

The Arc
High Street
Clowne
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the
Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

Contact: Joanne Wilson
Telephone: 01246 242385
Email: joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk

Thursday 15th June 2023

Dear Councillor

LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 27th June, 2023 at 10:00 hours.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised on pages 3 and 4.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. S. Fielden".

Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and when delivering the services it provides to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

Access for All statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or **language** or contact us by:

- **Phone:** [01246 242424](tel:01246242424)
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- **BSL Video Call:** A three-way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call Bolsover District Council with Sign Solutions, you just need WiFi or mobile data to make the video call, or call into one of our Contact Centres.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) - a free phone service provided by BT for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking. It's a way to have a real-time conversation with us by text.
- **Visiting** one of our [offices](#) at Clowne, Bolsover, Shirebrook and South Normanton

**LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

***Tuesday, 27th June, 2023 at 10:00 hours taking place in the Council Chamber,
The Arc, Clowne***

Item No.		Page No.(s)
	<u>PART A - OPEN ITEMS</u>	
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Urgent Items To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	Declarations of Interest Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of: a) any business on the agenda b) any urgent additional items to be considered c) any matters arising out of those items and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	Minutes To consider the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 th March 2023.	5 - 12
5.	List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private <i>(Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information). NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only.</i>	13
6.	Local Growth Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 – Approval of Programme	14 - 20
7.	Update on Business Growth Strategy	21 - 36
8.	Report on the Levelling Up Fund - Round 2 Application	37 - 46

PART B - INFORMAL

9. Review Work

LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Monday 13th March 2023 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:

Members: -

Councillor Jen Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Derek Adams, Jim Clifton, David Dixon (from Minute No. LOC56-22/23) and Janet Tait.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor Liz Smyth (Portfolio Holder for Growth) and to Minute No. LOC57-22/23, Councillors Ray Heffer, Mark Hinman, Andrew Joesbury, Clive Moesby, and Graham Parkin.

Officers: - Chris Fridlington (Director of Economic Development, Dragonfly Development Limited), Joanne Green (Partnerships Policy Officer) and Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer).

LOC51-22/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tracey Cannon and Tom Kirkham.

LOC52-22/23 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

LOC53-22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

LOC54-22/23 MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2023

Moved by Councillor Derek Adams and seconded by Councillor Jen Wilson
RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Local Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

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LOC55-22/23 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 Derek Adams and seconded by Councillor David Dixon
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

LOC56-22/23 REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FRAMEWORKS – SOUTH NORMANTON

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer explained the various documents that had been presented to Members as part of the review and the approach taken so far.

The Director of Economic Development, Dragonfly Development Limited (DDL), presented a review of the South Normanton Town Centre Regeneration Framework, acknowledging the Committee's original review plan to take each town area in turn. They noted that the Framework had originally been commissioned in autumn 2015 and had highlighted a range of public and private interventions that could be made to improve the town centre and surrounding areas.

As agreed with Committee, officers had produced a scorecard analysing progress against the various elements of the Framework including in surrounding villages and hamlets. On reflection, the Framework document hadn't guided development to a great extent within the area. Many elements remained undelivered as the document had been aspirational in nature requiring additional buy-in from Town and Parish Councils to engage in the development plans themselves. Where funding had not been in place, many ideas had been difficult to deliver.

It was noted that the previous Regeneration Frameworks, to some extent, also sat outside a wider strategy for development and there was not a bank of costed projects ready to put forward to support the area. While the intention of the Frameworks had been to lever investment, the lack of costed projects had made them almost impossible to deliver. As there was an insufficient evidence base within the document, additional research would now be required in order to evidence and cost the projects that could regenerate the town centres. Furthermore, due to the age of the documents, there was no reference to current issues such as carbon reduction, digital connectivity and nature recovery.

The original document was completed back in 2015-17 and did not fit with current community aspirations. The aim of completing the community consultation at the time was to ensure partners were on board with regeneration. The suite of documents overall was potentially too ambitious and very resource intensive to produce. It was highlighted that going forward any new approach to regeneration planning must provide value for money.

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The officer acknowledged that the Frameworks hadn't had the expected impact and it was clear that officers welcomed recommendations from Committee on potential future activity. They noted that it was important that the Council was clear how it could support parishes and that there were clear mechanisms to signpost elsewhere when the Council could not assist. This would also enable the Council to prioritise future action more effectively.

The Director noted that at a previous meeting there had been appetite from the Committee to work closer with parishes particularly for the Clowne framework area and that this would also be a good approach for South Normanton. Of the three core delivery objectives, none had progressed. Of the five Stepping Stone projects, none had progressed. It was noted, however, that South Normanton and all the core villages in the surrounding area had been assessed through the Town Centre Health Check process and all remained stable in terms of their viability as local centres.

A Committee Member noted that there were several good ideas for projects within the Framework but that a number were heavily dependent on securing funding and queried if this was the reason for lack of progression.

The Director confirmed that a significant amount of extra investment was required for delivery, likely a mix of public/private sector investment. The pandemic had impacted reserves for many local businesses which was affecting their day-to-day stability and opportunity to expand. Ideally the area would benefit from government funding aimed at public realm improvements as there were several small schemes identified which would support local businesses, particularly those with premises requiring renovation.

A Ward Member noted that South Normanton in particular did not have any vacant premises. They highlighted that the marketplace area was in need of regeneration but that this always seemed to be low priority, with limited emphasis on how that part of the town could be improved over other priorities. They noted that the town was a key gateway to the District and also one of the biggest employers in the District through the McArthur Glen outlet. This alone should generate the need to ensure the town remained attractive. Furthermore, the Post Mill Centre was an excellent venue for the community and local services. In light of the environmental improvements taking place elsewhere in the District, the creation of a community orchard area and/or land to support the delivery of Forest School activities would be a welcome addition. The Member queried why this area of the District had not been prioritised for improvement sooner.

The Director confirmed that the Growth Plans in Creswell and Shirebrook areas were as a result of submissions to the Local Plan Implementation Group and that Members had prioritised those communities for additional development as a result. Both Members and officers were aware of local concerns where additional development was being proposed in smaller communities. The Director clarified that those supporting the development of plans are sensitive to this. The Council was currently approaching Derbyshire County Council for investment support for shop front improvement schemes. South Normanton had been identified as an area where public realm works were required and recent work in Pinxton had led to proposals for the creation of a wellness hub for the community. It was hoped that monies previously earmarked to support work at Oxcroft House in Bolsover could be redirected for use in South Normanton if a private sector tenant could be secured for Oxcroft House. The Development Team were

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constantly assessing external funding streams available to support development. It was acknowledged that there was also a need to create closer working relationships to the different communities within the south of the District. It was hoped to work with the Leader's Executive and Partnerships team to enable this. The South Normanton area was the most economically productive in the District due to the businesses located there.

A Committee Member noted that they were aware projects had not progressed as planned and agreed with the concerns raised by the Ward Member. They felt new recommendations for action were now required to move forward.

The Director noted that following the upcoming election there would be a renewed emphasis on working with the parishes and building relationships with the new councils. The importance of a medium-term plan was emphasised with clear deadlines for delivery. It was also important to consider alternative uses for vacant premises such as pop-up shops for local start-up business to function as a kick-start.

A Committee Member commented that they felt the issues affecting this Framework area were universal across the District. They welcomed the investment in the Shirebrook area and felt this was well overdue. They also highlighted the issue of connectivity as a big problem in most areas and welcomed the idea of closer parish links.

The Director noted that improving the links to parishes would also help to bring other strands of work together such as s.106 payments.

A Ward Member suggested that each locality within the Framework area would benefit from a small amount of funding to support the initial setup of regeneration schemes and/or feasibility studies. They highlighted work they were aware of in the Erewash area on business improvement and noted the current funding streams being promoted on the local radio.

A Ward Member reiterated that following the election in May it was vital to work with the Partnerships Policy Officers for each area to help facilitate improved local connections and working relationships. They also noted further complications in relation to the completion of highways repairs by Derbyshire County Council (DCC), and delays to the planned extension of the McArthur Glen site. They noted that the Framework area was not a natural area to travel to via bus from other parts of the District, even within the immediate area transport links were very limited. They questioned why other neighbouring areas appeared to have been more successful in securing Town Deals and other external funding and was frustrated by the lack of success in attracting funding resources. It also noted that food bank access was poor within the area with the services only located in South Normanton not the wider communities.

The Director noted that the success of bids by surrounding areas was largely due to them being classed as a priority 1 area, as such they had already been eligible for additional allocations. The District was classified as a priority 2 area and consequently the Council had to work significantly harder to achieve funding bid successes.

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The Scrutiny & Elections Officer reminded Members of the Town Centre Health Checks that had been completed and their recommendations for the development and adoption of local management strategies.

The Director acknowledged that the Health Checks had proved very beneficial and enabled work to progress such as that in Shirebrook at the marketplace. They noted that the Planning Service had a specific workstream looking at vacant premises, with the aim of identifying the owner to ensure the premise was moved on to new uses.

A Ward Member agreed that refreshed communications with parish councils was crucial and that this should involve the Leader's Executive and Partnerships team. They felt that some external partners were more engaged than others when it came to regenerating the area in partnership. They queried the need for a dedicated Funding Officer and whether this would enable a more effective approach. They also believed it was imperative that the Council have more 'shovel-ready' projects developed to enable a quicker application process and reduced missed opportunities. The three areas they felt required most attention was the development of a cycle route within the main town centre within South Normanton, review and redevelopment of the marketplace area, and development of the war memorial.

The Director noted that the service was now in a position to redirect funding previously earmarked for other projects towards improvements and/or feasibility studies in relation to the South Normanton Framework area. Most initial plans or studies would likely need between £10-£20,000 for development. Such an approach could be a recommendation from the review but would require further approval and reports to Executive with costings.

The Portfolio Holder for Growth confirmed the biggest issue facing the Council was our ability to access external funding, which was significantly impacted by the qualification criteria used by the Government as the District simply didn't rank deprived enough.

A Ward Member agreed the District required a bigger and better profile at a national level to secure funding.

The Committee Chair questioned to what extent online shopping had impacted local town centres as they were aware this was having a huge issue nationally. Two of the local Ward Members agreed but noted that the McArthur Glen centre was always busy.

A Ward Member suggested that the ideal Review recommendation would be a partnership approach between Development, Planning and Leader's Executive & Partnership team across all four centres within the Framework Area- South Normanton, Pinxton, Blackwell and Tibshelf. It may also require cross-area or even cross-District work for greenways and cycle routes which would require work with DCC Highways.

Members supported this suggestion and agreed to start with South Normanton as a pilot area, with further roll-out following evaluation of the approach.

Moved by Councillor Jim Clifton and seconded by Councillor Derek Adams
RESOLVED that (1) the contents of the report and appendices be noted,

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(2) the findings for this area be compared with the previous Framework area reviews, as part of the formulation of the final Review report and recommendations,

(3) a pilot approach to re-development/investment be operated in South Normanton and then, following evaluation of its success, rolled out to the remaining other three centres within the South Normanton Framework area.

(Director of Economic Development, DDL/ Business Growth Manager/ Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

LOC57-22/23 BUSINESS GROWTH STRATEGY – MONITORING UPDATE (FULL) 2022/23

The Director presented the update to Members highlighting key points within the report. Members were reminded that the Strategy had been originally developed during the Covid pandemic. The core aim of the Strategy had been for the area to 'build back better', if as per the national approach, including nature recovery. The Director noted that the Development team would be looking to complete a refresh of the Strategy following the upcoming election.

Members were advised that the crematorium project was now nearing the construction phase and that a number of additional projects within the action plans were either complete or in-hand. Furthermore, a Nature Recovery Summit had taken place on 10th February which had received excellent local support.

A Councillor queried what the current situation was with the creation of dragonfly development Ltd and the potential transfer of council staff. The Director confirmed that consultation was currently taking place with staff identified as affected by the creation of the company.

A Councillor sought clarification on the remit of the dedicated Pleasley Mills officer role. The Director confirmed that the aim of the dedicated post was to facilitate the regeneration of the site. The dedicated resource would be in place for a three-year period. A key focus would be on assessing the constraints of the site and improvements that can be made, in addition to looking at new areas where additional rental income could be secured. The Councillor noted that they were pleased to see such progress.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Jim Clifton
RESOLVED that the report and feedback on progress be noted.

(Director of Economic Development, DDL/ Business Growth Manager)

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LOC58-22/23

DRAFT BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Economic Development briefed Members on the draft strategy. It was noted that the Council had benefited from support from an LGA consultant to review existing approaches to business engagement. To date this had not been a priority action for delivery, however work in this area improved during the Covid pandemic and consequently the team realised that greater emphasis was required on business engagement.

It was noted that the Service had recently secured a CRM system to help capture local business information and to track specific needs of the local business community. A substantial proportion of recent engagement had focused on climate change and business support. The service believed a lot of progress was now being made in this area.

The Portfolio Holder for Growth referred to the InBusiness Magazine which was now in circulation and noted that at the start of their four-year term in 2019 the Council had insufficient information to truly know our local businesses. They noted that the Council had transformed their approach. They highlighted that the new CRM system was making an enormous difference and was enabling the Council to share publications and advice on grants, business resilience and best practice.

The Director confirmed there was a notable increase in networking events being held, which had been highly successful in terms of attendance by the local business community. A key piece of information gathered was that local businesses welcomed face-to-face contact rather than web based.

Moved by Councillor Jim Clifton and seconded by Councillor Derek Adams

RESOLVED that (1) the findings and recommendations of the Grant Thornton Business Engagement Strategy Review report be noted,

(2) the formal adoption of a Business Engagement Strategy and Action Plan be supported.

(Director of Economic Development, DDL/ Business Growth Manager)

LOC59-22/23

REVIEW OF INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL VALUE TO BDC POLICY AND DELIVERY – POST-SCRUTINY MONITORING (INTERIM REPORT)

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised Members of the progress to date in implementing the recommendations. Two out of six recommendations had been achieved to date and officers from the Leader's Executive and Partnerships Team, Leisure and Development were engaged in the integration of social value. Further work was taking place with officers in the Procurement team to ensure that policies reflect the agreed way forward. The Officer reminded Members that during the course of the Review a draft Social Value Policy had been produced with further work required during the monitoring and implementation phase. Subsequent to the approval of the recommendations by Executive, the opportunity to complete a Business Process

LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Review (BPR) of the Council's social value approach in procurement had arisen. The Council had secured support from the LGA to complete this. This had identified the need for a whole Council approach to embedding social value. Although completing the additional review would mean a 6-to-12-month delay in completion of the policy, it would ensure a whole council approach in the long-term leading to better outcomes.

A Councillor noted that 'Social Value' was very much a current buzz word, and they were aware that not everyone was on board with the concept. They queried if the message on the importance of the concept was being conveyed correctly by officers and Members leading on this area. They also stated it was vital that the Council clearly communicated any successes in relation to social value outcomes.

The Director agreed with the sentiment and confirmed full buy-in to the concept was essential to ensure that a whole Council approach and achievements could be celebrated.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer confirmed that the monitoring period could be extended to allow completion of the Policy and the Director agreed this was the best approach.

Moved by Councillor Derek Adams and seconded by Councillor David Dixon
RESOLVED that (1) the progress against the review recommendations be noted,

(2) Members acknowledge any exceptions to delivery and clarify the additional action required by the service be acknowledged,

(3) Scrutiny Members make their report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Council's Constitution,

(4) Officers continue to implement the recommendations and a final report in six months' time highlighting exceptions to delivery be submitted.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

LOC60-22/23

LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Committee considered their proposed work programme for 2022/23 and noted that this was the final meeting for this committee cycle. The Chair thanked Members present for their input to the work of the Committee. The Chair also noted that Councillor Clifton was retiring after 24 years as a District Councillor and 28 years as Parish Councillor and thanked him for his long and dedicated service.

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Janet Tait
RESOLVED that the Work Programme 2022/23 be noted.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 11:30 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 11:51 hours.



List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private

The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found here:

<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=1147&RD=0&bcr=1>

Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information.

NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only.

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on 27th June 2023

Local Growth Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 – Approval of Programme

Report of the Scrutiny & Elections Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk
Contact Officer	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide members of the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the proposed meeting programme of the Committee for 2023/24.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to inform members of the proposed meeting programme for the year 2023/24 and planned agenda items (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This programme may be subject to change should additional reports/presentations be required, or if items need to be re-arranged for alternative dates.
- 1.3 Review Scopes submitted will be agreed within Informal Session in advance of the designated meeting for Member approval to ensure that there is sufficient time to gather the information required by Members and to enable forward planning of questions.
- 1.4 Members may raise queries about the programme at the meeting or at any time with the Scrutiny & Elections Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

- 1.5 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 1.6 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 1.7 As part of the scoping of Reviews, consideration is given to any consultation that could support the evidence gathering process.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the meeting schedule for 2023/24 and the proposed agenda items for approval/amendment.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 This report sets the formal Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 and the issues identified for review.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Programme enables challenge to service delivery both internally and externally across all the Council Ambitions.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There is no option to reject the report as the Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members review this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1 for approval and amendment as required. All Members are advised to contact the Scrutiny & Elections Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

IMPLICATIONS:**Finance and Risk:** Yes ☐ No ☒**Details:**

None from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐**Details:**

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in Part 1A, s9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

None from this report.

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒**Details:**

None from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	N/A
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Committee Members

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
All

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1.	LGSC Work Programme 2023/24

Background Papers
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
Previous versions of the Committee Work Programme.

Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2023/24

Formal Items – Report Key

Performance Review	Policy Development	Policy/Strategy/ Programme Monitoring	Review Work	Call-In/Review of Executive Decisions	Petition

Delivery of Dragonfly and Bolsover Homes Programmes??

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
27 June 2023 18	Part A – Formal	• Agreement of Work Programme 2023/24	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
		• Business Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL
		• Update on Levelling Up Fund Bid for Bolsover	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL
	Part B – Informal	• Review work	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
1 August 2023	Part A – Formal	• Tourism Strategy – Monitoring Update	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Tourism and Place Manager, DDL
		• Business Engagement Strategy – Monitoring Update	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Business Engagement), DDL
		• UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monitoring Update	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Investment & Growth), DDL

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
3 October 2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleasley Vale Regeneration Programme 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Pleasley Vale), DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery – Post-Scrutiny Monitoring (FINAL REPORT) 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
11 December 2023	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monitoring Update 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Investment & Growth), DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
12 February 2024	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Strategy – Monitoring Update 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Tourism and Place Manager, DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Engagement Strategy – Monitoring Update 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Business Engagement), DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
29 April 2024	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleasley Vale Regeneration Programme 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Pleasley Vale), DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monitoring Update 	Director of Economic Development, DDL; Business Growth Manager, DDL; Senior Economic Development Officer (Investment & Growth), DDL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer

Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 27 June 2023

Update on Business Growth Strategy

Report of the Director of Economic Development

Classification	This report is public
Report By	Natalie Etches, Business Growth Manager 01246 242389 / 07989 146973 natalie.etches@bolsover.gov.uk
Contact Officer	As above

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is:

- To provide members with an update on the Council's Business Growth Strategy and Action Plan, including the work done over the years since its inception; and
- To consider the timescales for a review of the Action Plan to reflect the update to the corporate priorities and work plan of the team over the coming 36 months.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Bolsover District Council's Business Growth Strategy focussed on how the Development Directorate prioritised its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition over the four-year period 2019-2023:

To become a dynamic, self-sufficient and flexible Council that delivers excellent services, whilst adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District.

- 1.2 To maintain focus on achieving the Council's ambition the strategy was organised around the Council's economic priorities:

- Making the best use of our assets;
- Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams;
- Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites;

- iv. Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth;
 - v. Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills; and
 - vi. Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism
- 1.3 The action plan attached to the Business Growth Plan included specific details of how these priorities will be achieved through various ongoing projects. The action plan also contained a section dedicated to 'building back better' which highlights action we're taking to promote clean, inclusive growth and improve the environmental quality of the District.
- 1.4 The action plan has been updated and a full review conducted with updates on actions that relate most to the Council's economic priorities. The most recently updated action plan is attached in full to this report as Appendix A.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 **Building Back Better** – the focus of this strand is promoting the environmental improvements and nature recovery of the district, through investment in the built environment, but also in the carbon reduction and NO2 reduction through the introduction of sustainable methods of transport.
- 2.2 **Enabling Housing Growth** has seen a significant change over the last update period. Dragonfly Development Ltd was brought into full ownership of the council in November 2022. A full business case was presented to Council in February with a decision to transfer several services into the new company, which happened on 1 April 2023.
- 2.3 **Increasing Revenue Streams** – projects continue to progress, with consultation and engagement activities being carried out on both of the growth plans for Creswell and Shirebrook respectively. The Crematorium development continues to make good progress with a start on site expected in the late Summer.
- 2.4 **Making the Best Use of our Assets** – this strand has seen the biggest changes as part of this update, with new actions introduced in to the action plan, including the review of Independent commercial property and the Grazing and non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land. Now that the appraisal of garage sites is complete, and a receipt in excess of £1m received, it is important we now turn the focus on to other assets the Council own, and consider these for retention or disposal.
- 2.5 Work on the redevelopment proposals for Pleasley Vale are also now building momentum, following the recruitment of Kay Gregory in to the role of Senior Economic Development Officer (Pleasley Vale). Recent commissions include flood modelling, statement of significance, stakeholder engagement with Historic England, Environment Agency and Mansfield District Council.
- 2.6 **Promoting the District and Increasing Tourism** – progress is being made on the review of the tourism strategy and walking and cycling strategies. There has also been significant increase of activity around the business support

programmes being developed now we have secured the £1.9million UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation from Government. The business support and Visit Bolsover projects have commenced delivery.

- 2.7 **Working with Partners** – all four activity areas have seen significant progress over the last review period. As referenced in 2.6 above, the award of UK SPF monies to the Council has meant delivery can commence for business support initiatives.
- 2.8 There has been progress made with the Social Value Policy, with the Director of Development attending a series of workshops for learning and embedding best practice, but that there is a great opportunity for this local authority to review and better embed across all departments a strong social value ethos. Work is ongoing to strengthen our draft policy and revise it to best reflect the opportunity, which is further supported by the recent purchase of LOOP – a social value monitoring toolkit.
- 2.9 The Director of Development and the Business Growth Manager have been engaged with the One Public Estate (OPE) Team, informing a recent county wide engagement / consultation exercise on the potential for Opportunity Development Fund (ODF) for Bolsover Town. This fund and support would explore the publicly owned buildings within the town, scope for colocation, and opportunity for redevelopment and/or reconfiguration of the public estate within the town. This would have a strong alignment to the work already undertaken by the team on the recently unsuccessful Levelling Up Fund application, in readiness for round 3 later this year.
- 2.10 The recent local elections in May 2023, and appointment of new councillors, will undoubtedly bring about a review of the corporate priorities in order to best reflect the ambitions of the new administration. There will need to be a review of the Growth Strategy and Action Plan to ensure the priorities and activities are meeting the Council's Ambition. The timetable for this review is to be considered.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Local Growth Scrutiny is provided with updates on the Business Growth Strategy to ensure appropriate progress is being made on the Council's corporate priorities and to provide feedback or support where necessary to enable officers and members to work together to achieve the Council's ambitions.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The alternative is not to provide detailed updates as set out in the proposed work plan but this may risk loss of focus on achieving the aims of the Council within the quickest practicable timescales. This is particularly significant given that income generation from projects and proposals in the Business Growth Strategy are included in the projections contained within Dragonfly's business plan and ultimately impact on the Council's MTFP.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Members to note the report and provide feedback on progress for officers to consider and take appropriate action where necessary.

Approved by Councillor John Ritchie
Portfolio Holder for Growth / Economic Development

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes ☒ No ☐

Details: A number of projects and proposals in the Business Growth Strategy have risk and financial implications, of which, most are positive insofar as they are around bring forward good developments and income generation. However, these issues are worked through in detail and in consultation with the Section 151 Officer on a case by case basis.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details: The Business Growth Strategy does not in itself have any legal or data protection implications but a number of projects and proposals in the Business Growth Strategy will. However, these issues are worked through in detail and in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council on a case by case basis as required.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details: the update sets out the actions and interventions supported as part of the growth strategy to contribute to the environmental enhancements and carbon reduction across the district.

Staffing: Yes ☒ No ☐

Details: The Business Growth Strategy does have some staffing implications insofar as the capacity and resource available will influence how quickly projects and programmes are delivered. However, staffing issues are dealt with separately as they arise.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	(please state which wards or state All if all wards are affected) All wards affected
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
As noted in the report, the Business Growth Strategy and associated action plan is closely linked to achieving the Council's ambitions and economic priorities. Achieving a number of the objectives in the Business Growth Strategy will also have a positive impact for our customers and the environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Business Growth Strategy Action Plan June 2023

Background Papers <i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
None

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Building Back Better					June 2023
Project	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Community Woodlands	This project is aligned with the nature recovery network and both aim to promote 'building back better'.	Ambition to plant 1,000,000 trees	This project is now in the second year of planting with over 9,000 trees planted on Larks Rise in Creswell (former Creswell Colliery tip site)... Other projects continue to be planted. This winter's planting has included Whitwell Community Orchard, Clowne villa Park and in South Normanton	Following the winter planting season, work will start on more community engagement and developing a planting strategy for 2023/24 season.	Review September 2023
Local NO2 Plan – Air Quality	An allocation of funding has been awarded to the local authority on the back of the ministerial direction for the reduction of N02 emissions across the district.	To reduce the NO2 emissions and improve overall air quality for the district.	No delivery to date, as the funding award was only confirmed in May 2022.	Environmental Health to confirm the delivery arrangements for the administration of the grant. Themes include: provision of alternative travel infrastructure; sustainable transport; and communication and engagements.	April 2024
Geothermal Energy	Utilising mine-water to produce energy savings	Implement mine water energy schemes to make use of geothermal energy at Creswell and Whitwell tip	£25,000 of external funding has been obtained to carry out a high level feasibility study for both Creswell and Whitwell and this has now been supplemented by an award of up to £800,000 from the LEP (D2N2) for a prototype scheme using a closed loop system in an open shaft.	University of Derby has been commissioned to complete a study to look at integrating the geothermal energy in to the housing scheme in Creswell.	Review March 2023
Nature Recovery Network	To create a network of sites which can be improved back to nature to offset the impact of future developments	To create places for nature paid for by developer contributions and third party funding.	A Local Nature Recovery Summit was held on 10 February, engaging stakeholders and agree priorities and pledges for action.	Delivery of 4 council pledges, including Dragonfly exploring opportunities to acquire land to build up the Network.	Review September 2023

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Enabling Housing Growth					June 2023
Projects	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Bolsover Homes	Programme of social rented house building.	Deliver 400 new homes over four years through to 2024.	<p>Dragonfly Development has successfully delivered the schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mill Lane, Bolsover – Managed the remediation of the old depot site leaving a developable site• The Woodlands, Langwith – Completed the future homes scheme of 19 properties.• Creswell Healthy Living Centre – Completed the above scheme for an external client. <p>Sites under construction</p> <p>Client - BDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market Close/Hereward Close, Shirebrook – Construction underway on 28 new properties with first handovers scheduled for late 2023• West St, Langwith – Construction underway on 5 new properties. <p>Client – Bersahill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work started on the previously stalled Maddison Ct site, to construct 4 new properties and complete 7 partially completed properties.	<p>Planning permission expected for Woburn court following a number of re-designs.</p> <p>Work to begin on Moorfield Lane, Langwith to deliver 7 new homes for BDC.</p> <p>Price accepted by our client Roseland Park & Crematorium. Work on-going around mobilisation and start on site in Autumn 2023.</p>	Ongoing with delivery of 400 homes by 2024.
Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Limited Dragonfly Development Limited	Wholly owned development company.	To enable economic growth and community regeneration through direct commercial action and to generate an income for Bolsover District Council.	Following formal consultation with employees, and a full business plan being approved by Council, staff transferred into Dragonfly on 1 April.	Work is ongoing to deliver the schemes outlined above for Bolsover Homes. Dragonfly Development, as the principal contractor is currently undertaking	To complete the internal documentation required for collaboration between DF and BDC. To compile a business plan.

NEW		To reinvigorate Bolsover District by directly constructing, stimulating employment, tourism, providing quality housing, regeneration and income opportunities through direct intervention and delivery.	Dragonfly Development took over the construction of the Creswell Health and Well-Being Centre, with a completion and opening of the facility in April 2023.	estimating and pricing works for Roseland Park and Crematorium scheme at Shirebrook Discussions are ongoing with Bersahill Limited (Bassetlaw District Council) to deliver a stalled scheme at Harworth.	To compile internal policies and procedures for the working practices of Dragonfly, including procurement, HR, and finance policies.
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Growth Strategy Action Plan: Increasing Revenue Streams					June 2023
Project	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Creswell Growth Plan	To identify further opportunities for sustainable growth in Creswell.	To promote growth in Creswell that achieves positive outcomes for the local community.	Masterplanning consultation exercise completed during Jan – Feb 2023. Provide feedback to members at Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group meeting in April 2023	VR feedback in July 2023 and consultation on the draft growth plan in Sept and October 2023	Review December 2023
Roseland Park and Crematorium, Shirebrook	Proposals for new build crematorium on Town Council land adjacent to cemetery in Shirebrook.	To develop a local crematorium facility for the residents of the district, alongside generating a sustainable revenue income for the Council.	Planning application approved with the majority of the pre-commencement conditions signed off. Design team appointed for the detailed design RIBA Stages 4 and 5. Dragonfly Development appointed as Construction Partner.	Commencement on site Summer 2023 Site mobilisation works to enable a start on site with ground works. Members agreement signed between BDC and Shirebrook Town Council to form a new joint venture (JV) company, with the development land transfer in to the JV complete	Winter 2024
Shirebrook Growth Plan	To identify further opportunities for sustainable growth in and around Shirebrook particularly where this can aid connectivity to the M1 J29.	To promote growth in Shirebrook and surrounding areas that achieves positive outcomes for the local community.	Masterplanning consultation exercise completed during Oct 2023. Provided feedback to members at Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group meeting in Jan 2023.	Presentation of potential options for growth to Local Planning Implementation Advisory Group in July Continue work with DCC to commence feasibility study on preferred route.	December 2023

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Making the best use of our assets (Land and Buildings)					June 2023
Projects	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Future Green Skills Academy	A skills academy building, equipped with the latest technology and learning spaces, to provide training opportunities on the installation and maintenance of low-carbon / green tech	To deliver a programme of short courses dedicated to upskilling and teaching individuals in the use of and transition to green technologies, including installation of heat pumps, photo-voltaic and electric charging points.	The Council successfully bid for £500,000 of funding from the LEP (D2N2) to pay for the fit out of a business unit to include creation of classrooms and installation of appropriate training rigs. The proposal considered the new development at Portland Drive, but this has been delayed in Planning The revised business plan has been approved by the LEP for delivery from Pleasley Vale Business Park	Working with partners to bring forward the proposal for delivery from Pleasley Vale Business Park	August 2023
Challenge Technology Hub NEW	A Creative Technology Hub building, supported by experienced in-house mentors, to provide learning and hands-on opportunities to work with the latest in digital and creative technologies.	Working in partnership with University of Derby to deliver a programme of short courses to enable creators, makers, and artists to try out new equipment and technology to grow their skills set and develop new and innovative products. To open up new career pathways and routes for FE and HE.	The Council has developed a business case and funding proposal, which was submitted to the Arts Council England in November 2022. A funding award was unsuccessful. Continue to build working relationships with the 5 secondary schools and FE providers to support the Challenge Hub's delivery model.	£20k fund awarded by the Arts Council England to develop a detailed feasibility of the Challenge Hub to ensure the right information is presented in the next funding call – Round 4 of the Cultural Development Fund	Feasibility complete by October 2023.
Land on Portland Drive, Shirebrook	The development of a land parcel bought by the Council in 2020 and designated for employment uses.	Complete a design and build project on the land providing 14 commercial industrial units of c.14,000sq.ft. of employment space along with car parking, bin store, WCs, and kitchen.	Architectural drawings, costings, plan, surveys and pre-planning completed. Planning application submitted Jan 2023. Application withdrawn due to flood zones compromising the development footprint.	Work with the architect and flood consultants to redesign the site's development footprint. Reassess the financial viability of the development based on the revised designs and market values. Resubmit the planning application pack for approval.	December 2023
Oxcroft House	Long term vacant office premises adjacent Morrisons in Bolsover town.	To bring the building back into commercial use	Options appraisal completed, which identified a number of	Complete negotiations with the third party interest, to	June 2023.

		generating a revenue stream for the authority.	possible uses for the building. Interest from a third party for the letting the building on a commercial lease, and renovating it to provide office and learning spaces.	sign a lease agreement for the letting of the building.	
Pleasley Vale	Redevelopment of mill buildings and improved visitor attraction / leisure facilities.	Planning permission obtained for redevelopment of the site.	Appointment of a project manager. Complete flood risk modelling across the site to show the risks and opportunities for development. Liaison with the Environment Agency for pre-planning advice on flood risk and mitigation. Completed a Statement of Significance for the buildings across the site.	. Commence consultation events with partners and stakeholders. Establish a project plan to set out key deliverables up to planning application being made. Engagement of and consultation with tenants across the Business Park.	December 2025.
Independent commercial property	A mix of office, industrial, and retail units peppered across the district, rented out on a range of commercial lease terms and lengths.	To achieve best value of the asset through retention (revenue income) or disposal (capital receipt).	NEW	Review the assets to obtain lease terms and rental values, as well as tenant / end user. Commission a condition schedule to better understand maintenance liability and anticipated future investment required. Confirm EPC rating, to better understand the implications of MEES regulations.	October 2023.
Grazing and non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land	Land owned by the Council, utilised for grazing (under a grazing licence), or not designated as housing land under the HRA.	To achieve best value of the land through retention (revenue income) or disposal (capital receipt).	NEW	Establish a list of grazing land and non-HRA land owned by the Council. Understand the occupancy, terms and rental levels of the grazing licences to appraise best value of the asset through retention (revenue income) or disposal (capital receipt).	October 2023.

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Promoting the District and increasing Tourism					June 2023
Projects	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Tourism Strategy	This strategy is aimed at improving the District's tourism and leisure offers and how they are promoted. Delivery of the associated action plan	Increase overnight stays thereby increasing visitor spend and encouraging growth in the District's visitor economy.	Conducted business workshops to review the current strategy to identify the short, medium and long term priorities for business.	formal adoption of the updated tourism strategy to better reflect the post COVID-19 shift in tourism and the visitor economy.	October 2023
Cycling Infrastructure Strategy	A completed RAG assessment of the existing cycle network and missing links.	Join up the existing cycle network to improve connectivity and accessibility.	A new cycling working group has been set up to take this action forward. Linking closely with the Visit Cycle Sleep Repeat project the group are identifying how the current network can be improved and identifying opportunities to build a visitor campaign to raise awareness of this key asset.	The new working group will collaborate to map effectively the routes available and to work to increase the opportunity to join up routes to create a longer route so that it can be promoted effectively.	October 2023
Walking Guides	Rework existing guides and create new walking guides to publish online.	Host a suite of walking guides on the Council's website to promote leisure and tourism within the District.	This has not been progressed as yet	Once the cycling working group has completed its review of all routes, the group will focus on how they can be promoted effectively. This could be an app rather than paper-based resources.	December 2023
Visit Bolsover	A destination and promotion identity for Bolsover town, including website showcasing the events, eateries, retail, and cultural offer of the town and surrounding areas.	To increase the number of visitors to the town, increase in associated 'secondary spend', and an increase in the number of overnight stays.	The website is now complete and will be promoted as part of the UK shared prosperity funding. A wider Bolsover area website will be created in 2023 which will have a direct link to this site to ensure it is used as the go to town digital place. Businesses in the town also utilise the website for their social media activity	Continue work to engage with local businesses to showcase the offer of the town	Ongoing
Local NO2 Plan – Air Quality	An allocation of funding has been awarded to the local authority on the back of the ministerial direction for the reduction of NO2 emissions across the district.	To reduce the NO2 emissions and improve overall air quality for the district.	Environmental Health to confirm the delivery arrangements for the administration of the grant. Themes include: provision of alternative travel		April 2024

			infrastructure; sustainable transport; and communication and engagements.		
Business Support for the visitor economy businesses	Support package for businesses across the visitor economy sectors to support social media campaigns, influencer promotions, and experiential events and activities promotion at a national and international level for visitors.	To increase sustainable and viable visitor economy businesses.	An allocation of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been allocated to support a tourism-specific skills and training programme	Delivery partners are currently being identified with initial courses being run from March 2023 on a range of business support courses.	Ongoing

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Unlocking Development Potential					June 2023
Projects	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Bolsover North	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of 950 dwellings	Phase 1 of the development and delivery of 238 homes by Strata and Persimmon - commenced on site.	Officers in pre-application discussions with house builders re: next phases of development.	Ongoing
Clowne Garden Village	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of c.1500 houses and c.16ha of employment land	<p>The developer has commissioned consultant to carry out further studies on highway interventions at the Treble Bob roundabout to inform revised detailed design drawings.</p> <p>The developer is commissioning and compiling new and updated reports to support resubmission of the planning application in Q2 of 2023/24</p>	Pending (and subject to) highway authority approval of improvements to the 'Treble Bob' roundabout;	Review August 2023
Whitwell Tip	Strategic site in Local Plan	Delivery of 400 houses and c.6 ha of employment land	Completion of S.106 agreement for the DCC application for remediation of the site pending receipt of indemnities from the developer.	Completion of the S.106 agreement for the BDC application for redevelopment of the site now pending completion of the DCC legal agreement – the developer requires the permissions to be issued contemporaneously.	Review April 2023

Growth Strategy Action Plan: Working with Partners					June 2023
Projects	Description	Ambition	Recent Actions	Next Steps	Target Date
Business Support	Work to ensure effective and efficient delivery of financial and other forms of business support that may be made available to businesses within the District by the Council or other agencies.	Enable more of our businesses to access support available to them.	Secured £790,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the delivery of 4 business support interventions, including: start-up; tourism; net-zero; and a business grant scheme. Commission delivery partners for the business support programmes.	Promote the business grant scheme to businesses. Promote the start-up business support scheme to individuals	31 March 2025.
Business Engagement	Strategy and Action Plan setting out how we communicate and engage with local businesses.	To adopt and implement a meaningful business engagement strategy.	Strategy and associated action plan drafted. CRM database procured and configured to support engagement activities LGA's economic Advisors Project complete with Grant Thornton undertaking a review of the Draft Engagement Strategy and Action Plan Publish the first edition of the InBusiness magazine, sending copies to all businesses on the Ratings List. Establish a mailing list through the CRM for future engagements (inc. email and postal addresses).	Adoption of the strategy Commence a promotional and engagement campaign for the business support programmes available.	October 2023
Social Value Index	Promoting and encouraging social value underpins 'inclusive growth'. Establish a Social Value Policy to embed social value across	Indexing Social Value is a way of supporting 'spend local' through procurement and future funding bids.	Social Value Portal showcased for members and procurement of portal has been carried out.	Agreement on and adoption of a social value policy. Engagement and buy in from departments, including	August 2023.

	all activities procured / commissioned by the council.			Procurement, Legal, EDU, and Partnerships.	
One Public Estate (OPE) NEW	The OPE programme supports locally-led partnerships of public sector bodies to collaborate around their public service delivery strategies and estate needs, helping partners to repurpose surplus public estate for housing, regeneration, and other locally determined uses	To secure Opportunity Development Funding (ODF) through the OPE programme, to enable a strategic review and masterplan for the public estate across Bolsover Town.	Taken part in consultation activities with authorities from across Derbyshire to inform proposals for the ODF in Bolsover town.	Awaiting the outcome of the consultation to determine if Bolsover is successful as the preferred ODF proposal	August 2023

Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 27 June 2023

Report on the Levelling Up Fund – Round 2 Application

Report of the Director of Economic Development

Classification	This report is public
Report By	Natalie Etches, Business Growth Manager, Dragonfly Management Ltd 01246 242389 / 07989 146973 natalie.etches@bolsover.gov.uk
Contact Officer	As above

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is:

- To provide members with a summary of the proposals included within the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) round 2 application;
- To set out the main failings of the application, based on feedback provided by the appraiser;
- To outline the next steps to prepare for round 3 of the Fund.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 In May 2022 the Government announced a second call for the allocation of the £4.8bn Levelling Up Fund (LUF), investing capital funds into places in need of economic recovery and growth, regeneration and improved transport connectivity. Investment was targeted against the three themes of: Regeneration and town centre; Cultural; and Transport.
- 1.2 As part of the development of LUF, the Index of Priority Places was formulated, ranking lower-tier and unitary authorities based on a combination of metrics, and then used this ranking to award 'priority status' to those areas in Category 1, awarding a capacity fund of £125,000 to all category 1 places to support the development of their bid submission/s. Bolsover received Category 2 status, so no capacity fund was available for the development of its bid.
- 1.3 Bolsover district falls within the one whole Parliamentary Constituency, so it was able to submit one application for a project within its district. Bids submitted for LUF required formal priority support from the MP as part of the submission.

- 1.4 The Fund focussed on investment in projects which required less than £20m of funding, and it encouraged bids to include a local financial contribution of at least 10% of total costs. Private sector partners were encouraged to contribute if they stood to benefit from an intervention.
- 1.5 The total amount of grant fund requested from LUF was £14,218,305 with a match funding contribution of £1,242,595 – 8% of the total project costs. It sought 45% of the funding from the Regeneration and Town Centre strand, and then the remaining 55% from the Cultural strand.
- 1.6 The application focussed its delivery around three main project areas, as set out below and also shown in Appendix 1 – Bolsover Town Proposals:
 - 1.6.1 Purchase, demolition, and redevelopment of the former Co-Operative Foodstore to provide a cultural hub including a cinema; theatre; gallery and exhibition space; food and drinks court; indoor market area. This would have linked through to the redevelopment of Oxcroft House for the cultural industries to base as a business hub.
 - 1.6.2 Townscape improvements, including a shop front improvement scheme and a comprehensive public realm improvement scheme for the public areas across the town
 - 1.6.3 Connectivity through investment in digital connectivity, Internet-of-Things (IOT) and technology to support the visitor experience including parking apps and augmented reality experiences.
- 1.7 Consultants were appointed to work on the bid, including building and landscape architects, quantity surveyors, solicitors, and property valuers – all professional services were required to be able to validate the bid, i.e. ensuring an RICS valuer provided the property valuations. This was at a cost of £32,988 to the Council.

2 Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) formally notified the council of the outcome of the bid on 19 January 2023, and offered formal feedback on the application, and that there would be a further round of the Fund available with further details to follow at a later date. This detailed feedback was provided and is included as Appendix 2 – LUF Feedback.
- 2.2 In summary, the bid could have been strengthened by further detail in areas to give the assessors the confidence to make an informed appraisal of the proposal. There was a clear indication that the deliverability requires significant improvement prior to resubmission, but there were positive comments about the monitoring and evaluation plans.
- 2.3 Consultation events were held, albeit limited in number and range of stakeholder representations, which did affect the feedback and how it shaped the development of the proposals. This was in part due to the limited financial resource available to hold such events, but also the limited resources to engage with stakeholders and partners in the development of the bid.

- 2.4 The feedback positively acknowledged the evidence of context and challenges facing the town, and how the bid would align with local and national strategies. However, there could have been better evidence to support the community cohesion / pride and overall attractiveness of the town.
- 2.5 The Deliverability feedback highlighted the gap in match funding. The Council were not able to commit any financial resource to this application and was only in a position to contribute its UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) allocation, land and buildings, and match funding from Old Bolsover Town Council. As set out in section 1.4 above, DLUHC encouraged bids to include a local financial contribution of at least 10% of total costs, but this could not be met.
- 2.6 “There were other risks where it would have been helpful to have seen more work completed to demonstrate that the programme was truly deliverable. Such works could have included more advanced designs, a plan for purchasing the shop, pre-application advice - especially important given the potential impact on the conservation area, more detailed costs, support from shop owners, and the preparation of a business plan for project 1. Without these, there was little confidence in the deliverability of the project within the time allowed for the LUF programme”.
- 2.7 Work is already underway for the preparation of an application for Round 3 of the Levelling Up Fund. The High Streets Task Force (HSTF) have committed resource to supporting the District Council through the Understanding Your Place Potential. The HSTF last visited Bolsover on the 16 March 2023 to undertake an *Unlocking Your Place Potential* diagnostic visit that identified ‘Repositioning’ as our greatest challenge, meaning there is a need to use data and evidence to understand the challenges and identify the priority solutions.
- 2.8 **HSTF’s recommended support**, therefore is to: support Bolsover Council and stakeholders to develop an evidence-based picture of how the town is doing, the impact of activities, and help to inform decisions about priorities. Where possible the data will be gathered routinely and over time help to monitor the impact of interventions and animations and will be benchmarked against other locations. This will also support the evidence base for the LUF application.
- 2.9 Officers are also in discussions with One Public Estate (OPE) for the consultation exercise currently underway for the Opportunity Development Fund (ODF). Opportunity Development Funding awards focus support to areas where there is the strongest need to address regional and local inequalities, and an opportunity for the public sector estate to contribute to these aims, particularly in relation to health, housing and education outcomes. ODF will provide capacity for OPE Partnerships to develop a pipeline of investable public sector property opportunities in their area, with Bolsover identified as requiring up to £200,000 of ODF money to bring about a review of the public estate in Bolsover Town and how this can support the regeneration of the town.
- 2.10 Ongoing discussions and consultation events are proposed to continue engagement with the local business community, through Visit Bolsover town trader meetings, as well as public engagement events.

- 2.11 Officers are working with Old Bolsover Town Council to explore if there are opportunities for the purchase and repurposing of the former Co-Operative Foodstore through a bid to the Community Ownership Fund, but these exploratory issues are in the early stages, and would need to be led the town council, due to the requirements of this particular funding stream.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 This feedback is all valuable insight into the appraisal process, and where improvements can be made in the writing of a future bid submission.
- 3.2 Limited financial resources available to the local authority for the preparation of the application have contributed to the weaknesses identified in the feedback outlined in 2.6 above.
- 3.3 Members should consider the financial and personnel resources required in the preparation of funding applications should it want to pursue future grant funding opportunities.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report is to review the outcome of a recent application to the Levelling Up Fund, and therefore alternative options are not considered.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Members review the feedback provided by DLUHC on the Levelling Up Fund round 2 application
2. Members to note the need to consider the financial resource required to support future calls for grant funding both for Levelling Up Fund and other calls for funding to ensure the maximum investment for the District can be captured and make recommendations to Executive as required.

Approved by Councillor John Ritchie
Portfolio Holder for Growth / Economic Development

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details: 'There are no financial implications arising from this report'

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no Legal implications arising from this report

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details: there are no environmental impacts arising from this report. Future interventions and projects will need to consider the positive impact on meeting Net Zero targets along with environmental enhancements.

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details: There are no staffing implications arising from this report

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	(please state which wards or state All if all wards are affected) All wards affected
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title

1	Bolsover Town Proposal
2	LUF Feedback

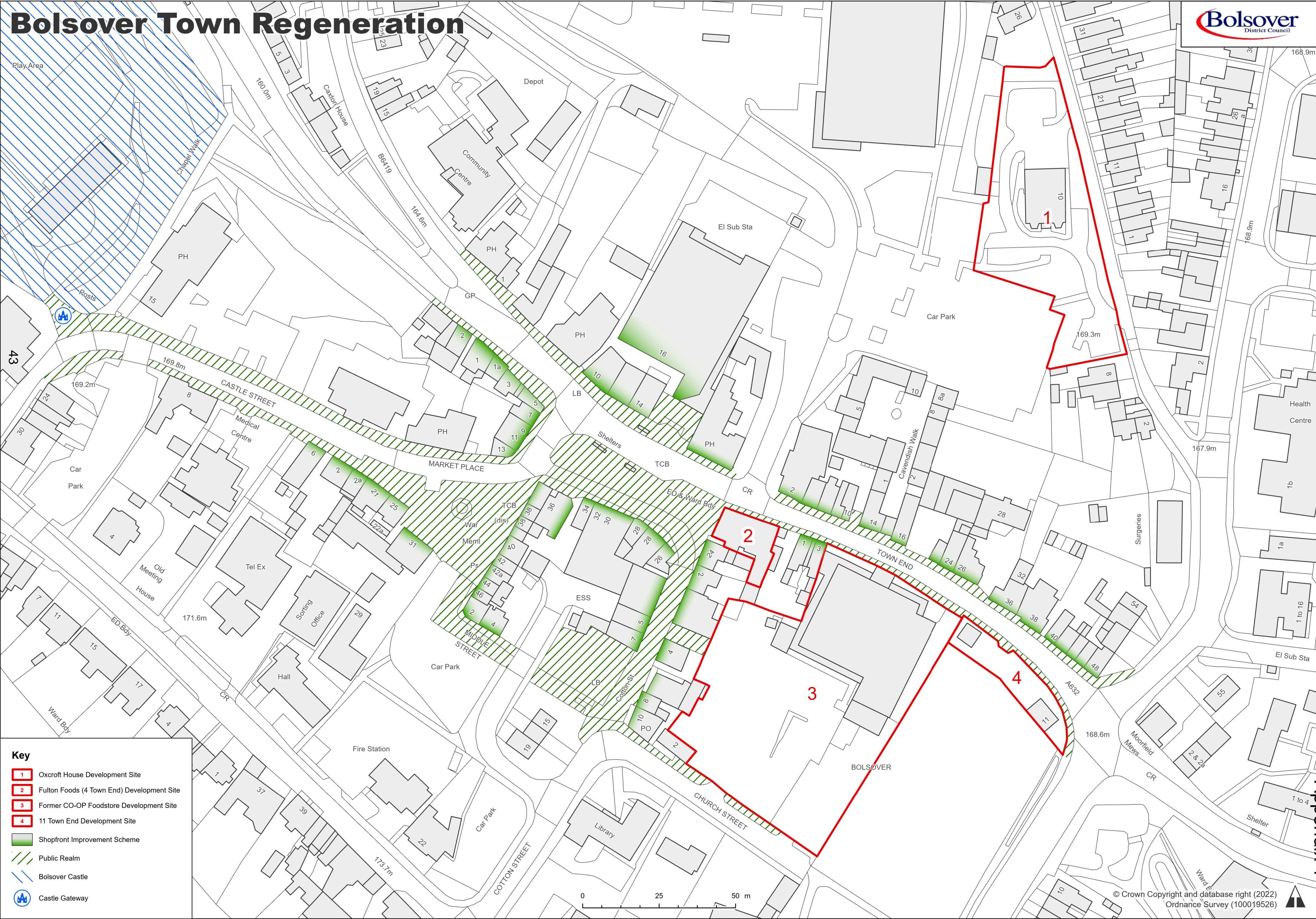
Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).

None

Rpttemplate/BDC/021122

Bolsover Town Regeneration



LUF20614 - Bolsover Town Regeneration Bolsover | England | Cultural | £14,218,305

Bid Summary:

Levelling Up Funds will stimulate growth of Bolsover town's economic and social prosperity, delivering comprehensive physical regeneration. The proposal includes demolishing vacant buildings and constructing a multi-cultural venue providing a theatre / performing space, cinema, food court, and art gallery. Complemented by public realm uplift and connectivity to Bolsover Castle, a shop front improvement scheme and investment in digital connectivity, the town's offer will be enhanced and create a modern, safe, vibrant townscape that can be enjoyed by visitors and all parts of the local community. Environmental sustainability will be embedded throughout to drive forward our ambition for carbon reduction.

Headline:

Overall this was considered to be a bid where there are some key areas that could be improved for future funding applications. Whilst there was evidence of stakeholder engagement and alignment with local and national strategies, more detail could be provided. There was evidence of data analysis and a theory of change, however more granular analysis would have been beneficial and further work on evidencing impacts in line with appraisal guidance would strengthen future applications. Monitoring and evaluation plans were well presented however the deliverability elements of the application is an area that could be significantly improved.

We have provided some more specific feedback below. This has been drafted so as to be as clear and helpful as possible, and to help you to understand how decisions were reached.

Assessment Overview

Strategic Fit:

Relevant stakeholders had been identified, and consultations involved engagement with businesses via a survey, face-to-face meetings, and an open, public event. Both events were well attended, showed support for the different elements of the project and the feedback received had been well captured. It was unclear if this was built on with further stakeholder engagement events and how this and other feedback helped to shape the proposal. Stakeholder engagement could have been strengthened by showing a greater input from arts sector bodies on the proposed cultural hub. Other engagement activities were referenced, but to illustrate their impact evidence of engagement could have been provided.

Context and evidence of local challenges were clearly presented. A link had been made between local challenges, the proposed benefits of intervention and why government investment was needed, but further quantifiable evidence could have strengthened certain parts. Further reflection on the different options considered could have been provided. The case for a cultural provision in the city centre was well explained but this could have benefitted from an explanation on how this offer would, for example, inspire community cohesion/pride and add to the overall attractiveness of Bolsover.

Helpful references were provided to several local/national strategies. The information provided on the strategies set out how the bid aligned to them and other relevant funding streams, such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Alignment had also been made with several Levelling Up White Paper Missions. The link to UK legal and statutory commitments, such as delivering Net Zero and minimising environmental impact, was made but could have been better evidenced.

Economic Case:

The data analysis was included on many key elements, including footfall - and comparators were used where possible. The data that was used was up to date, included comparators and used official sources - although it was not clear what year/time period the statistics used covered. However, there were some limitations in terms of scope - crime, for example was mentioned as higher than average but it was not clear what measure of crime was used, or the degree to which it was higher than average. More granular analysis (e.g., at local authority or ward level) would also have been beneficial. A theory of change was included with correctly identified inputs, activities, and measurable outputs. Outcomes were detailed and were disaggregated between intermediate outcomes and much broader, economy wide outcomes. Logic set out in the application was clear but would be stronger by referencing specific evidence or studies that support the logic set out.

The applicant should review the departmental appraisal guidance and the economic case teach-in on the gov.uk website. The appraisal approach used does not follow the appraisal guidance for impacts - many impacts included were likely to be double counting and not compliant with guidance, and there was no information to suggest that any of the impacts that were compliant with guidance had underpinning methodologies that comply with the guidance. The optimism bias adjustment seemed mostly sensible, albeit the 10% for 'catalyst for change' was lower than it should have been. Additionality had also not been considered in the appraisal.

Deliverability:

Match funding was substantially below the minimum 10% expected and of the sums offered, nearly half was from the parish council and a quarter was in land as in-kind funding (of which the council will retain ownership); the final quarter was from UK government including UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund). Councils have the

ability to use UKSPF flexibly, but this did mean that local match funding from the council was only £14k from an overall £15m project.

Furthermore, the bid would have been strengthened if clear evidence of political support had been provided. Providing a cabinet minute and an assessment of the likely return on investment or future revenue financial implications, for example, would have provided clear evidence that the council was fully committed to this proposal.

There were other risks where it would have been helpful to have seen more work completed to demonstrate that the programme was truly deliverable. Such works could have included more advanced designs, a plan for purchasing the shop, pre-application advice - especially important given the potential impact on the conservation area, more detailed costs, support from shop owners, and the preparation of a business plan for project 1. Without these, there was little confidence in the deliverability of the project within the time allowed for the LUF programme.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section set out a detailed, well-thought-out plan, which explained how it would measure outputs, outcomes and impacts within the costing and planning workbook. It also detailed the methodologies that would be used to evaluate the projects.