

## GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017

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## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

#### **Present:**

Councillor J Windle ..... (Chair)

Councillor R Smith .....(Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Boyle

“ S Cornwell

“ A Powell

Councillor B Rice

“ C Smith

“ K Tait

#### **Also Present**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Dan Swaine              | – Chief Executive (Min No 345)   |
| Matt Scarborough        | – Programme Manager - One Public Estate (Min No 345)                             |
| Allison Westray-Chapman | – Assistant Director Economic Growth (Min No 345)                                |
| Grant Galloway          | – Assistant Director Property and Estates (Min No 345)                           |
| Helen Fairfax           | – Planning Policy Manager (Min No 346)   |
| Neil Johnson            | – Development and Growth Manager - Chesterfield Borough Council (Min No 348)     |
| Alyson Barnes           | – Tourism, Museum and Events Manager - Chesterfield Borough Council (Min No 348) |
| Sue Veerman             | – Overview and Scrutiny Manager  |
| Richard Gadsby          | – Governance Officer   |

#### **342 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Cupit.

#### **343 Declarations of Interest**

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

#### **344 Minutes of Last Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 20 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**345 Growth Update and Major Regeneration Projects plus updates on Joint Ventures, One Public Estate, Devolution and the Local Enterprise Partnerships**

One Public Estate Programme

The Chair welcomed Matt Scarborough from One Public Estate (OPE) to the meeting.

The Committee were advised that OPE is a joint programme run by the Cabinet Office and Local Government Association (LGA). The OPE programme enables local authorities and Public Sector Organisations to bid for funding to reconfigure and rationalise their asset base to facilitate the sharing of services and reduce running costs. The programme aims to create economic growth as well as delivering more integrated and customer focused services.

The North Midlands OPE Programme is split into two areas – Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with Dan Swaine Chairing the Derbyshire side.

The Committee were advised that a bid for £100,000 has been submitted for a Community Hub in Shirebrook – as a one-stop-shop solution to residents.

The Landscape depot functions of the North Midlands including High Peak, Chesterfield, Derby City and Amber Valley are under review. It was noted that rationalising the amount of depots or creating a “superdepot” would reduce running costs through economies of scale.

Two projects in the district are to benefit from OPE funding. The first is a successful bid for £85,000 for Clay Cross Town Centre and the second project is the Mill Lane Avenue Site which is a joint piece of work with the HCA. A bid of £50,000 for a feasibility study on the Avenue Site has been successful.

The Committee were advised that OPE offers an opportunity to integrate services with partners and reduce costs of older buildings.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked Matt Scarborough for his contribution.

Growth Strategy

The Assistant Director - Economic Growth gave a presentation on the Growth Strategy Update.

The Council was supporting enterprise through a number of measures. Local businesses are helped by ongoing business relationship management support and promoting funding opportunities as they become available. A range of business events have been hosted at the Council Offices at Mill Lane with great success and links with Universities have been created.

The Council was enabling housing growth by increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic growth.

Kier will commence building the first phase of 269 units on the Avenue at the end of 2017/early 2018. The Coalite site has been approved for 660 homes and a planning application for St Modwens has been lodged, with St Modwens Homes to build the first 250 units on the site.

The Committee were advised that the Northwood Group Joint Venture Company had been set up with Woodheads Regeneration Ltd. The Joint Venture was designed to reinvigorate the area by creating construction and employment opportunities, through the direct delivery of developments in the local area.

The Council was unlocking development potential by unlocking the capacity of major employment sites across the district. The Council have collaborated with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to secure funding of £12.8m from D2N2 for the A61 Growth Corridor to improve highway infrastructure.

£5.8m and £2m have been secured from D2N2 and DCC respectively to contribute to the £21m remediation and development scheme at the former Coalite site.

The Developer Forum has been re-launched and has regular attendance of around 60 people, and the development team approach had been established for all major site developments.

#### Devolution

The Chief Executive explained the current situation regarding devolution and combined authorities. It was noted that even without a devolution deal, funding is still available from the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) D2N2 and Sheffield City Region.

**RESOLVED** – That the Growth Update and Major Regeneration Projects and updates on Joint Ventures, One Public Estate, Devolution and the Local Enterprise Partnerships be noted.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

*Grant Galloway and Allison Westray-Chapman left the meeting at this point.*

#### **346 Local Plan Update**

The Chair welcomed Helen Fairfax – Planning Policy Manager to the meeting.

The Committee were informed that the Government are looking to review the NPPF and are proposing to introduce a revised methodology for identifying objectively assessed housing need, which will apply to all Local Plans submitted after 31 March 2018.

As these proposals have a potential to impact on the Local Plan, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have suggested that an advisory visit from the Planning Inspectorate would be helpful to discuss these issues further. The Planning Inspectorate visit will take place on 14 December 2017.

In order to take into account of the Planning Inspectorate visit and its outcome, the timetable for the Local Plan will need to be revised.

Members expressed concern that the timetable for delivering the Local Plan had slipped, as it was felt that it has been many years in the making. Officers assured the Committee that The Council is committed to the delivery of the Local Plan and this approach was necessary to make sure the Plan is found to be sound upon examination.

The Outcome from the Planning Inspectorate visit and revised timetable will be discussed at the next Local Plan Steering Group, and it is anticipated that consultation on the Publication of the Local Plan will happen in early 2018.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked Planning Policy Manager for her update.

**RESOLVED** – That the update on the Local Plan be noted.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

*Helen Fairfax and Dan Swaine left the meeting at this point.*

**347 Scrutiny Review – Tourism and Growth**

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager outlined the Project Plan and Timetable for the Tourism and Growth Scrutiny Review.

The Chair informed the Committee that Economic Development and Growth Manager was not available to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- (1) The Project Plan and Timetable for the Tourism and Growth Scrutiny Review be approved.
- (2) The Economic Development and Growth Manager be asked to attend the next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

**348 Scrutiny Review – Interviews**

The Chair welcomed Neil Johnson, Development and Growth Manager and Alyson Barnes, Tourism, Museum and Events Manager at Chesterfield Borough Council to the meeting.

The Committee were advised of current status of the Chesterfield Area Tourism Group and were given an outline of the group's last Work Plan 2014/15. It was noted that officers from NEDDC are no longer in attendance and the group had not met for a number of years. Chesterfield Borough Council holds the budget for the group, although Bolsover District Council and NEDDC still contribute £4000 each.

The Food and Drink project and Group Travel Guides were not taken forward due to lack of resource.

The group had produced a guide for the Chesterfield Area and organised a walking festival with programme and national advertising.

The Visit Chesterfield website ([www.visitchesterfield.info](http://www.visitchesterfield.info)) was due to be re-launched in March 2018 as the existing site had become unresponsive. It was noted that the site will include a range of high quality imagery of the local area, which will take some time to procure and build the content.

It was noted that Chesterfield Borough Council are looking to target day visitors rather than overnight stays.

**Q1. What is the scale of Tourism within North East Derbyshire?**

Information is difficult to get hold of. Chesterfield currently buys an external dataset for its Performance Indicators, comparing year on year Tourism levels.

Chesterfield would be happy to retrieve the data for North East Derbyshire if NEDDC wished to fund this.

**Q2. What is our marketing strategy and is it effective?**

It was reported that there is a policy to work with the Destination Management Organisation as well as providing information to businesses.

Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre promote any event around the Chesterfield area, not just within the town.

A mini-guide has been produced for Chesterfield, and it is possible for one to be produced for North East Derbyshire, if the Council wish to fund this exercise.

Members questioned whether there was involvement with Parish Councils in the sharing of information and it was noted that this doesn't happen at present, but may be worthwhile looking at in the future.

**Q3. How effective do you think our branding is?**

A branding exercise was undertaken a number of years ago. In terms of tourism, the area covering the districts of North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield and Bolsover is designated "Chesterfield Area". "Chesterfield Area" was considered to be the best description available due to the proximity of the districts to Chesterfield.

**Q4. What is our offer?**

The district of North East Derbyshire has the benefit of a number of attractive villages and countryside and a key attraction being Renishaw Hall and Gardens. Walks around the district and the walking festival also bolster tourism. A range of local breweries and the Three Valleys Beer Festival in Dronfield are also highlights.

**Q5. How do we compare with others similar to us?**

As the council do not have the data for North East Derbyshire, it is difficult to give an indication. However the District is equally as important as Chesterfield in attracting tourism.

**Q6. Is there connectivity between our attractions?**

Bolsover District Council organise a Visitor Economy Group, although it was noted that this hasn't met for some time.

Transport connectivity is poor and needs improving. Bus connectivity to Chesterfield Train Station is poor and navigation from the A61 is particularly difficult due to congestion.

Members also commented that bus connectivity around Killamarsh and Sheffield was also very poor.

**Q7. What are the main barriers to developing Tourism within North East Derbyshire?**

There are not many barriers as tourists are not concerned with borders or which Council delivers services in the area that they are visiting. Transport, however is a key barrier to tourism. The outlook of the district is positive but there is some untapped potential that needs exploring.

**Q8. How much funding does the Council put into Tourism?**

NEDDC contribute £4000 to tourism and £4000 to the Visitor Information Centre. This level has been unchanged for a number of years. Chesterfield Borough Council however, contribute significantly more than £4000 to tourism.

Q9. How is Tourism within North East Derbyshire supporting the Council's Growth Agenda?

The Visitor Economy is a growth area, although the Chesterfield Area is behind the curve on this trend and needs to do more to attract young people. Looking forward to the future, the Peak Resort and improvements to town centres will be a boost for the economy and tourism.

*Cllr R Smith left the meeting at this point.*

Q10. How well are we working with partners?

Due to staffing changes there is reduced dialogue between North East Derbyshire District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council in respect to Tourism.

*Cllr K Tait left the meeting at this point.*

Q11. What are the future development areas?

The Peak Resort will boost tourism and growth.

HS2 will make the area closer to London and therefore there is an opportunity to develop the growth strategy around this.

In terms of transport, the issuing of Gold Cards could transfer from Mill Lane offices to Chesterfield Borough as this is a more central location for customers.

Q12. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Chesterfield Borough Council would like to re-establish regular contact with NEDDC and involve the Council with conversations around Growth and Tourism Strategies.

The Committee were advised that if money was no object, the area could be promoted more to the public and group organisers. More guides could be produced and distributed. Members questioned whether guides could include Rother Valley Park.

It was noted that the ratio of visitors to locals in the area is approximately 40% visitor and 60% local residents.

*Cllr K Tait re-entered the meeting at this point.*

*Cllr A Powell left the meeting at this point.*

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Development and Growth Manager (CBC) and the Tourism, Museum and Events Manager (CBC) for attending the meeting and their contribution to the discussion.

*Cllr A Powell re-entered the meeting at this point.*



*Cllrs S Cornwell and K Tait left the meeting at this point.*

Members felt that officers from the Communications Team and representatives from Bolsover District Council should be invited to a future meeting to discuss how Tourism is promoted.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (1) The information gathered as part of the Scrutiny Review be noted.
- (2) Officers from the Communications Team and the relevant officer from Bolsover District Council are invited to the next meeting in addition to officers from Economic Growth.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

**349 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 66**

The Committee considered Issue No 66 of the List of Key Decisions which set out the major decisions being taken over the next few months.

RESOLVED – That the List of Key Decisions Issue No 66 be noted.

**350 Work Programme**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2017-2018 which set out the items which the Committee would consider over the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2017-2018 be noted.

**351 Additional Urgent Items**

The Committee were advised that the Assessor for Customer Services Excellence has invited Members of the Scrutiny Committees to meet with him if they wish to discuss the Customer Experience. There are six places available and slots will be around one hour in length.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) The invitation be noted.
- (2) The Overview and Scrutiny Manager e-mail the Committee the details of the invite.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

**352 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 18 January 2018 at 1.00 pm.

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Growth Minutes 1109