



Your Ref:
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Date: 16 February 2015

To: **Members of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils Strategic Alliance Joint Committee**

Please attend a meeting of the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee to be held on **Tuesday, 24 February 2015 at 2.00 pm in the Chamber Suites**, The Arc, Clowne, Chesterfield.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Steuberg".

Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest/non statutory interest not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve as a correct record the attached minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee held on 12 January 2015.

4 To consider any other matter which the Chair of the Joint Committee is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency (public session).

5 Exclusion of Public

The Chair to move:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2000). [The category of exempt information is stated after each item].

6 Proposed Staffing Changes to Housing Strategy Teams

To consider the attached report from the Joint Assistant Director – Economic Growth
(Paragraphs 1, 3 & 4)

7 Planning Policy – Next Steps

To consider the attached report from the Joint Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health – **TO FOLLOW**
(Paragraphs 1, 3 & 4)

8 To consider any other matter which the Chair of the Joint Committee is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency (private session).



STRATEGIC ALLIANCE JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee held at North East Derbyshire District Council on Monday, 12 January 2015.

PRESENT:-

Bolsover District Council

Councillor K Bowman
 Councillor D Kelly
 Councillor B Murray-Carr
 Councillor A M Syrett
 Councillor A F Tomlinson

North East Derbyshire District Council

Councillor J Allsop
 Councillor G Baxter MBE (Chair)
 Councillor G Butler
 Councillor S Ellis
 Councillor N Foster
 Councillor M Gordon
 Councillor Mrs E A Hill
 Councillor P R Kerry
 Councillor M E Thacker

Officers

W Lumley	-	Chief Executive Officer
P Hackett	-	Executive Director - Transformation
B Mason	-	Executive Director - Operations
S Brunt	-	Assistant Director - Streetscene
A Westray-Chapman	-	Assistant Director – Economic Growth
J Arnold	-	Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health
S Sternberg	-	Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer
N Smith	-	Principal Solicitor - NEDDC
S Gordon	-	HR and Payroll Manager
M Kane	-	Governance Manager

SA01/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bowler, J Clifton, K Reid and E Watts OBE. Councillor G Baxter, MBE, on behalf of North East Derbyshire District Council, passed on his congratulations to Councillor E Watts OBE for his recent commendation.

SA02/15 **Declarations of Interest**

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

SA03/15 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee held on 4 November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

SA04/15 **Strategic Alliance Agreement to provide Joint Management Services**

The Joint Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, which advised that the Strategic Alliance was coming to the end of its current agreement and sought approval to the renewal of the agreement for a further four year term.

Both councils had agreed to enter a Strategic Alliance agreement to provide joint management services in January 2012. This agreement also covered the establishment of the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee. The agreement lasted for four years from 31 May 2011 and contained no provision for extension. It was therefore for members of the two councils to decide on renewal before the agreement ended.

The new agreement was largely the same as the 2011 version, but with a change at paragraph 3.1 which should read as follows:-

“3.1 This Agreement will start on the Commencement Date and will remain in force for a minimum period of four years and thereafter from year to year subject to the provisions of clauses 11 and 12 below”.

A copy of the proposed agreement was attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED - That:-

- (1) The following clause substitute the existing text at clause 3:-

“This agreement will start on the Commencement Date and will remain in force for a minimum period of four years and thereafter from year to year subject to the provisions of clauses 11 and 12 below.”

- (2) The two councils be recommended to enter into the Strategic Alliance agreement for a further four years from 31 May 2015.

(Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer)

SA05/15 **Chair's Urgent Business (Public Session)**

There were no items of urgency to be considered in the public session of the meeting.

SA06/15 **Exclusion of Public**

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

SA07/15 **Proposed Staffing Changes to Housing Strategy Teams**

The Joint Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director – Economic Growth, which sought agreement to commence a process of consultation concerning an appropriate tier of management to report to the Assistant Director – Economic Growth, which was intended to be the first stage of a wider review of Housing Strategy Teams across both Councils.

The Joint Appointments Panel had appointed an Assistant Director with responsibility for Housing Strategy and Economic Development in December 2014. The structure of both Housing Strategy Teams preceded the approval of a Growth Strategy in the emerging Housing and Economic Development Strategy at each Council. Furthermore, the introduction and development of the Local Enterprise Partnerships placed new demands on services.

There were currently five direct reports to the Assistant Director – Economic Growth, three of which were Housing Strategy Managers. The proposal within the report would put forward a new management tier below the Assistant Director. This would consist of a single Housing Strategy and Growth Manager and Housing Growth Officer. Both posts would operate across both Councils. It was not proposed that Housing Strategy be based within one authority. The respective responsibilities of both posts were set out within the report.

As a result of the proposals, the posts that would be disestablished would be North East Derbyshire's Housing Strategy and Young Persons Manager, North East Derbyshire's Housing Strategy and Older Persons Manager and Bolsover's Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager. The two posts proposed within the report would be subject to a ringfenced recruitment process within the current Housing Strategy Teams at each Council.

Members were supportive of the proposals but requested that a further report be brought back setting out the financial implications of the review.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Consultation be approved to commence with employees on the proposals contained within the report.
- (2) A further report be brought to the next meeting of the Joint Committee setting out the financial implications of the review.
(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

SA08/15 Development of the former Coalite Chemicals Site

The Joint Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director – Economic Growth, which sought Members’ approval for the development of the Regeneration Strategy to secure the remediation and redevelopment of the former Coalite site to the satisfaction of both Councils.

Members were advised of the background to the Coalite site and that, due to it being in private ownership, it had not benefitted from previous government intervention programmes. However, the land ownership did not preclude the authorities from playing a leadership role in the regeneration of the area.

The proposed Regeneration Strategy for the site included the following elements:-

- Identify the site as a key priority within each Councils’ Growth Strategy and Economic Development and Housing Strategies.
- Engage external support with appropriate expertise to assist in the clean up and development.
- Establish a governance structure, internally and externally with partners and stakeholders.
- Develop and agree a vision for the site supported by clear aims and objectives, leading to a Planning Performance Agreement.
- Develop a Regeneration Strategy which scopes different options with associated risk assessment for each.
- Identify resources required for each council to deliver the scheme.
- Identify public and private sector external funding opportunities which could support delivery.
- Have access to appropriate intelligence in order to make informed decisions.
- Agree a communications protocol for all partners involved.

A number of external agencies would need to be engaged with the development of the Regeneration Strategy and these bodies were set out in paragraph 1.6 of the report.

It was understood that ATLAS could provide a facilitation role to establish collaboration through a series of workshops to establish a vision, roles and responsibilities of each partner. Furthermore, the former Chair of EMDA had agreed to work voluntarily as a business ambassador for Bolsover District Council and it would be appropriate to utilise his experience as part of this project.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) Approval be given for Council representatives to meet the owners of Coalite to discuss a collaborative partnership approach to the remediation and redevelopment of all of the site.
- (2) A Coalite Project Control Board (which would be an officer level meeting) be established across the two Councils, chaired by the Chief Executive, to lead and oversee the development of a Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan.
- (3) The services of ATLAS/HCA be engaged to facilitate a workshop with partners to develop and agree a vision for the site which would form the basis of a Strategy and Action Plan.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

SA09/15 Restructure of the Planning Policy Team

Joint Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health, which sought agreement on an updated proposal for a shared Planning Policy Service prior to undertaking consultation with employees at both Councils.

Members had considered a report on proposals to review the current arrangements for service delivery and Planning Policy at both Councils at its meeting on 3 September 2014. At this meeting it was resolved to approve the commencement of consultation with employees on the proposals and that a further report be brought back to the Joint Committee prior to making any recommendation to each Council.

In the period since September 2014 further work had been undertaken to consider the most beneficial arrangements for a shared service and to more fully understand the financial implications. The outcome of this additional work had identified a revised structure to that previously approved for consultation.

The Planning Policy Teams at both Councils were under severe pressure to secure delivery of a Local Plan at the earliest opportunity and both teams had experienced difficulties in setting timetables with any certainty due to a need to address a range of staffing issues. Both Councils had vacancies in their existing structures and the current arrangement with the North East Derbyshire District Council's Planning Policy Manager being seconded part time to Bolsover District Council needed to be resolved on a more permanent basis. Other vacancies within both Council teams had either been left vacant or been backfilled on a temporary basis pending decisions around potential restructuring and service reviews.

It was considered that the current vacancies and resource needs between the two Councils offered a timely opportunity to consider the options for the future delivery of both services. Delegated approval had been secured in October 2014 to enable the temporary sharing of Planning Policy team members between the two Councils to address the resources issue pending a formal decision on shared service arrangements. To date this arrangement had been beneficial to both Councils and it demonstrated how effectively the two teams could work together.

The existing structures at both Councils were set out in the report, together with three options for delivering the future of the service going forward. The implications for each Council were set out within the report. Overall, it was considered that the shared service option offered the most potential benefit for both Councils.

RESOLVED That:-

- (1) The proposals for a shared Planning Policy Team for Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council be endorsed.
- (2) Consultation commence with employees on the proposals set out in the report.
- (3) A further report setting out the outcome of consultation with employees and the location of the proposed shared service be brought back to the Joint Committee prior to a structure being recommended to both Councils for approval and implementation.

(Assistant Director – Planning and Environmental Health)

SA10/15 Chair's Urgent Business (Private Session)

There were no items of urgency to be considered in the private session of the meeting.