

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 31st January 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

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

Officers:- G. Galloway (Assistant Director Property and Estates), J. Wilson (Scrutiny Officer), L. Cheong (Scrutiny Officer (Acting)) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Councillor J. Wilson in the Chair

The Chair introduced Joanne Wilson to the meeting who was the Authority's new Scrutiny Officer. Members welcomed Joanne.

0577. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

0578. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0579. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0580. MINUTES – 3RD JANUARY 2018

Moved by Councillor T. Connerton and seconded by Councillor M. Dixey

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

0581. 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 document be noted.

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0582. UPDATE ON MAPPING OF GARAGE AND INDUSTRIAL SITES

The Assistant Director Property and Estates provided information to the meeting which detailed sites identified in the District for potential housing development. The information had been produced in a spread sheet format.

At a Council meeting held on 17th November 2017, Members had agreed funding for 6 Be@Home properties in the District with a further 66 sites to be considered in the near future.

The sites were a mixture of current and former garage sites, overgrown allotment sites, cleared terraced house sites and open spaces plus others.

The spread sheet provided detailed information on each site, including location, the area size and the number of potential properties that could be built etc. There was also a link on each address on the spread sheet so that the site could be viewed on Google maps.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Director Property and Estates replied that the sites would be approved by Members at Council and Planning officers would then identify if there were any potential problems, such as access and parking issues etc.

Members thanked the Assistant Director Property and Estates for providing the information and requested a copy of the spread sheet be emailed to them.

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

RESOLVED that the update on the mapping of garage and industrial sites be noted.

0583. QUALITY OF JOBS IN THE DISTRICT

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting regarding quality of jobs in the District, the Scrutiny Officer (Acting) circulated information to the meeting relating to employment by occupation for the Bolsover District between July 2016 and June 2017. The information had been collected from NOMIS.

NOMIS was a service provided by the Office for National Statistics, (ONS), to give free access to the most detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources.

The information showed that Process Plant & Machine Operatives and Elementary Occupations formed the most jobs in the District (9,800). Further, only a fifth (21.6%) of people in the District (10,600) had a higher level NVQ4 equal to a foundation degree or lower level degree. A much larger proportion of people in the District were operating at a lower skill level.

It was noted, however, that there were a lot of skilled trades in the District. Further, a person did not necessarily need to attend University to gain a degree, for example, there was now a range of training available to study for a degree in the work place.

Members agreed that as the District did not have a sixth form centre or a university, different approaches to 'upskilling' people needed to be looked at. The information

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circulated at the meeting confirmed that the District needed additional employment opportunities requiring higher level skills qualifications and the challenge was attracting and keeping these businesses in the area.

With regard to carrying out a review, the Scrutiny Officer advised Members to consider the areas where they could have the most impact, for example, the terms and conditions in planning applications for employment sites could ensure that there would be a good skills mix across sites, which would also help promote growth in the District. Additionally, the Council's Partnership team had links with the Sheffield City Region and D2N2 training programmes where employers in the District could access additional training support.

Although it was noted that there was now a higher level of apprenticeship programmes in the area, Members agreed that the current types of training provision available to post 16 year olds should be looked at along with the types of qualifications that businesses in the area, (including the Authority), were offering and how these were being promoted, along with location and transport availability to colleges and universities within a 10 mile radius of the District.

Councillor Buxton left the meeting at this point.

0584. WORK PLAN 2017/18

Committee considered their Work Plan for 2017/18.

It was noted that it had been agreed at the last meeting to focus on three topics for a mini review;

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?

The Scrutiny Officer suggested that she make internal enquiries in relation to the three questions as information was most likely already in existence in the Council's departments such as the Partnership Team and Economic Development. The information could then be joined up to the two areas identified in the earlier discussion regarding quality of jobs in the District and post 16 training provision, with any gaps identified for further research and this be presented to the next meeting in February.

Moved by Councillor J. Wilson and seconded by Councillor P. Smith
RESOLVED that the Work Plan be updated.

The Chair thanked Lynne Cheong, the Scrutiny Officer (Acting)), for all her help and support over the previous few months.

The formal meeting concluded at 1140 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1155 hours.