

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2015

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GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2015

Present:

Councillor J Windle (Chair)

Councillor W Lilleyman(Vice-Chair)

Councillor C Cupit

Councillor C Tite

“ A Powell

Also Present

Helen Fairfax – Planning Policy Manager **for Minute No 83**

Jane Weston – Employment and Skills Officer **for Minute No 84**

Sue Broadhead – Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Sarah Cottam – Governance Officer

78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Rice and R Smith.

79 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.

No declarations of interest were received at this meeting.

80 Remit of Committee

The Committee considered a presentation from Sue Broadhead, Overview and Scrutiny Manager concerning the Terms of Reference for the Committee and for setting the scene of how the Committee operates.

The presentation was aimed at helping new and existing members understand what their role on Scrutiny entailed.

Areas covered were:-

- What Scrutiny is;
- What it is not;
- What makes for effective Scrutiny?;
- Ways of working;
- The main methods of undertaking reviews;

- How an indepth or spotlight review is undertaken;
- Examples of previous reviews;
- Committee work examples;
- New Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

The Committee were advised that the new Scrutiny Committee arrangements had been realigned to fit in with the authority's new Corporate Plan.

The Committee was reminded of the importance of Scrutiny adding value. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CFPS) believed that good scrutiny:-

- Provides critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers;
- Drives improvement in Public Services;
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities;
- Is carried out by independent minded governors who lead and own this scrutiny process.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the presentation on the remit of the Committee's from the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

81 Draft Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme of the Growth Scrutiny Committee for 2015-16 which set out the items which the Committee would consider over the forthcoming year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that any issues within the Committee's remit could be added to the Work Programme in consultation with the Chair.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee's draft Work Programme 2015-16 be noted.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

82 Selection of Scrutiny Review Topic

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager had contacted a number of stakeholders including Scrutiny Members and Officers, requesting ideas for potential review topics for 2015-16. The following topics were suggested:-

- The benefits of the HS2 coming to the District. HS2 would pass close to areas within the North East of the District;
- The delivery of affordable housing growth;
- Review of NEDDC jobs and apprenticeship strategy (to adopt models from successful co-operative Council's nationally in creating partnership with private sector employers);

- Review Policy and initiatives to create an economic growth area in the North East of the District;
- A61 corridor – benefits and implications;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) (SCR and D2N2) – perceptions from the LEPs of NEDDC;
- Media – form a positive relationship with Media and to use the Media in a useful way. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised that this topic would fall under the remit of the Organisation Scrutiny Committee and would be brought to their attention at their meeting on the 17 June;
- To identify vacant land owned by North East Derbyshire – Asset Management.

The Committee discussed at length the ideas put forward. It was agreed by all Members of the Growth Scrutiny Committee that combining Affordable Housing/Available Sites and identifying vacant land owned by North East Derbyshire – Asset Management was the preferred topic.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that a scoping meeting would take place between herself, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and the lead officer for the service to discuss the topic and produce a project plan for the review.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee would undertake a scrutiny review on ‘Affordable Housing/Available Sites – Asset Management and identifying vacant land owned by North East Derbyshire in 2015/2016 pending the outcome of the scoping meeting between the Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Lead Officer of that service.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager/Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee)

83 Local Plan Update

The Committee considered a presentation on the progress of the Local Plan. Helen Fairfax – Planning Policy Manager attended the meeting to update members and to answer any questions.

Public consultation had taken place over February and March 2015. Events had taken place over nine venues at Ashover, Calow, Clay Cross, Dronfield, Eckington, Killamarsh, North Wingfield, Shirland and Wingerworth. The events attracted in excess of 360 attendees, 368 responses had been received from individuals and organisations, generating almost 1,100 separate comments (all raising similar concerns).

The proportion of responses received from parishes were:-

Ashover – 43%
North Wingfield – 10%
Dronfield – 8%
Killamarsh – 7%
Eckington – 4%

No Clay Cross residents had commented only the Clay Cross Parish Council.

Members were advised that people could register on the database so that they would be made aware of all consultations and events taking place in the future.

The Planning Policy Manager advised the Committee of all the key issues of concern surrounding the Local Plan and concerns that the Local Plan Steering Group needed to address:-

- The principle of having a two part plan and whether it was still appropriate to continue;
- The need for a Green Belt review;
- The gulf between the need for affordable housing and the amount of housing currently planned;
- Recent housing needs assessment had identified the need for 500 affordable homes per year, currently the Plan was only allowing for 350 homes per year;
- Strategic sites – question delivery and contribution to the supply of housing over the Plan period, how much can realistically be delivered?;
- Coalite – concerns over the Local Plan's approach - the site was a potential site but not in the Plan period;
- Establishing and maintaining a five year housing land supply – without this the Plan would fail;
- Keeping to the Local Plan timetable – working with the Local Plan Steering Group;

During the process, new sites had been submitted and these would be taken through the Site Assessment Process.

Legal advice would be sought on the key concerns raised on the Phase 2 site assessments and identification of the preferred sites would continue.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Planning Policy Manager for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the progress of the Local Plan.

(Planning Policy Manager)

84 Employment and Skills

The Committee considered an update from Jane Weston, Employment and Skills Officer on the Employment and Skills work taking place in the district.

The Employment and Skills Officer advised the Committee of all the projects taking place:-

- Working Communities Project;
- Ambition Project;

- Extra Care Facility – Clay Cross;
- Green Care Group – Dronfield;
- Avenue;
- Additional Employment Conditions;
- Key Account Management Initiatives;
- Sheffield City Region – City Deal – Skills Made Easy;
- Talent Match Funding Bid (Big Lottery);
- Employment and Skills Policy;
- Additional LEPs/CA Work;
- The projects as a whole were going really well especially the Working Communities Project which over 800 people had accessed since it started in 2007. It was planned to produce a press release when the 1,000 target was reached to make people aware of how successful the project had been.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Employment and Skills Officer for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the update on Employment and Skills work taking place in the district.

85 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 35

The Committee considered Issue No 35 of the List of Key Decisions which sets out the major decisions being taken over the next few months.

RESOLVED – That the List of Key Decisions Issue No 35 be noted.

86 Additional Urgent Items

There were no additional urgent items to be discussed at this meeting.

87 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 4 August at 10.00 am, in Chamber 1.