

Minutes of Economic Development Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 13 June 2019, starting at 6.00pm
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Baxter	R Elms
S Bibby	S Fletcher
D Birtwhistle	M French
I Brown	M Hindle
B Buller	S Hore
J Clark	G Mirfin
L Edge (6.25pm)	J Rogerson

In attendance: Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Culture and Leisure Services, Head of Finance, Tourism Officer and Principal Accountant.

Also in attendance: Councillors T Austin, A Knox, D O'Rourke, S O'Rourke and J Schumann.

76 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

77 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

78 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

79 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

80 BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning informed Committee and in particular the new Councillors, of several details relating to the way Committee meetings work. This included the Lead Officer and Committee Clerk for this Committee, which officers would usually attend and some rules about how the Committee is conducted and information about declarations of interest.

81 RIBBLE VALLEY ECONOMIC PLAN 2019/2022

The Chairman informed Members that this was a relatively new Committee which used to be a Working Group of Policy and Finance. The plan proposed was

about making a difference where we can as a Council and in particular working with partners.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a draft Economic Plan for Committee to consider. The Council has sought to work more closely with the local business communities across the borough and in doing so sought to bring forward a plan which focussed Council activities on those areas where the Council could take steps to support the economy of the local area in a relevant way and strengthen its position from an economic viewpoint.

The Council had also recently formed the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership as a means to improve the Council's connections with the local business community that sits at the heart of delivering a strong and vibrant economy to the widest possible benefit. Formative meetings of the Partnership had helped shape the draft plan so far and it was intended the Partnership would provide a valuable vehicle to help finalise the Council's Economic Plan and support delivery.

The draft plan was initially intended to cover a 3-year period from 2019 to 2022 as this would ensure it could remain flexible in changing circumstances and priorities, whilst providing a reasonable timeframe for the Council to plan investment and delivery against the identified key activities.

The plan was intended to establish a framework of actions that are considered would support the local economy and that could be implemented in a timely fashion.

Following Members' consideration of the plan it was intended to publish the discussion draft for a period of consultation to inform the final plan. It was also intended to utilise the next meeting of the Economic Partnership at the end of June to discuss the approach set out in the plan and to test proposals with the local business community for its support. The outcome of that discussion and feedback from the wider consultation would be used to prepare a final plan to be brought back to Members for further consideration.

Members discussed various aspects of the draft plan including the Council's role in facilitating new business with the provision of space and sites, consideration of the ageing population in Ribble Valley, Wi-Fi connectivity, the need to be aspirational and embrace technology, aspects with regard to tourism and road signs and working with partners.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the draft Economic Plan be published for a 4-week period of consultation; the outcome of which would be reported back to this Committee and that the Director of Economic Development and Planning be authorised to prepare a publication version of the draft.

82 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19

The Director of Resources submitted a report reviewing the final outturn of the 2018/19 Capital Programme for this Committee and seeking Member approval for the slippage of part of the Capital Scheme Budget from the 2018/19 financial year to the 2019/20 financial year.

Committee were reminded that the 2018/19 Capital Programme for this Committee was made up of one scheme with a total budget of £100,000.

There was no expenditure on this Committee's Capital Scheme in 2018/19 because no appropriate development opportunities had arisen in year which required funding from this Capital Scheme. However there had been spend of £18,249 charged to the Revenue Budget in respect of the abortive Clitheroe Market Development Scheme. The remaining balance of £81,750 had been included as slippage into 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the slippage of £81,750 into the 2019/20 financial year for the Economic Development Initiative Scheme.

83 REVIEW OF CURRENT TOURISM ACTIVITY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information giving an update on current tourism marketing activity. It was noted that tourism was flourishing in Ribble Valley and the number of visitor related businesses achieving recognition, awards and accreditation increases each day.

Latest statistics show that the value of the tourism and hospitality to the local economy was growing steadily and tourism was providing new opportunities and employment.

The report outlined the current initiatives being undertaken, working in partnership with the Ribble Valley Tourism Association and the Ribble Valley Wedding Partnership.

The 2019 Love Ribble Valley Visitor Guide was highlighted as well as new series of "Walks with Taste".

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

84 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Nicola Hopkins (414532).