

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 3rd January 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- Councillors T. Alexander, G. Buxton, J. Clifton, T. Connerton, M. Dixey, P. Smith and S. Statter.

Officers:- S. Chambers (Communications, Marketing & Design Manager), L. Cheong (Scrutiny Officer – Acting) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Councillor J. Wilson in the Chair

0505. APOLOGIES

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

0506. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0507. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0508. MINUTES – 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

Moved by Councillor P. Smith and seconded by Councillor T. Connerton

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 15th November 2017 be approved as a true record.

0509. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document.

Moved by Councillor M. Dixey and seconded by Councillor G. Buxton

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

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0510. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS WEBSITE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING AND DESIGN MANAGER

The Communications, Marketing and Design Manager provided a presentation to the meeting which updated Committee on the Council's proposed new business web pages.

The business web pages were aimed at encouraging businesses to locate and invest in the District and included information on key statistics, funding and investment opportunities, key points of interest with maps which provided links to details of business parks / sites and contacts. The pages would include videos and also quotes from businesses in the District that the Council already engaged with. It was hoped to launch the web pages at the end of January 2018.

Members felt that as the District had the M1 motorway running through it with four separate junctions, as well as good rail and air connections, these should be highlighted more on each of the pages - to fall in with this, the heading 'Discover Bolsover District' could be changed to 'Discover Bolsover District Connects'.

A Member raised concern that under the heading of 'Investment Opportunities', the former Coalite site's profile needed to be raised and described more as a prominent business site rather than one just for 'general industrial and storage', like the Markham Vale site.

The Communications, Marketing and Design Manager agreed to raise Member's comments and concerns with the relevant officers in the Economic Development team.

Members thanked the Communications, Marketing and Design Manager for the update on the business web pages.

0511. QUALITY OF JOBS IN THE DISTRICT – SUGGESTION FOR A MINI REVIEW

The Scrutiny Officer (Acting) suggested that Committee consider undertaking a mini review on the quality of jobs in the District.

Members agreed that as the District was in such close proximity to the M1 motorway, it naturally attracted a lot of distribution type jobs.

Following a lengthy discussion, Members agreed that the issue of attracting businesses into the District was wider than just the type of jobs that were currently available. Members felt that the image of the District needed seriously addressing, especially the street scene, which was unattractive with litter, fly tipping and weeds. Education establishments were also required for higher education and good skills for jobs as it was understood that there was currently no sixth form provision in the District. Chesterfield College, which had been partly based in Clowne, had closed in 2013. A Member noted that it had been previously suggested that an education establishment could be based at the former Coalite site.

Members suggested that a mini survey be carried out with regional businesses to ask them to identify the skills they would require for the future; any changes in work patterns

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and what was needed to facilitate them; also, if any relevant training identified could be carried out locally and immediately, including apprenticeships.

Members agreed to focus on three topics for the mini survey;

1. Local business facilities – what would be of interest to businesses?
2. Work skills – what would regional businesses need in the next 10-15 years? (it was suggested that the LEP would have information relating to this).
3. What could the Council do to influence outcomes, for example, business start-ups? For businesses already sited in the District, how could the Council encourage them to move more of their business operation into the area, e.g., their headquarters?

In relation to number 2 above, a Member suggested that local Job Centres be contacted to ascertain statistics and the types of quality jobs available in the District. The website 'Indeed' would also provide similar information. A representative from a Job Centre could also be invited to provide a presentation.

Members requested that the Scrutiny Officer (Acting) look into devising a mini survey based on the three topics above and sources information on job skills to circulate to the meeting on 31st January.

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor P. Smith
RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Officer (Acting),

- a) devises a mini survey based on the three topics as listed above,
- b) sources information on job skills to circulate at the meeting on 31st January 2018.

(Scrutiny Officer (Acting))

0512. WORK PLAN 2017/18

Committee considered their work plan 2017/18, which would be updated with items raised at this meeting.

Moved by Councillor S. Statter and seconded by Councillor P. Smith
RESOLVED that the work plan 2017/18 be updated,

The meeting concluded at 1107 hours.