

## **GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Anthony Hutchinson (Chair)

Councillor Nigel Barker  
Councillor John Funnell  
Councillor Michael Roe

Councillor Suzy Cornwell  
Councillor Lee Hartshorne

#### **Also Present:**

A Heath	Derbyshire County Council
D Stanton	Governance Officer
S Veerman	Overview and Scrutiny Manager

#### **GSC/32/ 20-21     Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M Emmens, D Ruff and N Whitehead.

#### **GSC/33/ 20-21     Declarations of Interest**

Members are 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.

#### **GSC/34/ 20-21     Minutes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **GSC/35/ 20-21     Change of Order of Agenda Items**

The Chair agreed to take the next agenda items in the following order.

#### **GSC/36/ 20-21     Scrutiny Review**

- (a) The Committee welcomed Andy Heath, Bolsover Countryside Partnership Manager to the meeting.

Members heard that the officer had worked on a variety of projects involving sustainable tourism in the Bolsover area, with a view to support and enhance the environment, residents' health and wellbeing, the local economy, carbon reduction and sustainable travel.

Members were informed about a number of projects that the officer was co-ordinating including the 'visit, sleep, cycle, repeat' initiative. Members noted that considerable amounts of funding had been secured to invest in the initiative area which included parts of North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Worksop and South Yorkshire.

The Bolsover Countryside Partnership Manager discussed a number of attractions in North East Derbyshire such as the Five Pits Trail, the Pleasley Pit Trail and the Cuckoo Way. Members noted that connectivity was vital for a vibrant and sustainable visitor economy.

The Committee discussed potential connectivity sites in North East Derbyshire, and that there was a growing market in that area of sustainable tourism, demonstrated with the multi-million pound investment in neighbouring local authorities.

Members heard about a number of feasibility studies which were taking place in Bolsover. One of the outcomes was that within a one hour drive, there was nearly four million people who could access Bolsover's attractions. It was stated that similar feasibility studies could be done in North East Derbyshire.

The officer commented that one of the biggest challenges was to establish a clear identity and brand for the visitor economy in the area. Consultants in Bolsover had identified that the area should be based around what it offered, such as cycling routes and networks, and not geographic location, such as it being located near the Peak District. The Committee heard that going forward, it would be useful for all neighbouring authorities to work together and collectivise the Pits Trails.

The Bolsover Countryside Partnership Manager commented that the District lacked infrastructure around cycle routes, such as cafes and shops, and that infrastructure was vital if the 'visit, sleep, cycle, repeat' initiative was to be a success.

The Committee had a wide ranging discussion on tourism and the potential for North East Derbyshire to develop a successful visitor economy. Members enquired about the plans for HS2 and the implications on the District's attractions.

Members heard that Cabinet was due to consider a potential partnership with the Countryside Partnership in the near future.

Members thanked the officer for attending the meeting.

*The officer then left the meeting.*

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

(b) Calagran Four Paws/Shady Hall Farm

These interviews did not take place because the business owners were unable to attend due to circumstances.

(c) Discussion on Next Steps and any Further Interviews

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager informed Members that the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, and the Director of Growth and Economic Development, were due to attend the next meeting to discuss the Council's Growth and Tourism Strategies.

Members discussed the District's attractions and the potential for further investment and infrastructure. The Committee requested a written answer from a member of the Economic Development Team outlining what the Council was doing to support the areas businesses during the Pandemic.

**GSC/37/  
20-21** **Forward Plan of Executive Decisions**

AGREED – That the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions be noted.

**GSC/38/  
20-21** **Work Programme**

AGREED – That the Work Plan be noted.

**GSC/39/  
20-21** **Additional Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items considered at this meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee.

**GSC/40/  
20-21** **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Growth Scrutiny Committee would take place on Monday 18 January 2021 at 1.00 pm.