

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 26th September, 2013

Present:- Councillors Robin Moss (Chair), Cherry Beath (Vice-Chair), Patrick Anketell-Jones, Brian Simmons, Andrew Furse, Dave Laming, David Martin and Les Kew (substitute for Geoff Ward)

25 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Geoff Ward had sent his apology to the Panel. Councillor Les Kew was substitute for Councillor Ward.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cherry Beath declared an 'other' interest in agenda 11 as she is a Member of the Cultural Forum Board.

29 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

30 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none.

31 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

The Panel commented that there were few recommendations made at the last meeting in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) report and asked if these recommendations had been submitted to the PCC office.

The Democratic Service Officer responded that all recommendations, including the debate, had been included in the minutes and circulated to all recipients, including the PCC, when they were published.

The Panel requested that the Democratic Services Officer check with the PCC office what had happened with the recommendations made by the Panel, in particular 6th recommendation – ‘ To invite Sue Mountstevens to visit night-time economy hotspots in Bath and in North East Somerset’.

32 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Chairman invited Councillor Ben Stevens (Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development) to give an update to the Panel (attached to these minutes).

The Panel made the following points:

Councillor Andrew Furse asked about the Guild co-working hub and asked what the take-up is in number of clients and whether it is working as expected.

Councillor Stevens replied that the initial expression of interest massively outperformed anything that was predicted. It is still too early to report if it is working as expected considering that formal opening was only last night (25th September).

Councillor Furse added he would like for the Panel to monitor this project as it is quite exciting project

Councillor Cherry Beath added that the Guild Hub was instigated by her and backed by the Cabinet during her time as Cabinet Member and she was quite pleased with the progress in these early days. The project had drawn a lot of interest and support from the creative and digital sectors.

Councillor David Martin commented that one of his residents took the opportunity to be in the hub and that they were very enthusiastic with the whole idea – the prospect to work with other people from similar industries and the support available from the facility. Councillor Martin welcomed this initiative from the Council.

Councillor Dave Laming congratulated Councillor Stevens on working closely alongside the River Regeneration Trust. Councillor Laming suggested that the Panel, with the Cabinet Member, could look at the rugby ground proposals which will have some impact on the river.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones asked if looking at options for improving the conditions in which our nationally important archive collections are kept and accessed by the public is for archive kept in the Guildhall.

Councillor Stevens replied he was working with the Bath Abbey and universities to see if they want to combine with the Council, and/or to share best practice, rather than proposing to move our archives away from the city centre.

The Chairman said that he is a Member of the Radstock and Westfield Economic Partnership. The Chairman asked if the trading profit forecast of £758k above the annual target level forecast in the Heritage Services Business Plan is in comparison to last year or if this is a target that was looking over the last 5 years as an average.

Councillor Stevens replied that the target is based on the average was based on previous years not just the previous year. It is a record year not a record rise; there have been more visitors than ever before.

The Chairman asked about the Tourism Levy.

Councillor Stevens replied that he would hope that a report on Tourism Levy will be ready after April 2014. There will be a need for very close working with partners, like Bath Tourism Plus, to make sure that this is deliverable.

Councillor Furse asked if the report on Tourism Levy could include options that were dismissed along with the options that were approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

33 COMMUNITY SAFETY - CONNECTING FAMILIES UPDATE (30 MINUTES)

The Chairman invited Paula Bromley (Connecting Families Manager) to give the presentation to the Panel.

Paula Bromley gave the presentation as included in the report.

Members of the Panel felt that the map showing Connecting Families by Ward should be more specific. Each Ward in Bath and North East Somerset has community pockets where there are more troubled families than in the other areas of Ward. Members of the Panel also commented that this is long term project and it needs to be seen if 16 families who claimed Payment by Results (PbR) will be the same families next year or there will be more families on top of these 16.

Paula Bromley replied that she will circulate a list of troubled families by Ward.

Paula Bromley also said she is working on having more families in terms of the support. The next big project is to create a proper sustainable strategy in terms of the troubled families.

Paula Bromley mentioned, as one of the positives, that Sainsburys has taken one young person from the programme that had no education since they were 14 years old (now they are 16-17 years old) for a 4 week trial.

Members of the Panel asked what is the current process to identify the abuse towards children and how the project works with river dwellers/travellers.

Paula Bromley said that the Council has really good and strong safeguarding policies in place. The Connecting Families team works really closely with the colleagues from safeguarding teams (children and adults). The officers working with troubled families will report straight away if there is any abuse towards children in those families.

Paula Bromley also said that it is not that easy to engage with river dwellers/travellers, considering that they do not have permanent site where they live and invited the Panel to offer any suggestion, or advice, on how to get in touch with those people.

Members of the Panel asked about the use of volunteers for helping with troubled families.

Paula Bromley replied that she would be interested to use volunteers in her team at some point, though not at the present time. Some of the workers are in the potential works and there are quite strict policies in place when working on site with these families. It would be very difficult to put volunteer to work with high dependency family, where there are drug, alcohol or other similar issues.

Paula Bromley added that she was invited to speak at one multi-faith event which will be good opportunity of partnership working with other organisations on this matter.

Members of the Panel asked if there is any resistance from the troubled families to enter this project.

Paula Bromley responded the team approached these families and there are 35 families who signed up. Members of the staff that work in the team are persistent and they will go back and knock or put notes in the door. Though, everything is done by the book. This is voluntary and people don't have to do it if they don't want to.

Members of the Panel asked if the team began to understand the reasons why these families are troubled and how the team manage to get children from these families back to education.

Paula Bromley replied that the team is fortunate to work with the West of England University and looking at the research project. Paula Bromley said that she is really keen to find out triggers what makes families troubled. At the moment, what the team can see is that mental health problems encourage that behaviour.

Paula Bromley also said that it is too early to talk about the education now. It will take time because there is a lot to analyse. More data will be available in 6 months' time.

The Chairman summarised the debate by saying that these is not new modern phenomenon. Troubled families were present for centuries because this is an issue of social problem. The Chairman also said that he is slightly concerned that the exit

strategy was mentioned already as these are generational issues. It is useful to hear that there is a possibility of research that can look back in five or ten years' time with answers on whether this project worked.

The Chairman asked for a further update on Connecting Families for one of the future meetings of the Panel which should include answers on these questions/queries amongst the other information in the report:

- Are there any sanctions if people don't take part?
- Family consent or active participation?
- Are we talking about extended families?
- More details on what Payment by Result means
- More details about child care and protection

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and presentation and to receive a further update at one of the future meetings of the Panel.

34 BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET DIGITAL PROGRAMME (20 MINUTES)

The Chairman invited David Wales (Principal EEB Development Officer) to give a presentation.

David Wales gave the presentation where he highlighted the following points:

- Digital Drivers and Objectives
- Digital Objectives
- Digital Initiatives Framework
- Proposed Initiatives Overview
- Implementations Priorities

A full copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Panel made the following points:

Members of the Panel welcomed the future outlook on the digital initiative though they wanted to know how fibre-optic broadband will assist businesses in terms of retention and growth.

David Wales responded that it all depends on what the specific business need though broadband bandwidth and location are becoming more and more important part of the decision to retain and/or grow business in the area.

The Vice Chair asked what is happening with the spots in Bath which have poor infrastructure (with that poor broadband speed, etc.) and as such they are not popular venues/spots for businesses.

David Wales responded that there are some spots in Bath which still have older telephone exchanges, which means that broadband speed is not great due to use of

older technology, number of connections, distance from exchange, etc. The Council is working with the British Telecom to resolve these issues. The other approach is to use other technologies available, such as mobile broadband (3G, 4G) and also Wi-Fi technology.

Members of the Panel welcomed this information though they felt that the improvements should take place as soon as possible.

Members of the Panel asked what would be Council's role in this programme.

David Wales responded that Council would have a role of enabler, which means would enable the infrastructure for British Telecom.

Members of the Panel asked if the Council is having a power to influence inclusion of broadband infrastructure into new property developments.

David Wales responded that the Council will be looking into influencing planning framework.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the presentation and to receive a further update in near future.

35 S

The Chairman invited David Trigwell (Divisional Director for Planning and Transport) to give a verbal update on the current position regarding the Arts Strategy.

David Trigwell said that he is having, on interim basis, additional responsibilities to oversee Tourism, Leisure and Culture services. The Arts Strategy was scheduled to appear before the Panel but it became apparent that Arts Strategy should be looked together with other strategies in the Council. The strategy landscape in the Council is quite busy with the following strategies to be considered – Events Strategy, Leisure Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Heritage Strategy and also Core Strategy, Transport Strategy, Health & Wellbeing Strategy, etc. David Trigwell felt that it wasn't the right way to address the community by considering the Arts Strategy on its own. The number of the strategies that were considered in isolation will be part of fewer though more comprehensive strategies. It will enable elected Members and community to better understand how these things are related. It is hugely important activity for the Council to get involved. It is about improving the quality of life.

David Trigwell concluded that the Arts Strategy will be included in the Economic Strategy. It is not enough to consider Arts or Tourism Strategy in isolation.

The Chairman commented that he could understand that no particular strategy should exist in isolation but there is a need to start from somewhere, to start the discussion. If the Panel, and community, are given the global picture then there will be no opportunity to go into details. The Chairman also said that the Arts Strategy is a case where particular document/strategy had been withdrawn whilst being consistently requested by the Panel. Budget discussions will be held soon and the

Panel need to see what kind of framework is used when it comes to medium term financial planning. The Panel will be looking at some point of time in these strategies in isolation and then they will be looked as joint item. The Chairman concluded by saying that the Panel requested pieces of work to scrutinise which they consistently do not see because someone do not want the Panel to see those documents.

Councillor Ben Stevens replied that the Cabinet is looking at the wide picture. Councillor Stevens understand the views of the Panel though he welcomed the idea to merge four strategies into one.

The Vice Chair commented that it was vital that officers of the Council work on any strategy in partnership with the community. The community had been consulted on what they think was an Arts Strategy, and it was a surprise that the arts strategy paper did not go to cabinet as expected. The community was consulted and the Council has the right to allocate the funding, and formulate a business plan, but it should have been made clear that this was not the Arts Strategy per se. The Panel needs to have a look at the commissioning process before it is implemented, and the Arts community must be involved in any future arts strategy. There is a worry that the wrong message was sent to the community and concern about what is happening in the interim period.

David Trigwell responded that the strategy will come forward before the Panel although in different format. David Trigwell also said that the word 'strategy' might be the wrong word for now and instead the document should be called action plan, or development plan, or similar.

David Trigwell also said that the way the spending was organised previously in the Council was quite confusing. It was disorganised and it was ad-hoc. What the Council is trying to do at the moment is to agree some process and be more transparent on how we spend public money. There is an interim plan in place and the Council is in process to set the budget for the next year, and one joint strategy is the right way forward.

Councillor Stevens added that the Council is now having holding plan on how the Council is allocating the money from the budget.

Members of the Panel asked how confident the arts organisations are with the interim period at the moment. They need to plan for future, for six or twelve months and with these arrangements there must be some nervousness between those organisations.

Councillor Stevens replied that there is some nervousness amongst some arts organisations. Councillor Stevens had, and will be having, conversations with these organisations and added that after the year of uncertainty, arts groups will be able to have much more confidence in a transparent arts development process.

David Metcalfe (Co-Chair of Bath Cultural Forum) said that he had discussions with Councillor Stevens on these issues. It is interesting that the Council has arts development plan in place. There is some nervousness between members of the Bath Cultural Forum on how this will work in practice. The Forum addressed the Full

Council and also the Cabinet asking for some time for arts organisations to adjust to new arrangements. David Metcalfe also said that the Forum felt that process is transparent and also that he will be looking forward for further discussion with Councillor Stevens and Louise Fradd (Strategic Director for Place) on the strategy issues.

The Chairman concluded the debate by saying that few interesting issues were raised at the meeting, in particular changing relationship of the funding. The Chairman also said that issue of changing funding and how we take partnership organisations along with the change is an issue that could be discussed at the next Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting to discuss what would be the best Panel to debate this matter.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive an update on the Arts Development Plan for January 2014 meeting (date to be confirmed).

36 PANEL WORKPLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the current workplan with the following additions:

- Medium Term Plan and 2014/15 Budget Update Report (November 2013)
- Community Safety: British Transport Police (November 2013)
- Arts Development Plan (January 2014 to be confirmed)
- 'Green' jobs (working title) (date to be confirmed)
- Tourism Levy (date to be confirmed)
- Delivery of the apprenticeships scheme (date to be confirmed)
- River Trust Update (from the Chair of the Trust) (date to be confirmed)
- World heritage site management plan and heritage sites visitors (date to be confirmed)
- City Deal and Local Enterprise Partnership update (date to be confirmed)
- Broadband update (date to be confirmed)
- Connecting Families update (date to be confirmed)

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Economic and Community Development Panel

Cabinet Member Update - Cllr Ben Stevens

Economic Enterprise and Business Development:

- Continued development of an ambitious and vital digital strategy. This includes the CDS rollout as a small part of that jigsaw aimed at improving quality of life across the district (more detail in in later agenda item).
- The Bath Enterprise Area Masterplan brief has gone to consultants, we're looking to appoint in the next month and complete the project by spring 2014
- Bath Quays North and South scoping study (being completed by JLL) is on track to complete in the next couple of months. This will include a marketing document to ensure we can maximise benefit on these sites.
- Radstock and Westfield Economic Partnership agreed the terms of reference for a 3rd party loans provider, and will be going out for expressions of interest in the next month.
- Currently in the process of awarding a new business support services contract. Interviews are being held this week.
- The Guild co-working hub is formally opening tonight/opened last night (25th September). A huge number of people are interested in this exciting project, which really is a prestige piece for the Council.
- Working closely alongside the River Regeneration Trust to give advice on the potential for housing and economic development along the river.
- Continued rolling business visits to ensure we are responding to need.
- I have also become the Council's representative on the BID Board

Tourism (Heritage Services, Destination Management, Arts and Festivals including Film Office):

- Work is continuing on the Visitor Contribution (formerly known as the Tourism Levy), it will be a challenge but this is still on track to be delivered in line with the MTSRP
- Councillor Crossley and I visited the Bottleyard Film Studios just over the border in Bristol. The site is owned by Bristol City Council, so is a key element of the creative industries across the LEP and will be the new home of Deal or No Deal when that resumes shooting. We're already benefitting from this new facility and are investigating better ways of working together.
- The trading profit forecast for financial year 2013/14 totals £4.8 million, £758k above the annual target level forecast in the Heritage Services Business Plan.
- The Temple Precinct will be closed over the low season between November and March for the installation of a new step-free walkway and new interpretation. This is

part of the ongoing programme of investment to improve accessibility and public enjoyment of the site.

- Last week the Roman Baths and Pump Room hosted the autumn ALVA reception and dinner, at which the guest speaker was the Communities Minister and Bath MP, Rt. Hon. Don Foster.
- The latest exit survey, conducted in August 2013, revealed that only 3% (but 9% of local residents) said that charging for the large temporary exhibitions would stop them visiting the Gallery altogether.
- Cllr Crossley has asked me to convene a working party to look at options for improving the conditions in which our nationally-important archive collections are kept and accessed by the public. The working party has yet to have its first meeting but I will report progress back to this Panel as appropriate.

World Heritage Management:

- The 2010-2016 plan has now reached its mid-term position. Progress on the actions within the plan has been solid, with 44% of actions already achieved at the mid-way mark, 38% in progress, 10% not yet underway and 8% awaiting further monitoring information. The actions span across the work of the Council and beyond into partner organisations, and include items such as progression of flood risk measures, transport initiatives and production of planning guidance.
- In January this year a new independent Chair was appointed to lead the World Heritage Site Steering Group. Former Mayor and Councillor Peter Metcalfe took over from former Chairman David Beeton, who held the post for four years. The Council took full responsibility for the Steering Group and therefore the running of the site in 2008 from English Heritage, and has proved very capable in doing so.

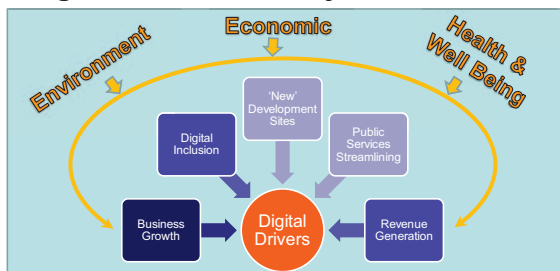
Economic & Community Development PDS Panel

Digital B&NES Update
September 2013
David Wales

Making Bath & North East Somerset an **even** better place to live, work & visit



Digital Drivers and Objectives



Making Bath & North East Somerset an **even** better place to live, work & visit

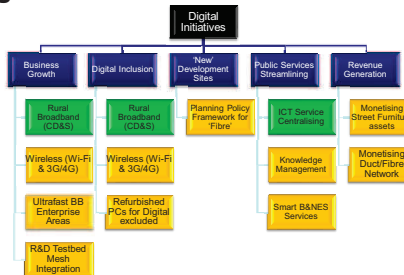
Digital Objectives

- Increase Digital Coverage, Connectivity and Bandwidth in support of Business Retention, Growth and Innovation
- Increase Digital Coverage, Connectivity and Bandwidth across Rural and Urban B&NES to enable Social Inclusion and Community Safety
- Enable Fibre to the Premises for all new development sites
- Enable Revenue Generation through leveraging Assets and Services
- Enable Public Services to be Streamlined into 'Smart' Services

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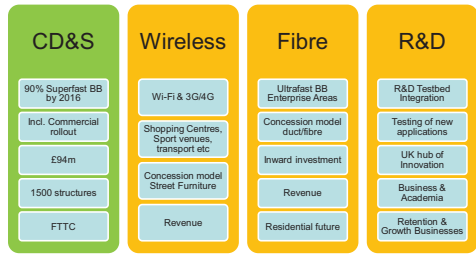


Digital Initiatives Framework



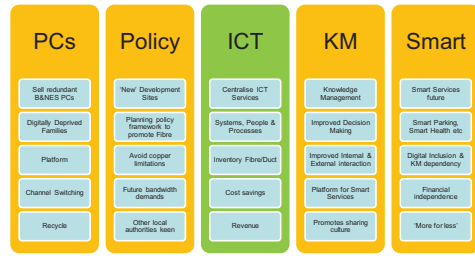
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Proposed Initiatives Overview



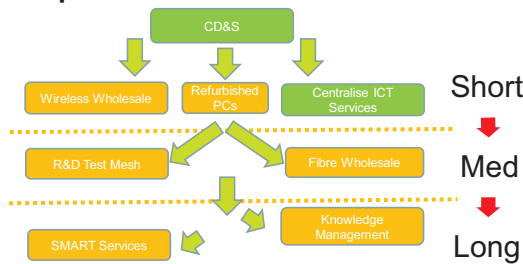
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Proposed Initiatives Overview



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Implementation Priorities



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