

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

12 SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWARK BEACON – BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTRE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on progress towards the transfer of the Newark Beacon Business Innovation Centre to 'in-house' management on 1 October 2018.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Following a recommendation from Economic Development Committee, Policy & Finance Committee agreed on 20 June 2018 that on the conclusion of the existing contract with Oxford Innovations that the District Council would bring the management of the BIC back in house. These items were heard as exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Paragraph 3.
- 2.2 It was additionally agreed that a Business Plan setting out the long term aims of the Council in managing the centre be presented to the September Economic Development Committee.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The Business Plan is intended to be a high level document which will guide the detailed management of the centre. Unfortunately whilst progress has been made in developing certain areas of the plan information vital to setting a future pricing strategy has not become available in time. Given the importance of this document and that it sets the future direction for the Beacon for the next 5 years, officers felt that it was important to prepare it in possession of the full facts. It is therefore proposed that the Business Plan be presented to the November Economic Development Committee.
- 3.2 This delay has not affected the wider work in bringing the centre in house. Officers have been working closely with the centre staff (who will be transferring under TUPE regulations to the District Council along with the centre) and the current managing agents Oxford Innovations to ensure that as far as occupiers of the centre are concerned it will be 'business as usual' on 1 October. Key areas of work have focussed on ensuring that the systems which support the management of the centre continue to be in place or where necessary replaced in time for the handover date. The Asset Management Business Unit have been working with the ICT Business Unit to facilitate appropriate solutions.
- 3.3 Staff from the Asset Management Business Unit and the Economic Growth Business Unit have been on site to meet the businesses that occupy the centre and the Economic Growth team intend to be a regular presence on site to provide their key account management services in the building.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 An equalities checklist has determined that better and more efficient management of the BIC has the potential to have a positive socio-economic impact. There are no negative implications anticipated.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- a) the contents of the report are noted; and
- b) the Newark Beacon Business Plan be presented to the November Committee Meeting.

Reason for Recommendations

To ensure that a Business Plan is in place to run the Newark Beacon.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Matthew Norton on Ext 5852 or Steven Syddall on Ext 5385.

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