

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of Local Growth Scrutiny on 20 April 2022**

**Update on Business Growth Strategy**

**Report of the Assistant Director of Development**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is public
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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress against the Action Plan attached to the Council's Business Growth Strategy.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Bolsover District Council's Business Growth Strategy focusses on how the Strategy and Development Directorate will prioritise its own work and its work with internal and external partners to achieve the Council's ambition:

***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 is organised around the Council's economic priorities:
- i. Making the best use of our assets;
  - ii. Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams;
  - iii. 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 includes specific details of how these priorities will be achieved through various ongoing projects. The action plan also contains 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 is fully updated on a 6-monthly basis (last update dated March 2022) and this report provides a summary of the most recent updates on actions that have made significant progress since the update in March 2022.

## **2. Key Updates**

### **2.1 Making the best use of our assets:**

Pleasley Mills - at Executive in March 2022, members resolved to support an officer recommendation to use funds from the Transformation Reserves to appoint a temporary Senior Economic Development Officer (Pleasley Vale) to commission reports and formulate a planning application for the regeneration of the Mills complex. A report will now be taken to Employment and Personnel Committee and Council for formal approval.

Tangent Phase 3 & Portland Drive – both sites have been cleared of overgrown shrubbery and rubbish, and topographical surveys have been completed. Concept designs can now be completed with applications for planning permission for the commercial buildings likely to be submitted before the end of June 2022.

### **2.2 Increasing Revenue Streams:**

Maid Marian Line / Robin Hood Line a community rail partnership (CRP) has been established and partners have contributed over £100,000 to the CRP, which will be used to improve the environmental quality of the stations along the Robin Hood in the first instance.

Shirebrook Crematorium Consultation events will be held on 6 and 7 April with Bolsover District and Shirebrook Town Councils, funeral directors, and members of the public. An application for planning permission for the proposed scheme is likely to be submitted before the end of June 2022; and

Shirebrook Growth Corridor - consultation has begun in Shirebrook encouraging residents to provide their views on the town and to begin the process of identifying and assessing the needs of the local community to inform the Council's growth plans for an urban extension to the town.

## 2.3 **Unlocking Development Potential**

Attached as Appendix A is the most recent summary of the major development sites currently in planning. This update sheet gives some indication of the range of the large commercial and residential developments that are and will be coming forward in the District. The update sheet also shows that the development industry has definitely 'bounced back' despite any disruption that might be associated with Covid 19 and/or BREXIT and in addition, it shows that Bolsover District is now very much an 'in demand' place for new housing.

## 2.4 **Enabling Housing Growth**

Bolsover Homes – the application for planning permission for erection of 23 houses at Market Close, Shirebrook was approved at February's Planning Committee.

Clowne Garden Village - the developer was proposing a 'resubmission' of their application in July 2022 but this timeline has slipped. However, a consultant has been commissioned to work up the detailed design of highway improvements at the Treble Bob roundabout that have now been agreed with the County Council (in their capacity as the local highway authority). The earliest date for a resubmission is now September 2022;

Whitwell Tip - the County Council have now sent out the engrossments of the s.106 agreement for signature, which will mean that permission for restoration of the site will be issued imminently; the grant of outline planning permission for the parallel application for redevelopment of the site (submitted to the District Council) is still pending completion of a s.106 agreement, which is still subject to agreement on the timings of the requested contributions to education.

## 2.5 **Working with Partners**

Business Support - a further £97,000 in discretionary COVID-19 grant funding has been distributed. In addition,

- over 25 businesses have been signed up to membership with the District's Destination Management Organisation (DMO) Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire,
- over 50 small and medium-sized businesses will benefit from support to grow and sustain their operation, post COVID, as a result of the membership offered by the district council in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses.

In both cases the Council will be funding a year's membership to help businesses obtain additional support in the absence of any further financial support from Government;

Business Engagement Caroline Daghsh commenced her employment with the Economic Development Team on Monday 28 March, and brings a wealth of experience in the sector, meaning we are able to accelerate delivery of key aspects of our emerging Business Engagement Strategy, which should go through the relevant channels for adoption before the end of June 2022;

Centre of Excellence - we have recently been notified that we have an opportunity to draw down £500,000 funding from D2N2 to support the creation of a skills academy in Shirebrook. At this point in time, we would be looking to focus on heat pump installation noting that most studies identify a need for at least 600 additional installers by 2025 in this District alone.

Kick Start – In total 7 kick starter placements have been appointed – most recently this has included 1 facilities, 1 planning and 1 partnerships team; the scheme ended on 31 March, with the final appointments fulfilling a 6-month placement over the summer.

Social Value Index An example of a Social Value Portal was showcased to Scrutiny in February. Following this presentation, an invitation to tender will be issued for quotes to provide a system suitable to the council to monitor and report on the impact of delivering social value through procurement and project delivery.

Town Centres the Welcome Back Fund COVID recovery grant has been delivered with over £70,000 invested in activities and events to encourage footfall back on to the high street. Activities have includes a town trail, craft workshops and public engagement events, artisan markets, and the Visit Bolsover marketing campaign, which is a website and supported social media campaign to raise the profile of the district as a place to visit, eat, and stay. The campaign and brand is due to be fully launched in April 2022, with a soft launch done by 31 March 2022.

## **2.6 Promoting the District and increasing Tourism**

Tourism Strategy – we have now recruited a visitor economy officer who is a vastly experienced tourism specialist from East Fife. The successful candidate is expected to be in post around the end of May 2022 and this appointment will undoubtedly help accelerate delivery of the objectives in the Council's Tourism Strategy, which was adopted last year.

## **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 as one Council to achieve the Council's ambitions.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The alternative is not to provide updates on a quarterly basis 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 the Council's MTFP.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**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.

**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.

**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 in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and relevant portfolio holders.

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  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:</p> <p><b>Revenue - £75,000</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>Capital - £150,000</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	<p>No</p>

<p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Consultation:</b>  <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>Details:</b>  Portfolio holders for Finance, Growth, and Leisure and Tourism also consulted.</p>

**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**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Major Sites Update - March 2022

**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**