

# **PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Monday, 13 January 2020**

**PRESENT** – Councillors: Khonat (*In the Chair*), Gunn, Hardman, Khan, Marrow, McGurk, Rawat and Sidat.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** –

Councillor Phil Riley – Executive Member Growth and Development

**OFFICERS** –

Martin Kelly – Director of Growth and Development

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Batan and Rigby.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Chair advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were unfortunately unavailable and that they would be circulated for approval at the next meeting.

A couple of Members of the Committee expressed their concern that the minutes were not available and requested that they be circulated as soon as possible.

**4 Update on Key Corporate Priorities - Growth and Development**

The Executive Member for Growth and Development gave a verbal update outlining progress on delivery of the Borough's growth ambitions with a particular focus on the following;

**Local Growth Dimensions**

- A solid track record of delivery and innovation including 8 LEP investments valued at c. £30m
- One of the strongest growth rates in the North
- Largest economic centre in Pennine Lancashire
- 5,000 new jobs in the last 3 years, 2000 of those in manufacturing
- 6,000 new homes in planning and delivery
- 10,000 new jobs to follow over the next 10/15 years
- Population increase by 10,000 with the youngest population in the North
- A strong cohort of medium sized businesses and Foreign Owned Companies

## **Key Successes in 2019**

The Committee heard of the progress to date on Strategic Development Sites, with the Executive Member drawing attention to the following successes;

- Former Blackburn Markets Site – the Council was currently considering development options
- Furthergate – Employment Site. This was a gateway into the Town. 6 plots of land being released, 1 currently being tendered for.
- Mill Bank Business Park, Darwen – LEP secured for a new link road which should be completed by 2021. The site will then be opened up for housing and employment sites.
- Blackburn Cinema – Cinema opening early 2020
- Whitebirk Industrial Estate – New facilities completed in 2019 (Hippo Cars and Pets Choice)
- Wainwright Way – construction of Home Bargains scheduled for completion Easter 2020 with two remaining plots marketed for potential users
- Haslingden Road Site – Growth money had been received from the Government via the LEP to procure a developer to deliver housing and key worker accommodation to support the hospital

The Executive Member for Growth and Development then highlighted many of the Council Owned Housing Sites that were being progressed, in the main, as follows;

- Laneside, Shorrock Lane, Blackburn – Great Places had submitted planning application for an affordable housing scheme of 16 dwellings
- Lomond Gardens, Blackburn – tenders had been received, a developer would be developed soon
- Griffin, Blackburn – construction due to commence 2020
- Alaska Street, Blackburn – Places for People on site with an affordable scheme, 73 dwellings
- Roe Lee, Blackburn – Persimmon on site progressing with construction of 155 homes
- Land at Tower Road, Blackburn – Applethwaite completed demolition of former care home and construction due to commence early 2020
- Fishmoor Drive, Blackburn – proposals being published soon

The Committee heard that recent Strategic Events had proved to be very successful, with the recent international Addidas Speziale exhibition bringing in at least 20k visitors. Other events that had been a great success were the second National Festival of Making, the National Textile Biennial, and also Christmas events.

The Committee also heard that links with businesses were growing and that the Council had assisted over 200 local businesses through Assistance to Industry, Boost and Made Smarter Programme. A number of new national and international business operations had also been secured.

### **Growth Opportunities Outlook**

The Committee were given an overview of future potential opportunities of which the following were briefly highlighted;

- Town Centres – Old Market / Thwaites Site, King Georges Hall / Blakey Moor Cultural Quarter, Darwen Towns Deal Opportunity
- New Growth Opportunities – Royal Blackburn Hospital Medipark, M65 Employment Growth, Blackburn Advanced Textiles Park, North Blackburn Housing Growth
- National and International Opportunities – National Festival of Making 2020 and Leveraging international trade and investment links with Middle East and Asia.

### **Moving Forward**

The Executive Member informed the Committee that going forward, growth and infrastructure priorities would be developed, delivered and promoted through the following;

- New Local Plan and Local Transport Plan
- Darwen Investment Plan and Deal Board
- New Blackburn Investment Prospectus and Place Board
- Greater Pennine Collaboration
- New Lancashire Local Industrial Strategy with the LEP
- New Greater Lancashire Plan
- Northern Powerhouse Opportunities
- New National Growth and Infrastructure Funds

### **Progress on Corporate Plan Priorities**

In concluding his verbal update, Councillor Riley informed the Committee that the Performance measures for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 (April to September 2019) for Priority 6 – Strong, growing economy to enable social mobility were rated Green.

The performance rating for Priority 8 - Transparent and effective organisation, was Amber. The Committee heard that work had not quite started but there was a plan.

Positive comments were received from the Committee on progress to date. A lot of ambition had been shown and the Borough was now reaping the rewards which was commendable.

**RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the update and that The Executive Member for Growth and Development be thanked for his update.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chair of the meeting  
at which the minutes were confirmed