

Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

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

Councillors:

B M Cross

F D J James

E G R Jones

P W Jones

A D Hobbs

B McKeown

D M McNaughton

J S Powell

D P Rouxel

Also present:-

Councillor A F Reid - Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio)

Officers in attendance:-

D Piper - Head of Economic Development and Planning

S Birdi - Development and Policy Manager

J Boulton - Principal Planning Officer

S Moss - Conservation Officer

J Allen - Democratic Services Officer

### **EDP31 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2025, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

### **EDP32 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors P C Edgeller (substituted by Councillor E G R Jones) and A M Loughran (substituted by Councillor A D Hobbs).

### **EDP33 Update from Task and Finish Working Group (Evening Economy)**

Councillor D P Rouxel provided a verbal update from the Task and Finish working group on 27 January.

Members who have not yet sent their findings to send them to Councillor D P Rouxel by 8 April.

Next Task and Finish date to be confirmed.

RESOLVED:- that:

- (a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the verbal update be noted;
- (b) all findings to be sent to Councillor D P Rouxel (if not already sent) by 8 April.

#### **EDP34 Q3 Performance Report**

Head of Economic Development and Planning summarised the report and noted that things have moved on since the report was written.

With reference to the Town Centre transformation scheme, Members asked the Cabinet Member to address the loss of public toilets, although it was noted that there are currently no plans to demolish the existing public toilets. If public toilets are demolished they will be replaced as part of the redevelopment stage.

Principal Planning Officer (JB) to circulate response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation to Members.

Head of Economic Development and Planning to inform Members what day(s) of the week it is best to see Planning Officers in the office

RESOLVED:- that:

- (a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the appendices be noted;
- (b) Cabinet Member addresses the loss of public toilets in the town and to check if there is an agreement that pubs allow the use of their toilets;
- (c) Principal Planning Officer (JB) to circulate response to the NPPF consultation to Members.

#### **EDP35 Stafford Borough Conservation and Heritage**

Principal Planning Officer and Conservation Officer presented the report which highlighted the current conservation and heritage matters.

Conservation Officer offered to host a workshop looking at identified and emerging historic assets.

Conservation Officer to share with Members the link to criteria for Heritage at Risk Register on Historic England website.

RESOLVED:- that:

- (a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the presentation be noted;

- (b) seek Cabinet approval and resources to enable the introduction of a Local Heritage Assets list;
- (c) Conservation Officer offered to host a workshop looking at identified and emerging historic assets.
- (d) To bring item back to scrutiny in January 2027

The Officers were thanked for their comprehensive report and enthusiasm.

#### **EDP36 Planning Enforcement Policy**

Development and Policy Manager presented the report and policy, detailing the process from complaint through to action. The new policy to be implemented from 1 April 2026.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the report and policy be noted.

#### **EDP37 Work Programme**

Head of Economic Development and Planning reminded members of the joint Economic Development and Planning and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 31 March regarding S106.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the report be noted.

CHAIR