

## **Economic Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

### **Chairs Report 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

**Allison Gardner**

#### **Business Helpline:**

The review has now been completed following several meetings and presentation of promotional material and strategies to the committee by officers. The report is currently in development for presentation to Cabinet. As a result of the scrutiny process it is pleasing to report that a number of actions have already been implemented and will be included in the report. There was a general feeling by the committee that the focus on business development this year has been a positive direction.

An interim report is to be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March for comment and approval.

#### **Borough Market Review:**

A presentation of the BID website and links to the Markets section of the Borough Council website was conducted by Elaine Burgess to the committee. Cllr Terry Turner and portfolio holder Cllr John Williams were also invited to present their views and plans. Cllr Terry Turner gave a talk on how he sees future developments using information technology and automated payments by traders and Cllr John Williams gave a useful overview of the history and current issues facing the market.

In addition, BID manager Matt Taylor presented his views on how the BID could help promote and support the market. Following this a Market Walkabout was conducted by committee members, officers and the BID manager to look at the market in action and to discuss suggestions made thus far.

Committee members have conducted surveys of market traders and market users, via paper questionnaires and online forums, which are currently being analysed.

Finally, the Commodities policy document is being reviewed in light of the market visits, surveys, interviews and research conducted. An analysis of the cost effectiveness of running the market is also being conducted.

An interim report is expected to be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March for comment and approval.

#### **Growth Deal 3:**

The committee is receiving ongoing reports as to the progress with Growth deal 3, in particular with regards to development at Chatterley Valley.