

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 21 July 2016.

PRESENT

Councillor C R Moesby (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs M Booth, S Freeborn, T A Kemp, Mrs K D Lauro, D Lomax and S Marshall-Clarke.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Bull.

Councillor Mrs M Booth declared a personal interest in the item relating to Derbyshire Community Bank as she was a member of Erewash Credit Union.

Councillor S Freeborn declared a personal interest in the item relating to Derbyshire Community Bank as a Director of SCAPE who invested in the Bank.

10/16 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 26 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11/16 **DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY BANK** J Leigh of the Derbyshire Community Bank attended the meeting to update the Committee on the development of the Bank since its inception as Erewash Credit Union over 10 years ago. The bank was now based in Derby and had been re-branded with its services now been promoted more widely across the County.

Links with CAB and Public Health were developing to focus on vulnerable people who would benefit from the Bank's services rather than other sources of lending. The main issues facing the bank were growing the number of members and becoming more visible. Technological development was moving forward with web-access being improved. New Branch premises in a High Street location in Derby were planned for the next year.

The Council would be willing to assist in promoting the Bank and could furnish information on key contacts across the County who could make the Bank more widely known. Also, the MATs worked with many vulnerable people and they could supply information about the Bank.

12/16 **INNOVATION TEAM WORK PROGRAMME** R Taylor, Head of the Innovation Team, attended the meeting to give an update on the work of the Team. The main areas of work involved with included the business case for the Development Company and work on the One Public Estate programme.

Other projects had included the Local Government Challenge, Home to School Transport consultation and policy review, the Employment and Skills service, the Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations process and the Blue Badge process.

At the moment, the Team was working on the recruitment and selection process and policies, demand management, the School Improvement Service, statutory notices, short breaks for disabled young people and digital access to services.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13/16 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY/SOLAR POWER REVIEW UPDATE

At the last meeting of the Committee, it had been agreed that, in view of the Committee's disappointment at the progress made, an invitation be extended to a high level representative of Western Power Distribution to attend a meeting with the Committee to discuss the company's inability to connect sites to the local grid network. The Chair had now written to Western Power's Chief Executive with a number of questions about the situation and a reply was awaited.

Ms K Sowerby-Warrington, Property Division, gave an update to the Committee on the current position and the possible future direction. Arising from discussion, the main points arising were:-

- One of the problems encountered was the reservation of grid access by developers.
- The planning application for the Swanwick site was to be considered on 8 August.
- Work was taking place in relation to the Council's Energy Strategy and Healthy Homes.

The Committee would be kept informed of developments.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14/16 TRUSTED TRADER REVIEW **RESOLVED to note the current position on the Trusted Trader scheme and the initiatives that were being pursued.**

15/16 REVIEW OF BROADBAND ACCESS IN DERBYSHIRE

At its meeting on 26 May 2016 the Committee had discussed the importance of a reliable broadband services being available to all communities. It was agreed that a review would be undertaken of broadband access in Derbyshire which would consider the effectiveness of the Digital Derbyshire programme (so far) in delivering affordable broadband provision to rural areas.

A scoping report for the review was now presented.

RESOLVED (1) that the scoping report be agreed; and

(2) that a working group of Members comprising Councillors Mrs K D Lauro, T Kemp, D Lomax, C R Moesby and S Marshall-Clarke conduct the review.

16/16 VISIT TO PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE

The Chair updated the Committee on the visit carried out by a small group of Members to the Business, Innovation and Skills Parliamentary Select Committee when the Committee heard evidence from Mike Ashley about the employment practices at the Sports Direct Company.

17/16 REVIEW OF INCOME GENERATION The Committee's report on income generation had now been accepted by Cabinet and the Committee would be kept informed of progress in implementing the report's recommendations.