

**At a meeting of the PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Mordey in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Bell, Ellis, S. Foster, Gallagher, P. Gibson, Howe, Snowdon, Walton and Wilson.

**Also Present:-**

Councillor D. Tate - Chairman of the Management Scrutiny Committee

**Apologies for Absence**

All Members being present there were no apologies for absence.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 6 – Visit to the Port of Sunderland

Councillor Mordey declared a personal interest in the item as a Member of the Port Board.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2011**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**University City Policy Review 2011/12 – Draft Scoping Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposals in relation to the Committee's forthcoming review into Aim 1 of the Economic Masterplan – A New Kind of University City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report which outlined the proposed terms of reference for the review, potential sources of evidence, methods of enquiry together with a proposed timetable and approach to the review.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 6.2 regarding the potential to nominate a co-opted representative to sit on the Committee for the period of the review. It was suggested that a representative from the University be nominated, given the organisation's excellent reputation for research. The Chairman advised that he would contact the University for a nomination with a view to seeking Council approval of the co-optee appointment at its September meeting.

In addition the Chairman advised that as part of the evidence gathering process he would be keen to canvass the views of students at the university including local, national and international students

2. RESOLVED that the approach and scope of the review be endorsed.

### **University City Policy Review 2011/12 Scene Setting**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out the baseline position in relation to the Committee's policy review into Aim 1 of the Economic Masterplan – A New Kind of University City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Andrew Perkin, Lead Policy Officer for Economy and Sustainability, presented the report advising Members that Aim 1 of the Economic Masterplan set out the aim for Sunderland to be a vibrant, creative and attractive city with a strong learning ethic and a focus on developing and supporting enterprise, with the University at its heart. The key features of Aim 1 were:-

- An Enterprise and Innovation Strategy for the city, developed in partnership with the University in 2010
- The University of Sunderland's support for innovation within key sectors through two facilities: the new Ultra Low Carbon Vehicle Testing and Development Facility and the Sciences Complex.
- Sunderland Software City's new building scheduled to open in 2012
- A comprehensive Communications Strategy, supported by an ambassadors programme for the city
- The Creative Industries Strategy to be developed in 2010 to better support the sector
- A Widening Participation Strategy developed in partnership in 2010 to help raise the profile of both the University and College with residents and schools

The Chairman referred to the Working Group which developed the Enterprise and Innovation Strategy for the City and asked that the Group were able to share their thoughts on the Strategy with the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

In addition the Chairman requested that the Committee undertake visits to the new Ultra Low Carbon Vehicle Testing and Development Facility and to the Sciences Complex.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Perkin for his attendance it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and included as part of the evidence for its policy review.

### **Visit to the Port of Sunderland**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on arrangements for the Committee to undertake a visit to the Port of Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that approval be given for a Committee visit to the Port of Sunderland to be undertaken on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10.00 a.m.

### **Annual Work Programme 2011-2012**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) appending an updated work programme for the Committee's information.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman having advised that he would like to make discussion on Sub National Economic Development the subject of a one off Conference event in October, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the annual work programme be received and noted.

### **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2011 – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 which related to the Prosperity and Economic Development Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and wishing them a safe journey home.

(Signed) M. MORDEY,  
Chairman.