



Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

J A Barron	B McKeown
B M Cross	A R McNaughton
P C Edgeller	A Nixon
E G R Jones	D P Rouxel
A M Loughran	

Also present:-

Councillors R Kenney - Deputy Leader (Town Centres Regeneration)
J M Pert
A F Reid - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio.

Officers in attendance:-

D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
J Holmes	-	Development Manager
M Manning	-	Enterprise Growth Manager
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

EDP8 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2024, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Councillor J Barron had offered apologies and was substituted by Councillor B McKeown.

EDP9 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D M McNaughton (substituted by Councillor A R McNaughton) and J S Powell (substituted by Councillor B McKeown).

EDP10 Members Items - Councillor F Beatty - Review of the Business Planning Report

Councillor F Beatty raised the quality of the Business Planning Report which had previously been to the committee on 27 June 2024 (Minute EDP4) and Council on 30 July 2024 (Minute C20). She referred Members to the LGA Scrutiny Training which was received 26 September 2023, and the presentation circulated to Members prior to this meeting for information.

Members asked for reports and presentations to be appended to the Minutes.

It was noted that there is a wider review of Scrutiny taking place where Scrutiny Chairmen can discuss the processes with the Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance to ensure consistency across the three scrutiny committees.

- RESOLVED:-
- a) that Democratic Services to arrange an additional Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee in February 2025.
 - b) to feed back the recommendations of the Chairmen's meeting with the Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance to an additional Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee in February 2025.
 - c) that Democratic Services list items for discussion in the next Municipal Year under Future Items, with an approximate month next to it.

EDP11 Development Management Update Presentation

Development Manager provided an update to Members since March 2024.

An Independent Review of the Department is scheduled to commence in November 2024.

Cabinet will look at the introduction of pre-application charges at its December 2024 meeting.

- RESOLVED:-
- a) that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the presentation be noted.
 - b) that a target figure for Enforcement is included in the next Development Management Update.
 - c) that Cabinet are requested to investigate resources to enable Enforcement to reach the target.

- d) that Development Manager includes a breakdown of how many enforcement cases have been pending for given time periods
- e) the Development Manager brings findings of Independent Review to meeting in February 2025.

EDP12 Business Growth Programme Update

Enterprise Growth Manager provided an update regarding initiatives currently under way in Stafford Borough.

It was noted that announcements regarding future funding are awaited from the Budget later this month.

- RESOLVED:-
- a) that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the presentation be noted.
 - b) that Democratic Services add Rural Business Support to the Work Programme.

EDP13 Regeneration Projects Update

Head of Economic Development and Planning provided an update since the last meeting.

It was noted that a Memorandum of Understanding is required before the Station Gateway Project can commence, and this would not be available until after the Budget.

- RESOLVED:-
- a) that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the report be noted.
 - b) that Councillor F Beatty arranges a visit to the History Centre for members.

EDP14 Work Programme

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance, which presented the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meetings up to March 2025.

- RESOLVED:-
- a) to hold an additional meeting in February 2025.
 - b) to add Protecting Our Rivers and Oceans motion to the Work Programme, including an invitation for Water Authorities to attend the meeting.
 - c) that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be approved, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIR