

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: B C Carr
M J Crow (Vice Chair)
E Cubley
L Fletcher
J C Goold (substitute)
R I Jackson
M Plackett (substitute)
M Radulovic MBE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T A Cullen, J W Handley, M Handley and R Robinson.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

13. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2017 were confirmed and signed.

14. **ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY – DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee noted the progress towards targets and actions that comprise the Delivery Plan for the Economic Regeneration Strategy and the changes to the Economic Strategy Delivery Plan for 2017-21.

15. **BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME**

The Committee discussed the implementation of the Business Grant Scheme. There was a discussion on how to maintain the impact of the scheme after grants were awarded to improve the chances of businesses to succeed.

Discussion progressed on to the make-up of the panel and there was general agreement that all political parties should be represented by a person or people with business experience.

There was a discussion around a mentoring schemes and establishing a network between experienced business people and those starting a business.

RESOLVED that the Business Grant Scheme be established with a streamlined application process, a politically balanced panel of members with business experience and figures from the business community and a mentoring scheme.

16. UPDATE ON KEY SITES

The Committee noted the update on key sites for development across the Borough.

It was noted that a roundabout was being constructed at the Beamlight site, the installation of which was part of the planning conditions for the development. It was added that the eastern side of the site, known as Matkin's Tip, was still problematic for development though slow progress was being made.

Discussion centred on what members could do to facilitate progress on key sites for development, particularly when there were issues with other local authorities. The workshops being run by the Joint Planning Advisory Board were noted as a useful way to share experiences and best practice.

The Committee discussed the Walker Street site with particular reference to some highway issues that were holding up the application. It was noted that the Leader of the Council would be discussing this with the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council to find a solution.

The Committee requested that a further column be added to the report to give a projected start date for development on key sites.

17. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – REVIEW OF BUSINESS PROGRESS – BUSINESS GROWTH

The Committee noted the progress against targets set out in the Business Growth Business Plan approved on 26 January 2016.

The Committee discussed the importance of having a list of businesses in Broxtowe and it was noted that the Economic Development Team was pursuing this with a large scale survey to give them a better understanding of economic activity in the Borough.

Discussion progressed on to the benefits of having a high number of charity shops and coffee houses in Beeston town centre and the unique offering this provided to shoppers.

18. WORK PROGRAMME

It was noted that the Local Plan Part Two consultation would start on 18 September 2017. An update on progress on the business survey and a

feasibility study on the roll out of free wi-fi across all four town centres were added to the work programme for the meeting on 16 January 2018.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, as amended, be approved.