

JOINT BOARD

Monday, 10 March, 2014
at Bolsover District Council

Present -

Chesterfield Borough Council

H. Bowen
M. Clinton
M. Evans
N. Johnson
M. Stead
J. Williams

Bolsover District Council

Councillor E Watts
W. Lumley (BDC/NEDDC)

North East Derbyshire District Council

Councillor G. Baxter
G. Galloway
B. Mason
J. Weston

1. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were made.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Burrows, Councillor Terry Gilby and Councillor Betty Hill.

3. **MINUTES**

The notes and the Records of Decision of the Joint Board meeting held on 14 January, 2014, were noted.

4. **NORTH EASTERN DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Working Communities Strategic Project Manager at North East Derbyshire District Council submitted a report providing an update on the work undertaken by the North Eastern Derbyshire Strategic Employment Partnership (NEDSEP).

NEDSEP had been formed in 2011 to maximise employment and training opportunities for local people within north eastern Derbyshire. A review of NEDSEP in 2013 had recommended a more project-focused approach.

Two projects were chosen because of their impact across all three local authority areas. These were the M1 Managed Motorways Project, and the Construction Apprenticeships Training Agency through Chesterfield College.

The Highways Agency's Managed Motorways Project is managed by Costain. NEDSEP had worked in partnership with Costain to secure interviews for local unemployed residents, as operatives and in administrative roles. Pre-employment training was given by Chesterfield College. The project had placed 5 candidates in administrative positions and 20 in operative positions.

Local schools, Chesterfield College and Derby University had also been involved in the project, with site visits, work experience, summer placements and extra-curricular activities.

A case study based on the project had been developed as a promotional tool for NEDSEP. [Post Meeting Note: An updated copy of the case study document was provided by the Working Communities Strategic Project Manager, for circulation with the Minutes.]

The Construction Apprenticeship Trainings Agency (ATA) scheme had been introduced into north eastern Derbyshire. Its objective was to place apprentices with host employers in the construction industry.

The ATA provided support for the apprentices and for the employer, in return for a fee, and the apprentices received a wage paid through the ATA. The ATA had been promoted to construction companies working in north eastern Derbyshire.

Two apprentices had been placed with a construction company working in Eckington and Grassmoor. Case studies of these apprenticeships were being developed, to encourage other young people to become construction apprentices.

Proactive promotion of the value of acquiring construction skills had resulted in positive feedback from both apprentices and employers.

AGREED:

1. That the progress of work undertaken to date be acknowledged.
2. That the case study attached to the report be approved, and used as publicity for other developers and construction

companies, to maximise employment and training opportunities within north eastern Derbyshire.

5. **PROCUREMENT**

The Joint Executive Director of Operations (NEDDC/BDC) gave an update on the current standing of the Shared Procurement Unit.

NEDDC and BDC had given notice to terminate their involvement in the Shared Procurement Unit, led by Bassetlaw District Council. Recruitment to vacant posts at the Unit was still difficult, because of the higher wages being offered by the NHS.

A report was to be considered by NEDDC and BDC recommending approval of a Service Level Agreement for the 2 Councils to join with the Royal Hospital's Procurement Unit in a shared arrangement.

CBC had taken a different approach for now, recruiting their own staff due to the scale and nature of a number of immediate procurement challenges. But, would still consider future joint procurement opportunities.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

6. **DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY**

The Joint Executive Director of Operations (NEDDC/BDC) reported that the joint bid made by the three district councils to DCC for 'Delivering Differently' funding had been unsuccessful. This Government funding had been intended to cover the cost of hiring consultants to advise on joint working.

Other options for joint working were now being explored, within the two-tier local government system, with internal audit and building control acting as pathfinders. There were also other opportunities for cooperation with DCC, for example, council-owned property could be shared, reducing costs.

In Chesterfield, several voluntary organisations were about to move into offices in the Town Hall, including the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and the Law Centre.

It was acknowledged that project staff and other resources would be needed to implement these projects. And, a further application for external funding was therefore planned to be announced 'Transformation Challenge Award'.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

7. **SHEFFIELD CITY REGION/D2N2/LEP**

The Chief Executive of NEDDC/BDC provided an update on the plans by D2(Derby and Derbyshire) to consider the establishment of an Economic Prosperity Board (EPB). A report would be made to the next D2 Joint Committee meeting on 18 March, 2014.

There appeared to be two different 'stronger leadership' options – either moving towards an EPB or towards a combined authority. D2N2 was producing a Strategic Economic Plan which would need to take account of these options.

The current D2 Joint Committee could not of itself be an accountable body, but this role could be taken by a local authority, probably DCC.

An EPB, however, could be an accountable body, taking on the risks and responsibilities, and also having decision-making powers.

Council Leaders would need further information on the practicalities of establishing an EPB, including funding issues, to guide their decision on the best option for north eastern Derbyshire.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

8. **BCN CONSULTANCY (BUILDING CONTROL)**

The Development and Growth Manager at Chesterfield Borough Council submitted a report on the current financial position of BCN, and also outlining the progress being made towards exploring the potential for a strategic approach to providing a joint Building Control service for Derby and Derbyshire.

Implementation of the options for BCN proposed in the Urban Vision Options Appraisal had been deferred until discussions had been held with other district/borough councils in Derbyshire, and with Derby City Council.

Staff at BCN had, however, been given the opportunity to volunteer for redundancy and early retirement. The current needs of the service, and succession planning for the future, were priorities in deciding whether or not to allow staff to take voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

What was pleasing to report was that the financial position of BCN showed a surplus, even when redundancy costs had been included in the accounts.

Six of the nine Derbyshire local authorities had now put forward representatives to explore the possibility of a Derbyshire-wide Building Control Consortium.

It was suggested that independent advice was needed to support the process, and that the first step for the 9 local authorities should be to agree Terms of Reference leading to the procurement of external advisors. The cost of this commission would be met by contributions from each of the 9 authorities. And, the current trading surplus used to cover BDC/NEDDC/CBC's contribution.

The Joint Board thanked the staff at BCN for achieving the surplus in a difficult trading situation in 2013/14.

AGREED:

That the current financial position of BCN as at the end of February 2014, and as shown in the report, be noted.

9. **EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Joint Scrutiny Panel had received a presentation from the Joint Assistant Director of Regeneration for NEDDC/BDC on 21 November, 2013, regarding the Options Appraisal carried out by Urban Vision. The Business Manager, BCN Consultancy, had also participated in the discussion.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel had recommended that the BCN Consultancy be kept in-house. And, had requested that the Scrutiny Panel be invited to comment at an earlier stage in any deliberations on the future of the consortium, so that they could have more influence on decision-making.

The Joint Board agreed that the Scrutiny Panel should be provided with regular updates on the Derbyshire-wide review and that their comments and recommendations should be taken into account during the review process.

AGREED:

That the Joint Scrutiny Panel be provided with regular updates on the Derbyshire-wide review of building control services.