

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Jenny Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Derek Adams, Tricia Clough, David Dixon, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham and Graham Parkin.

Officers:- Kath Drury (Information, Engagement & Performance Manager), Grant Galloway (Director of Development), Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and Alison Bluff (Governance Officer).

0679. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Jim Clifton, Peter Roberts and Liz Smyth (Portfolio Holder for Economic Development).

0680. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0681. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0682. EXTRAORDINARY MINUTES – 22ND JANUARY 2020

Moved by Councillor David Dixon and seconded by Councillor Chris Kane
RESOLVED that the Minutes of an Extraordinary Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

0683. 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 Graham Parkin and seconded by David Dixon

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RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

0684. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER 2019 TO DECEMBER 2019 (QUARTER 3 – 2019/20)

Committee considered a report which provided the Quarter 3 outturns (October 2019 to December 2019) for the Corporate Plan 2019-2020, which sat under the 'unlocking our growth potential' aim as of 31st December 2019.

There were 7 targets in total, with 5 targets being on track; 1 target had been achieved in Quarter 3 and 1 target was on Alert (i.e. it may not achieve its intended outcome).

The target achieved in Quarter 3 was **G05 - *Through the Bolsover North East Derbyshire LEADER Approach collectively support the creation of 40 sustainable jobs in the combined programme area by December 2020.*** The programme had closed nationally to new applications on 30th September 2019 and no further applications would be considered. Due to several individual projects cost savings, the amount contracted/claimed by the 37 approved projects totalled £1,233,675.63 from an original award of £1,248,695.88. Within the Quarter, support had been given to promoting other RDPE funds now available but managed centrally by the RPA and D2N2 and monitoring was ongoing. 68.82 jobs created.

The target on Alert was **G11 - *Through a programme of targeted refurbishment bring 10 empty private sector properties back into use per annum.*** To date, no properties had been brought back into use. However, 7 properties were in the process of being brought back into use and once these were completed, should create 12 units of accommodation.

It was queried if a new target would be created in relation to G11 above. The Information, Engagement & Performance Manager noted that this was covered in more detail in the next item of business on the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Derek Adams and seconded by Councillor Tricia Clough
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

0685. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT THE VISION FOR 2019 TO 2023

Committee considered a report which gave Scrutiny the opportunity to help develop a new performance framework to support the Council's ambition statement for 2019 – 2023.

Members suggested that the following additions, highlighted in bold below, be added;

In response to a Member's query, the Information Engagement & Performance Manager confirmed that anyone who used the Council's services was considered a customer.

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Our Priorities - Customers:

- Improving health and wellbeing and increasing participation in sport and leisure activities

Include wording in relation to **raising awareness of Healthy Eating.**

- Transforming services through the use of technology

A Member raised concern that due to an ageing population, the Council should consider the 'over use' of technology. The Information, Engagement & Performance Manager replied that the Council should not assume that all older people were uncomfortable with technology. Part of the Council's Digital Strategy was to raise awareness for everyone and the Council could provide awareness workshops for all ages to improve their skills and knowledge in technology so they could access all services. Currently, when the Council was looking to introduce new technology or to make any significant changes to Council services which impacted on people, Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out. This was to ensure that the Council did not discriminate against any equality group. Every 6 months, for check and balance, mini-reviews were carried out on EIAs to ensure that they were as expected to be and also for any experience/feedback received from customers.

A Member suggested that the heading could be - **transforming services through education and the use of technology.**

- Reduce the % of current rent arrears against annual rent debit to 5% by March 2021 and maintain thereafter
- Reduce the level of former tenants arrears by 5% through early intervention and effective monitoring

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised Members that an end of year report in relation to the above 2 targets would be presented to Members at a Budget Scrutiny Committee.

- Implement an agile working programme within Environmental Health to increase efficiency and effectiveness by 31st March 2021

It was agreed that this target required clarification to see how it would be measured.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised that the Customer Service & Transformation and the Healthy Safe Clean & Green Scrutiny Committees had identified gaps in detail in relation to Council housing emergency repairs, satisfaction with disability adaptations, general satisfaction with Council housing, the housing allocations process and the housing waiting list (some of these may be service level rather than corporate level). Further, from a targets point of view, Partnership activity and health & wellbeing had also been identified as a gap. The Information, Engagement & Performance Manager confirmed that she had relayed these to the Head of Partnerships and Transformation and these were being looked at.

Our Priorities - Economy:

A Member raised that this Committee had previously discussed the Council having an Industrial Strategy for the District and also an identity of where the Council fitted

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in. He noted that an area around East Midlands Airport was being promoted as a logistics hub in the UK but they were around 20,000 jobs short. There was much logistic warehousing in the District, so there may be potential for those jobs to be redistributed within our area. Committee had also discussed automation and green energy companies and the Council could have priorities in relation to what kind of industries and how it wanted to be perceived within the wider UK industrial strategy. Also the new skills that were needed in the District and the Council's role in these.

- Supporting Enterprise: maintaining and growing the business base

A Member felt that the Council should help new start-up business in the District. Particularly innovative businesses and the businesses using new technologies, which were part of the Council's industrial strategies. In relation to partnerships, the Council could look further into its partnerships with D2N2 and also at explicit partnerships with universities, AMRC or other funding bodies.

- Prepare and adopt a Tourism Strategy by July 2020

A Member suggested that the Council could own and rent out holiday lets to aid the Tourism Strategy. For example, there were 3 council owned properties in Bolsover Town Centre which Members felt were ideal for use as holiday lets.

- Working with D2N2 and FE/HE partners to facilitate growth of the local skills base by 2023

A Member felt there should be a reference to secondary schools with regard to developing entrepreneurial skills.

- Through the Derbyshire Business Rates Retention Pilot grant scheme improve 40 shops fronts in Shirebrook town centre by 2020

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised that this target was specific to Shirebrook as it related to the Building Resilience Programme.

- To add minimum of 5 new names to the register each Custom Self Build year (from November to October)

It was confirmed that this was a Government initiative which the Council had committed to support.

Our Priorities - Environment

- Reducing our carbon footprint and supporting residents and businesses to reduce their footprint

A Member suggested that **use of public transport** be added into the above priority and more emphasis on enforcement.

A Member suggested that **energy usage** also be included and residents be encouraged to take up grants, for example, for solar panels.

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- Co-ordinate and facilitate car parking patrols outside schools within the District, working with Derbyshire County Council, Police and Education partners by 31st June 2020

Members raised concern regarding the issue of parked cars 'idling' outside schools. They also noted that illegal parking took place in all towns and villages throughout the District and not just outside schools. The Information, Engagement & Performance Manager replied that this target had been included further to a successful car parking patrol pilot carried out at a school where awareness had been raised with parents on the impact on the environment from idling car emissions and also on the safety for school children.

The Information, Engagement & Performance Manager left the meeting.

0686. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

Committee considered their Work Programme 2019/20.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer noted that Members had previously received the draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-20 document for their consideration and comment back to the Partnership Team. An update on achievements in 2006-20 and the new draft Strategy would be presented to Members before the end of this Municipal year.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer noted that she and the Assistant Director of Development were currently working on a report in relation to Members comments and concerns raised at the January meeting regarding the private rented sector.

Moved by Councillor Chris Kane and seconded by Councillor David Dixon
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

0687. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Moved by Councillor Chris Kane and seconded by Councillor Graham Parkin
RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

0688. BOLSOVER HOMES PARAGRAPH 3

The Director of Development provided a verbal update to Members in relation to the new 4 year framework for delivering social housing in the District under Bolsover Homes (previously B@Home).

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The Number of houses to be built under Bolsover Homes would be dependent on the target in the Council's new ambition. However, this would potentially be more than the 100 properties target over the previous 4 years. A number of schemes in the District had already been identified.

The new framework agreement had recently been out to tender and independently appraised. A report to approve the contractor would be presented to the meetings of Executive in March and Council in April 2020.

The Director of Development noted that wherever possible and with permission of the Chair, he and the Assistant Director of Development would like to regularly attend meetings of this Committee to keep Members up to date with progress on Bolsover Homes and also to provide updates on other areas such as where the Council had been liaising with local industries regarding their requirements for skills and jobs.

The formal meeting concluded at 1140 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1150 hours.