

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke

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

Councillors:

L Bakker-Collier

C A Baron

B M Cross

A T A Godfrey

M E Jennings

J K Price

R M Sutherland

C V Trowbridge

Cabinet Members:-

Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mr R Lawrence - Head of Development

Mr R Gatensbury - Economic Development Manager

Mr R Simpson - Customer Services Group Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

**EDP1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 February 2018, having been published in Digest No 240, were submitted and signed.

**EDP2 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J A Barron.

**EDP3 Stafford Town Centre Events**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Development (V3 8/6/18) in relation to an update of the events that were due to take place in Stafford Town Centre during 2018.

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

- Clarification of the visitor survey recently undertaken
- The need to identify which retail sectors were experiencing increased sales during an event in Stafford Town Centre
- The need for further events in the town centre during the month of August
- The need for a similar analysis in Stone Town Centre
- An explanation of the Funfair and Seaside Special event due to be held in the town centre between 1 and 5 August 2018
- Potential alternative designs for the Stafford Farmers Market

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

#### EDP4 **Performance Update**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager relating to the performance management for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 4 period up to 31 March 2018.

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

- Clarification of the targets concerning the numbers of determined major and minor planning applications
- The importance of the New Homes Bonus for the Borough
- The need for further information on the Borough concerning the numbers of people of who live and work, migrate to and from and employment statistics
- The need to protect the Borough's Green Belt from development
- An explanation over the increased interest in residential development for the northern part of Stafford Town
- The need for developers to build as many Affordable Homes as possible
- The need for the appropriate infrastructure to support growth, particularly in the health sector
- Congratulations to staff for the effective and efficient processing of major and minor planning applications
- The need to consider the long term viability of Stafford Market in terms of the whole northern part of Stafford Town Centre
- An explanation in the fall of Stafford Town Centre car parking occupancy rates
- Clarification of the occupied premises in Stafford
- Clarification of Stafford Market occupancy rates
- The need for a Retail Capacity Assessment for Stafford Town Centre

- Clarification of the numbers of premises occupied in Stone Town Centre
- Clarification of LI21 - Maintain or better current position within Staffordshire in relation to Job Seekers Allowance Claimants
- The need for further clarification in relation to LI29 - Tree Preservation Order reviews each year
- Clarification of LI31 - % of unreported issues in the public domain pro-actively identified and rectified by staff
- An explanation of the targets set for the delivery of Affordable Homes and the continued need for a 5 year housing land supply to deliver them
- The problems associated with a shared equity scheme
- The Government's definition of Affordable Housing

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.

#### EDP5 **Business Planning Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 15/5/18) which presented Members with a review of the programme of business considered by the Committee in 2017/18.

The Committee were informed that during the last year they had considered a wide variety of issues affecting that supported the Council's Business Objective of delivering sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be approved and submitted as the Annual Report to the Council.

#### EPD6 **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 (4/6/18) for forthcoming meetings up to February 2019.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme (4/6/18) be noted, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN