

Minutes of Economic Development Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 15 November 2018 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R Swarbrick (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	S Hirst
S Bibby	J Holgate
I Brown	J Rogerson
P Dowson	I Sayers
R Elms	D Taylor
M Fenton	R Thompson
K Hind	

In attendance: Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services and Head of Regeneration and Housing.

451 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Elms and M French.

452 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

453 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

454 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

455 RIBBLE VALLEY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report asking Committee to consider the formation of the Ribble Valley Business Partnership to support economic growth in the borough. The Council had a long established record of working in partnership with a number of local groups and bodies with a view to understanding local business related issues, developing initiatives and promoting economic growth and wellbeing in the local economy.

The former Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership previously provided an overarching umbrella forum in which many of these groups relevant to the local economy could come together and although the Council had continued to develop linkages with local businesses through the established groups, there is not a single umbrella forum that can draw relevant issues together easily across the key local economic sectors, including manufacturing services, tourism and

food for example. It was considered that there would be some merit in re-establishing the opportunity led by the Council to provide a strategic forum to raise local economic issues. The proposed business partnership would provide a valuable platform to help develop the strategy and get stakeholder input. It would also provide the opportunity for the Council to feed local business interests into parallel work being undertaken by the Lancashire Economic Partnership (LEP), as it progresses its work and initiatives now developed to support economic investment in the area. The partnership would also complement the existing working arrangements across the established groups and would also be an opportunity for a single forum to bring relevant interest together to inform the Council's work.

Members discussed this proposal and welcomed the idea. It was important to be clear about the group's remit but also important to get feedback from local businesses. A launch was suggested possibly with a high profile speaker.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the creation of a Ribble Valley Business Partnership and that Committee be kept informed of its progress as appropriate; and
2. agree to have a launch with a high profile speaker invited.

456 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW AND NEW BIDS

The Director of Resources submitted a report proposing a future five year capital programme 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 for this Committee. There were no schemes already approved for 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 for this Committee so no view was required. However, Heads of Service had been asked to put forward new bids for 2023/2024 for this Committee and one bid had been submitted for gateway signs for Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe.

Committee was asked to consider this new scheme and put forward any capital bid suggestions and amendments that they wished. Other Committees would also be receiving similar reports for the new scheme bids which would finally be considered alongside each other by the Budget Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree the proposed five year capital programme for 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 to include the new bid for gateway signs for Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe with the request that it be considered in 2019/2020; and
2. recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the future five year capital programme for this Committee's services.

457 CAPITAL MONITORING 2018/2019

The Director of Resources submitted a report on progress on the approved 2018/2019 capital programme for this Committee for the period to the end of

September 2018. There had been no spend on the Economic Development Initiative scheme although a number of site opportunities were under preliminary investigation and would be reported to Committee in due course.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

458 REVENUE MONITORING 2018/2019

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the position for the period April to September 2018 of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure shows an underspend of £1,521 for the first month of the financial year 2018/2019. The report outlined the variances between budget and actuals that had been split into groups of red, amber and green variance along with the budget holder's comments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

459 RIBBLE VALLEY BUSINESS SURVEY

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report including information on the Ribble Valley Business Survey. As part of the Council's current evidence base, the Regeneration and Economic Development team had identified the need to commission a local business survey to build a richer picture of Ribble Valley businesses, how they were changing, what their needs are and the support they require to grow and prosper. The report outlined both a profile of those businesses who responded and a range of sections on key themes such as operating in Ribble Valley, business premises, economic drivers and barriers to growth, recruitment and skills and business support.

The section on observations and recommendations was highlighted for Committee's information and these were the issues identified that would help to highlight areas where further work could be developed to support appropriate economic growth which would be explored further in the economic strategy review.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

460 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report for Committee's information on a range of new developments taking place across Ribble Valley, contributing towards the continuing economic growth of the area. Many of these were still at the planning stages with some nearing completion and the report acts as a monitoring tool to enable the Council to assess economic growth in the area, as well as ensuring there will be future property and land availability.

These included the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone and BAE Systems site, Salthill Industrial Estate expansion, Barrow Enterprise site, Thwaites HQ, Simonstone and the Mitton Road Business Park.

Committee were reminded that further sites to meet the future needs of business growth had currently been identified through the Council's recently submitted Housing and Economic Development Plan document, through which the Council is allocating land to help address this. Also work with the County Council and other providers to improve local infrastructure continues in order to help facilitate these ambitions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

461 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Ken Hind gave a brief update on the work of LEP.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

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