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Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 14 June 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Nicholson, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Nelder, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Berrow, K Foster, Roberts, Mrs Stephens, Wheeler and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Martin Leaves

Also in attendance: Gill Peele – Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, Nick Jones - Head of Street Scene Services, Anthony Payne - Director for Development and Regeneration, David Draffan - Assistant Director for Economic Development, Douglas Fletcher – Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership and Chris Grace – Head of Economic Development.

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.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Agreed that Councillor Nicholson was appointed as Chair and Councillor Nelder appointed as Vice Chair for this municipal year.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

3. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Gill Peele, the Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, informed the Panel that Community Services should be removed from Panel's terms of reference as the Housing Stock Transfer had now taken place.

Panel Members noted the terms of reference and recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that Council be asked to remove Community Services from the Panel's Terms of Reference due to the Housing Stock Transfer.

6. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Gill Peele, the Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, updated Members on their Tracking Resolutions and feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and informed the Panel that –

- (i) the Hoe Foreshore Task and Finish Group had been added to the agenda to be discussed and finalised;
- (ii) Destination Southwest would be removed from the tracking document and added to the work programme associated with the tourism strategy;
- (iii) the item regarding Co-opted Representatives was added to the agenda and would be discussed at the meeting – this would subsequently be removed from the tracking resolutions document;
- (iv) questions stemming from the 19 February 2010 meeting on the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report had been answered and emailed to Panel Members – this would subsequently be removed from the tracking resolutions document;
- (v) the Plymouth City Council Housing Services recommendations from 3 March 2010 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting would be discussed under the Work Programme item later on the agenda;
- (vi) questions stemming from the 'Growth and Regeneration Agenda' discussed at 22 March 2010 meeting had been answered and emailed to Panel Members – this would subsequently be removed from the tracking resolutions document;
- (vii) the accuracy of the 3 March 2010 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board minute 94a (c and d) had been checked – these minutes were approved on 31 March 2010 meeting therefore the resolution stands. This would subsequently be removed from the tracking resolutions document;
- (viii) the question regarding Milehouse Park and Ride had been answered and emailed to Panel Members – this would subsequently be removed from the tracking resolutions document;
- (ix) the Events Strategy was reallocated from the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel; Gill Peele, the Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, informed Members that

currently there wasn't an Events Strategy however there was an intention for this to be developed alongside the Visitors Strategy which was on the Panel's work programme;

- (x) the resolution from Plympton Area Committee regarding the Community Events and Road Closure Policy was referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 31 March 2010; Gill Peele, the Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, informed Members that a new strategy was currently being formulated. This item would be added to the Panel's work programme;
- (xi) the Tree Strategy was reallocated from the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel; Gill Peele, the Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, informed Members that this was in relation to the maintenance programme for trees. It was agreed that this was not appropriate to include in the work programme for the Growth & Prosperity OSP at this stage; as per the Hoe Foreshore Task and Finish Group, it would be highlighted to the Audit Committee if it became a concern.

Agreed that the tracking resolutions and feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be noted.

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

The Panel gave consideration to the possibility of appointing co-opted representatives to the Panel, however, decided not to at this time. Further consideration would be given to co-opting a representative as and when there was a need.

8. **HOE FORESHORE**

Nick Jones, Head of Street Scene Services, informed the Panel that a full risk assessment had been carried out on the Hoe Foreshore and £406,000 of remedial works had been completed; the red risk had now reduced to an amber risk.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (i) there were still a few minor repairs to the Hoe Foreshore that needed completion;
- (ii) it was not known how long the current risk was going to stay amber as remedial works on the Hoe Foreshore would be the result of a yearly inspection;
- (iii) it was not known if there was adequate budget to cover possible future remedial works as the yearly inspection for 2010 had not been completed;

- (iv) the recent remedial works to the Hoe Foreshore had slightly delayed the risk assessment which would normally take place in the Spring;
- (v) on page 35 of the agenda, the pool had to be filled in other than repaired as this was more cost efficient;

The Chair thanked Nick Jones and his staff for the work undertaken on the Hoe Foreshore. It was agreed that the work of the previous Task and Finish Group, which had been tasked to ensure that the Hoe Foreshore reduced from a red risk to an amber risk, had been completed therefore it was recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the risk had reduced and this piece of scrutiny was now complete.

9. **DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION PRIORITIES.**

Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration, provided the Panel with a presentation upon Development and Regeneration priorities.

The Panel was informed that the Development and Regeneration department

- (i) was created over a year ago and covered the following areas - Economic Development, Planning, Strategic Housing and Transport;
- (ii) employed 352 staff, had an annual budget of £16.6m, generated £18.7m of income, attracted £127m grant funding and had a capital programme of £21.1m;
- (iii) had achieved 108 major planning applications and 1,496 planning applications in 2009/2010;
- (iv) had more adopted Area Action Plans than any other authority;
- (v) maintained 538 miles of roads and managed over 3500 car parking spaces, jointly owned and operated with Cornwall Council the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferries, subsidised 20 different bus services and operated 3 Park & Ride services;
- (vi) had a statutory duty to deliver a Local Transport Plan, directly managed 100 shops, 2 business parks and the City Market, jointly owned Tamar Science Park with the University of Plymouth, managed a £14m programme to encourage enterprise and achieved the UK's highest renewal mandate of 91% for the City Centre BID;
- (vii) dealt with planning applications, housing needs, CCTV, civil enforcement and the city market as part of its front line services;
- (viii) focused upon the following policy and strategy documents: Local Development Framework, Local Economic Strategy, Local Transport

Plan and the Local Housing Service;

(ix) had the following key challenges for 2010/2011:

- to develop a fit for purpose housing service in order to improve the quality of private sector housing and increase the supply and mix of housing and regeneration of key neighbourhoods;
- deliver the Local Transport Plan 3 by April 2011 and deliver major transport schemes;
- deliver the Local Economic Strategy
- position the city within emerging structures post general election

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (x) Ports were one of Plymouth's assets – the Atkins report had been received by the Council's Planning Service;
- (xi) the Transport Capital Programme had received a 25% reduction this year;
- (xii) there were no financial implications for the East End Community Scheme as funding had been committed and accounted for before 1 January 2010;

Agreed that the Development and Regeneration priorities were noted.

10. **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - WEALTHY THEME GROUP ACTION PLANS**

David Draffan - Assistant Director for Economic Development, Douglas Fletcher – Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership and Chris Grace – Head of Economic Development provided the Panel with an update on action plans for the Wealthy Theme Group. The Panel was informed that –

- (i) the Local Economic Strategy (LES) was adopted in 2006 by the Council and was at the heart of the work of the Wealthy Theme Group (WTG);
- (ii) the LES worked towards the City Vision objective 'Developing a prosperous economy' and sought to realise the following aspirations:
- a highly competitive City, well recognised and branded on the global economic stage
 - a City with a balanced, diversified and knowledge intensive business base
 - a City Region with well connected and inclusive communities
 - a City with an adaptable and skilled workforce, constantly learning

- a City where strong stakeholders and agencies work effectively together to deliver shared priorities
 - a City where a genuine commitment to sustainable development reinforces a set of unique environmental assets
- (iii) membership of the WTG was to become private sector led and delivery focused; meetings would be based around the delivery of the five Local Economic Strategy themes:
- Skills
 - Business
 - Centres
 - Participation
 - Leadership
- (iv) the WTG would provide a forum for:
- holding organisations to account in delivering the economic agenda for Plymouth;
 - bringing together relevant organisations to ensure coordinated delivery;
 - identifying issues that needed addressing;
 - gaining input and experience of the business community;
- (v) the Local Strategic Partnership would hold all partners to account;
- (vi) the Wealthy Theme Group would create a unified approach to leadership;

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (vii) in terms of jobs, the economy was over dependent on the public sector however the University had driven growth and employment in recent months;
- (viii) the Wealthy Theme Group would ensure everything was on target through a monitoring process;
- (ix) Plymouth City Council officers had been visiting local businesses as part of a urban enterprise programme;

- (x) the Smith review provided an opportunity for growth whether it be in terms of housing/and or jobs;
- (xi) the Chair of the Wealthy Theme Group and the Assistant Director for Economic Development agreed that the minutes of the Wealthy Theme Group be a standing item on the Panel's agenda.

Agreed that the update on action points for the Wealthy Theme Group was noted.

11. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The following items were agreed by the Panel as also being incorporated to the Panel's existing draft Work programme –

- Section 106 Funding– an initial written report in September;
- Accessibility Planning – update after 6 month period;
- Community Events and Road Closures Policy – written report
- Eastern Corridor Update
- Tourism Strategy – written update in the Autumn
- Government Policy Changes – standing item on agenda
- PFI – Waste Management – written update(depending on timing of Joint Scrutiny with Torbay/Devon)
- Ports of Plymouth Development Plan – presentation
- Highway Maintenance - (Task and Finish Group with Councillors Berrow, Nicholson, Wright and Nelder)

12. **FUTURE DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

The Panel noted the dates and times of future Panel meetings.

13. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

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