

Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 22 March 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Viney, in the Chair.

Councillor Coker, Vice Chair.

Councillors Ball, Mrs Nicholson (substitute), Reynolds, Roberts, Wheeler and Wildy (substitute).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Martin Leaves and Nelder.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.30 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

59. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

60. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business in accordance with the code of conduct.

61. FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Business Manager for Development provided the Panel with feedback from the 3 March 2010 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

The Panel was informed that –

- (i) in response to recommendations regarding Plymouth City Council Housing Services (minute 51) from 19 February 2010 Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel it was resolved that –
 - (a) in line with the scrutiny terms of reference, it be confirmed that the Growth & Prosperity OSP is the main panel for considering strategic housing issues;
 - (b) officers be requested to liaise with the Monitoring Officer to establish what was formally agreed when the housing stock was transferred to Plymouth Community Homes regarding scrutiny of the service;
 - (c) the Support Services OSP join with the Growth & Prosperity OSP to help with scrutiny of homelessness and housing needs issues;
 - (d) the Growth & Prosperity OSP invite the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Support Services OSP to meet with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development to discuss how best to take scrutiny of housing issues forward;

- (ii) the Skateboarding By-Law Task and Finish Group report be approved and submitted to CMT (Corporate Management Team).

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (iii) minute 94a (c and d) from the 3 March 2010 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be checked for accuracy as it was thought that Customers and Communities OSP were to work with the Growth and Prosperity OSP and not Support Services OSP;
- (iv) in the future, feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board would be in written format attached to the agenda.

62. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Resolved that the Panel defer this item until the first meeting of the municipal year.

63. **GROWTH AND REGENERATION AGENDA**

The Director for Development and Regeneration and the Assistant Director for Planning Services provided the Panel with an update on the Growth and Regeneration agenda –

The Committee was informed that –

- (i) there were several strategies in place across the city, such as the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Local Development Framework Strategy that would aim to improve new homes, population growth, new jobs and investment in Plymouth;
- (ii) infrastructure was to be focused upon in the growth and regeneration agenda, and was not simply housing led;
- (iii) Plymouth's Spatial Strategy was one of the most successful in the country and clearly demonstrated Plymouth's priorities such as the Eastern Corridor, the Northern Corridor, Sustainable Neighbourhoods and prioritizing Waterfront regeneration;
- (iv) a new department for Growth and Regeneration had been established in April 2009 in order to drive forward and support the delivery of growth and regeneration in Plymouth; four departments, namely Economic Development, Transport and Highways, Strategic Housing and Planning Services would now provide a more structured approach to support the growth and regeneration agenda in the city;
- (v) the Growth and Regeneration department would be broadly split into 3 categories namely, front line services, supporting and enabling growth and driving growth and regeneration in Plymouth;
- (vi) front line services included planning applications, homelessness prevention, housing needs, neighbourhood management, anti social behaviour, managed workspaces, commercial tenancies, business improvement districts, city market, network management, car parks, civil enforcement and boats and moorings;
- (vii) supporting and enabling growth and regeneration services included, major planning applications, affordable housing provision, economic development, transport major schemes and policy and strategy;
- (viii) driving growth and regeneration services focused upon partnership working and prioritization, delivery through programme boards and master plans; this working would allow partnership working across sectors;

- (ix) in a recent Sunday Times article in the 'Home' section, Plymouth was listed as being one of the top twelve places to invest in because of its waterfront location, its relative affordability and the strong strategic frameworks in place which support the regeneration agenda;
- (x) programmes were being put in place to enable partnership working; programme boards would be created for City Centre, Eastern Corridor, Waterfront, Northern Corridor, Enterprise and Skills, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Naval Base/Devonport Dockyard and Place Management;
- (xi) the Growth and Regeneration department achieved the following successes in 2009/2010:
 - Housing Stock transfer
 - Affordable housing targets met
 - Market recovery action plan delivered
 - East end transport scheme – funding in place
 - Private sector housing – kick start funding in place
 - Plymouth science and innovation partnership launched
- (xii) key issues and challenges for the growth and regeneration department consisted of maintaining the support and momentum for growth in Plymouth, building upon delivery success to ensure continued recognition of Plymouth being the top area for growth in the region, to maximize opportunities, to support the transport infrastructure scheme, maintain the range of approaches to stimulate and encourage growth and to continue to maximize funding opportunities;
- (xiii) an Infrastructure Delivery Framework was in place to enable the proactive delivery of the Plymouth Growth agenda;
- (xix) the new structure to deliver growth and strengthen sub regional arrangements would consist of a Portfolio Holder Board, a Plymouth Growth Board and Plymouth Programme Boards.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (xx) it was not known specifically what factors determined whether a car park charged for parking or not however the Director for Development and Regeneration would find out;
- (xxi) the programme boards are either geographic or thematic;
- (xxii) an agency was not employed to highlight Plymouth key achievements in terms of the growth agenda in the Sunday Times;
- (xxiii) the City Development Company was responsible for marketing in the whole of the city;
- (xxiv) infrastructure delivery contained a mixture of both private and public projects however the cost of public money spent would be given to Members;
- (xxv) it was expected that the target to achieve 42,500 jobs over a 20 year period was challenging but by expanding on work, for example, with the University of Plymouth and work in Medical schools, high quality jobs in the city should be viable. The key point was that the approach to attracting and creating the right jobs was still the priority and not so much whether there would be more or less than 42, 500 jobs;

- (xxvi) it was the responsibility of all partners to ensure local facilities were encouraged along with housing.

Resolved that –

- (1) the update be noted; & the panel look forward to a further progress report during next year.
- (2) the Director for Development and Regeneration provide Members with the procedure for charging at specific car parks in Plymouth;
- (3) the Assistant Director for Planning Services provide Members with a breakdown in costs of the £800m investment in the city, between private and public sector finance.

64. **ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING**

The Senior Transportation Planner and the Assistant Director for Transport provided the Committee with an update on Accessibility Planning.

The Committee was informed that –

- (i) the Derriford Hospital Accessibility Action Plan (AAP) had been adopted by the Healthy Theme Group and would be published in the next couple of weeks ;
- (ii) the Young People Accessibility Action Plan had not yet been adopted as key data analysis regarding responses to a survey titled 'what do you do in your spare time' had not yet been received;
- (iii) missed appointments at Derriford Hospital had reduced from 7.6% to 6.2%;
- (iv) missed appointments at Connexions had reduced from 50% to 35%;
- (v) the success of Plymouth achieving a cycle training bid would help to increase the access of children in years 6 and 7 from 43% to 80%;
- (vi) Several disabled bays at Derriford Hospital had been relocated in order to provide easier access to the hospital;
- (vii) Target Travel bus service 14 in west Devonport had been re-routed in order to make up for the loss of bus service number 34;
- (viii) 250 new parking spaces for the specific use of Derriford Hospital staff had been constructed at the George Park and ride;
- (ix) bus departures from Derriford Hospital had increased from approximately 30 per hour in 1995 to between 47 and 80 per hour in 2009 this and other measures have helped reduce congestion;

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (x) the Children's Trust had not been approached with regards to the Young People Accessibility Action Plan, however the existing version was with Connexions;
- (xi) it was important to continue partnership working based on the existing published document;
- (xii) reductions in the percentage of hospital car park spaces for staff, and a variety of other measures including the erection of a multi storey car park would reduce demand

for parking spaces at Derriford Hospital;

(xiii) alterations to the front entrance of Derriford Hospital had been delayed for 12 months.

Resolved that Accessibility Planning be added to a future agenda in the autumn and that the Assistant Director for Transport provide members with a response with regards to the suggestion that Milehouse Park and Ride incorporate parking for staff and visitors to Derriford Hospital.

65. **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Director for Development and Regeneration, the Assistant Director for Planning Services and Community Planning and Partnership Coordinator presented draft proposals for the reform of governance arrangements relating to the growth agenda to the Committee.

The Committee was informed that –

- (i) the purpose of the revised governance framework was to achieve a clear and effective framework for governance and a powerful voice for representing the growth agenda at international, national and regional level;
- (ii) the new governance framework set out a more clear and effective framework and enabled delivery of a more joined up approach; the sub region would include Cornwall, Torbay, Devon and South Hams;
- (iii) Plymouth and its sub region requires a strategic approach to planning and delivering economic growth;
- (iv) currently there were several groups that worked towards achieving the growth agenda (75+) but no clear structure showing how they all connect and roles they play; because of this there were several consequences such as a diluted strategic leadership, confusion around governance, lack of focus and accountability for delivery, duplication of time and energy of different agencies and lack of attendance at meetings;
- (v) there were specific governance needs that needed to be addressed such as the delivery of a shared vision, coordinating delivery of housing, economic development and strategic infrastructure at a sub regional level (part of CIP12), coordinating input into regional programmes, prioritising funding opportunities, clear lines of accountability and a stronger focus all round on delivery;
- (vi) there were potential alternative forms of governance, such as Multi Area Agreements and Sub regional Economic Prosperity Boards (EPB), and the proposed framework could potentially evolve into formal structures such as these at a later stage if appropriate, but this is not currently proposed;
- (vii) the key principles underlying the proposed governance arrangements are: simplicity in its overall architecture, flexibility to deliver relevant tasks and evolve into other governance models, strategic focus to address the sub regional dimension of the growth agenda, clarify of function to distinguish between strategy and delivery, and streamlining to reduce the number of supported groups;
- (viii) a Portfolio Holders Board would have an advisory role on the growth arrangements and would have no executive decision making powers; it would have the remit to join up policy and strategy, promote a coordinated approach of regional and sub-regional policy, coordinate input to other policies which would have an impact or relationship with the growth vision for Plymouth, to promote the vision for Plymouth and the Growth Agenda and to advise on high level investment priorities for coordination by the Plymouth Growth Board;

- (ix) a Plymouth Growth Board would have a strategic coordinating role and would consist of membership from the Chief Executive or nominated Director from each of the Councils in the sub regional area; it would have the remit to oversee the implementation of the city growth agenda, to identify sub regional priorities for funding, determine growth agenda funding options and priorities, to inform capital programmes, to prioritise strategically important development and infrastructure projects and identify delivery mechanisms and to unblock key obstacles to delivery;
- (x) scrutiny would have a role to hold the boards to account, to review and monitor the delivery of the Growth Agenda and performance of the governance arrangements and to consider the involvement of Local Strategic Partnerships from the sub region in the scrutiny process;
- (xi) a communication plan would ensure that Members, external stakeholders and the general public understood the growth agenda and the benefits for the sub region and that everyone was kept informed of progress and delivery; this would be in addition to and joined up with the consultation and engagement that the Councils and Local Strategic Partnership were already committed to.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (xiv) it was acknowledged that partners from the third sector were key organisations for the growth agenda, in addition to some of the groups highlighted in the officer's presentation;
- (xv) officers would aim to use existing mechanisms to engage with people; it was highlighted that there would be engagement in the framework as a whole as well of parts of it;
- (xvi) a key outcome of the governance framework would be to achieve more efficient and effective coordination of delivery of the growth agenda, and this was necessary in order to optimise the potential to deliver sustained improvements to the economic prosperity of Plymouth and its sub region.

Recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that –

- (1) the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel support the governance proposals for the growth agenda, and request the following:
 - a) that more detail be provided about its desired outcomes over the next 24 months;
 - b) that criteria be set for measuring the effectiveness of the new governance arrangements;
 - c) that the criteria are monitored and reported to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel on a 6 monthly basis;
 - d) that a full review of the governance arrangements be undertaken after 24 months

66. **QUARTERLY SCRUTINY REPORT**

The Panel received their quarterly scrutiny report and stated that it was extremely well written however was deficient of data relating to attendance at task and finish group meetings and did not state whether substitutes were provided to panel meetings.

Resolved that task and finish group attendance data be incorporated into the quarterly scrutiny report as well as a list of substitutes and their attendance at meetings.

67. **WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010/2011**

The Panel considered their work programme for 2010/2011 and added the following items for further consideration when finalising work programme.

- LSP Wealthy Theme Group Work Programme
- Private Sector Housing Peer Review – Improvement Plan
- Eastern Corridor Update
- PCDC Business Plan
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Housing Strategy & Homelessness
- Growth and Regeneration Delivery Update
- Worklessness Update
- Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report
- Housing Options Review
- Twice Yearly Plymouth Community Homes – presentation.
- Local Transport Plan 3
- Accessibility Planning
- Waste PFI
- Review of Governance arrangements
- Place Management
- Tourism Strategy
- Economic Development Update

68. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Business Manager for Development provided the Panel with an update on their tracking resolutions.

The Panel was informed that –

- (i) an updated risk register of remedial works for the Hoe Foreshore had been received by Democratic Support and would enable the task and finish group to have a final meeting; this was currently being arranged;
- (ii) Destination South West would remain on the Panel's tracking resolutions until the Tourism Strategy had been completed;
- (iii) the agenda item regarding the appointment of co-opted representatives onto the Growth and Prosperity Panel had been deferred to the first meeting of the municipal year;
- (iv) the resolutions regarding Worklessness were due to be submitted to CMT;
- (v) the agenda item regarding corporate improvement priorities had been added to the Panel's agenda under accessibility planning;
- (vi) the potential task and finish group regarding driving speeds on the Hoe had been added to the Panel's work programme for 2010/2011; awaiting Councillor call for action.
- (vii) the request for information regarding the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report would be submitted to Members by the end of March 2010;

- (viii) the recommendations submitted to the Management Board regarding Plymouth Housing Services would be followed up at the first meeting of the new municipal year once membership for the Panel had been agreed;
- (ix) the task and finish group report regarding the Skateboarding By-Law had been approved by the Management Board and would be submitted to CMT;
- (x) the agenda item regarding Carbon Reduction Commitment would be submitted to the Management Board on 31 March 2010.

Under this agenda item that Chair thanked Members for their input in the scrutiny process.

69. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted their work programme.

70. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.