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Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 28 September, 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor Viney, in the Chair.
Councillor Coker, Vice-Chair.
Councillors Ball, Martin Leaves, Mrs. Nelder, Roberts and Wheeler.

Apology for absence: Councillor Reynolds.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.50 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.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the Code of Conduct in relation to items under discussion at this meeting –

| Name | Minute No. and Subject | Reason | Interest |
|------------------|---|---|----------|
| Councillor Coker | 18. Worklessness: The Contribution and Role of Plymouth City Council. | He had previously worked with a representative from Jobcentre plus. | Personal |

13. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July be confirmed as a correct record.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (i) with reference to minute 9 (v) regarding the Eastern Corridor, Councillor Wigens be asked to attend in order to finalise the issue of access to minutes of the Eastern Corridor Major Project Board meetings;
- (ii) with reference to minute 9 (vii) regarding Fly tipping, the figures for Darlington and North East Lincolnshire Local Authorities fly tipping costs and statistics would be submitted to Councillors if they had not done so already.

14. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

The panel was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board would receive quarterly scrutiny reports at its 4 November meeting. As not all panels were meeting in October, it would be necessary to consider delegating approval of the scrutiny reports to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, prior to their submission to the Management Board.

Resolved that the quarterly report is agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the panel.

(In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Chair brought forward the above items for urgent consideration because of the need for a Member decision).

15. HOE FORESHORE SITE VISIT UPDATE

The Panel was provided with an update on 17 August 2009 Hoe Foreshore site visit. The Panel was informed that –

- (i) the Task and Finish Group were shown areas on the Hoe that had been identified for repair;
- (ii) West Hoe was not included as part of the original risk assessment or site visit as this area was under different management;
- (iii) the diving boards were locked up however a health and safety check was due to take place;
- (iv) a further site visit be arranged for the end of October 2009;

Resolved that –

- (1) more information be provided to the committee at its next business meeting;
- (2) the Panel would not sign off the risk assessment until the current planned work was completed;
- (3) the management responsibility for the whole Foreshore, including West Pier, be clarified and included in the scope of the Task and Finish Group's responsibility.

16. **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The panel was advised of the need to appoint a substitute member to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as per the Management Board's terms of reference. The rationale behind this was to ensure that each scrutiny panel was represented at every meeting of the Management Board. The substitute member must have received the required finance training and be from the same political party as the member for whom they were substituting.

Resolved that Councillor Ball and Councillor Martin Leaves be nominated as substitutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

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

The panel will give further consideration of appropriateness at next meeting.

Resolved that this item be referred to the next business meeting for further consideration.

18. **WORKLESSNESS: THE CONTRIBUTION AND ROLE OF PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL**

Several representatives from different organisations namely, Jobcentre Plus, Working Links, Plymouth Employment & Skills Board, Plymouth City Council and Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership provided the Panel with presentations upon the issue of worklessness in Plymouth.

The Panel were informed that –

- (i) there were several explanations for worklessness in Plymouth including high competition for jobs, low skills, health problems and ex offenders;
- (ii) there were several strategic bodies offering support to those out of work, including Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council, National Offender Management Services and Plymouth Local Strategic Partnership;
- (iii) Plymouth was above the regional and national average skills development and attainment at 16, however was below expected attainment at 19;

- (iv) Plymouth had historically low levels of innovation and enterprise;
- (v) a joined up approach was needed in order for issues of worklessness to be tackled more efficiently;
- (vi) skills and development were vital factors;
- (vii) It was important to raise the profile of worklessness in Plymouth with Central Government support agencies;
- (viii) Plymouth City Council was to take a greater lead in supporting those affected by worklessness.

Resolved that –

- (1) the 23 November 09 meeting be attended by officers of the Council and those affected by worklessness;
- (2) external partners be invited back to the Growth and Prosperity Panel for a final meeting on Worklessness in January 2010.

(Councillor Coker declared a personal interest in respect of the above item)

19. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Business Manager for Development and Regeneration updated the panel on outstanding resolutions.

Resolved that –

- (i) under minute 55b, two red risks from the Audit Committee, that the Panel recommend to the Management Board that the Parks/Playgrounds Risk Assessment be transferred to the Customers and Communities OSP Panel for further consideration as it was now in their new terms of reference;
- (ii) under minute 9, Destination Southwest, the Panel agreed to raise the issue of Destination Southwest funding and representation with the Director of Development and Regeneration and Assistant Director Economic Development at the next meeting (should they be able to attend). The Panel would then consider whether they wished to invite the Director of Destination Southwest to a future meeting.

20. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered their work programme for 2009/2010.

Resolved that -

- (1) a further meeting be arranged in Jan 2010 for the sole consideration of worklessness;
- (2) the final two dates for the Skateboarding By-law Task and Finish Group be rearranged due to Councillor attendance;
- (3) the Citybus Shareholding Ltd Task and Finish Group meetings are to take place 1 October 2009 and 2 November 2009.

21. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

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