

Working Plymouth

Tuesday 24 November 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor Ricketts, in the Chair.

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Deacon, Jarvis, Michael Leaves (substitute for Councillor Martin Leaves), Morris and Storer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Ball, Fletcher, Martin Leaves and Wheeler.

Also in attendance: David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy, Enterprise and Employment), Patrick Hartop (Head of City Deal), Adam Hickman (Economic Strategy and Partnership Officer), Adriana Curca (Economic Research and Monitoring Officer), Gill Peele (Lead Officer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.45 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.

70. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

71. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

72. **CORPORATE PLAN MONITORING**

David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy, Enterprise and Employment), Patrick Hartop (Head of City Deal), Adam Hickman (Economic Strategy and Partnership Officer) and Adriana Curca (Economic Research and Monitoring Officer) provided Members with an update on Corporate Plan Monitoring.

Members were advised that –

- (a) the presentation would briefly update Members on Inward Investment, how the Council worked with the Local Enterprise Partnership, the South Yard Economic Project and key performance indicators;
- (b) one of the roles of the Economic Development team was to provide support to businesses encouraging growth in Plymouth by helping them to bid for

central government funding;

- (c) the following projects were achieved through Officers work with the LEP and EU funding:
- Ocean Studios
 - Genesis
 - Plymouth Science Park – Phase 5
 - Drake Circus Leisure
 - Seaton Barracks
- (d) the South Yard project was continuing to develop; land had been released from the MOD and a lot of interest had been shown for the project both nationally and internationally;
- (e) Plymouth was hit hard by the recession however had seen higher than national average growth and an increase in productivity. Youth unemployment figures had also fallen.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to the following –

- changes relating to how Council's/ businesses bid for funding from central government;
- Growth Deal 3;
- youth unemployment and the reasons for reducing statistics for 18-24 year olds;
- South Yard developments;
- the Seaton Development;
- the difficulty of balancing the requirement and importance of employment, housing, leisure and transport schemes;
- how the Council encourages investment in the city;
- difficulties in encouraging workers in the construction industry;
- the relationship between the Economic Development and Planning Departments within the council;
- graduate retention;
- support provided to military personnel once they leave the Forces;
- successful projects related to Economic Development;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships;

- the communication of economic development successes and projects;
- engagement with Councillors.

Members noted the update, thanked Officers for their attendance and agreed to recommend to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board that –

- (1) Members of the Working Plymouth Scrutiny Panel undertake a tour of South Yard and other sites across Plymouth including Herder Court and Genesis;
- (2) Economic Development's business newsletter would be provided to Ward Councillors to enable them to update local residents on updates within this sector;
- (3) Officers from Economic Development further investigate the support provided to military personnel leavers to help encourage them and ease the transition back into work;
- (4) Officers from Economic Development would provide Members with links to specific Twitter, Facebook, websites and publications as used to advertise the department's work; Members could then use this information to further promote Plymouth if desired.

73. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.