

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

L Bakker-Collier

C A Baron

J A Barron

B M Cross

E G R Jones

W J Kemp

D B Price

J K Price

Cabinet Members:-

Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio

Councillor R M Smith - Leisure Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs K Tierney - Head of Development

Mr R Gatensbury - Economic Development Manager

Mrs A Kendall - Deputy Chief Accountant

Mr R Simpson - Customer Services Group Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

EDP15 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 October 2018, having been published in Digest No 248, were submitted and signed.

EDP16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Beatty (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), M E Jennings, R M Sutherland (Substitute E G R Jones) and C V Trowbridge (Substitute D B Price).

EDP17 Economic Growth Strategy and the Visitor Economy

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Development (V2 5/11/18) that advised Members of the proposals to deliver an Economic Growth Strategy which would provide a long term focus for growth and business sector support. One of those sectors was the visitor economy and the report also provided information on the significance of this sector to the local economy.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Head of Development and the Economic Development Manager:-

- Concern that the statistics surrounding the visitor economy were distorted by the inclusion of Trentham Gardens
- Clarification as to how the research into the visitor economy was arranged
- The opportunities for a boating marina at Riverway
- The role of the Destination Management Partnership in the growth of Stafford Borough's visitor economy
- Clarification of the financial value of the visitor economy to Stafford
- The potential for conferencing facilities at Beaconside and the need for further conferencing facilities across the Borough
- The need to promote Stafford as the County town
- The opportunities for Stone to contribute to the Stafford Borough visitor economy
- The need to attract more people to the Borough through events

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

EDP18 **Stafford Town Centre**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Development (V2 5/11/18) that advised Members of the proposals to bring forward inward investment and growth to the Eastgate area, Station Gateway and northern area of Stafford Town Centre.

The Economic Development Manager presented to the Committee the proposals for future Stafford Investment and Development:-

- Town Centre North
- Eastgate
- Station Gateway
- Masterplan Components
- Restoration of Victoria Park
- The Next Steps

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the presentation and report with the Head of Development and the Economic Development Manager:-

- The need to link the proposals with the visitor economy
- The potential contribution Stafford College could make to the town
- The importance of the digital economy to the Borough
- The need to secure the premises to enable the developments particularly for the Station Gateway scheme
- Clarification of the Councils contribution to GVA Consultants

- The future for the Magistrates Court and Police Station buildings in the One Public Estate programme
- The need for all Members to be informed of the proposals

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) The Economic Development Manager be thanked for his presentation;
- (b) the report and presentation to be forwarded to all Members;
- (c) the report be noted.

EDP19 **Fees and Charges Review 2019**

This matter had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 1 November 2018 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 5/11/18) which proposed to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2019.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Deputy Chief Accountant and the Customer Services Group Manager:-

- Clarification of the measure used to calculate the rate of inflation
- The charges for plan printing
- The costs of an investigation of a high hedges complaint
- Local Land Charges
- The freezing of car parking charges
- Clarification of penalties for parking contraventions

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB30/18, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2019 be noted.

EDP20 **Performance Report**

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 2 period up to 30 September 2018.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio), the Head of Development, the Customer Services Group Manager, the Economic Development Manager, and the Deputy Chief Accountant:-

- LI1 - Number of homes built per year - clarification of the annual target

- 1.1.3 - improve and maintain performance of planning and local economy teams from April 2018 for 3 years - a comparison of how performance in this area was previously calculated to that of the present forecast
- 1.4.7 - Provision of new, accessible and safe taxi ranks - clarification of the Clark Street taxi rank in Stafford
- 1.5.1 - Working with the Staffordshire growth Hub, Make It Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire Investment Agency and Stafford Enterprise to support businesses to grow - an explanation of what the £13,000 private investment had achieved
- 1.8.1 - Deliver agreed programme of development - prioritisation of the three proposed sites
- The reasons behind £20,000 lower income from markets
- The reasons behind £10,000 reduced planning fee income
- Clarification of Stafford Town Centre enhancements
- Clarification of the land at Fairway, Stafford

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance and financial management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

EPD21 **Work Programme - Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee**

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration, which presented the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme (V2 5/11/18) for forthcoming meetings up to February 2019.

The Committee noted the following additions to the Work Programme:-

- Economic Growth Strategy - 19 February 2019
- Stafford Indoor Market Task and Finish Review Group - 17 January 2019
- Local Plan Update - To be determined

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (V2 5/11/18) be noted, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN