

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 28th February 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor J. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors A. Anderson, T. Connerton and S. Statter

Officers:-

K. Drury (Information, Engagement and Performance Manager) (until Minute No. 0656), J. Wilson (Scrutiny and Elections Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

0650. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Alexander, P. Barnes, G. Buxton, J.A. Clifton, M. Dixey and P. Smith.

0651. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

0652. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0653. MINUTES – 31ST JANUARY 2018

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor T. Connerton
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 31st January 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

0654. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE HEARD IN PRIVATE

The Senior Governance Officer circulated an up to date list which had been published since publication of the agenda and noted that in future, specific Executive dates would be indicated. It was noted that there would be an Extraordinary Executive held on 26th March 2018.

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor A. Anderson
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and Items to be Heard in Private, be noted.

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0655. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017 (QUARTER 3 – 2017/18)

The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager presented the report which gave Members information on the quarter 3 outturns for the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 targets which sat under the 'unlocking our growth potential' aim as of 30th December 2017.

G 01 – Through the use of Key Account Management, develop a relationship with a minimum of 50 local businesses by March 2019

This target was reported as being on track.

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

This target was reported as being on track. However, under the revaluation some businesses were worse off so the Government introduced reliefs and this had reduced the tax base. The Council would receive a grant to compensate (Section 35).

Baseline: £23,476,638 Gross NNDR as at 31/03/15. Using the estimate above the business growth was £1,912,611 against a target of £2.5m by 31st March 2018.

Prior to Committee, a question had been asked regarding clarity on what % of the £2.5m can be achieved given the reduction from 2016/17 'actual' of £26,270,072. The estimated actual for 31/3/18 had continually reduced. Was the target at risk due to unforeseen appeals?

The following response was received:

Since the original target was set in 2014/15, the situation has changed and, therefore, the assessment of the target is hard to quantify. The 2014/15 target was based on the valuation as at 01/04/10. A revaluation occurs, usually every 5 years, when values are re-assessed. However, the revaluation was delayed from 01/04/15 and actually took place 01/04/17. Although the overall total of rateable values may have increased overall, the principle of business rates is that a revaluation is not just to collect more. Therefore, to compensate for this the multipliers used in assessing rates income are reduced/ reset. In addition, the Government has continually made more reliefs available as per the Autumn/ Spring Budgets. It is, therefore, difficult to assess growth using the 2014/15 figures; it should be realigned/ reset with the 2017 values.

G 05 – Through the Bolsover North East Derbyshire LEADER Approach, collectively support the creation of 65 sustainable jobs in the combined programme area by December 2020

This target was reported as being on track.

The following response was received: 1 application had been approved from the Bolsover area, receiving £37,726.56 and creating a total of 3 jobs during the corporate plan period. (The collective scheme total was 5 projects totalling £173,171.87, creating a total of 7 jobs).

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G 06 – Undertake statutory public consultation on the Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) in line with the adopted Local Development Scheme timetable by July 2017

This target was reported as being overdue. A visit from the Planning Inspectorate had taken place and a revised Local Development Scheme was to be agreed by the Planning Committee. It was hoped to undertake the consultation in May 2018.

G 07 – Submit Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) for examination by the Planning Inspectorate by November 2017

This target was reported as being overdue. A visit from the Planning Inspectorate had taken place and a revised Local Development Scheme was to be agreed by the Planning Committee. It was hoped to submit the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2018.

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

This target was reported as being on track. 21 properties had been completed in the reporting period, with a total of 92 to date.

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

This target was reported as being on track. The totals so far were: 2015/16 – 326, 2016/17 – 302, 2017/18 would be reported at Q1 2018/19. This included all properties that were completed inclusive of B@Home and other Social housing built in the district as well as market sale units.

Committee asked whether the figure counted all types of property including B@Home and it was confirmed that the figure included all properties that were completed inclusive of B@Home and other social housing built in the District, as well as market sale units.

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

This target was reported as being on track.

Committee noted that the commentary for Q3 referred to two sites that had involved the creation of apartments. Do the properties converted count as two or 25 properties against the target of 15? What programme had been agreed for 2018/19 – can it be confirmed which sites had been identified for action?

It was noted that the New Homes Bonus for these properties would be 25 and that was how the Council would count them. The properties were commercial units becoming residential and would provide accommodation for potentially 25 people. One of the developments (11 flats) would be completed in 2018/19 as it would not be started until April 2018 at the earliest. The Council did not have a development programme as the empty properties were brought forward with partners and were reliant on landlords engaging with both the Council, Action Housing or the private landlords who were

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purchasing/leasing the empty properties. This meant that the Council were facilitators and therefore had limited control, but based on the good working relationship, the Council had been able to secure empty properties coming forward for rent (affordable and market).

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

This target was reported as being on track

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

This target was reported as being on track. The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager noted that 14 units had been delivered in the year to date and that the interim policy had been removed. No affordable units had yet been completed on private sites.

A question was asked whether the interim policy had been removed due to the 5 year supply of housing being achieved. The Information, Engagement and Performance Manager would feedback to Members.

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor T. Connerton
RESOLVED that progress against the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 targets be noted.

0656. WORK PLAN 2017/18

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer presented the Work Plan and noted that the Chief Executive Officer would not attend the meeting on 4th April 2018 as he would be in attendance at the meeting on 2nd May 2018 to give the Quarterly Growth Update.

A proposed policy on the enforced sale of residential properties would be presented to the Committee on 4th April 2018.

It was also hoped to schedule another informal meeting by the end of the Municipal year.

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor S. Statter
RESOLVED that the Work Plan 2017/18 be noted.

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 1026 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1101 hours.