

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor David Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Curran, Dixon, Essl, G. Galbraith, I Galbraith, Marshall, Porthouse, Taylor and Turner.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor D.E Snowdon

Ms Catherine Auld, Head of International Relations, Business Engagement

Mr Paul Callaghan CBE, Director of the Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms Louise Moody, Strategic Plans and Housing Team Manager

Mrs Christine Tilley, Governance Services Team Leader, Sunderland City Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor E. Gibson.

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 10th October, 2017

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 10th October, 2017 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 10th October, 2017 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture Trust

The Director of the Sunderland Museum, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust, Mr Paul Callaghan CBE submitted a report (copy circulated) on the work of the Trust and the key opportunities and challenges it faces moving into the future.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Paul Callaghan CBE, Director of the Sunderland MAC Trust was in attendance and provided the Committee with a detailed presentation on the establishment of the Cultural Spring and its achievements, the Sunderland Cultural Partnership and development of the cultural vision for Sunderland and setting out the key developments the MAC Trust has already undertaken in the city centre and future plans to help develop a Music, Arts and Cultural Quarter to promote cultural activities.

Mr Callaghan also briefed the Committee on the role the MAC Trust is playing in the bid for Sunderland to become UK City of Culture 2021.

Members of the Committee welcomed the presentation, commended the MAC Trust on its achievements so far and wished Mr Callaghan continued success.

The Chairman having thanked Mr Callaghan for his presentation, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and presentation, be received and noted.

International Strategy – Overview and Progress Report

The Head of International Relations, Business Engagement and Investment submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an overview of the city's International Strategy, of the nature and level of activity summarised in the 2016/17 annual report, together with a progress update related to 2017/18 activity.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Catherine Auld, Head of International Relations, Business Engagement provided the Committee with a powerpoint presentation to complement her report highlighting that the overall aim of the International Strategy was underpinned by five key areas of activity which were set out in paragraph 2.3 and that there were three primary areas of benefit: benefits to the city's economy and its businesses; benefits to the city's people and communities; benefits to the city's brand and reputation. Ms Auld proceeded to brief the Committee on the areas of focus to achieve the above benefits.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Auld stated that Brexit was an issue as it was unknown at this stage what the arrangements were going to be but they would look at what opportunities arose. She confirmed that Sunderland University was buying in to the International Strategy and aligning itself with the core objectives. Ms Auld acknowledged there was further work to be done to promote the work being undertaken and advised that she would work with the Communications Team to get more information circulated on the International Strategy and the benefits and achievements generated to date.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Auld for her presentation, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress being made on the International Strategy 2017/2018 activity be received and noted.

Support for Small and Medium Sized Businesses

The Head of International Relations, Business Engagement and Investment submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an overview of the support for small and medium sized businesses in the city through engagement with the Council's Business Investment Team.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Catherine Auld, Head of International Relations, Business Engagement briefed the Committee on the range of support the Business Investment Team was able to provide.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Auld advised that the North East Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) would have data on the number of business Start Ups, however she was able confirm that the number had increased from quarter 1 to quarter 2 and advised that the Council's Business Investment Team's focus was around software and technology. Ms Auld confirmed that there were examples of females in the engineering field in various companies. However there was still some work to do on this. There was a joined up approach in the Council in that the channels were there for Officers from the Business Investment Team to work with different departments such as Licensing, Property, Planning and Regeneration to support businesses as best as they could within the challenge of everyone being stretched to carry out their primary role.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that the BID had been through a challenging time in the last 6-12 months. There was a new focus and they were very clear that they needed quick wins with the new leadership coming into place.

The Chairman thanked Ms Auld for her attendance and it was:

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted that a further update be brought back to the Committee in 9 months' time.

International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan Adoption

The Executive Director of Economy and Place submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek advice and consideration from Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet in relation to the proposed adoption by Council of the joint Area Action Plan (AAP) for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) following an independent examination conducted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Louise Moody, Strategic Plans and Housing Team Manager briefed the Committee on the report and referred Members to the modifications by the Planning Inspectorate to be incorporated into the Adoption version of the AAP detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report. Ms Moody advised that consultation on the proposed main findings took place between 18th September and 30th October 2017 and a total

of 9 representations were received, none of which materially affected the wording of the proposed modifications.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Moody advised that the Plan identified what was needed to make it deliverable. The importance of preserving heritage assets had been recognised with specific mention of the value of the Grade II listed Hylton Grove Bridge being made. There was also a specific requirement for provision for lorry parks and facilities to be made.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee considered the report and endorsed the proposed adoption by Council of the International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan including the Policies Map.

Annual Work Programme 2017/18

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated), setting out the current work programme for the Committee for the 2017-18 municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council highlighted that Mr John Seager, Chief Executive of Siglion would be attending the Committee's meeting in December to provide a progress report on major developments.

6. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

A report providing an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 24th October 2017 (copy circulated), was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,
Chairman.