

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 1000 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor J. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander, A. Anderson, P. Barnes, G. Buxton, J.A. Clifton, M. Dixey, P. Smith and S. Statter (until Minute No. 0328)

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chair was Councillor A.M. Syrett (Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration) (until Minute No. 0328)

Officers:-

L. Cheong (Acting Scrutiny Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

### **0322. APOLOGY**

An apology of absence was received from Councillor T. Connerton

### **0323. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **0324. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### **0325. MINUTES – 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

Moved by Councillor P. Smith and seconded by Councillor G. Buxton

**RESOLVED** that subject to paragraph 3 in minute no. 0244 being amended to read 'Members expressed their concerns that the infrastructure would be unable to cope', the minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be approved as a true and correct record.

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **0326. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor P. Smith

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

### **0327. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – GROWTH IN BOLSOVER DISTRICT**

The Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration attended the meeting and gave an update with regarding growth in Bolsover District. It was noted that threats to the Council included lack of revenue from central government, HS2, automation and the need to ensure prosperity within the District by creating good quality jobs.

The Council was good at encouraging new business and had the best business start up rate in the county and what was more, many of those businesses were still in existence after 2 years. The Tangent in Shirebrook had been very successful and 7 new workshops were being built.

The lack of post 16 education within the District was an area of concern. All residents deserve the same opportunity and the Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration was pressing Derbyshire County Council on the issue. Derby University had expressed some interest in creating some provision within the District. The District needed to create a well educated adaptable workforce and move away from the low quality jobs that dominated the area.

The immediate threat was 2020 and the need for the budget to balance before the withdrawal of government support. There had been a couple of financial windfalls last year, but a proper analysis of budget and need was required.

A review of the Strategic Alliance Management Team was currently underway to look at the structure and whether the right people were in the right job. Any re-organisation would start at the top. The Council was currently building more houses and this meant that the Housing Department was currently an area of growth.

The Council needed to investigate income generation and one area was looking to build on small pockets of blighted land/wasteland/garage sites which were unattractive to developers. High Street regeneration, particularly in Shirebrook and Bolsover, was also an important area to help build healthy, thriving communities.

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Members asked questions regarding the Strategic Alliance Management Team Review and thanked the Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration for her support regarding officer attendance at Scrutiny Committee's.

A question was asked about the implementation of the Business Growth Website and the Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration noted that although the website was important and there was frustration at the length of time the website was taking to launch, there was a lot of other work ongoing with regard to Growth.

Questions were raised regarding connectivity to the road infrastructure around the District and also an access point to the rail link for the southern parishes. It was noted that the route of HS2 was still being objected to but roads to Chesterfield were also an issue. This connectivity needed to be considered by HS2.

Members noted that as well as risks to the Council, there were also opportunities including Dragonfly (what was the capacity), Business rates, what else could be done to help start up businesses and what could Scrutiny do to help drive the Council forward.

The Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration noted that the government kept delaying the implementation of the business rates, but there would need to be some form of compensation. The development of the leisure centre at Clowne had been a great opportunity for the Council and had exceeded its business plan making it very profitable. Another area of growth to be investigated was the possibility of public private partnerships e.g. energy supplies.

Members felt that the Committee needed to look at other forms of income streams and treasury management.

The Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration noted that the Council had a good record of 'invest to save'. There may also be legal limitations on how monies could be made or invested. A major area of growth was around tourism and the possibility of a hotel in Bolsover would help to ensure that more money was spent in the District.

The Coalite site regeneration was well underway and was a good example of the Council being ready and in the right place at the right time to access funding for an important project. Several ideas were being looked at for the end use of the site, but 'big sheds' were not wanted. The District lacked an innovation centre and this could be the ideal location. It could also be the location for Post 16 education within the District

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chair thanked the Leader and Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning and Regeneration for the presentation

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

Councillors S. Statter and A.M. Syrett left the meeting.

### **0328. BUSINESS GROWTH UPDATE**

The Chair noted that the Communications Manager had provided a written update on progress regarding the Business Website as he was unable to attend the meeting due to annual leave. The Communications Officer was willing to attend a meeting of Growth Scrutiny Committee to provide a demonstration of the website, once complete.

Members expressed their disappointment that no timescales had been indicated for release of the website.

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

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

### **0329. UPDATE ON HIGH STREET REGENERATION**

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor G. Buxton

**RESOLVED** that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

### **0330. WORK PLAN 2017/18**

The Senior Governance Officer noted that the Chief Executive Officer was not able to attend the meeting on 4th April 2018, as requested at the last meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee, but would provide a written update to the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Moved by Councillor P. Smith and seconded by Councillor J. Wilson.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan be noted.

The formal meeting concluded at 1133 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1200 hours.