

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic & Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	27 th September 2012
TITLE:	Scrutiny Inquiry Day: The River Corridor report
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summary of a Single Day Inquiry2. Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Inquiry Day	

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In late 2010 the Council, acting through the Cabinet member for Economic Development at the time, Councillor Terry Gazzard and the Strategic Director, Development & Major Projects John Betty invited several people with relevant skills and experience interested in the future role of the River Avon to advise the Council on how its potential as a force for regeneration might be achieved. The River Corridor Report was completed in June 2011 by the River Corridor Group. The report covers a whole range of issues relating to the river but is primarily focused on how a range of agencies can work together to improve the river and increase employment along the river corridor in B&NES
- 1.2 The report and findings were taken to the Economic & Community Development Panel meeting in May 2012 (*as the nominated lead PDS Panel for the report*) and asked to undertake its review in its Policy Development role to advise Cabinet on future decisions (if any) with regard to the RCG Reports recommendations. At the meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the response to Cabinet on the best ways to move the recommendation's forward until a special meeting (*Scrutiny Inquiry Day*) was arranged which could thematically condense the report so the Panel could give the adequate scrutiny to each theme and invite all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting.
- 1.3 It has been proposed that the Panel may wish to undertake this in the form of a 'Single Inquiry Day'.
- 1.4 A Single Inquiry Day is one of the most effective mechanisms for the scrutiny of a single topic. This meeting would combine presentations about the current situation with informal discussion groups and finally producing recommendations at the end of the inquiry day for the relevant Cabinet Members.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to:-

- 2.1 Note the Terms of Reference and agree the proposal to have a joint Scrutiny Inquiry Day investigation
- 2.2 Confirm that Councillors Anketell-Jones, Moss and Stevens from the Panel will act as key contacts for the co-ordination of the Single Inquiry day
- 2.3 To make any initial suggestions for invitations to the Inquiry Day

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The enquiry day will be conducted within the resources available to the Economic & Community Development Panel.

Part of the objectives of the meeting will be to identify the financial implications of the proposed options/ models identified.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 The draft Terms of Reference details the purpose and key objectives of undertaking a Scrutiny Inquiry Day investigation into the river corridor report.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

A detailed risk assessment will be undertaken as part of the final agreement of the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 Equalities issues were considered by the Panel as part of their work in formulating the scope of this proposed investigation.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 *Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel; Cabinet Member; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.*

- 7.2 Consultation has happened with relevant Service Officers. More detailed consultation will take place with partner organisations and local businesses during the course of this investigation.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 8.1 *Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations (*

representation and advice will be sought due to the overlap of complex stakeholder issues/ responsibilities at the meeting)

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Donna Vercoe – Policy Development & Scrutiny 01225 396053 Lauren Rushen – Policy Development & Scrutiny 01225 396410 Robin Moss – Chair of the ECD Panel (Robin_Moss@bathnes.gov.uk) Ben Stevens – Vice Chair of the ECD Panel (Ben_Stevens@bathnes.gov.uk)</i>
Background papers	<i>River Corridor Report (Minutes and attached Report and Appendices is available 24th May 12 ECD Panel (Intranet)</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	