

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 APRIL 2016****I N D E X**

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GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 APRIL 2016

Present:

Councillor J Windle (Chair)
Councillor W Lilleyman(Vice-Chair)
Councillor S Boyle Councillor R Smith
“ A Powell “ C Tite
“ B Rice

Also Present

David Broom – Facilities and Contracts Manager (for Minute No 697)
James Arnold – Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health (for Minute No 698)
Steve Lee – Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator (for Minute No 699)
Sue Broadhead – Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Sarah Cottam – Governance Officer

694 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Tait and Grant Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates)

695 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.

Councillor W Lilleyman declared a non-significant other interest in item 4 on the agenda – Asset Management, arising from his employment with Corporate Resources at Derbyshire County Council.

The Committee were reminded that the pre-election Purdah period for the Police Crime Commissioner Elections started on Thursday 24 March and would run until 6 May 2016. Although this did not affect the Council directly, certain restrictions on publicity and communication must be adhered to. In terms of the EU Referendum in June, the Purdah period would begin on 17 May 2016.

696 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 8 March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

697 Asset Management

David Broom, Facilities and Contracts Manager attended the meeting on behalf of Grant Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates), to update members on progress against the Asset Management Strategy Action Plan.

The Committee were advised that the target dates on the Plan would have to be reviewed as the Council were currently in talks with Derbyshire County Council regarding an update to the electronic database with a view to working jointly.

The Committee were advised that the public building access audit would take place shortly. A stock condition survey was previously carried out in 2009. The Council would be moving forward with a refresh of the survey to bring this up-to-date.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the Facilities and Contracts Manager for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the update on the Asset Management Strategy Action Plan.

(Facilities and Contracts Manager)

698 Planning Service

The Committee considered a presentation from James Arnold, Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health on the progress of the Planning Service. The Development Management Performance was measured against the percentage of applications determined within 13 weeks (major applications) and 8 weeks (minor applications and others). This was reported on a quarterly basis and was also monitored nationally by the DCLG.

In the year 2015-16:

Major Applications – 26 of 31 (83.9%)
Minor Applications – 221 of 227(79.8%)
Others – 398 of 431 (92.4%)

There was also a further 496 other applications and submissions determined in this time.

The Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health advised that special measures were assessed against the determination of major applications over a 2 year period. No more than 50% were determined over 13 weeks.

In the period 2014-16 the Council were well above the national standards for determining planning applications:

Major Applications – 53 of 67 (79.1%)
Minor Applications – 379 of 556 (68.1%)

Others – 749 of 872 (85.9%)

937 other applications/submissions had also been determined.

The Committee were advised that the fee for 2015/16 was £466,062.18 with a baseline income of £335,000. There were many challenges for officers trying to balance issues out of their control. There were targets to meet, but officers also had to look at the levels of risk with an application and decide if an application would need to be delayed.

The Committee were advised that the new structure in Planning Services went live in March 2015. This would be fully implemented by March 2016 with one Manager, 6.5FTE Planning Officers, 1.2FTE Enforcement Officers, 4 Technicians/Administrators and 1.6 Land Charge Officers. The Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health confirmed that consultants were used, through the framework in place where necessary on agreed rates.

Members requested that if possible local ward members should be able to access the Planning Portal through the Ipad to check the progress of applications.

The Committee were advised that work was currently taking place on the Local Plan which was a challenging process. All work on the Local Plan was carried out in consultation with the Steering Group and Cabinet. The Planning Policy Team were working over two Councils which had a big impact on resources. A Greenbelt Review was also currently taking place to help bring forward the Local Plan and to help balance the housing distribution evenly over the District.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee notes the progress of the Planning Service within the Authority.

(Assistant Director – Planning & Environmental Health)

699 Partnerships

The Committee considered an update from Steve Lee, Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator on the Partnership Team's activities in support of Growth. The Partnership Team was part of the Growth Directorate reporting direct to the Chief Executive. It was responsible for engaging with North East Derbyshire's services and the public, private and voluntary and community sector partners to develop and embed initiatives which reflected national, regional and local policy, customer/partner service demands and opportunities to improve local services. This was predominantly in areas of economic growth, health and wellbeing, financial inclusion, voluntary group community engagement and locality working. The Team was responsible for the delivery against 6 targets identified in the 2015/2019 Corporate Plan.

- Invest in voluntary and community organisations to assist over 13,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households year on year;
- Support the growth in membership of the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union by 230 new North East Derbyshire residents per year;
- Through the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire LEADER approach, collectively support the creation of 65 sustainable jobs in the combined programme area by December 2020;
- Review Partnership arrangements to enable the development of a Healthy Communities Action Plan by March 2016, with delivery milestones by March 2019;
- Support the development and delivery of projects as part of the £1m Grassland, Hasmoor ... Big Local Scheme by March 2019;
- Develop an Action Plan to enable the delivery of the Derbyshire Thriving Families Initiative by December 2015 and thereafter commence implementation.

The Partnerships Team had 7 priority areas of focus identified in its service plan which all related in some way to the delivery of the Council's Growth Agenda. Wherever possible new tasks which arose were added to one of these areas. Recent contributions to the Agenda were identified as:-

- Supporting locality working and developing new initiatives – the Partnerships Team maintained an overview of low-key local statistics such as the Indices of Multiple Deprivations (IMD) which had helped develop an understanding of local challenges affecting communities, including those related to the Growth Agenda;
- Co-ordinating the Healthy North East Derbyshire approach – Cabinet approved the 2015-2019 Health and Wellbeing Strategy on the 2 September 2015, which the Partnerships Team oversees on behalf of the Council;
- Overseeing the NEDDC's Financial Inclusion Framework – the Partnerships Team leads on the engagement with the County wide anti poverty approach and support to the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union, including refreshing their business plan and internal HR Policies;
- Co-ordinating voluntary community sector grant funding – the Partnerships Team manages a £4,000 annual budget for older peoples/luncheon clubs and also manages the Council's £132,779 voluntary sector groups' budget;
- Delivering the BNED LEADER approach 2014-2020 – the Partnerships Team includes the Bolsover North East Derbyshire (LEADER Team) who administrate the BNED LEADER Programme, which must focus on the development of businesses and economic growth within rural areas;
- North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund – in March 2015 Cabinet approved the establishment of the North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund, a grant scheme of £40,000 funded from the Invest to Save Budget which would be piloted over 24 months for areas ineligible for BNED LEADER funding;
- Manage NEDBD Ltd – North Eastern Derbyshire Business Development Ltd was a company limited by guarantee established in 1993 to act as the accountable body for funding schemes and strategic projects;

- Other activity – the Partnerships’ Team managed the allocation of NEDDC’s Shaping the Future monies to develop locality working and to address local issues across the District;

The Committee were advised that the Partnerships Team were currently working with local partners in the area on the Masterplan for North Wingfield.

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

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee notes the update on the Partnerships Team activities in support of Growth.

(Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator)

700 Draft Scrutiny Review Report – Vacant Land

The Committee considered the draft Scrutiny Review – Vacant Land. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that if the report recommendations were accepted by Cabinet at its June meeting then the lead officer for the service would produce an action plan on how the recommendations would be implemented. The action plan would then be monitored by the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee approve the draft Scrutiny Review Report – Vacant Land for submission to Cabinet.

(Members/Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

701 Monitoring of Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee of the recommendations of all the Scrutiny Committees during 2015/2016 and asked for any comments on outstanding issues.

There were no comments made by the Growth Scrutiny Committee on the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That the monitoring of the Scrutiny Recommendations 2015/2016 be received.

(Members/Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

702 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 45

The Committee considered Issue No 45 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 45 be noted.

(Governance)

703 Work Programme

The Committee considered its work programme for the Growth Scrutiny Committee for 2015-16 which was now complete. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager explained the process for next year's work programme. An e-mail would be circulated to all Members and stakeholders for review suggestions for the ensuing year. It was requested that all suggestions from Members be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

The Chair of the Growth Scrutiny Committee wished to extend his thanks for the help of his fellow Growth Scrutiny members and also to the Overview and Scrutiny Manager and Governance Officer for their help over the past year.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the Work Programme for 2015/2016 which was now complete.

(Members/Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

704 Additional Urgent Items

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

705 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 28 June 2016 at 10.00 am in Chamber 1, this was subject to the approval of the Council's Calendar of Meetings 2016/2017 by Cabinet on Wednesday 6 April 2016.