

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2018

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GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2018

Present:

Councillor J Windle (Chair)
Councillor S Cornwell Councillor B Rice
“ A Powell

Also Present

Allison Westray-Chapman – Assistant Director Economic Growth (Min No 511)
Sue Veerman – Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Steve Lee – Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator (Min No 508)
Richard Gadsby – Governance Officer

504 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors S Boyle, C Cupit, K Tait, C Smith, and R Smith.

505 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.

506 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 18 January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the inclusion of Cllr K Tait in the list of apologies.

507 Scrutiny Review

Triangulation of Evidence

A discussion took place between the Committee to triangulate the evidence gathered in the Scrutiny review of Tourism and Growth, which would be used to produce a report with recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

The Committee discussed at length the areas for improvements and recommendations as well as identifying some examples of good practice.

Strengths / Good Practice

- Working with Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) within reduced resources as a work-around solution;
- Location – borders the Peak District and Sheffield;
- Bolsover Promotion Videos;
- Peak Resort opportunities ;
- Cycle routs;
- Historic Houses;
- Canal;
- Working with businesses to support websites in different languages.

Improvements / Recommendations

- Tourism needs a dedicated officer;
- Tourism should sit under a specific cabinet portfolio;
- Fully recognise the economic impact of tourism;
- Liaise more with Parish Councils;
- Development of Website and link to Parish Councils with details of events;
- Need to develop our brand – who we are / what we offer / our assets;
- Create a Tourism / Business Forum as part of Developers Forum – one off or ongoing – to include all partners and retailers to discuss brand and Tourism Strategy.
- Quick hit - Put on a District & Parish Liaison Conference to raise awareness;
- Discussion around funding to CBC. Is it value for money? and could it could help fund a dedicated officer?;
- Need to be aspirational and bold;
- Transport Strategy – recognising part of overall strategy but need to consider connectivity i.e. extra train stations;
- Do more to engage people mentoring new business – through Launch Pad;
- Recommend benchmarking against other authorities and look at other models i.e. Destination Chesterfield;
- Currently no voice for the District.

RESOLVED – That the triangulated evidence from the Scrutiny review into Tourism and Growth be included in the Scrutiny Review report.

(Members/Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

508 Partnership Activities in Support of Growth

The Committee considered an update from the Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator on the Partnership Team's activities in support of growth. The Committee were advised that the Partnership Team contributes to the Growth Agenda directly through managing funding programmes which facilitate economic growth and job creation by working with colleagues on the wider Growth Agenda and generating income for North East Derbyshire District Council.

The Partnership Team also supported the Growth Agenda indirectly by working with partners to develop healthy sustainable communities and enable financial inclusion. The Partnership Team's work also contributed to a range of corporate plan targets as detailed in the report.

The Council were supporting rural areas in terms of job creation and economic growth through the Bolsover North East Derbyshire (BNED) LEADER approach. The 2007-13 programme had allocated just under £2m to 32 projects across the two districts this had directly created 75 jobs as well as supporting 54 tourism events attracting over 70,000 visitors. Businesses that were ineligible for BNED LEADER funding could be awarded grants through the North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund to assist with websites and signage, business start up costs, equipment ICT and machinery and extending and improving premises.

In the current 2014-20 BNED LEADER programme seven projects have been contracted to date (five from the NED area) totalling £189,895.31, generating match funding of £403,140.66 and creating 7.5 jobs. A further 18 applications are currently in development. The Committee were advised that 12.4FTE jobs will be created through nine projects approved through the Council's Business Growth Fund, four other projects are currently in development. The Council allocated significant financial investment to the local voluntary sector to provide support and assistance to vulnerable members of the community.

The Council also provided support to Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union to establish the Family Loan Scheme to allow residents to access affordable credit rather than relying on pay day loans. Since the start in 2013 over 9,900 loans have been granted totalling over £2.7m. The Partnership Team also oversaw the 2015-2019 Health and Wellbeing Strategy through the Healthy NED Partnership and District Locality Public Health Plan.

The Partnership Team supported locality working through a range of local initiatives including Grassland Hasmoor... - Big Local 2015-2025, Danesmoor Thriving Communities and North Wingfield 20-20. NEDBD Limited is used as the funding accountable body. The Partnership Team also provided support to the armed forces community with a dedicated section on the Council's website and newsletters sent out to the community.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

509 Change of Order of Agenda Item

With the agreement of the Chair of the Committee it was:-

RESOLVED – That the order of the Agenda be changed and the following item, List of Key Decisions, be considered earlier in the meeting.

510 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 69

The Committee considered Issue No 69 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 69 be noted.

511 Action Plan A61 Corridor

The Assistant Director Economic Growth gave an update on the progress along the A61 Corridor. It was noted that a key priority was the southern access roundabout with design work being undertaken. An officer group is currently looking at the logistics of the project and an A61 Board is to be established by Derbyshire County Council.

The Committee were advised that no major concerns were raised following the consultation process and it is anticipated that planning permission would be granted in early 2018.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the Assistant Director Economic Growth for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the progress of the Action Plan for the A61 Corridor.

512 Work Programme

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2017/18 which set out the items which the Committee would consider over the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18 be noted.

513 Additional Urgent Items

There were no additional urgent items to be considered.

514 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 5 April 2018 at 1.00 pm.
