

INFORMAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Notes of an informal meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee of Bolsover District Council held as a Virtual Meeting on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Jen Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Derek Adams, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough (Vice-Chair), David Dixon, Tom Kirkham and Tom Munro

Officers:- Lee Hickin (Director – Corporate Resources and Head of Paid Service), Chris Fridlington (Assistant Director of Development and Planning), Amar Bashir (Improvement Officer), Jo Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer), Tom Scott (Governance Officer) and Liz Robinson (Governance Support Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting were Councillor Mary Dooley (Portfolio Holder - Partnerships and Leisure) and Councillor Liz Smyth (Portfolio Holder - Economic Development).

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

The Director – Corporate Resources and the Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained some of the items on the list of Key Decisions in more detail, including the BILD Programme (aimed at supporting development of leisure and recreation), Discretionary grant funding linked to Covid-19 business support and Commercial buildings.

The Director – Corporate Resources advised that the BILD Programme would be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Executive.

Councillor David Dixon hoped there would be consultation with Parish Councils on things to include in the BILD Programme. The Director – Corporate Resources explained that the Programme had been put together with the needs of Parish Councils in mind.

2. COUNCIL TARGETS TO DELIVER THE AMBITION 2020-2024 PERFORMANCE UPDATE - JANUARY TO MARCH 2021 (Q4)

The Improvement Officer presented the quarter 4 outturns for the targets supporting the Council's Ambition 2020-2024 and relevant supporting service indicators. He explained that out of the 11 Council Ambition targets:

- 8 (72%) were on track
- 2 (18%) had been achieved behind target
- 1 (10%) had not been achieved in 2020/21

Out of the 4 service indicators:

INFORMAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 4 (100%) had positive outturns

The Improvement Officer also provided a response to the additional questions Members asked prior to the meeting:

Target	Member Queries/Comments	Officer Response
<p>ENV.08 - Bring 5 empty properties back into use per year through assistance and enforcement measures.</p>	<p>Members appreciate the time taken to bring properties back in to use and the impact Covid has had on this. The continued efforts of the team are recognised and we commend them on work to date.</p> <p>Is there any update that could be provided in relation to West Lea and the properties that are now for sale in that area?</p>	<p>The Freedom Project (who are the Housing association who are looking to lease/purchase the properties) are in the process of contacting the owners of the properties they are interested in.</p> <p>We are awaiting a response from environmental health with regards to outcomes of the meeting to discuss properties at West Lea</p>
<p>ECO.05 - Annually review housing delivery in the district and facilitate delivery to meet the annual target of 272 new homes</p>	<p>We are pleased there will be the quarterly information going forward. Does this new reporting regime require additional resource?</p>	<p>It is planned that this new reporting regime will be provided through existing resources, partially facilitated by the planned restructure of the Planning Policy team along the lines of the preferred option.</p>
<p>ECO.06 - Work with partners to deliver an average of 20 units of affordable homes each year.</p>	<p>Are there plans to report this quarterly as with ECO05?</p>	<p>The team was not aware of the new reporting regime.</p> <p>If the information will be collated more often it should be more accurate than an estimate. This should give better overview for members, RPs programmes are usually linked to Homes England grant so are not always delivered in a uniform number through the year, normally a big push for completions by end of March.</p> <p>We can cross reference with the information provided by Social</p>

INFORMAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

		Housing developers/RPs and report quarterly
--	--	---

3. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer presented Members with an overview of the meeting Programme of the Committee for 2020/21. This was the last meeting of the Committee for the municipal year. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer noted that the Review Topic suggestion form and guidance would be circulated shortly in preparation for 2021/22.

4. REVIEW WORK

No review discussion took place.