

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 July 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor K. Reid in the Chair

Councillors A. Anderson, P. Barnes, G. Buxton, T. Connerton, M. Dixey.

Officers:- D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), K. Hanson (Joint Strategic Director – Place), G. Galloway (Joint Head of Property and Commercial Services), D. Clarke (Joint Head of Service Finance and Resources), K. Apps (Joint Housing Strategy and Growth Manager) (to Minute No. 0190), C. Fridlington (Planning Manager) (to Minute No. 0189), J. Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

0183. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of T. Alexander, S. Statter, D.S. Watson and J. Wilson.

0184. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0186. MINUTES – 27TH JUNE 2018

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor K. Reid

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 25th July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

0187. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Due to the summer recess, the next List of Key Decisions and Items to be considered in private document would be published on 10th August 2018.

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor K. Reid
RESOLVED that the update be noted.

0188. DRAFT LOCAL ENFORCEMENT PLAN (PLANNING)

Committee considered a report regarding a draft Local Enforcement Plan in relation to Planning. A copy of the draft Plan was appended to the report.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stated that effective enforcement was important as a means of maintaining public confidence in the planning system and local planning authorities should act proportionately in responding to suspected breaches of planning control.

Enforcement action was discretionary and a Local Enforcement Plan was not a statutory requirement, however, the NPPF stated that local planning authorities should consider publishing a Local Enforcement Plan to manage enforcement proactively in a way that was appropriate to their area. The Plan should set out how the planning authority would monitor the implementation of planning permissions, investigate alleged cases of unauthorised development and take action where it was appropriate to do so. It should also be consistent with Government guidance on best practice in respect of planning enforcement, the Regulator's Code and the Council's existing and emerging corporate enforcement policies.

The Council's draft Local Enforcement Plan sets out key points and service standards that officers considered specific, measurable, achievable and realistic. The service standards had been designed to facilitate prompt investigation of suspected breaches of control and encouraged making timely decisions on how to progress individual cases.

Committee was invited to review the draft Local Enforcement Plan and provide any comments which would be considered by Planning Committee and then Executive. A public consultation exercise would then be carried out to raise awareness of the document and the Council's work on planning enforcement more generally.

A Member requested that a paragraph be added to the document informing customers on how they could obtain further information regarding boundary lines. The Chief Executive Officer welcomed the Member's point and agreed that this would be helpful to include in the document.

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor P. Barnes
RESOLVED that subject to a paragraph being added which informed customers on how they could obtain further information regarding boundary lines, the draft Local Enforcement Plan (Planning) be noted.

The Planning Manager left the meeting.

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

0189. GROWTH STRATEGY UPDATE (PRESENTATION)

Committee considered a presentation which provided an update on the Council's Growth Strategy.

Through the Growth Strategy and the Corporate Plan 2015-2019, the Council had established three strategic priorities to unlock its growth potential;

- 1) Supporting Enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base,
- 2) Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic growth,
- 3) Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites.

These three key themes interlinked with the Council's Economic Development & Housing Strategy, which in addition also addressed; maximising employment, skills & training, town centre development and developing/supporting rural & the visitor Economy.

Work was being undertaken on various project/strands to help deliver on both of the strategies and the presentation focused on the progress on delivery of these additional themes.

Business Support;

- Business Engagement – sign posting, networks, advisors, Sheffield City Region and D2N2 Growth Hubs,
- LEADER – 7 local projects have been granted £332,412 to create 39½ jobs,
- Business Growth Fund – supported 9 businesses with £71,200 to create 15.6 jobs; with extra £97,717 awarded to 11 other projects,
- D2 Energy Efficiency – 7 local projects have been supported with £47,000 and to save 103 carbon tonnes,

Housing Growth;

- Working with developers to deliver sites such as Keepmoat at Brookvale (which has been incredibly successful), B@home and Dragonfly,
- Bringing forward empty properties, for example, the Station Hotel in Creswell had delivered 15 apartments working with Action Housing, Homes England and the owner,
- The former Miners Welfare in Creswell had been purchased by Action Housing to deliver 11 apartments.

These properties had created income to the Authority with regard to new homes bonus and council tax and also wider social benefits in relation to the apartments in Creswell for people who required a one bedroom property due to universal credit, welfare reforms and the Homelessness Reduction Act.

Unlocking sites;

- A development team approach had been established for major site developments (Major sites included the former Coalite site, Clowne Garden Village and Sherwood Lodge),
- The Developer Forum was well established and was a way of working with the development industry; modular construction had been discussed at the last meeting and the Government was pushing for this type of development,

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- A Bolsover District Sector Analysis report had been published and was on the Council's website. This looked at what worked well in Bolsover, which sectors were growing and what areas were potential for further development. This information could be used for investment propositions in the future.
- The Council's **InvestBolsover** website provided a wealth of information on development opportunities.

High Street Working Group & Regeneration Frameworks progress (1);

- A High Street Working Group had been established in spring 2017 and was led by the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre Renewal, Media & Marketing, with support from the Joint Head of Service for Economic Development and officers from Economic Development, Planning, Partnerships, Property and Finance to ensure a multi-disciplined team,
- 'Walkabouts' around the four market town centres of Clowne, Bolsover, Shirebrook and South Normanton had taken place with local Members,
- Presentations had been delivered to Members regarding the Local Plan Retail and Town Centres Study,
- Delivery of Shirebrook Market Place Enlivenment scheme will raise the aspiration for the area and link in to other work done in the area,
- Identify measures to support the high streets and opportunities to improve gateways and marketing/promotion,
- Working with Derbyshire County Council and D2N2 regarding town centres programmes/projects,
- D2N2 Infrastructure Plan was being prepared,
- Derby and Derbyshire Business Rates Pilot being launched in August with three strands;
 - Strand 1 – Business Support,
 - Strand 2 – Feasibility / Enabling Delivery studies,
 - Strand 3 – Quality of Place interventions - 3a) looking at public realm works and 3b) having a direct impact on business rates (intervention to help business succeed).

Bolsover Tourism and Marketing;

Working with key partners (Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire (MPDD) and Chesterfield Area Partnership (hosted by Chesterfield Borough Council (Visitor Information Centre)), promoting tourist destinations, leisure destination activities, culture and heritage, towns and villages, events and activities, accommodation and retail destinations.

Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire were the official tourist board and destination marketing organisation for the Peak District and Derbyshire promoting the area nationally and internationally to grow and support the visitor economy. They had recently developed an app which allowed visitors to download 3 – 5 - 7 day visits. Recent promotions on behalf of the Authority were Creswell Crags, Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall.

Chesterfield Area Partnership;

The Chesterfield Area Partnership (hosted by Chesterfield Borough Council) were partners with MPDD delivering marketing campaigns and raising the local tourism profile via online marketing. They ensured that Bolsover District tourism businesses were included in any promotional work.

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Bolsover District Council;

In order to attract the calibre of developments the Council aspired to, there was recognition that the area needed a powerful brand which conveyed both the historic elements to the area combined with aspirations for a highly skilled, high growth inclusive economy.

The Council secured funding for Bolsover Town through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Economic Infrastructure project which delivered the following;

- **Discover Bolsover** brand:- this provided legacy material to be used across the District to support work currently undertaken for tourism promotions and marketing by the various organisations,
- Uplift of public realm using high quality natural materials (e.g., associated seating and interpretation boards etc),
- A programme of events to stimulate local business growth through increased footfall:- Food and Drinks Festival, Antiques Fair, Christmas Festival, Town Jewel Awards. The Food and Drinks Festival and the Christmas Festivals continued to occur as annual events.

The Council had produced four town centre visitor guides as direct promotion of the District to residents, visitors and tourists. These guides may be expanded on in the future to cover all parishes in the District. A number of promotional films were currently being prepared to also help promote the District and an events guide would be produced in 2019.

There was wider support for the District through Derbyshire County Council and D2N2. The Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat Destination Plan used opportunities for leisure cycling with the objective to grow overnight stays, encourage visitors to explore further and to support the growth of tourism and cycling-related businesses. The Plan set out the potential and what needed to be done over the next five years but also looked beyond to 2027.

The D2N2 Visitor Accommodation Strategy 2017 was commissioned to research the current state of and future possibilities for visitor accommodation in the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership area. The study provided a robust assessment of the future opportunities for visitor accommodation development across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and the requirements for public sector intervention to support and accelerate visitor accommodation development.

Members asked questions in relation to the LEADER and Business Growth Fund, the former Coalite site, progress on the four town centre frameworks, the D2N2 Infrastructure Plan timeline and whether there was a need for a dedicated tourism officer at the Council.

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer queried if the Council had a service level agreement in place with Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire and the Chesterfield Area Partnership as Members were aware there was no dedicated tourism officer at the Council. The Strategic Director – Place agreed to follow this up and report back to Committee.

Moved by Councillor K. Reid and seconded by Councillor P. Barnes
RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

The Joint Housing Strategy and Growth Manager left the meeting.

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

0190. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Committee considered their Work Programme 2018/19.

Moved by Councillor K. Reid and seconded by Councillor T. Connerton

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be noted.

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 1100 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1135 hours.