be held to discuss the details of the consultation.

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

RESOLVED that (1) the work plan be noted,

(2) a special meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee be arranged for the 23rd August 2016 to discuss the 100 % Business Rate Retention Consultation.

(Scrutiny Officer/Senior Governance Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1110 hours.