

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on 7th February 2023

Delivery of Dragonfly and Bolsover Homes Programmes

Report of the Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To remind Members of the previous review work in relation to the Programmes that was carried out during 2020/21, but not formally completed due to change in scrutiny structures and other review work demands.
- To advise Members on the reports considered in relation to the Programmes since the recent review work by Growth Scrutiny Committee in 2020/21.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

1.1 During 2020/21, Members of the previous Growth Scrutiny Committee raised a number of concerns in relation to the volume of projects being delivered in partnership with Robert Woodhead Limited. It was agreed to complete a review to seek further clarification in relation to the value for money of the contracts in place; procurement processes followed; consideration given to the potential financial risks to the authority; the current working relationship and monitoring/governance processes in place; and the process for regular review.

1.2 The aim of the review was:

- To ensure the contracts entered in to remain beneficial to the Council, provide value for money with adequate risk plans and governance frameworks agreed.

1.3 The key objectives identified were as follows:

- Analysis of the procurement process for existing contracts with RWL.
- Analysis of the set-up process for Dragonfly Developments, the joint venture company.

- Evaluation of current relationship with RWL in relation to Dragonfly Developments including governance structure, communications, and how Scrutiny is engaged.
- Evaluation of governance and monitoring arrangements for Bolsover Homes framework and how Scrutiny is engaged.
- Analysis of Value for Money for BDC investment in current contracts.
- Investigation of how the Council ensures the wider contract achieves relevant growth benefits, including the economic, social and environmental impact of the contract and monitoring of said benefits.

1.4 The key issues arising from the review were:

- Communication channels both with Members and wider public awareness of the programmes.
- Governance arrangements – particularly in terms of reporting processes.
- Evaluation processes used on completion of schemes to ensure required levels of customer satisfaction and lessons learned are applied to future schemes.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 An update report was scheduled for inclusion in the committee work programme for 2022/23 prior to the collapse of Woodhead Construction and the subsequent change in structure of Dragonfly Developments Limited.

2.2 As part of the current considerations in relation to Dragonfly Developments Limited, it is pertinent that Scrutiny Members ensure that findings from the previous review work are considered as part of the process.

2.3 Further advice will be provided to Members from key officers following the report to Council on 1st February, which Members have already seen and discussed.

2.4 Key considerations for Scrutiny Members are:

- How the new governance arrangements will enable involvement of scrutiny
- The reporting processes and expected frequency of reports
- How the new procurement processes will take account of enabling local businesses to bid for contracts, social value, and carbon reduction
- Engagement of Members, both in local Ward delivery and general awareness via Member Development Programme.
- How new delivery mechanisms will engage with BDC Risk Management Group
- Processes for evaluation of individual scheme delivery, including resident's satisfaction.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 As the previous review work was not formally completed, and due to the change in circumstances in relation to the future delivery of Dragonfly and Bolsover Homes Programmes, Scrutiny Members must clarify if there are any further recommendations that should be made to Executive in relation to governance,

monitoring, procurement and engagement of Members in relation to Bolsover Homes developments.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Members could choose not to make any further recommendations if they are satisfied that the proposals in the Business Case will address the previous areas of concern identified in the past review.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That following consideration of the Business Case presented to Council and the additional information from officers, Local Growth Scrutiny Committee agree any recommendations in relation to scrutiny's involvement in the proposed governance structures.
2. That Members determine if any of the previous review recommendations, contained in Appendix 2, should be adapted due to the change in circumstances and put to Executive for consideration as part of the further development of Dragonfly Developments Ltd.

Approved by Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

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: None direct from this report. In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added to/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

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 direct implications from this report. The individual developments competed by Dragonfly Developments Ltd. and via Bolsover Homes will take account of environmental impacts as part of the design specifications and build programme.

Staffing: Yes No

Details: None from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

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

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All wards
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</p>
Economy

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
7.1	Summary of committee reports
7.2	Background Documents – Past Review work

<p>Background Papers</p>
<p><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></p>
Notes from previous review work in 2020/21.