

GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2016

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GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2016

Present:

Councillor C Smith (Chair)

Councillor J Windle(Vice-Chair)

Councillor S Boyle

Councillor K Tait

“ A Powell

Also Present

Jane Weston – Employment and Skills Officer (for Min No: 118)

Sue Veerman – Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Sarah Cottam – Governance Officer

112 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cupit, W Lilleyman, B Rice and R Smith.

113 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.

114 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 5 April 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

115 Remit of the Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager set the scene for Members on what the remit of the Growth Scrutiny Committee was.

The Committee discussed its remit and noted their responsibilities for Scrutiny functions relating to:-

- Local Enterprise Partnership and Combined Authorities;
- Business/Economy;
- Economic Development;
- Regeneration;
- Asset Management;

- Planning;
- Tourism;
- Partnership;
- Strategic Housing – Housing Strategy.

Members also noted that if a particular issue fell between the functions of two or more Scrutiny Committees, then the Chairs of the relevant Scrutiny Committees could agree to work together.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager reminded Members of the remit of the Committee, outlining the Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny functions.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee noted the remit of the Committee from the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

116 Selection of Scrutiny Review Topic

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager had made contact with a number of stakeholders including Scrutiny Members and Officers requesting ideas for potential review topics in 2016/2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised that any item in the remit of the Committee could be reviewed, also past topics could also be revisited if Members felt this was necessary.

The following topics had been suggested:-

- Rural Broadband – how broadband services could be enhanced;
- Rural Mobile Signal – how to enhance the service;
- Broadband in the Council Premises and Connectivity;
- Joint Ventures into developing housing employment land for general land development or for specific sites;
- Housing and Planning Act implications;
- Performance Management Framework – is this fit for purpose;
- Town Centre Regenerations.

The Committee discussed the topics suggested and the value of choosing one as a review for the year.

Members noted that some of the topics suggested could be picked up as single item under the Committee's work programme; such as rural broadband, mobile connections and connectivity in the Council. It was also suggested that Digital Derbyshire be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the issues with Members.

The Committee were interested in looking at how the Council promoted North East Derbyshire as a District to companies and demonstrated what the District had to offer. Members felt that the Council could do more to bring business into the area.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that the Chief Executive would shortly be developing a Business Prospectus and this proved timely for the Committee to be involved.

Members also discussed that developing the Council website to promote the North East Derbyshire would help bring business to the area. The Committee also felt that the progress of the Local Plan needed to be considered and requested an update be given at a future meeting.

Members requested that an earlier meeting date for meeting with the Chief Executive, than already scheduled, be set. If necessary the Committee would move the meeting date to accommodate this. The Chief Executive was due to attend to provide an update on the Developer Prospectus and Growth Agenda. It was hoped that this would provide the Committee with a steer for the review topic for 2016/17.

It was advised that the Planning Policy Manager would also be invited to update the Committee on the progress of the Local Plan at the next meeting in person or via a written update if necessary.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That an earlier meeting date than already scheduled be arranged for the Chief Executive to attend the Committee to provide an update on the business prospectus and growth agenda was sought to give the Committee a steer on the review topic for 2016/17.
- (2) That the Planning Policy Manager be invited to the next meeting to update the Committee on the progress of the Local Plan.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager/Members)

117 Draft Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Work Programme of the Growth Scrutiny Committee for 2016/17 which set out the items which the Committee would consider over the forthcoming year.

Resulting from the previous discussion on the Scrutiny Review Topic, items were identified for inclusion on the Work Programme.

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised the Committee that the work programme would be amended to include those items identified in the previous discussion and also to accommodate a rescheduled meeting to which the Chief Executive would be invited to attend to update on the developer prospectus and progress on the growth agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Growth Scrutiny Committee’s draft Work Programme for 2016/17 be noted.

(Overview and Scrutiny Manager/Members)

118 Employment and Skills

The Committee considered an update on progress on employment and skills from Jane Weston, Employment and Skills Officer.

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

- Working Communities Project;
- Ambition Project;
- Talent Match Funding Bid (Big Lottery – Five Year Project);
- Marstons Clay Cross;
- The Avenue;
- Additional employment conditions – added to planning applications;
- Sheffield City Region City Deal – Skills Made Easy – 3 year project;
- Apprenticeship Growth Plan;
- Additional LEP/CA work.

The Committee were advised on a number of initiatives and their progress aimed at getting people back into work and also assisting them in finding training programmes.

Whether people were already out of work or were facing redundancy the programme was open to all North East Derbyshire residents from day one of unemployment. The Employment and Skills Officer advised that she visited companies to help staff facing redundancy, she provided the details of how to get in touch and find out more information about the Working Communities project which were also published on the Council’s website.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Employment and Skills Officer for attending the meeting and acknowledged the good work that was being undertaken.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the update on the progress on the Employment and Skills within the Council.

(Employment and Skills Officer)

Councillor K Tait and Councillor J Windle left the meeting at this point.

119 List of Key Decisions – Issue No 49

The Committee considered Issue No 49 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 49 be noted.

(Governance)

120 Additional Urgent Items

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

121 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee would take place on a date set in September to facilitate the Chief Executive attendance.
