

Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Thursday 28 September 2017
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors Mrs W Nichols (Chair), Mrs S Duckett (Vice Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers, D Mackay and Mrs D White Executive Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor C Lunn
Apologies:	None received.
Officers present:	Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer, Keith Cadman, Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement, James Cokeham, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, Michelle Dinsdale, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, Alex Dochery, Economic Development Officer and Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer
Public:	0
Press:	0

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

10. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 6 July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6 July 2017 for signing by the Chair.

11. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor D Buckle declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 – Programme for Growth 3: Establishment and Update, as he was the Chairman of the Sherburn Food and Craft Festival, but was not required to withdraw from the meeting during consideration thereof.

12. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair informed Members that she had been given notice of a key decision relating to the tender for the Council's insurance contract, which was to be taken under Executive Procedure Rule 5.5.

13. PROGRAMME FOR GROWTH

The Economic Development Officer presented the report which asked the Committee to note the content and provide comments on the progress with Programme for Growth 3 (P4G3) projects.

The Committee discussed the following issues:

- There was concern expressed that labour market challenges in the area would result in businesses leaving the Sherburn Enterprise Park site because they could not find staff. It was feared that Phase 2 would become unsellable if the matter was not tackled.
- Public transport availability in order for people to get to work was not good enough and schemes to address this should be explored, such as the Wheels to Work Scheme, which had been used in the past. A safer cycle path to Sherburn would also be beneficial. It was felt that labour issues highlighted an imbalance between employment, transport and housing in the area.
- Councillors requested more detail on labour market challenges in the next P4G update to the Committee in January 2018, in order to facilitate further discussions on how to address the issue.
- Other ideas suggested by the Committee to improve employment numbers on the site included nursery provision and shorter split-shifts in order to encourage employees who may not be able to do a longer shift due to family commitments.
- It was requested that clearer targets and outcomes be included in the P4G guidance note in order for Councillors to be able to understand the outputs delivered by the programme.
- The Committee asked officers about the expansion of Church Fenton Studios and the Council's prospective involvement. Officers explained that the development of the studios was an exciting opportunity for the District, and that investment by the Council should be kept open as an

option. The work taking place at Church Fenton required highly skilled workers, and an influx of people for months at a time when television shows and films were in production. This would benefit the local economy in a number of ways.

RESOLVED:

To note the content of the report.

14. OLYMPIA PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration presented the report which asked the Committee to note the work carried out to date, and proposed next steps, to enable the delivery of Olympia Park.

The Committee noted that unlocking the site for development was proving to be difficult, and that other options were being considered in order to make it viable for developers. A bid for Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) was being submitted by the Council to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in order to access monies to open up the site and bring the development forward.

The following further discussion took place in relation to the report:

- There was some concern amongst Committee Members that farmland would be lost to housing on some parts of the site, that there were known flooding, ground condition and contaminated land issues, that brownfield sections would be left as they were and that the number of homes that could be built would be reduced. Officers advised that they were taking an integrated approach but what could be achieved was tied in to the local policy framework.
- Officers emphasised the importance of improving cycle and pedestrian access from the Olympia Park site into Selby town centre; it was essential that the site felt like part of the town. A bid for HIF funding was to be submitted that evening, in a hope that this could go some way to ameliorating issues that were holding development back on the site as a whole.
- Councillors mentioned a past evaluation which stated that industrial use would be a more efficient and appropriate use of the land. Officers acknowledged that current policy identified the land for industrial use, but that if housing could be offered on part of the site, this would be beneficial.
- The Chairman enquired as to whether any bids for contaminated land were being submitted by North Yorkshire County Council ; Officers were not aware of other bids but would notify the Committee if they were informed of any.

Lastly, the Committee suggested that a further update on Olympia Park be brought back to the Committee in six months' time and added to the Committee's work plan.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To note the work carried out to date, and proposed next steps, to enable the delivery of Olympia Park.**
- ii) **To instruct officers to bring an update on Olympia Park back to Committee in six months' time, and that this update be added to the Committee's work plan.**

15. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR Q1 2017/18

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented the report that had been considered by the Executive on 7 September 2017, and asked the Committee to receive and note its content.

The officer explained that the layout of the report had been amended following feedback from both Executive and Scrutiny. The officer gave a progress update on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20, measured by a combination of progress against priority projects/high level actions and performance against KPIs.

The Committee agreed that the new format of the report was better and easier to read. Some concerns were raised regarding the number of reported missed bins as it was felt by some Members that this should be higher than stated, as they had been made aware of problems in some areas such as Barlby.

The processing of new benefit claims and changes to details were highlighted as areas where there needed to be improvements, as residents in receipt of these services were in a great deal of need. The Committee felt that should this not improve, it would need to be looked at in detail by Scrutiny.

A query was raised regarding the reason that scaffolding that had been put up at new affordable homes on St Joseph's Street in Tadcaster; officers confirmed that they would make enquiries and forward the answer to the Committee after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

16. LEISURE ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee received a verbal update from the Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement on issues raised by the Committee at their last meeting and the annual review. Hard copies of the Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles Selby Annual Review 2016-17 were circulated at the meeting, and had been circulated via email beforehand. The Committee noted the following:

- The issues relating to cleanliness in the changing rooms had been addressed and as a result the cleaning plan had been reviewed. The subsequent feedback from customers was that cleanliness had improved. Officers explained that the changing rooms were a high traffic area, and that unfortunately some users did not remove outdoor shoes before entering the area, which contributed to the problem.
- Members were informed that whilst there was a complaints procedure at each site, it was not well communicated to service users. It had been raised with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) to actively promote the complaints procedure.
- The highlights from the Selby Annual Review 2016-17 were reported to the Committee. Footfall had started to improve in Selby and Tadcaster. 1000 swimmers were now in the Learn To Swim programme, 24 schools were using the pool at Selby and there had been enthusiastic support for recent cycle events such as the Tour de Yorkshire.
- Throughout the year 23 student work placements from a range of local and regional schools, colleges and universities had been hosted. The Wellbeing Team also worked with local volunteers, with 15 volunteers supporting various activities. The Committee were pleased to note that the adult weight management programme was having a positive impact for those involved.
- The Committee asked if a reported leak near the entrance of Selby Leisure Centre had been resolved; the officer confirmed that he would look into this and come back to the Committee with some information after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive the verbal update.

17. FINANCIAL RESULTS AND BUDGET EXCEPTIONS TO 30 JUNE 2017

The Chief Financial Officer presented the report which had been considered by the Executive on 7 September 2017, and asked the Committee to receive and note its contents. The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor C Lunn, was also in attendance for this item.

Members noted that the report before them was for Quarter 1, and whilst the year had started well, the Committee would get a clearer idea of the forecasted variances and outturn for the year from the Quarter 2 report which would be considered by the Executive in November.

Good progress on savings had already been made this year, but there was more to do. The capital programme was proceeding well, and the Committee

noted the key issues on the general fund and housing revenue account as set out at page 49 of the agenda.

The Committee discussed the report in further detail and raised the following points:

- With regards to the Market Cross lease mentioned at page 65 of the agenda, Members asked whether sub-letting was allowed under the lease, and concerns were expressed regarding the potential move of the contact centre from Market Cross to the Civic Centre.
- The Committee felt that parking was already under pressure at the Civic Centre, and that with the Police moving into the building in the near future, this could be exacerbated. The added pressure on parking from staff originally based at Market Cross needed to be given serious thought, should the move go ahead. The officer confirmed that detailed discussions needed to be had and a business case developed for such a move.
- The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources confirmed that 41 extra spaces were planned as part of the Police move to the Civic Centre.
- A query was raised regarding the detail of the bus station refurbishment mentioned at page 69 of the agenda; the officer undertook to send more information to the Committee after the meeting.
- Lastly, Members asked about Selby Town Enterprise Partnership (STEP) funding; the officer confirmed that it would as it was a separate fund for the town, but that there were alternative schemes for other areas in the District.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

18. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR Q1

The Chief Financial Officer presented the report which had been considered by the Executive on 7 September 2017, and asked the Committee to receive and note its contents. The Executive Lead Member for Finance and Resources was in attendance for this item.

The Committee noted that the report set out the progress against borrowing in Quarter 1. There continued to be low returns on investments and a challenging economic environment. However, high balances were still achieving income for the Council and it was hoped that loans could be agreed in order for the Housing Trust to develop more affordable homes.

A query was raised regarding the use of £8m of affordable housing funds, and whether this could be used anywhere in the Selby District; it was confirmed by the officer that this was the case, but that it could only be used for affordable housing.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

19. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme and Executive Forward Plan. The following points were discussed:

- The Committee asked that the Council's approach to emergency planning be considered at a future meeting; the provisional date on 23 November was recommended and agreed. This would be a 'single issue' meeting dedicated to discussing emergency planning.
- The Committee also requested that Council funded community centres be looked at again; officers were asked to find previous reports, some of which had been produced by Committee Members, and add the matter to the work programme for consideration in March 2018.
- Members suggested that the scheduling of Scrutiny Committee meetings for 2018-19 be looked at so that ordinary meetings of the Committee be more evenly spaced throughout the municipal year.

RESOLVED:

To update the Work Programme to include the above comments.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.