

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 6 September 2018

PRESENT – Councillors Carson (Chair), Cossins, Donoghue, L Hughes, Kelly, Lyonette, Marshall, M Nicholson, Tostevin and M Wright

APOLOGIES –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Coultas and Kelley

OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVE – Keith Wilson, Economic Strategy and Intelligence Manager, Tees Valley Combined Authority.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Dave Coates (Head of Planning, Development and Environmental Health), D Hand (Head of Service for Planning Policy, Economic Strategy and Environment), Barbara Copson (Performance Manager), Dawn Taylor (Trading Standards and Animal Health Manager) and Karen Graves (Democratic Officer)

P11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests reported at the meeting.

P12 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 JUNE 2018

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 28 June 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be agreed as a correct record.

P13 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

P14 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 1 2018/19

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) and detailed performance scorecard (also previously circulated) providing Members with Quarter 1 Performance Data against key performance indicators for 2018/19.

It was reported that the performance indicators were aligned with key priorities and the majority were used to monitor the Corporate Plan 2017/21. Many indicators for this Scrutiny Committee were reported annually and as quarterly updates were not available, all annual indicators would be included in the Quarter 4 report.

It was reported that the indicator set for this Scrutiny Committee had increased by eight and of the 39 indicators for Place Scrutiny Committee 17 were reported annually and one was reported six monthly at Quarters 2 and 4.

Details were provided for indicators which had previous data for comparison and it was noted that seven indicators had achieved or exceeded year-end targets, seven had not achieved year end targets and six did not have a year-end target.

It was reported that Planning Indicators ECI 104 – Percentage of major planning applications decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time, ECI 105 – Percentage of non-major planning development decisions within eight weeks or within agreed time and ECI 106 – 24 months to date percentage of non-major development decisions within 8 weeks or within agreed time were currently exceeding year-end targets. Environment indicators ENV 002 – Number of Street Champions who are actively involved in litter picking a minimum of once per month and ENV 005 – Local Environmental Quality Survey – percentage of 75 transpets inspected that pass the Litter Code of Practice list are both showing solid improvement at Quarter 1. REG 312a – Percentage of noise complaints investigated and completed within six weeks of the date of receipt (Except where diary sheet returned) is also showing good performance and CUL 071 - Visits to the Head of Steam is showing strong performance at Quarter 1.

Members requested that CUL 065 be split to show visits to both Crown Street and Cockerton Libraries separately and following a question were advised that CUL 030 – total number of visits to the Dolphin Centre was inaccurate as there was an anomaly with footfall counters in that they did not tally with income received and that more accurate data would be provided in future. Clarification was sought on CUL 038 – Number of individual attendances at Hippodrome Theatre shows and Members were advised that as this indicator was calculated cumulatively across the year it was unlikely to achieve end of year targets by the end of Quarter 1, however at this time it is anticipated that this indicator will reach its end of year target by the end of the year. Members welcomed the data in relation to CUL 071 – Number of visits to the Head of Steam and in relation to the Hullabaloo enquired if the number of visits not related to shows could be captured.

In relation to ECI 105 – Percentage of non-major planning development decisions within eight weeks or within agreed time, Members were informed that there was a slight delay in getting applications up and running but this was due to new system problems and Officers hoped to be in a better position in three months' time.

ECI 401 – New homes delivered against 5 year supply was currently on target with 139 completions being made at the of Quarter 1, however, Members were made aware that the figures were dependent upon the scheme operated by the developers i.e. build as sell or completion of all houses within the development.

Officers acknowledge that a better system was required to record the number of Street Champions actively involved in litter or ground maintenance projects (ENV 002) as there were more than the 77 registered with the Council.

In relation to ENV 006 – Total number of fly tips reported, Members were advised that this should reduce due to the allocation of additional resources. It was also stated that the Contract for the new litter scheme was due to start on 17 September for a trial period of six months.

The Assistant Director, Community Services advised Members that Cabinet approval was being sought to enter into consultation on the Joint Waste Management Strategy for the Tees Valley and that this Scrutiny Committee would consider the strategy as part of that consultation process.

Members were informed that there had been around 1700 households wanting to access the garden waste service and that a further publicising exercise was to be undertaken.

In relation to REG 308 – Environmental Health: Percentage of premises broadly compliant for food hygiene Members were advised that the word ‘broadly’ was an official term used by the Food Standards Authority.

The Chair referred to TCP 600 – Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents and made particular reference to two serious road accidents that had occurred, following the introduction of a new road scheme, at St Cuthbert’s Way and requested that the Head of Highway Network Management attend the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 25 October.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of Scrutiny Committee be extended to Officers for their comprehensive accounts in relation to Performance Indicators.

(b) That the submitted report be noted.

(c) That the Head of Highway Network Management be requested to attend the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

P15 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report (previously circulated) providing an update on past and future Broadband infrastructure roll out in the Borough and detailing other projects enhancing speed for digital use. A PowerPoint Presentation given by the Economic Strategy and Intelligence Manager of Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) accompanied the submitted report.

The submitted report stated that TVCA and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) had committed funding for two phases of public sector funded Broadband infrastructure rollout programmes for the Borough with Digital Durham managing delivery of two Phases of the BDUK programme via Openreach in County Durham, Gateshead, Sunderland, North and South Tyneside and the five Tees Valley Local Authorities including Darlington Borough Council.

Members were informed that Phase 1 of the BDUK Programme had been delivered in the Town Centre and Central Park Enterprise Zone together with rural cabinets around Piercebridge, Merrybent, High and Low Coniscliffe, Hurworth Place and Bishopton resulting in a 93.5 per cent Borough coverage.

In 2017 Tees Valley Combined Authority took over responsibility for the management of Phase 2 of the roll out of Broadband. Following consultation with the Local Authorities a revised Phase 2 contract was negotiated which set a target of

coverage of at least 98.1% coverage of premises in each of the 5 Local Authorities up to a maximum budget of £2.5m. The revised Phase 2 necessitated a change request with Digital Durham, for which it was able to largely subsume existing contracts in Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, but had to develop new plans for Darlington and Hartlepool.

It was also reported that TVCA aimed to apply for Government programmes such as the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) (based on full fibre solutions) which would offer new infrastructure provision for speeds up to 1 gigabit per sec level which would enable 5G solutions.

The report outlined the future needs for Superfast Coverage in Darlington through Phase 3 (2020 onwards) although stated that Darlington's Rural Areas to the West (Killerby, Summerhouse, Denton and Walworth Gate) and North East (Great Stainton and Barmpton) would be left uncovered by Fibre based solutions for Broadband.

It was stated that those areas which have not been covered by Phase 2 of the programme were eligible to bid through the Better Broadband Scheme administered by Digital Durham for grants in the form of a voucher (up to £350 for hardware and installation) for mobile or satellite broadband connection with Superfast speeds.

Consideration is also being given to working with the Neighbouring North Yorkshire Programme (NYNET) to cover the rural areas in the next Phase 3 (2020 onwards) due to the closeness of its fibre network to both Darlington and the Tees Valley and its considerable rural delivery experience.

Particular references were made to the future proofing considerations for the Tees Valley and Darlington as digital enhancements and technology are not standing still. Ambitions for economic growth are underpinned by digital speeds and the Tees Valley Combined Authority, including Darlington, aims to stay ahead in the digital speed race. In order to market the Tees Valley as a region for investment digital speeds have become a locational factor to attract investment into the region. The TVCA has subsequently earmarked Government programmes like Gigabit Vouchers for businesses, the 5G Testbed and Trial programme and the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programme for up to 1gb/sec 5G technology. Applications for these programmes are being considered which would enhance Darlington's position in connectivity speed further in the future.

Discussion ensued on the timescale involved to provide broadband to the TVCA areas; the pros and cons of Fibre to the Cabinet and Fibre to the Home broadband; Darlington's change request to BT being subject to the deliberations of Central Government and BT due to the economic life of Fibre to the Cabinet which would need to be replaced after eight to ten years; rural areas to be provided having a certain amount of ambiguity until site investigations have been undertaken; the programme operating where there is not an existing provision; and the need to ascertain from BT where broadband provision was and whether or not it was value for money.

Concerns were expressed that nationally broadband provision was lacking compared to international employers and there was a need to future proof

commercial and residential broadband provision for the region. It was stated that full fibre would ensure 5G; Phase 3 would use legacy funding and provide 100 per cent coverage; and that full fibre would ensure that any provider could deliver broadband leading to increased productivity and increased premises.

RESOLVED – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Economic Strategy and Intelligence Manager of Tees Valley Combined Authority for his informative and interesting presentation.

(b) That the current position on Phase 1 of the Broadband Delivery UK Programme be noted.

(c) That the future aspirations of the Tees Valley Combined Authority regarding Local Full Fibre Network be noted.

(d) That an update on broadband provision be provided in six months' time.

P16 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19.

The work programme has been reviewed to link it to the outcomes and conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy and each topic has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework to provide accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

The Lead Officer provided Members with an updated position in relation to individual items within the schedule.

Discussion ensued on the need to convene Special meetings to give consideration to the Library Consultation, the Local Plan and the Joint Waste Management Strategy for the Tees Valley (Minute P14 above refers).

RESOLVED – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

P17 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (IF ANY) WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE OF AN URGENT NATURE AND CAN BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING