

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 17 September 2015.

P R E S E N T

Councillor K Gillott (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs E Atkins, Mrs M Booth, Mrs C Cox, R L Hosker and S A Spencer.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs C A Hart and D Williams.

21/15 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22/15 **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** Councillor D Allen, Cabinet member for Health and Communities, attended the meeting to give an update on current issues within his portfolio. In particular he referred to the planned budget cuts within the Library Service, current usage trends and the steps that were being taken to maintain the service in its current form. Initiatives within Trading Standards were mentioned, such as those to deal with illegal tobacco. The in-year cuts to Public Health of some £2m+ were discussed with the impact on other services across the Authority. The leadership role of Members within the Thriving Communities initiative was noted with a number of pilots to be undertaken across the County.

23/15 **HIGHWAYS INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE REVIEW**
G Pickford and A Glitheroe, Economy, Transport and Environment Department attended to present a report on the progress that had been made in addressing the issues detailed in the action plan arising from the Committee's review of highway inspection and maintenance procedures.

Two projects in particular would have the most impact on the reactive maintenance service - the Single Asset management System and the establishment of a Control Centre. Progress on these was outlined alongside the other progress that had been made over the last 6 months and the other actions to enable new ways of working from November.

Members asked a number of searching questions about the progress being made and the plans for the future. Current difficulties with eg white-lining work and the permits scheme were discussed.

RESOLVED to welcome the progress made to date and to receive a further update in mid 2016.

24/15 MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

R Murfin and M Spence, Economy, Transport and Environment Department attended to present a report on the progress that had been made in preparing the draft Minerals Local Plan. Derbyshire was one of the most important sources for minerals in the UK. Whilst this had obvious benefits for the national and local economy, there could be community impacts if development was not managed effectively.

To achieve up to date plan coverage, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council were working together to prepare a Joint Waste Local Plan and a Joint Minerals Local Plan covering the period to 2030. The County Council was leading this process. The Joint Minerals Local Plan would set out the detailed planning strategy and policies to enable the delivery of sustainable minerals development in the Plan area to 2030.

Members welcomed the information provided by the officers on the process being undertaken and the consultation processes involved. The strategies outlined in the briefing paper were commented upon, in particular the strategy for helping to achieve a progressive reduction in quarrying in the Peak District National Park. Members suggested that the paragraph be clarified and strengthened to make it clear that this referred to a reduction in the quarrying of bulk, low grade materials and not the unique/specialist materials that were often produced in the small quarries across the Peak District. The officers undertook to pass on the comments of the Committee to the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Advisory Committee which was overseeing the process.

The document also referred to the strategy for hydrocarbons which included the implications of potential future extraction including those raised by new technologies such as Hydraulic Fracturing. Members felt it was important that they were well briefed on this in anticipation of them receiving constituents' questions and queries in the future.

The potential for future economic benefit at a County and more local level was raised and this was something that the officers were actively dealing with in liaison with colleagues within the County Council and other Authorities within the County.

The matter was something that could be discussed at Local Area Committees in order to draw Members' attention to the potential impact across the whole County, with there being a local focus on the information presented.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the matter be progressed as set out above.

25/14 ETE BUDGET MONITORING

The latest budget monitoring position as at the end of June 2015 was reported.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee undertake a more detailed examination of the next report, for period 4.

26/15 FORTHCOMING REVIEWS RESOLVED that, for the review of tourism working group of Members to oversee the review, nominations to participate in this should be submitted to the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer.