

Minutes of Economic Development

Meeting Date: Thursday, 24 March 2022, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chair)

Councillors:

D Berryman	S Farmer
D Birtwhistle	S Fletcher
B Buller	G Mirfin
J Clark	R Thompson
R Elms	

In attendance: Director of Economic Development and Planning

759 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: S Hore, R Bennett, L Edge and M French.

760 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

761 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

762 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

763 WELCOME BACK FUND

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report updating members on the Welcome Back Fund following the resolution of this committee in June 2021.

She reminded members that Ribble Valley had initially been awarded a grant of £53,771 from the fund and put plans in place to enable the high streets to reopen safely. This amount was increased when the Welcome Back Fund was announced.

At the June meeting members had approved for consultants to be appointed to develop longer term strategic action plans for the three retail areas to include engagement with stakeholders to understand emerging issues and explore options for pilot projects. They had also approved the erection of banners, the purchase of temporary gazebos, and the procurement of a local artist to beautify the high streets.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning gave an update on these actions and reported that the consultant's report had been received. She highlighted the action plan included in the report which would form the basis of the Service Centre Action Plans to be developed by the Economic Development team. She also

drew attention to other issues raised in the report and the actions that would be taken arising from these.

Members were reminded of the challenges of using the fund which was very restricted with strict procurement rules that must be adhered to, and strict branding requirements. Any work carried out also had to be done within normal working hours as the fund cannot be used to pay overtime premiums. Any activity is also undertaken at risk with quarterly claims submitted for activity already undertaken.

The report highlighted the activities that the fund had supported so far and members were asked to note that the funding received had not yet all been allocated.

764 REVENUE MONITORING 2021-22

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing committee of the position for the period April 2021 to February 2022 of this year's revenue budget as far as this committee was concerned.

The comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure showed an underspend of £4,456 for the period April 2021 to February 2022. After allowing for transfers to/from earmarked reserves the underspend was £4,454.

765 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-23

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing members of the schemes approved for inclusion in this committee's 2022/23 capital programme.

This committee had an approved 2022/23 capital programme of £51,750 for one scheme.

Any slippage on the schemes in the 2021/22 capital programme would be reported to this committee.

766 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

767 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items under this heading.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Olwen Heap 01200 414408 olwen.heap@ribblevalley.gov.uk.