

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 19 July 2017.

P R E S E N T

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors K S Athwal, E Atkins, H Elliott, L Grooby, T Kemp and P Makin.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Dixon and K Gillott.

5/17 MINUTES RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2017 be received.

6/17 DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, COUNCILLOR SIMON SPENCER Councillor Spencer attended the meeting to provide an update on issues within his portfolio and highlighted the work already undertaken.

The main topics referred to were the removal of charges for building and demolition waste, the highways maintenance budget, the future proposals for community transport and car parking charges.

Councillor Spencer informed Members that the Derbyshire Highways Hub was now up and running and highlighted the efficiencies that this had created. The introduction of the Vehicle Management System in particular would allow roadworks and works planned to be better co-ordinated causing less disruption. Members requested that a visit to The Hub be arranged for the Committee in the near future.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Councillor Spencer for attending the meeting and the information provided.

7/17 TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION – OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES This item would be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

8/17 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT Tor Coombes, Senior Project Engineer from the Flood Risk Management Team presented details of the work they undertook and the roles and responsibilities of the Risk Management Authorities.

The Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA 2010) had identified Derbyshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Derbyshire.

It also identified certain organisations as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) who had a key role in managing flood risk at a local level and must co-operate with all other RMAs to ensure a partnership approach was adopted for Derbyshire. The role was to co-ordinate the management of flood risk from local sources such as ordinary watercourses, surface water and ground water. To fulfil this role they worked in partnership with the Environment Agency, district and borough councils, parish and town councils, water companies and sewerage undertakers, emergency services and residents and local businesses.

Ms Coombes explained how funding was procured through the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid and via the Local Levy. The Committee were also informed of Enforcement Powers and Riparian Landownership in response to a Members' query and guidance notes were circulated.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Tor Coombes for a very detailed and informative presentation.

9/17 **WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18** Members were informed of the role and remit of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Places and were asked to discuss potential items to be included in the Committee's 2017-18 work programme.

Members were invited to suggest potential review topics and discuss the aims, implications and benefits of conducting each review. To assist with this process, the service areas and issues that fell under the remit of the Places Committee were listed in Appendix 1 to the report and it was agreed that Councillor Barry Lewis would attend the meeting in September. At Appendix 2 there was a review proposal form which Members were encouraged to complete when putting forward potential topics for review. Among the suggested areas to review were emergency planning and minerals extraction in the Peak District National Park.

There were two areas of significant risk that fell under the remit of the Places Committee. These were flood risk management and crime and disorder strategies. In the past the approach had been to establish standing working groups to oversee their scrutiny. The appointment of standing working groups allowed Members to gain a degree of specialist knowledge and understanding of the subject area to enable them to challenge where necessary, current policies and practices. It was anticipated that the Flood Risk Working Group would meet in November to consider the Annual Report of the Flood Risk Management Strategy. Therefore nominations to this working group were sought. A crime and disorder sub-committee would be considered in due course.

Under the previous Chairman, the Places Committee approved the final report of the review of tourism in Derbyshire. However, due to an issue of

timing the report was not submitted to Cabinet for consideration. The new Places Committee was now in a position to decide whether it wished to submit the report to Cabinet so that the information gathered during the review was more widely disseminated and the recommendations considered. Despite some discussion on the content of the report, Members agreed that the report should be submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED (1) to note the role and remit of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places;

(2) that further information would be sought outside of the meeting about the suggested work programme topics and that a draft work programme be submitted to the Committee for approval at its meeting in September 2017;

(3) that the final report of the review of tourism be submitted to Cabinet; and

(4) that Members be appointed to the Flood Risk Management Working Group as follows; Councillors E Atkins, L Grooby, P Makin, K S Athwal and a nomination from the Labour group.

10/17 TRAINING Roz Savage, Improvement and Scrutiny Officer would circulate details of potential training opportunities for Members of the Committee.