MINUTES
COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Hosted by: Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Present:

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<tr>
<th>Cllr David Bill, Chair</th>
<th>Steve Atkinson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Ann Lucas</td>
<td>Martin Reeves</td>
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<td>Coventry City Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Michael Stanley</td>
<td>Jerry Hutchinson</td>
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<td>North Warwickshire Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Dennis Harvey</td>
<td>Alan Franks</td>
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<td>Nuneaton and Bedworth Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Craig Humphrey</td>
<td>Ian Davis</td>
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<td>Rugby Borough Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Chris Saint</td>
<td>Paul Lankester</td>
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<td>Stratford-on-Avon District Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Les Cable</td>
<td>Chris Elliott</td>
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<td>Warwick District Council</td>
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<td>Cllr Izzi Seccombe</td>
<td>Monica Fogarty</td>
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<td>Jenni Venn, Advisor</td>
<td>Martin Yardley</td>
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<td>Coventry City Council</td>
<td>CW LEP</td>
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<td>Celestine Banks, Minute taker</td>
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Apologies: Cllr Andrew Mobbs (Warwick Council), Jonathan Browning (Chair, CW LEP Board).

39. WELCOME

Cllr Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

40. PRESENTATION BY HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
   – Steve Atkinson

- Hinckley & Bosworth is in South West Leicestershire, bordering Nuneaton and Bedworth (separated by the A5) with a population of 105,000.
- The Council has a gross budget of £50m and a net budget in 2014/15 of £9m.
- It has the tenth lowest district council tax in the country; an increase of 1% in the council tax would accrue only £33,000 in additional revenue.
- 2010/11 to 2014/15 funding down - RSG 63%, core funding 28% and car parking income 20%, but LDF costs up by an estimated £500,000, if go through the whole process.
The Town Centre Masterplan (2005) followed a lack of investment for 25 years.

Regeneration includes a new Leisure Centre, College and bus station/cinema/shops/cafes, the Hinckley Hub, Green Towers and Greenfields developments, the Atkins Building, MIRA and the relocation of the Council depot.

Of the 6-7 new buildings going up, this includes an Enterprise Centre on the Atkins site and business units on the Greenfields site generating income each time for the Council to put towards the next project and to boost the revenue budget.

The Council depot relocation to a smaller site will release a capital receipt of £2.2m, which will help build the new leisure centre.

The Leisure Centre will be built on the site of the old Council offices and is expected to bring in a net average income of £485,000 per annum for 20 years after borrowing costs.

The Hinckley Hub involved the transfer of financial risk to the private sector, with the Council leasing the premises on a shared basis with Leicestershire County Council, Job Centre plus and CAB (from October 2014), all of whom have their local services co-located at the Hub.

Green Towers was previously a derelict youth club but the Council have levered in £4.2m of external funding, by providing £1.2m in capital.

The town centre redevelopment is an £80m scheme which commenced in June and will be completed by November 2015. Sainsburys, the anchor tenant, will be joined by Cineworld and a mix of retailers and restaurants. It is expected that these will bring in £300,000+ per annum in rental income, along with business rates.

The MIRA Technology Park will generate 374 direct and up to 2,000 indirect jobs.

The Council has not made any compulsory redundancies in the last 6 years and none are planned for the next 2 years.

The masterplan includes developing the area around the railway station. Nuckle runs right up to Hinckley.

There has been a change in attitude at the Council towards finance, from being conservative with a small c to being willing to take risks, taking advantage of low cost borrowing.

Overall the total capital cost to the Council has been £30m, with annual savings of £3m, which has released capital financing of £5m. A10% return on investment.

(See copy of slides for further details)

41. Minutes of the previous meeting on 14 May 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
42. **Matters Arising**

32. **City Deal Implementation** – The lease for Cheylesmore House is about to be signed in negotiation with another potential tenant (to absorb surplus space) so the move should take place in August.

34. **Government Consultation on Combined Authorities** – It was confirmed that a joint response had been sent from the Joint Committee.

43. **PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN** – *Martin Yardley*

43.1 **2015/16 monies secured** – The Local Growth Fund bid for 2015/16 was £60m, entering profiled schemes. The latest position is that £18m has been secured for 15/16 extending to £55m up to 2020. The breakdown includes Coventry station and Nucke £20m, Grow-on Space at the Manufacturing Technology Centre at Ansty Park £7m, plus a substantial amount towards skills initiatives.

On the surface this is a good news story. The sub-region has achieved about 30% per capita below the national average.

43.2 **Receipt of funds** - The Government will disburse funds in accordance with Band 3, in advance and on a 3 month basis. Band 1 regions will receive all monies in advance and Band 2 on a 12 monthly basis.

43.3 **Feedback received** – Feedback suggested that the sub-region has received about 20% lower than expected. Officers have requested a meeting with a senior civil servant to explore the specifics.

43.4 **Conditions** - One condition of the funding is that there is a move towards an Economic Prosperity Board which is to be in place by April 2016. The housing review, which is being undertaken, is required by March 2015.

43.5 **Functions/infrastructure** – The sub-region will look at pooling resources around transport, planning policy and inward investment. The CWLEP will be expected to undertake a monitoring role with the SEP and will be accountable on at least a quarterly basis.

43.6 **Remaining funding** – Tom Walker has confirmed that there is £6bn left in the pot. There may be an opportunity to bid for those schemes that were unsuccessful, and there may be the potential to bring forward later schemes. Delivery of schemes and our part of the deal is critical and will bring future success in sourcing funding.

43.7 **Housing review** – A solid framework needs to be created with an understanding of the corridors of growth. There is a need to develop and achieve a better cohesion of communities. The housing review has to be the first piece of work with duty to co-operate concerns managed within the sub-region.

44. **DUTY TO CO-OPERATE: GREEN BELT STUDY** – *Chris Elliott*

There was agreement about the commissioning of the green belt study and the need to consider housing planning at a sub-regional level.
Discussion followed regarding the potential shortfall of available land for housing in Birmingham. Birmingham should go through a sequential test in its own area in the first instance, moving from the centre out. Once non-greenbelt land is exhausted then Birmingham will have to see where else housing can be accommodated.

The duty to co-operate identifies which are the least attractive pieces of greenbelt to take out and helps to provide some idea of capacity. There needs to be a process of continual dialogue and co-operation with each other within the sub-region and neighbours, and a deliverable plan.

**It was moved that the Joint Committee agree the recommendations in this paper amended as follows:**

i) That the Joint Committee endorses the reasoning for the review at Appendix A, and the Brief for the review of the Green Belt as set out at Appendix B.

ii) That the Joint Committee receive a report on the outcome of Stage One and then Stage Two of the Green Belt Review at appropriate future meetings.

iii) That officers take immediate practical steps to implement these decisions.

Cllr Bill proposed and all members agreed unanimously.

45. **MOVING TOWARDS AN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY BOARD**

– **Steve Atkinson**

Discussion followed regarding a formal move to an Economic Prosperity Board (EPB). It was agreed unanimously that the Joint Committee should adopt Economic Prosperity Board status with immediate effect and that this should include Hinckley and Bosworth as a full voting member. It was recognised that it will be for partners to identify how to expedite this formally and Steve Atkinson agreed to work up the detail.

The Joint Committee agreed the need for a holistic, sub-regional Infrastructure Delivery Plan, with clear priorities. This will underpin the delivery of the SEP and also symbolise our partnership maturity.

Reports relating to housing and employment land will be published in the next couple of weeks.

**It was moved that the Joint Committee agree the recommendations in this paper amended as follows:**

i) That the Joint Committee confirms its stated commitment and moves to become an EPB.

ii) That the Joint Committee confirms membership of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as a full voting member of a Coventry/Warwickshire EPB.

iii) That officers led by Steve Atkinson take immediate practical steps to implement this decision by engaging with relevant government departments to accelerate and pre-empt any legislative and procedural requirements.
iv) That officers prepare a report to the next meeting of the Joint Committee, setting out proposals for governance and a support structure to meet the needs of the emerging EPB.

Cllr Bill proposed and all members agreed unanimously.

**Action:** Martin Yardley and Monica Fogarty to work to bring together the Joint Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the sub-region.

**Action:** Steve Atkinson to contact CLG to inform them of the Joint Committee’s intention to become an Economic Prosperity Board with immediate effect and establish how this could be expedited formally by Government.

46. **ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were none.

47. **MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12a to the Act.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

48. **CWLEP BOARD 21 JULY 2014**

There were no further matters to discuss.

49. **ANY OTHER MATTERS OF PRIVATE BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were none.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council. Further details to be advised.

**CHAIR**

Date