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Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Monday 18 October 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Nicholson, in the Chair.
Councillor Mrs Nelder, Vice Chair.
Councillors Berrow, K Foster, Mrs Nicholson (substitute), Roberts,
Mrs Stephens, Wheeler and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Martin Leaves

Also in attendance: Gill Peele, Business Manager for Development and Regeneration, Anthony Payne the Director for Development, Councillor Fry, the Portfolio holder for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development, David Draffan, Assistant Director for Economic Development, Patrick Knight, Business Improvement District Manager, Ben Scheuregger, Spatial Planning Officer and Peter Hearn, Urban Planning Co-ordinator.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.45 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.

39. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

40. **MINUTES**

The Democratic Support Officer informed the Panel that the 12 July 2010 Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel's minutes were mistakenly attached to the agenda. Copies of the 13 September 2010 minutes were given to members at the meeting.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

41. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

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

The Chair updated the Panel on their tracking resolutions and feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

With regards to tracking resolutions, the Panel was informed that –

- (i) the maximum Local Housing Allowance (LHA) payable for eligible properties in Plymouth was emailed to Panel Members; this item would therefore be greyed out as complete;
- (ii) the number of households expected to be affected by housing benefit and local housing allowance cuts was emailed to Panel Members; this item would therefore be greyed out as complete;
- (iii) responses to minute numbers 32 (i), 32 (iv), 32 (v), 32 (vii), 32 (viii), and 32 (ix) of 13 September 2010 Growth and Prosperity OSP meeting were provided in the Section 106 - Planning Obligations Monitoring report attached to the agenda; these items would therefore be greyed out as complete;
- (iv) a response to the question regarding the scope of sustainability and climate change would be clarified in the November 2010 Growth and Prosperity OSP meeting

With regards to feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the Panel was informed that –

- (v) the format and the content of the quarterly scrutiny report could be amended.

43. **COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ROAD CLOSURE POLICY TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE**

The Chair provided the Panel with an update on the Community Events and Road Closure task and finish group and directed members to the final report attached to the agenda.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- i) event organisers were required to apply for a temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) in order to close a road for an event; it would depend on the type of road as to whether a TTRO was required.
- ii) the Tamerton Foliot fete was on the recommended list of approved events in which it was suggested that no fees be charged to the organiser due to the historical longevity of the event.

Agreed that the recommendations listed in the final report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for their approval:

- 1) that representations be made to Central Government in relation to the medium used to advertise Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders e.g. Local Government Association, Department for Transport, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government;

- 2) that there be an approved list of events for which the Council will provide Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) free of charge and that this will be approved by the Cabinet Member for Transport. The list will include civic and other similar events that have been held across the city for at least the last 5 years. The list to be reviewed on an annual basis
- 3) that the department of the Council responsible for the decision to hold any event not included in the approved list, should provide the budget for the reimbursement of the cost of the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) to Transport & Highways
- 4) that Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) continue to be advertised in the local newspaper for all events except those falling within the criteria for street parties and fetes (pending any Government response from the representation)
- 5) that a charging policy be implemented based on the proposed categories and charges, and be reviewed annually (or sooner if a change of law). Any changes to be approved by Cabinet member for Transport. The criteria are to be finalised by officers.
- 6) that officers be thanked for their efforts to recognise and support the organisers of smaller events
- 7) the panel also welcomes the investigation of parade and carnival routes and whether these can be standardised to simplify the TTRO process.

44. **GOVERNMENT POLICY CHANGES**

The Panel was provided with an update on Government Policy changes and noted the report.

45. **CIP 12 - DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

Anthony Payne the Director for Development and Councillor Fry, the Portfolio holder for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development provided the Panel with an update on CIP 12 – Delivering Sustainable Growth.

The Panel was informed that –

- (i) in order to deliver sustainable communities the complete programme of Local Development Framework documents, which were formulated to drive forward city growth, were on target; the next Development Plan Documents (DPD) included the Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan and the Sustainable Neighbourhoods DPD, are due to go to Cabinet;

- (ii) the delivery of strategic development in the City Centre, Devonport, Millbay, Sherford and Plymstock was on target; nine site planning statements had been produced to help developers interested in investing on these sites. 18 further planning statements were being considered for this year to try and stimulate the market;
- (iii) the implementation of market recovery measures were on target; the scheme itself was being actively implemented and was regularly the basis for negotiations over the development tariff; this scheme would be monitored;
- (iv) the delivery of the local economic strategy was on target – the Wealthy Theme Group had been reconstituted and now consisted of more private sector members. These meetings focused on the 5 key areas of business, skills, centres, participation and leadership;
- (v) the implementation of the Infrastructure Delivery Programme was on target – the draft plan would be ready by the end of November 2010; this programme would feed into the Local Investment Plan;
- (vi) the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan was on target – this plan was considered a national exemplar and was endorsed by 19 organisations including neighbouring authorities and statutory agencies. Officers were seeking to extend the project for a further five years;
- (vii) the draft master plan for Saltram Park was to go out to consultation on 1 November 2010 with a final draft likely in January 2011;
- (viii) a six week consultation was due to start on 18 October 2010 for the Central Park master plan;
- (ix) the Stepping Stones to Nature project was becoming an exemplar of community involvement in decision making with a number of successful improvements to local green spaces already delivered. It was calculated that 42% of Plymouth was green space;
- (x) the Planning Services Business Improvement Plan had been published;
- (xi) the majority of programme boards had been set up and were meeting on a regular basis;
- (xii) the delivery of the local investment programme which optimised external funding and secured best value from the Plymouth Development Tariff was on target. The Local Investment Plan aligned investment behind the city's priorities and was being revised. This plan would assist with any bids made to the Regional Growth Fund;

- (xiii) marketing in Plymouth in order to resource regional and national funding streams was currently on target; the Local Investment Plan would be used to help justify bidding for funds such as the Regional Growth Fund and the New Homes Bonus. Plymouth City Council was working with the Chamber and other partners in order to focus on marketing and investment and specific projects in Plymouth;
- (xiv) the Regional Spatial Strategy had been revoked by the Secretary of State with the intention being that it is abolished;
- (xv) the delivery of effective sub regional partnership working had been completed;
- (xvi) the delivery of low/zero carbon development was on target; the Language & Sherford District Energy Reports completed;
- (xvii) addressing of natural resource management implications on the growth agenda was on target; the Shoreline Management Plan was due to go to Cabinet in October 2010;

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (xviii) the verbal briefing report would be emailed to the Democratic Support Officer in order to be circulated to all members of the Panel;
- (xix) Plymouth was approximately 11th out of several hundred authorities in delivering major planning applications.

The Chair thanked Councillor Fry for his open invitation to attend informal meetings with himself and Anthony Payne and also praised officers from the Development and Regeneration directorate that had previously attended Panel meetings for their depth of knowledge and effort in compiling reports.

46. **SECTION 106 REVENUE - PLANNING OBLIGATIONS MONITORING**

Paul Barnard, Assistant Director for Planning Services, Ben Scheuregger, Spatial Planning Officer and Peter Hearn, Urban Planning Co-ordinator, provided the Panel with a further update on Planning Obligations following the first report to the 13th September 2010 meeting.

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (i) Panel members were advised to contact case officers in the planning department if they required more information on individual section 106 clauses or the relevant spending department as appropriate;
- (ii) a section 106 database was used to analyse and monitor section 106 revenue; and whilst this was currently fit for purpose new requirements associated with the Plymouth Development Tariff and the Community Infrastructure Levy necessitated investment in new software;

- (iii) building control officers and the planning compliance team were a useful contact in monitoring section 106 funds;
- (iv) if within five years of the legal agreement the section 106 money had not been spent, there was a possibility that the funds would need to be returned to the developer with interest;
- (v) developers have the responsibility to make the section 106 payment to the Council once the trigger point had been reached;
- (vi) planning permission was normally granted for a three year period but was only required to commence construction during that timescale, and not necessarily to complete the whole scheme;
- (vii) the Assistant Director for Planning Services would provide Panel Members with an update on recent government legislative changes relating to houses in multiple occupation and advise on how this related to properties within conservation areas;
- (viii) section 106 projects were required to go through the Capital Delivery Board as section 106 funds often related to Capital Programme Delivery

The Chair thanked the officers for the fantastic thoroughness and detail provided in the report and recognised that officers had done their utmost to answer the Panel's questions.

Agreed that –

- 1) the Panel welcome the Planning Obligations report and circulate it to all elected Members of the Council for their information;
- 2) the Panel support the recommendation from Planning Services regarding the requirement of new software that would improve the monitoring of Section 106 funds.

47. **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) WEALTHY THEME GROUP UPDATE**

David Draffan, Assistant Director for Economic Development provided the Panel with an update on the Local Strategic Partnership, Wealthy Theme Group.

The Panel was informed that –

- (i) the membership of the wealthy theme group had changed so that 8 of 12 members were now from the private sector;
- (ii) the wealthy theme group was responsible for delivering the local economic strategy;

- (iii) a review had been commissioned to analyse the economic balance of jobs in Plymouth;
- (iv) it was considered that Plymouth was currently over-dependent on public sector jobs

The Panel noted the update and thanked David Draffan for his attendance.

48. **TOURISM / VISITOR STRATEGY AND PLACE MANAGEMENT**

David Draffan, Assistant Director for Economic Development and Patrick Knight, Business Improvement District Manager, provided the Panel with an update on the Visitor Strategy and Place Management.

The Panel was informed that –

- (i) the Place Management Strategy was approved by the City Council in April 2010;
- (ii) the aim of the strategy was to attract more visitors to Plymouth and drive the economy by capitalising on main attractions such as the Waterfront;
- (iii) the visitor economy consist of pubs, shops, attractions, marinas as well as signage, the heritage, gateways and the environment;
- (iv) currently 7,500 jobs in Plymouth relate to the visitor economy;
- (v) there is an aim to create 7,000 new jobs over the next 15 years;
- (vi) visitors want a well managed visitor experience that is welcoming clean, safe, easy to get around and well marketed;
- (vii) the Place Management Strategy encouraged partnership working to address issues in the area that business trade;
- (viii) Destination Plymouth had been created as part of the strategy to aid marketing, share administration duties and produce websites;
- (ix) the Waterfront Partnership had been created as part of the strategy to build consensus and agree an agenda for improving the area;
- (x) the City Centre company would continue to empower business and attract investment;
- (xi) Destination Plymouth would begin to develop a Visitor Strategy for Plymouth

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (xii) the Place Management Strategy would provide a single organisation partnership between the city and the community;

- (xiii) the new waterfront manager would undertake a comprehensive audit of business in the waterfront area;
- (xiv) the Cambridge model was used to identify the approximate number of visitors to Plymouth;
- (xv) Officers were continuing to pursue opportunities for deep water mooring in Plymouth;
- (xvi) it was not yet decided how far the scope of the plans for the waterfront Business Improvement District would span;
- (xvii) the Assistant Director for Economic Development would update members on the prime tourism assets which were currently under utilized.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance.

49. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted their work programme for 2010/2011. Under this item the membership for the Highways Maintenance Task and Finish Group was discussed. It was agreed that Councillor Nicholson would chair the task and finish group and that Councillors Nelder, Wright, Berrow and Foster would be on the Panel. The Democratic Support Officer would circulate dates to members in the near future.

50. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.