

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 8 October 2014

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
 Councillor L Bigham
 Councillor J Birdi
 Councillor K Mulhall
 Councillor T Skipper
 Councillor S Walsh
 Councillor D Welsh

Other Members: Councillor K Maton (Business, Enterprise and Employment)
 (By Invitation)

Employees (by Directorate):

Place M Yardley (Executive Director), M Checkley, P Deas,
 D Fitzhugh, J Kyffin-Hughes, R Young

Resources G Holmes, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor R Bailey and H Sweet

Public Business

9. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

10. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

11. Progress on Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Projects

The Board received a Briefing and presentations of the Executive Director, Place that provided an up-date on Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) projects within the City Deal and the Growth Plan, and their associated impacts and benefits.

Coventry and Warwickshire successfully negotiated a City Deal with Central Government, which was endorsed by Elected Members at the meeting of the Council on 14th January 2014 (their minute 127/13 refers), which aimed to create 15,000 new jobs by developing the local economy, with a particular focus on the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering sector.

Coventry and Warwickshire were also successful in securing a Growth Deal with central government of £74.6m to support economic growth within the local area. By 2021 at least 1,000 jobs would be created and 1,000 homes built.

One of the most important elements of the Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal was the establishment of a “Clearing House” or Growth Hub, where key business support activities would be located in one building.

To fund the first year of City Deal activities the Council secured a further £2.7m of Regional Growth Fund on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership with a particular focus on the activities of the Growth Hub. In addition, each Local Authority in Coventry and Warwickshire had made a contribution to the City Deal and activities of the Growth Hub, totalling £1.123m. In its first year of operation the Growth Hub aimed to create 217 jobs, 60 skills interventions, invest £1.4 million of funding in businesses and lever £5.25m of private sector funding into the region.

Work on the City Deal was progressing, and update reports were presented on three of the key projects for Coventry: Skills4Growth, North South Station Scheme, Coventry City Centre Road Access:

Skills for Growth – A specialist skills strand of the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub contracted to support 48 learners and 12 graduate placements within Coventry & Warwickshire based Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering small and medium sized enterprises during the 2014/15 financial year, to help improve skills amongst the sectors workforce. This had so far achieved 17 graduates, both new graduates and the unemployed/underemployed, into year-long employment and 19 employed people had received training to help improve their Skills.

North South Station Scheme - £3.49m of funding for Nucle2 for a new rail station at Kenilworth and a new rail service from Leamington to Coventry by December 2016; £19.48m of funding for Coventry Station that would provide capacity for growth through a new station entrance; a footbridge between platforms and canopy extensions; improved public transport interchange; and new parking facilities, that would be delivered by the end of 2018; and £8.025m of funding for the Nucle package 1 phase 2 that would provide a new bay platform at Coventry Rail Station with associated track and signal works, that would be delivered by the end of 2016/17.

Coventry City Centre Road Access - £5m Growth Deal funding was being used to match European Regional Development Fund funding to support phase 3 of the City Centre public realm works and would support works to Belgrade Plaza, Lidice Place and Bishop Street.

The Board questioned officers and discussed the benefits of the graduate placements; the skills development of employees within companies; and the Governance arrangements of the LEP. They noted that although the Economic Plan had focussed on Manufacturing, work was now beginning with partners to develop Arts and Culture in the region. They also noted that there had been an increase in the funding secured for LEP projects and requested that a Briefing Note providing details of the revised funding be circulated to Members of the Board.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) notes the progress made on delivery of the Coventry and Warwickshire Economic Plan.**
- 2) There were no further recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet Members.**

12. MIPIM - Attendance and Outcomes of Event

The Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Executive Director, Place that provided feedback on Elected Members and Officers attendance, costs and benefits of the City Council's involvement in the 2014 Marche International Des Professionals De L'Immobilier (MIPIM) conference/exhibition.

MIPIM was Europe's largest and most successful property conference/ exhibition held annually in Caen, France. An extensive formal meeting programme was pre-arranged for the City Council's officers for the four day event with the primary objective to attract and encourage investment into Coventry and Warwickshire as part of an overall strategy to create and sustain jobs and growth in the region. It enabled Coventry and Warwickshire projects, achievements and development opportunities to be profiled and to enhance the perception and image of the region to major decision makers and intermediaries in the UK and international property markets. The event had resulted in officers receiving very positive feedback from private sector partners and many Coventry and Warwickshire developments had been started or secured as a direct outcome of discussions held at MIPIM.

Members discussed the outcomes of the event with officers and noted that the Local Enterprise Partnership had organised the first MIPIM UK, an event that would be held at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry in October 2014 at which Coventry would be profiled.

RESOLVED that the Business, Enterprise and Economy Scrutiny Board (3):

- (i) Supports the proposal that the City Council attends MIPIM 2015 with the continued aspiration of a private sector partnership meeting all the project costs.**
- (ii) Supports Coventry re-securing the apartment (No. 3 La Croisette) for use by the Coventry Partnership at MIPIM 2015 as soon as possible.**
- (iii) Requests the Executive Director, Place, submits progress reports to future Board meetings as appropriate, outlining the outcomes secured from attendance at the conference/exhibition.**

13. Carbon Management Plan

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, that would also be considered by the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) at his meeting on 20th October 2014, which provided an update on achievement against

a target of reducing the City Council's carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) by 30% over five years. The report presented a revised Carbon Management Plan (CMP) that reflected changing priorities and set new performance targets to be achieved by 2020. It also requested the approval of a revised Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy.

In September 2009 a CMP for the City Council was approved by the former Cabinet Member (Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability) (his minute 16/08 refers). Since then the City Council had had significant success in reducing CO₂ emissions by 21%. This had been achieved despite significant challenges including the uncertainty around the long term use of City Council office accommodation prior to the planned move to Friargate and the Government's cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

To address increasing priority for reducing the carbon footprint of the City Council, a revised CMP and an Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy had been prepared. The new Plan, revised to take into account changing circumstances, set out the agenda and CO₂ emission targets for the next six years, reflecting the national reduction targets.

The Board questioned officers and discussed the following matters:

- Waste Reduction Unit - production of electricity
- Heatline - Storage facilities
- Energy Saving - the outcome of the external fittings on homes in Foleshill
- The infra-red housing survey
- Exclusion of Schools from the Carbon Reduction commitment

RESOLVED that the following comment from the Business, Enterprise and Economy Scrutiny Board (3) be forwarded to the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) for consideration:

That the Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment) and the Chair of the Business, Enterprise and Economy Scrutiny Board (3) write to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, expressing concerns that the exclusion of schools from the Carbon Reduction Commitment is a retrograde step. Schools should be part of the education process on climate change and their exclusion from the Carbon Reduction Commitment is contrary to this.

14. Report on the Work of Outside Bodies - West Midlands Integrated Transport

The Board considered a report from the City Council's Lead representative and Chairman of Centro, Councillor J McNicholas, on the work of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA) over the preceding twelve months and attendance at meetings of the Authority by the City Council's representatives.

The WMITA was funded by Council Tax payers through a direct levy and appointments to the body ensured that the City Council was directly involved with the planning and provision of public transport for its residents.

From 1 June 2014 the governance arrangements for WMITA had changed with a new body, Centro Members Joint Committee, created to report to the Transport

Authority. The Joint Committee had delegated powers to make recommendations to the WMITA on rail devolution; policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, efficient and economic transport facilities and services; and on the Authority's revenue budget and district levy. It also had delegated powers to determine on a range of functions for the WMITA.

RESOLVED that the Business, Enterprise and Economy Scrutiny Board (3) supports the proposal that:

- 1) The City Council, as a constituent member of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (a statutory body), continues to nominate and send representatives to its meetings.**
- 2) Following recent statutory changes to the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Constitution which came into force on 1 June 2014, the City Council also sends representatives to the new Centro Members Joint Committee and Scrutiny function.**

15. Outstanding Issues

Outstanding issues were included in the Board's Work Programme.

16. Work Programme 2014/2015

The Board received the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2014/2015 and also considered a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator that sought approval to establish a Task and Finish Group of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) to look into licensing options for private rented sector housing.

During the Municipal year 2013/14, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee established a Task and Finish Group to look at Houses in Multiple Occupation. One of the outcomes of this review was that licensing for private rented sector housing be looked at in more detail and at their informal meeting on 19th June 2014, the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake this task. The Group's terms of reference would be agreed at their first meeting and the outcomes of the Group, including recommendations for the relevant Cabinet Member, would be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3):

- 1) Approves the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to consider different licensing options available to the local authority for private rented sector housing.**
- 2) Agrees to receive a further report, detailing the outcomes of the Task and Finish Group including recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member.**
- 3) Notes the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.**

17. **Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.40 pm)