

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor David Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, M. Dixon, Essl, G. Galbraith, E. Gibson, Marshall, Porthouse, Taylor and Turner.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Hodson

Councillor Kelly (Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Wellness and Culture) in respect of Item 5 – Consultation on the Future Delivery of Library Services

Councillor Dianne Snowdon (Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)

Councillor Wood

Councillor Norma Wright (Chairman of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)

Mrs Fiona Brown, Director of People Services in respect of Item 5 – Consultation on the Future Delivery of Library Services

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer

Ms Alison Fellows, Executive Director of Commercial Development

Ms Sandra Mitchell, Head of Community and Family Wellbeing in respect of Item 5 – Consultation on the Future Delivery of Library Services

Mr Mark Reynolds, IAMP Coordinator for Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils in respect of Item 4 - Advanced Manufacturing Business Park – Progress Report

Mr Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy and Performance in respect of Item 4 - Advanced Manufacturing Business Park – Progress Report

Mrs Christine Tilley, Community Governance Services Team Leader

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Curran and Councillor P. Watson in respect of the item on the Advanced Manufacturing Business Park.

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 19th July 2016

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 19th July, 2016 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 19th July, 2016 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

In response to Councillor Dixon's enquiry as to how much the Council was contributing to the City of Culture Bid, the Chairman advised that partners had each made a contribution of £250,000.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Variation in the Order of Business

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the order of business be changed so that the item on the Consultation on the Future Delivery of Library Services was considered at this point on the agenda.

Consultation on the Future Delivery of Library Services

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) advising that a presentation would be made to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the first phase of consultation on the future delivery of library services, which builds on the vision and principles in the review which was concluded in 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman introduced Councillor Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Wellness and Culture who thanked the Committee for its invitation to attend the Scrutiny Committee that evening and advised that the observations of the Scrutiny Committee would be taken on board.

Ms Sandra Mitchell, Head of Community and Family Wellbeing provided the Committee with a presentation detailing the components of local delivery of library services, setting out the financial position in terms of the overall funding pressures, reductions to the Library Services residual budget and opportunities for in year response, e.g. relocation of the City Library and discussions with external organisations to deliver other services alongside library services.

Ms Mitchell informed of the Consultation Process, advising that the consultation period closed on 21st October and the timetable towards implementation of the new service in April 2017. Ms Mitchell highlighted the two Member consultation events organised for 22nd and 26th September.

In response to Councillor Essl who highlighted concerns from an organisation in respect of room hire, Councillor Kelly advised that other meeting space would be made available to organisations who currently hired rooms.

Councillor Blackburn enquired how residents of Hetton would know about and would be consulted on the future delivery of library services. Ms Mitchell confirmed an

event was taking place at Houghton however she undertook to pick up the issue and look at what could be done in the Hetton area.

Councillor Dixon welcomed the consultation on the future delivery of Library Services and commented that he felt some services in the range of services were valued more than others.

In response to Councillor Porthouse, Councillor Kelly advised that no job losses were expected as part of the review and those working at the Library would be relocating to the museum. Councillor Kelly confirmed that the Council still had an agreement with Tyne and Wear Archives to store materials. He advised that the Council only stored a small amount of archives, 'Local History' and that this would continue. He added however that he would like the City's archives to be available to the people of Sunderland to see as much as possible.

Councillor Kelly referred to the reduction in the number of books going on loan which was down from 318,000 in 2010/11 to 202,000; a reduction of 116,000.

In response to Councillor Wright, Councillor Kelly advised that the proposed move of the City Library was a permanent move and with Heritage Lottery Funding the City Museum and Winter Gardens building would be redesigned to create a museum representative of the City with space for corporate entertainment and hospitality and meetings. The move to the Museum and Winter Gardens was not part of the consultation but was an operational requirement to safeguard the museum as museums were not a statutory service. By bringing the City Library and City Museum together in this way, they would support each other and help with the retention of both. The consultation was about the whole of the museum service and the future of the library service.

Mrs Fiona Brown, Director of People Services added that if the City Library moved that this would be its permanent home and aspirations were to make the museum vibrant with a better cafe and shop etc. to give it a better community viability. It was acknowledged that the City Library site on Fawcett Street was a key site and consideration was being given as to what it could be used for.

Mrs Brown confirmed in response to Councillor Dixon that the Council had started to look at how other cities run their libraries and that there were good examples to consider. There were a couple of branch libraries in the city which were well used and the review would look at how to shape the offer.

Councillor Galbraith enquired what effect the changes in service provision would have on the City of Culture Bid.

Mrs Brown advised that Ms Rebecca Ball, Cultural Bid Director, had in a statement stated that there was an understanding of the difficult financial position the Council was in, that she was supportive of bringing the museum and library services together and did not see this as impacting negatively on the Bid.

In response to the Chairman, Ms Mitchell advised that the consultation in 2013 had acknowledged that the world was changing and the Council was asking as part of the consultation process how people access services, how they access the digital offer and whether it was the Council's or some other, as it was felt there was more

that could be done around this and the consultation would assist the service to ensure it was doing the right things.

Full consideration having been given and the Chairman having thanked the Officers for their attendance and presentation, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information contained in the report and presentation be received and noted and that a further report on the consultation outcomes be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting in November 2016.

Advanced Manufacturing Business Park – Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) asking the Committee to consider the progress being made in relation to the Advanced Manufacturing Business Park.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy and Performance and Mr Mark Reynolds, IAMP Coordinator for Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils provided the Committee with a presentation explaining what the International Advanced Manufacturing Business Park was, the location of the site and advising that it was a key component of Sunderland and South Tyneside's City Deal, where both Councils were working in partnership to secure a policy framework and consent to assemble the required package of land and develop the infrastructure.

Mr Taylor advised of the two distinct but overlapping processes to be followed - the Planning Policy Framework which involved creating an Area Action Plan and the release of land from the Green Belt and obtaining Planning Consent by becoming a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' and obtaining consent through a Development Consent Order.

Mr Reynolds briefed the Committee on the Area Action Plan and the Development Consent Order processes and timescales.

Mrs Alison Fellows, Executive Director of Commercial Development emphasised the importance of the project for the City, the wider region and nationally and the need to get it right.

Mr Taylor advised, in response to Members' questions, that funding for the project amounted to £90m from the public sector, that there was no European funding towards the venture and that by the Autumn Statement it would be known whether the funding had been approved.

In response to Councillor Dianne Snowdon, Mrs Fellows advised that consideration would be given to where to locate facilities for lorry drivers on the site so that they were in the most appropriate place to ensure they were used.

In response to an enquiry concerning the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders from Councillor M. Dixon, Mr Reynolds advised that a need had to be demonstrated that

everything possible had been done to acquire the land before this power could be used.

In response to Councillor Galbraith, Mr Taylor advised that 70% interest in being located on the site was likely to come from the automotive sector, not uniquely in respect of Nissan. The remainder was likely to come from advanced manufacturing, aerospace, engineering; British based international companies.

Full consideration having been given and the Chairman having thanked the Officers for their attendance and presentation, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information detailed in the report and presentation, together with the information brought out during the discussion be received and noted.

Visit to the Port of Sunderland

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) confirming the arrangements for the Committee's visit to the Port of Sunderland on Thursday 15th September, 2016 to be hosted by Mr Mathew Hunt, Port Director and Captain Andrew Ullah, Harbour Master, intended to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the progress being made by the Port of Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the arrangements for the visit be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2016/17

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Member Support submitted a report (copy circulated), attaching for Members' information, a copy of the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2016-17 Council Year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer referred the Committee to the work plan for the year ahead.

Members enquired as to whether a report on the major ICT incident which had occurred earlier that day would be added to the Committee's work plan in view of the cost to the Council of the systems failure.

Mr Diamond advised that he would make enquiries as to which was the most appropriate committee to receive a report providing an explanation as to what had occurred.

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

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

Notice of Key Decisions

A copy of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 23rd August 2016 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. 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.