

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 1400 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:- Councillors A. Anderson, G. Buxton, M. Dixey, S. Statter and B. Watson.

Officers:- D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), A. Westray-Chapman (Assistant Director – Economic Growth), G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Councillor J. Wilson in the Chair

### **0839. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T. Alexander and J. Clifton.

### **0840. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **0841. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **0842. MINUTES – 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor B. Watson.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of a Growth Scrutiny meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be approved as a correct record.

### **0843. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

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

Moved by Councillor A. Anderson and seconded by Councillor G. Buxton

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

### **0844. UPDATE ON THE REGENERATION FRAMEWORKS – BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Committee considered a report, which was circulated at the meeting, in relation to the Council's Regeneration Framework.

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The report had been presented to Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 where Members had approved the recommendations in the report.

The Regeneration Framework was a strategic plan, adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. It identified a number of interventions required to transform the four main town centres in the District being Bolsover, Clowne, South Normanton and Shirebrook.

Work on high streets had been prioritised along with the introduction of a Portfolio Holder for High Street Regeneration.

The report prioritised projects and set out the resources required to enable the work.

Many of the issues highlighted in the prioritised projects for each town related to highways improvements and officers had held a workshop with Derbyshire County Council staff to discuss the issues and identify key actions which were summarised in the report.

In response to Members questions regarding the resources required to enable the work of the priority projects, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth noted that Bolsover Partnership was successful in bidding for funds for a “Building Resilience” project, which could be used as match funding for initiatives where appropriate.

In order to progress the priority projects, more detailed work would need to be undertaken to get them “shovel ready” for bids. An initial assessment of the total funds required to deliver work was approximately £55k, however, further work would be required to ensure that this was properly scoped before any activity was commissioned. It was, therefore, proposed that future reports would be provided to Executive, as and when necessary, setting out the proposed costs of the more detailed work and highlighting how it had been scoped.

Officers would continue to investigate other sources of external funding such as D2N2, the Arts Council and European funding, which could be used to match fund or support initiatives. This would also be reflected in future reports as and when necessary.

Members thanked the Assistant Director – Economic Growth for providing the update.

### **0845. QUARTERLY GROWTH UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Committee considered an update of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to Growth.

**Website Business Pages** – Members were already aware that the delay in launching the website had been due to the required input of GIS information. Further to a meeting taking place, it had been agreed that the site would go live on 1st June 2017, after planning officers had undertaken annual updates to the system that would provide accurate information to display on the new Growth site.

Members requested that a demonstration of the site be provided at the next Growth Scrutiny Committee in May.

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**Sherwood Lodge** – A Community Protection Notice (CPN) warning had been served on Morrison's on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 but the landowners had not acknowledged the contents of the warning. An inspection of the site had been undertaken and only one of the conditions documented within the warning appeared to have been met, which was the erection of signs advising security was on site.

As a result, the Authority was now at the stage to issue a Community Protection Notice to the landowner (Optimisation Developments Ltd), which would give them 28 days to complete the work detailed in the notice. Failure to carry out the work would mean they could face prosecution by the Council's Legal Department and a potential fine of up to £20,000. Further information may be available at the next Growth Scrutiny meeting.

Planning approval had been sought to demolish part of the building and Bolsover Civic Society would be allowed to remove some objects from the old Sherwood Lodge building, for example, some stained glass windows.

**Former Coalite site** – the Assistant Director – Economic Growth advised the meeting that all demolition work on site had been carried out. Environmental Health and the Environment Agency held regular discussions and the contractor, DSM, had revised their plans and would be digging up smaller patches of land for contamination testing – this was all progressing well. Derbyshire County Council was satisfied that progress was as scheduled at the current stage and there had been very few complaints regarding odour of which an 'odour' management plan was in place. The Community Liaison Group meetings were also working very well and a further newsletter was due imminently as well as updates being put on Twitter. Students from Royal College, London, had also been to visit the site. Officers were pleased with progress and the Developer had already received two enquiries regarding investment opportunities on the site.

**Tangent Phase 2** – planning permission had been granted for the construction of 7 industrial units which would be sited at the rear of the current business centre. RLB had been appointed by the Council as the design team and were currently in the process of appointing a build contractor through a competitive tender process. The marketing of the units for let would start once the building contractor had been appointed. Tenants in the existing centre would be consulted with regard to the contractor, site mobilisation and the construction site health and safety, to ensure they could continue their operations with minimal disruption.

**Digital Derbyshire** – current options included required investment from businesses in Shirebrook and feedback was awaited.

**Pleasley Vale (Fibre optic broadband)** – BT Wholesaler had confirmed that the exchange had been upgraded and the C21 network had been installed. BT would be required to confirm if the cabinets on site were fibre enabled or whether they had been installed ready for an impending upgrade to be fibre enabled. However, carrying out a brief online search on the PVBP postcode indicated fibre was available to order through BT at Pleasley, which would suggest there was sufficient fibre coverage across the business park for tenants to be able to access.

Given the close proximity of the units to the cabinet, it would not matter if the connection to the cabinet was fibre or copper – with the distance travelled over copper there would not be much degradation of speed.

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**Joint Venture** – this was progressing well with 3 proposed schemes in the District currently at planning submission stage.

Bassetlaw District Council was looking to set up a Joint Venture company and the Assistant Director – Property and Estates had recently attended a meeting of their Cabinet and Senior Management Team to talk about Bolsover's Joint Venture. Chesterfield Borough Council had also contacted Bolsover regarding advice on setting up a Joint Venture Company. The Assistant Director – Property and Estates noted that it was encouraging that the Council's Joint Venture model was being looked to by other local authorities. The Assistant Director – Property and Estates had also been asked to speak at a business breakfast meeting at the Housing Conference.

**Recruitment of a Growth Director** – this would be part of the review of the Senior Management Team which was progressing.

**HS2** – dialogue was ongoing and it was important that this was maintained. The CEO had met representatives from a number of companies and had also spoken to the Engineers from HS2 who had paid a site visit to the District. It was unlikely that the route would now change; there had been a suggestion to move the spur but HS2 had refused because of the high cost. Road improvements to improve access to Hardwick Hall would be necessary if HS2 goes through and the CEO would email Paul Mullins from HS2 for indicative timescales of when funds would be available. An officer at DCC was carrying out a study to identify the positive impacts as well as the negative impacts of HS2.

The Chief Executive Officer, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and the Assistant Director – Property and Estates left the meeting.

### **0846.           EXAMPLES OF HOW OTHER AUTHORITIES ARE PROMOTING THEMSELVES AND ATTRACTING BUSINESSES**

Committee considered information provided by the Scrutiny Officer of how other authorities promoted themselves and attracted businesses to their areas.

It was suggested that Bolsover's Growth website include virtual tours of the Council's business premises which were for let when potential businesses made their enquiries.

Members then viewed a promotional video of Shirebrook which had been kindly provided to the Committee by the Portfolio Holder - Commercial Development and Efficiencies.

### **0847.           WORK PLAN 2016/17**

Members noted that it was essential that the new Growth website demonstration be provided to them at the Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting in May before it went live in June.

The meeting concluded at 1540 hours.