GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2017

I N D E X

Page No	Minute No	Heading
1	564	Apologies for Absence
1	565	Declarations of Interest
1	566	Minutes of Last Meeting
1	567	Scrutiny Review
4	568	Scrutiny Review – Triangulation of Evidence
4	569	Economic Development and Housing Strategy
6	570	List of Key Decisions – Issue No 58
6	571	Work Programme
6	572	Additional Urgent Items
6	573	Date of Next Meeting

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2017

Present:

Councillor J Windle ..... …… (Chair)

Councillor	S Boyle	Councillor	B Rice
"	S Cornwell	"	R Smith
"	A Powell		

Also Present

Martyn Handley – Economic Development Project Officer (**Min No 567**)
Julian Cosgrove – Economic Development and Growth Manager (**Min No 569**)
Karl Apps – Housing Strategy and Growth Manager (**Min No 569**)
Bryan Harrison – Senior Regeneration Officer and Urban Designer (**Min No 569**)
Jane Weston – Employment and Skills Officer (**Min No 569**)
Sue Veerman – Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Sarah Cottam – Senior Governance Officer

564 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor C Smith.

565 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.

566 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 26 January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

567 Scrutiny Review

The Committee carried out an interview as part of the Committee's Review into the A61 Corridor.

Martyn Handley, Economic Development Project Officer

(1) What do you consider is your role in this project?

The Committee were advised that the Economic Development Project Officer was one of the North East Derbyshire Liaison Officers for the A61 Growth Corridor Initiative. Derbyshire County Council led on the project and worked in partnership with various stakeholders. The purpose of the Economic Development Project Officer's role in the project was to provide viewpoints on the project and feed into the Communities Sub-Group. The Committee were also advised that he was the lead officer on the Connectivity Sub-Group for the Avenue project.

(2) What do you see as the Council's long term objectives for the A61?

The Committee were advised that there were many issues in terms of traffic and congestion and also road safety. Strategic sites such as The Avenue, Mill Lane development and other developments including the Biwater site would also feed into the A61 issues and congestion could only get worse. There was a need to minimise the impact of the developments taking place on the A61 and the Council should also consider what the impact on the viability of future sites would be on the A61. The Committee were advised that Derbyshire County Council's objective was that the traffic on the A61 was always going to be bad, but DCC's view was that they did not wish to see it get any worse. The Committee were advised that a consultant called Mouchels had recently carried out an options appraisal and found that the traffic flow needed vast improvement.

(3) How well do you think the Council is doing in this area?

The Committee were advised that the Council had a big impact on the project and helped to inform it. It had also been successful in obtaining what the Council wants. For example, a roundabout had been agreed at the top of Mill Lane and this was a number one priority for DCC. It was advised that an officer group meets regularly to work up designs for the project. The Committee were advised that the deadline for the funding to be spent was 2021. The Council had worked closely with the public health team to do a health impact assessment on the A61 and this was now published. It had opened up more funding streams to tap into.

(4) Do we have the necessary skills in house for a project of this nature?

The Council has the necessary skills to a certain point, for example North East Derbyshire had skills in terms of strategy and planning and also urban design. DCC provided the highways element such as engineers for the project.

(5) How do we ensure what we are doing is joined up with the work of our partners?

The Committee were advised that a steering group had been put in place with various partners such as Chesterfield Cycle Campaign, Derbyshire County Council, North East Derbyshire District Council and other partners and it was

felt that this was working well. The Committee were advised that Derbyshire County Council led the steering group.

(6) Are you aware of any measures to involve the public to raise awareness of the work being undertaken?

The Committee were advised that the key element all the way through the project was consultation. Mouchels, the consultants, had held a series of stakeholder events at the end of 2015 and beginning of 2016. Various groups were able to give their viewpoints at the stakeholder events. Consultants also visited local groups to ask their viewpoint. It was advised that there had been various press releases and public involvement was good and up to date.

(7) How is the project being funded?

The Committee were advised that the project was D2N2 funded. In total there was a £16m package of this £13m was funded from the Local Enterprise Partnership D2N2 and £3m had been put in from Section 106 monies.

(8) What do you think are the challenges for the future?

The Committee were advised that the challenge would be funding as £16m was not enough to make all the improvements to the A61 but it was advised that this would go a long way to mitigate the traffic issues. The Committee was advised that managing the expectations of the public would be a challenge but the Council had to ensure that the most important work was being made a priority.

(9) What improvements would you like to see?

Improvements would need to be made with the contact with Derbyshire County Council as recently meetings were not taking place as frequently. The Economic Development Project Officer advised that DCC had been chased for updates to find out what the progress was. The Committee were advised that he was unsure why the project had slowed down from DCCs point of view.

(10) Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

The Committee were advised that the Council was moving forward with the connectivity work on the Avenue site. The Council were currently working on a safety audit and would be looking at what was required on the land ownership etc. The internal paths would be open from Spring time on the Avenue site and improvements were being made to the railway underpasses.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Economic Development Project Officer for attending the meeting and for contributing to the review.

RESOLVED – That the information gathered as part of the Scrutiny Review be noted.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

568 Scrutiny Review – Triangulation of Evidence

A discussion took place between the Committee to triangulate the evidence gathered in the Scrutiny review of the A61 corridor, which would be used to produce an interim report and recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

The Committee discussed at length the good practice they had identified and also the improvements and items for recommendations.

Good Practice

- A number of officers demonstrated that they were really committed to the A61 Project;
- The agencies on the whole are working well and trying to manage the expectations of the public;
- North East Derbyshire officers are aware of how the priorities linked with the Growth Strategy;
- Good links between the Local Plan Process and the A61 Project;
- Senior level of Partnership working well;
- Members/officers recognised there was now momentum with the Project;

Improvements/Recommendations

- Question over when the A61 Corridor Strategy would be finalised;
- Needs to be a long term vision to save problems – Strategic Vision;
- Visual Map required of the A61;
- Should be more focus on communicating with the Public and managing their expectations;
- Ensure liaison and communication with DCC is maintained.

RESOLVED – That the triangulated evidence from the Scrutiny review into the A61 Corridor be included in the Scrutiny Review report.

(Members/Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

569 Economic Development and Housing Strategy

The Committee considered progress against the Action Plan on the Economic Development and Housing Strategy. In attendance were Julian Cosgrove, Economic Development and Growth Manager, Karl Apps, Housing Strategy and Growth Manager, Bryan Harrison, Senior Regeneration Officer and Urban Designer and Jane Weston, Employment and Skills Officer.

The Housing Strategy and Growth Manager outlined the progress on the corporate plan targets for 2015-2019.

The Committee were advised that a total of 56 homeless cases were dealt with in Quarter 3 of 2016-2017 out of which 53 were prevented which equated to 95%. It was felt that prevention was done very well within the Council. The 466 completions last year meant that the Council were well placed to be on target for 2019 with regards to enabling the development of at least 1000 new properties within the District by March 2019. Large schemes such as Coalite and The Avenue sites were moving forward. The Committee were advised that 110 letters had been sent out to empty property owners with regards to meeting the targets of bringing 20 empty properties back into use by March 2019. The Committee were advised that the Council would be sending out an additional 220 letters to the remaining empty property owners.

The Committee were advised that the majority of the performance targets were on track or had been achieved to date.

The Economic Development and Growth Manager advised the Committee that the service plan was now being reviewed as things had changed within the service. The aim was to try and keep the service plan smart and for it to only contain the key issues. The Committee received an update on the Export programme and it was advised that the Local Enterprise Partnerships were still very active in this area. It was advised that North East Derbyshire was the only district to have in place an International Export Programme and were in the process of creating an Export Network. It was advised that an event on export was planned but this had been delayed due to the Purdah period for the upcoming elections. The department were hoping to do this event in May 2017.

The Committee were advised that a lot of work was being carried out with local universities. It was hoped that the Council could help change people's views in universities and so the Council were carrying free adverts in our 'News' magazines for the universities and also promoting the digital degree.

The Senior Regeneration Officer and Urban Designer was responsible for looking after town centre regeneration in the district. It was advised that a citizens' panel and town centre health checks would be taking place. The Council would be looking to establish town teams for all town centres to be custodians of the regeneration frameworks.

The Employment and Skills Officer advised a lot of work was being carried out with regards to apprenticeships. A recent event had taken place which encouraged employers to come forward with any vacancies and enable them to become engaged with the local schools in the area. The Committee were advised that a mixture of the sectors were in attendance ranging from engineering to administration from all around the District. Rykneld Homes were also in attendance at the event. It was advised that North East Derbyshire also promoted its own

apprenticeships which would be taking place through the new apprenticeship levy initiative.

The Committee were advised that the Council were also giving independent support to businesses on apprenticeships through an 'Apprenticeship Hour and adverts in the News. The apprenticeship growth plan was also nearly completed and this looked at higher level apprenticeships and arising from this, work would be carried out with the Universities.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Economic Development and Growth Manager, the Housing Strategy and Growth Manager, the Senior Regeneration Officer and Urban Designer and the Employment and Skills Officer for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the progress of the Economic Development and Housing Strategy.

(Economic Development)

570 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 58

The Committee considered Issue No 58 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 58 be noted.

(Governance)

571 Work Programme

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2016-2017 which set out the items which the Committee would consider over the forthcoming year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised that the next meeting due to be held on 13 April would be the last meeting of this Municipal Year and the Committee would receive its draft Scrutiny Review Report to agree before its submission to Cabinet. The Committee would also consider the previous Scrutiny Review Action Plan for Vacant Land and consider an update on the Partnerships Team Activities in support of Growth.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2016-2017 be noted.

(Members/Overview & Scrutiny Manager)

572 Additional Urgent Items

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

573 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee would take place on Thursday 13 April 2017 at 2.00 pm.

_____