

minutes

Meeting	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Date	7 July 2015 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Diana Meale (Chair)
Roy Allan (Vice-Chair)

Pauline Allan
John Knight
John Wilmott

Stan Heptinstall
John Ogle
Gordon Wheeler

A Alan Rhodes (Ex-Officio)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

A Mr M Chivers – (Alliance Boots)
Ms N Gasson - (Federation of Small Businesses)

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Kate Foale

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Celia Morris	- Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Matt Lockley	- Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Fiona Anderson	- Policy Planning and Corporate Services
Nicola McCoy-Brown	- Policy Planning and Corporate Services
Martin Gately	- Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

OTHER ATTENDEES

Stephanie Moss-Pearce – Beeston BID Manager
Kathy Valdes – Managing Director Digital Unite

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

The following changes of membership for this meeting were noted: Councillor Pauline Allan replaced Councillor Michael Payne for this meeting only.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 June 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

BEESTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Stephanie Moss-Pearce made a presentation to the committee regarding the work of the Business Improvement District (BID). The committee heard that the body was formed four years ago and concentrated on marketing, promotions, business training and networking. The BID is a business led and funded organisation formed to improve a defined commercial area. Since the creation of Beeston BID in late 2010, 146 new BIDs have been created and 70 have gone through to a second term.

Nearby BIDs include: Mansfield, Nottingham, Derby Cathedral Quarter, and St Peter's Quarter and St Peter's Quarter, Loughborough, Hinckley, Lincoln, Coventry and Birmingham.

The BID is funded by the BID levy, which is based on 2% of a business' rateable value, with the average business in Beeston currently paying £250 per annum (although this amount was decreased slightly due to the tramworks). Initiatives run by the BID have included the Monday market, arts and crafts fairs, Let's Go to Beeston magazine, a loyalty card and other incentives.

The BID seeks to ensure that Beeston is a destination for visitors and shoppers and, in addition, has banned nine known offenders from the town centre. The strengths of the BID are that businesses get a say and there is less 'red tape' than there would be if the scheme was run by a local authority.

RESOLVED 2015/030

- 1) That the report and presentation be noted

BETTER BROADBAND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Matt Lockley introduced the report on Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire and Kathy Valdes, Managing Director of Digital Unite gave an overview of their plans for the Nottinghamshire Digital Champions Network (NDCN). The NDCN went live in early May and has a target to recruit 60 Digital Champions across three different roles. The committee heard that 14% of adults in the UK are non-users and this has remained stable since 2013. Digital exclusion is linked to age and demographics. One in seven local residents in Nottinghamshire have never been online.

A successful launch event for the initiative took place on 4th June 2015 at Rufford Country Park and this was attended by over 50 people, attendees included local authority employees, local community groups and town and parish councils.

So far, 34 digital champions have registered for the Network's courses and 8 Digital Champions have completed courses. The heard about Christine Baxter, a Digital Champion who assists computer beginners with learning about sending and receiving email and browsing the internet – as a result of these activities she has received a refurbished Windows laptop.

RESOLVED 2015/031

- 1) That the report and presentation from Digital Unite be noted.
- 2) That the extension of the programme management arrangements to March 2018, subject to a formal review in the winter of 2016-17 be approved.

BROADBAND PETITION

Nicola McCoy-Brown introduced the report on the Broadband Petition.

RESOLVED 2015/032

- 1) That the receipt of the petition be noted
- 2) That the response as set out in the report be sent to the petitioners

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

RESOLVED 2015/033

That:

- 1) That the budget options as outlined in the report be considered
- 2) That the funding priorities as outlined at 7 (a), (b) and (c) of the report be agreed.
- 3) That the funding priorities as outlined at 7 (d), (e), and (f) be funded to a maximum value of £25,000 each.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2015/034

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 16:10 pm

CHAIR