

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 20 November 2019.

P R E S E N T

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance were Frank Horsley, Becky Lomas and Rob Lowe.

12/19 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/19 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** There were no public questions.

14/19 **BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR** Frank Horsley, the Head of Economic Development attended the meeting to inform Members of the business support that the County Council made available for the Tourism Sector. Members had previously enquired what help and information was available for small businesses who wished to provide a service to visitors. Mr Horsley highlighted the following:

Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire (MPDD)

This provided tourism promotion and marketing activity nationally and internationally to enable growth within the visitor economy. MPDD engaged directly with national bodies such as Visit Britain and Visit England.

Derbyshire Culture, Heritage and Tourism Board (CHAT)

Provided strategic direction and support to ensure the sector delivered a high quality product for the visitor. The CHAT Action Plan sought to deliver key interventions across a range of key themes, including accommodation, assets and attractions.

D2N2 Growth Hub

This was the single point of access for business advice and support to small and medium enterprises across the LEP area, providing information, diagnosis and brokerage. It was available to all sectors including Visitor Economy.

Derwent Valley Mills Great Place Scheme: Vital Valley

The £1.285m scheme pilots new approaches that enabled cultural and community groups including businesses to work more closely together and to place heritage at the heart of communities.

Mr Horsley provided an update on the progress of the Festival of Derbyshire and the events that were planned. The Festival of Derbyshire would commence in 2020 and would celebrate a series of key cultural and historic anniversaries for the County.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Horsley for his presentation.

15/19 **THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME** Becky Lomas from the Policy and Research Division attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on progress in developing the Thriving Communities approach across the Council and on plans for expanding and mainstreaming into new communities.

Since 2013, the Council had been working closely with local people and staff in five communities, to co-design ways of working to mobilise both the system and Derbyshire's communities. What began as a collective cross-agency investigation into the difficulties faced by families with complex needs in the most disadvantaged communities, had grown into a whole-system programme of cultural change for public services which was attracting national attention.

Between February and July 2019, an acceleration programme had been undertaken in Shirebrook, to refine the Thriving Communities model and assess the organisational conditions necessary to mainstream the approach into new areas. Details of the work this had involved was presented.

Leadership development and capabilities, alignment of organisational structures and the continuation of growing the Thriving Communities model within communities was being supported by a delivery partner Worldwide International Global Solutions (WIGS), who had been working with the Council since the inception of this work.

A Guidebook for Thriving Communities was currently in production, which would support staff, Elected Members and partners in utilising and embedding council-wide delivery of the approach. It was anticipated that a first version of this guidebook would be available in the New Year. This would coincide with the selection of eight new areas in which the next phase of Thriving Communities work would be undertaken. The new areas would come on stream and implement the approach by April 2020.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Becky Lomas for her presentation.

RESOLVED to note the progress in developing the Thriving Communities programme and plans to embed the approach over the coming months.

16/19 **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS REVIEW**

Rob Lowe from Policy and Research attended the meeting to update Members on the Council's review of voluntary and community sector funding.

On 28 February 2019, Cabinet agreed plans to undertake a council wide review of VCS grants. It was agreed that the review would:

- Consider all grants provided by the Council to VCS organisations in Derbyshire and subsequently develop a coordinated and consistent council wide approach to allocate future resources
- Consider the support provided by the Council to VCS infrastructure organisations across Derbyshire, in collaboration with partners, and develop a new model for allocating funding moving forward which supported the Council's ambitions and priorities.

Since February 2019, the Council had undertaken a review of the grants currently provided to voluntary and community sector organisations and a proposal for the future delivery of VCS infrastructure support, was now in development. Work to undertake and complete the review would take place over the next twelve months with a number of key identified milestones. The proposed end date for completion and implementation of the infrastructure review was August 2020, with the wider grants funding review expected to be completed and implemented by September 2020.

Engagement with partners such as CCGs and district and borough councils had already taken place and it was expected that a report would be submitted to Cabinet early in the New Year, seeking approval to consult on the proposals with other key stakeholders.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Rob Lowe for his most informative presentation.

RESOLVED to note the progress made on the review of the Council's voluntary and community sector grants.

17/19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** It was announced that the meeting scheduled for 26 February 2020 would be cancelled. Following a multi-agency de-briefing at the beginning of March, Liz Partington will be attending the next meeting to update the Committee on the work undertaken during and after the Toddbrook Dam incident. Therefore, the next meeting will be arranged for some time in March 2020.