

ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28 April 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Renton (Chair), Boddy, Crudass, Harker and McEwan

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bartch, L Hughes, Mrs D Jones, Paley and Wright,

ABSENT –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Marshall and Snedker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Mark Ladyman (Assistant Director Economic Growth), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources) and Shirley Wright (Democratic Manager)

ER42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting

ER43 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 3 February 2022.

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

ER44 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Young People's Opportunity and Involvement Worker gave Members a presentation on the work of the Youth Partnership in Darlington, particularly in relation to projects it was involved with in relation to the environment.

It was reported that the national Make your Mark consultation, which was an annual consultation, which gave all young people aged 11-18, the opportunity to shortlist the topics they felt were the most pressing issues facing young people in the UK, took place in February. As part of that consultation the young people were presented with seven topics they cared about the most, with the three topics receiving the most votes becoming the campaigns that Members of the Young Parliament would work on throughout their two-year term.

The Young People's Opportunity and Involvement Worker advised the Scrutiny Committee that seven schools in Darlington together with the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Darlington College were involved in this consultation, with 3,477 votes being cast. It was reported that, in Darlington, the environment had come third out of the seven topics, with Health and Well-Being and education and learning being first and second.

Reference was made to some of the environmental projects which were currently being undertaken in schools and discussion ensued on a virtual meeting with young people from Darlington and young people from Mulheim, one of the Council's twin towns, which was

taking place in June 2022 to discuss various topics, one of which being the environment and climate change.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Young People’s Opportunity and Involvement Worker for her presentation.

ER45 TOWNS FUND

The Assistant Director Economic Growth, gave us a presentation on the projects within the Towns Fund.

It was reported that, to date, the Council had received £8,757,500 capital funding from the Government to fund projects to revitalise and improve the Town, with £341, 029 revenue funding and that a business case for each of the nine Towns Fund intervention projects had been completed with a business case summary for each one submitted to Government, following agreement by the Towns Board.

The Assistant Director also reported that all of the submitted business cases had now been approved by Government which had enabled initial funding to be released.

Discussion ensued on work which was progressing with the design and commissioning of the required design and surveys for the acquired Northern Echo building, progress being made with the Skinnergate and the Yard project with public realm improvement proposals and the design and delivery of shopfront/property improvements within the area and the T Levels project working alongside Darlington College.

Further updates on the progress against the further six projects within the programme which included the Rail Heritage Quarter, Bank Top, Linear Park, North Road and Northgate House, Edward Pease House and Victoria Road were also given to the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

ER46 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that the work programme for the next Municipal Year would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 30 June 2022

RESOLVED – That the report be received.