

## Minutes of Economic Development Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 5 April 2018, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R Swarbrick (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	K Hind
P Dowson	S Hirst
P Elms	J Rogerson
R Elms	I Sayers

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services and Regeneration Policy Officer.

Also in attendance: Steven Cochrane, Director of Growth Lancashire Ltd.

### 720 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Atkinson, I Brown, M Fenton, M French, J Holgate and R Thompson.

### 721 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to Minute 583 regarding rail services in the Ribble Valley, explaining that a meeting had taken place with Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail, and that discussions were to be arranged with neighbouring authorities. The results of the consultation with regard to the interchange were to be submitted.

Members were also informed of the generally positive response by the Rail Minister to the approach made to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the progress made with the Leader of Lancaster City Council and the Leader and Chief Executive of Craven District Council. Work was being carried out with Lancashire County Council and LEP.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to Minute 584 with regard to the Economic Evidence Base and advised that Turleys had been commissioned to carry out an initial Economic Appraisal, the report from which was anticipated in mid-May 2018.

The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services referred to Minute 586 regarding Boundary and Tourism Signs, and advised Members that Lancashire County Council do not have a database of such signs. Members of staff have been asked to map tourism signs when out on site. There was discussion on the problem of damaged, illegible and dirty signs, and the temporary signage that

would be required during the road closures at the time of construction of the roundabout at the junction of the A59 and Pendle Road, Clitheroe.

722 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

723 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

724 PRESENTATION BY STEVEN COCHRANE – DIRECTOR OF GROWTH LANCASHIRE LTD

The Chairman introduced Steven Cochrane, the Director of Growth Lancashire Ltd, the company which had previously been known as Regenerate Pennine Lancashire. Mr Cochrane advised Members of the background and governance of the company, which was Local Authority owned with 10 Lancashire Local Authorities being members, but also with 7 private sector Directors including both Lancashire accredited Chambers of Commerce. The company was an official partner of the Northern Powerhouse.

The focus of the company was delivery rather than political, with the key mission of being the growth of jobs, skills and prosperity in Lancashire. Their role was provision of expertise to support Local Authorities and the LEP, to secure external funding as a single point of contact with Government, and to simplify business support. They also provided the Business Growth Hub for Lancashire, which was branded as Boost.

The company triaged 2,500 enquiries from businesses each year and held 600 Business Advice Sessions. In the last 3 years, they had helped create over 4,000 jobs, helped to start 1,000 new businesses, generated £18m direct grant support and stimulated over £50m private investment. Members were advised of the proposed introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which would replace European funding.

Within the Ribble Valley, over £500,000 in grants had been provided and about 150 jobs had been created from 2014 to 2017. 136 enquiries from Ribble Valley residents and businesses had been received from March 2017 to February 2018, and from October 2016 to February 2018 there had been 53 Business Review Sessions and 10 Growth Vouchers issued.

The company could also provide outsourced conservation and heritage advice for Local Authorities and were establishing a heritage strategy for East Lancashire Authorities.

Mr Cochrane responded to questions from Members, explaining that any size of business can receive support, including preparation of business plans to approach lenders. Although Ribble Valley were not members, he did carry out work with the Economic Development team of the Borough Council. The focus

had changed since the time of Regenerate Pennine Lancashire, when there had been more focus on the urban authority areas – Ribble Valley businesses were now receiving a proportionate amount of the support available for Lancashire.

RESOLVED: That Mr Cochrane be thanked for his informative presentation.

Members subsequently discussed the services currently available to the Ribble Valley without being members of the company and that consideration of the possible advantages of membership could be considered as part of the overall Economic Development Strategy.

#### 725 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH – CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the approval of Transport for the North (TfN) as the first Sub-National Transport body in England, tasked with setting out the requirements of the pan Northern Transport Network through a Strategic Transport Plan for the North. A draft plan had been produced which was open to consultation to mid-April 2018. This incorporated overall strategic visions, particularly with regard to rail services for the period 2050.

Members were advised of the proposed response, incorporating various issues. In particular, this included the introduction of half hourly services by rail from Clitheroe to Manchester, and the development of a regular rail link to Leeds, Yorkshire, Lancaster and Carlisle and the North through Hellifield were to be considered in the response.

Members also requested that the importance of the A59 as an East/West route be emphasised.

RESOLVED: That Committee instruct the Chief Executive to prepare and submit the Council's formal response to the STP consultation referring to the issues set out in Section 3.7 of the report and in consultation with the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

#### 726 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Members of the scheme approved for inclusion in this Committee's 2018/19 Capital Programme. The scheme budget of £100,000 had been moved forward from 2017/18 to 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 727 REVENUE MONITORING 2017/18

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing Committee with information relating to the progress of the 2017/18 Revenue budget as at the end of February 2018. There was an overall underspend of £3,713. The main reasons for this underspend were highlighted for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

728 UPDATE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND (RDPE)

The Chief Executive submitted a report updating Members on the progress of the RDPE, known as the LEADER Scheme at European level. Members were advised that Ribble Valley now comprises part of the Lancashire North and Bowland Local Action Group (LAG). Information was provided regarding the activity of the LAG and the level of support for various types of businesses in different sectors in the LAG area and particularly in the Ribble Valley. Due to the delay in payment of grants until after completion of projects, Members considered whether the Council could investigate provision of short-term cash flow loans, in cases where a grant offer had been made and accepted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

729 LANCASHIRE BUSINESS EXHIBITION 2018

The Chief Executive submitted report on the Council's attendance at the Lancashire Business Exhibition held in Preston on 2 March 2018. Representatives of the Council's Regeneration Section had been present throughout the day. The event had been very successful, with officers responding to many enquiries and establishing a number of useful connections.

Members considered further initiatives, including a presence at agricultural shows, presence at local events and the benefits that would be derived from the new website.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

730 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).