

Time Commenced – 6:00 pm
Time Finished – 7.00 pm

Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Review Board

29 June 2021

Present: Councillor Evans (Chair)
Councillors Grimadell, Pandey and West

In Attendance: David Fletcher – Director of City Development and Growth
Gareth O'Donovan – Head of Economic Growth

01/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ingall, S Khan and Pattison.

02/21 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

05/21 Economic Growth – Key Priorities and Service Development

The Board received a presentation from David Fletcher – Director of City Development and Growth and Gareth O'Donovan – Head of Economic Growth on the key priorities and service development – Economic Growth.

The presentation included the legacy structure which had historically been made up of a number of independent, project-based teams. Areas of coverage included:

- DEGF: grants and loans team for SMEs
- Connect: shared workspace for micro and small businesses
- International Development: building overseas trading partnerships
- E4E: raising career aspirations for school children
- Derby Employment Hub: employability support for the hard-to-reach
- External Funding: monitoring existing and finding new funding streams
- Economic Development: vacant for several years

Some drawbacks historically with the Economic Growth service included a lack of clear identity and common purpose.

The presentation then went on to look at what had happened in the last 9 months. This included a mutually beneficial restructure, a sense of purpose and partnership and collaboration.

There were three pillars going forward,

- Supporting and strengthening the existing business base and sectors
- Diversifying and broadening the economy
- Acting as strategic enablers to create optimum environment for growth

Members of the Board asked about engagement with the University and it was reported that the University was engaged with sharing intelligence and there was a good working relationship between the Council and the University with regular interactions. Both had a shared benefit to attracting students to the city. Going forward it was important to deliver collectively.

It was reported that projects such as Smartparc were deliberately part of the strategy of bringing investment into the city because they would enable growth of new sectors for Derby. Infinity Park has the potential to attract advanced manufacturing related innovation activity and the city centre has the potential to attract the service industry and IT businesses.

A Member of the Board asked about Marketing Derby and if the Council attended bond holder meetings? It was reported that the Council did attend bond holder meetings and there was good collaboration with Marketing Derby. They were helping to co-design the Derby inward investment strategy. The Council was one of the key funding partners of Marketing Derby and the Council needed to be proactive in determining how Derby benefits from Marketing Derby's activities.

In relation to economic growth a Member of the Board asked about the cultural offer in the city. This helped with vibrancy, footfall and was a key part of the city's economy.

There was some grant funding available to help the city to recover from the impact of Covid 19.

A Member of the Board asked about the Riverlights development. It was reported that the first phase was in the ownership of Moorfield. The second phase was in City Council ownership and it was noted that the river area was key to development opportunities. The river needed to be embraced and there needed to be quality housing in the city centre.

The Chair stated that in relation to the skills gap the proposals were very positive but there needed to be feedback on how well it was working. It was reported that targets were set and measurable outcomes had been identified, as well as jobs both created and safeguarded. The City Council was one of a number of partners working together and there was regular engagement with the business community to identify interventions needed in skills gaps.

In relation to impact on the economy there was a need to demonstrate that resources were a net benefit for the city and those who lived and worked there.

A Member of the Board asked about the investment in Marketing Derby. It was reported that the City Council provided £160k funding per year. Marketing Derby was also funded by Derbyshire County Council and received income from the bondholders.

A Member of the Board asked if the riverboat project would commence in 2021. It was reported that conversations were on going. Operating a boat on the river needed careful consideration to ensure that it could operate safely. The City Council was working with the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust to develop proposals.

Resolved to note the presentation.

06/21 Remit, Work Programme and Topic Reviews

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the Municipal Year. The report also allowed officers to inform the Board of any key work areas, issues or potential topic review subjects within the service areas for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

Resolved to approve the following work programme for 2020/21.

- **A52 update on final weeks of the project and lessons learnt.**
- **Climate Change – mitigation beyond OCOR and CO2 emissions**
- **Update on Covid Impact on Derby**
- **City Centre Regeneration (including updates on the Performance Venue and the University Quarter)**
- **Homelessness – risks, future policy and approach**
- **Our City Our River Project – joint meeting with Corporate Services Scrutiny Board**
- **Empty Homes Strategy Consultation Response**
- **Moorways – Update**
- **HS2 - Update**
- **Marketing Derby - Update**

To undertake a topic review on 'Regeneration of the High Street'.

07/21 Items Referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board

There were no items referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board.

MINUTES END