

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 23 July 2015.

PRESENT

Councillor C R Moseby (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance - Councillor A Botham.

Councillor Mrs M Booth declared a personal interest in Item 6 – Trusted Trader Review final report as her husband was a member of the scheme.

11/15 MINUTES RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 28 May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12/15 DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER Councillor A Botham attended the meeting to provide an update on his portfolio. He referred to his formal request for a scrutiny review on Sponsorship in Derbyshire County Council, which he hoped the Committee would agree to undertake. He believed that the main focus of any review would be to assess the feasibility and appropriateness of developing an Authority-wide approach to sponsorship and to identify the potential for some income generation that could come from sponsorship.

He also referred to progress in relation to increasing traded services with schools; the continuing property rationalisation; review of IT systems; the review of derelict buildings within the County; on-going issues at Elvaston Castle following the failed Heritage Lottery Fund bid and the current situation at Buxton Crescent.

Discussions also continued with the trade unions in relation to the reductions in front line services in light of the budget cuts required.

Members were invited to make comment or ask questions, which were duly noted or answered.

The Chair thanked Councillor Botham for his update, and Committee agreed to undertake a review of Sponsorship in Derbyshire County Council, and that this would be added to the work programme.

13/15 REVIEW OF CREDIT UNIONS IN DERBYSHIRE – IMPLEMENTATION REPORT David Lowe, Strategic Director for Health and Communities attended the meeting and asked Members to consider the response from Cabinet on the report on Credit Unions in Derbyshire.

At the meeting on 14 April 2015 Cabinet received the report of the Chair of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources, on the review of Credit Unions. In accordance with the Scrutiny reporting protocol, Cabinet was required to respond to the report within two months indicating whether the recommendations were accepted or otherwise, alongside an action plan for implementation.

Credit Unions played an increasingly important role in supporting people by providing access to affordable credit in times of difficulty and by encouraging saving. The County Council had made significant efforts to promote and support local Credit Unions since 2013 and the report highlighted the importance of continued support.

The report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 June 2015 and contained 12 recommendations that Cabinet had agreed in response to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources. The Action Plan would be monitored by Committee at strategic intervals. David gave a summary for Members on each of the recommendations that Cabinet had approved.

Members were given the opportunity to make comment and ask questions which were duly answered or noted.

The Chair thanked David and the officers involved for the work they had undertaken on the review of Credit Unions.

RESOLVED to note the report and its recommendations.

14/15 TRUSTED TRADER REVIEW – FINAL REPORT Councillor Booth informed Members of the outcomes of the review of the Council's Trusted Trader Scheme.

The Working Group had concluded that the Trusted Trader Scheme was something that the Council could be truly proud of. However, there were still opportunities to develop it further with scope for promotion through the communications plan; through Members advocating its use in their local

communities; in partnership with district and borough councils (for example distributing information leaflets to their own service users) and by economic regeneration colleagues actively supporting and promoting Trusted Trader to local businesses.

Councillor Booth thanked Jackie Wardle, Scrutiny Officer and other officers involved for their help and assistance in supporting the Working Group with this review.

RESOLVED (1) to endorse the Trusted Trader Scheme and its continued development, with officers being commended for their efforts in establishing a successful and well subscribed scheme;

(2) that the promotion of Trusted Trader be progressed as soon as practicable, via a communications plan, to help maintain and to increase the present level of membership and to increase awareness and usage of the scheme amongst local consumers;

(3) that all Council Members be exhorted to promote Trusted Trader in their local communities;

(4) that the Council's front line staff should be encouraged to promote the use of Trusted Trader to their vulnerable clients:

(5) that district and borough councils be asked to assist in promoting Trusted Trader with their own service users, and to explore potential for Derbyshire Association of Local Councils to become involved;

(6) that the Head of Trading Standards liaise with counterparts at Derby City Council to explore potential for any collaboration between the County and City schemes;

(7) that the Strategic Director of Economy, Transport and Environment assist with the promotion of Trusted Trader through the Economic Development Team's connections with the local business community;

(8) that the Head of Trading Standards and the Strategic Director of Economy, Transport and Environment consider the potential for using Trusted Trader to support local skills development where there was evidence of skills shortfalls; and

(9) that the Head of Trading Standards and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources consider potential options for additional services and support the Trusted Trader members as detailed in the report.

15/15 **REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY** The Chair gave Members a brief update in relation to the review of sustainable energy. It was noted that the Authority was moving forward with 4 sites and that planning applications had been submitted and contract notices advertised.

The public relations campaign was continuing through the website and social media and it was hoped that the Cabinet report would be submitted in October 2015 for a completion date at the end of March 2016.

RESOLVED to note the update.

16/15 **WORK PROGRAMME RESOLVED** to note progress on the committee's work programme for 2015/16 and that the review of Sponsorship in Derbyshire County Council be included as agreed.