

Chair - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:

C A Baron

J A Barron

A G Cooper

B M Cross

A S Harp

P A Leason

G P K Pardesi

M Phillips

R M Sutherland

Cabinet Member - Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor J K Price - Environment Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Resources Portfolio

Cabinet Member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Also in Attendance - Councillor A T A Godfrey

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Ms J McCloy - Deputy Chief Accountant

Mr R Simpson - Head of Operations

Miss M Smith - Strategic Business Manager - Development

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

EDP24 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2020, having been published in Digest No 263, were submitted and signed.

EDP25 **Apologies**

An Apology for absence was received from Councillors B McKeown (Substitute C A Baron), J M Pert (Community and Health Portfolio), M J Winnington (Substitute R M Sutherland) and the Head of Development.

EDP26 **Stafford Borough Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2025**

This matter had been considered by Cabinet on 6 February 2020 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Development regarding an update on the changes to the draft Stafford Borough Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2025 following public consultation and approval to adopt the Strategy.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio) and the Strategic Business Manager - Development:-

- Clarification of the projected increase in the growth of the population of Stafford Borough to 2027
- The need to invest in the Borough's town centres
- The outcomes from the MIPIM event
- The need to understand why each hour worked in Staffordshire was nearly a fifth less productive than the national average
- The need for further information on the net number of new additional businesses created
- Clarification that the 11,000 residents who had internet speeds of less than 25mps+ equated to greater than 6% of the Borough population
- The importance of the contribution of the over 60's to the local economy
- Clarification of the footfall through Stafford town centre on weekends when there are no events
- The need for the Visitor Strategy to link into the Economic Growth Strategy
- Clarification over the perceived benefits of a smart motorway
- The suggestions that Eccleshall Show, Stone Food and Drink Festival, Derrington Way Ahead and Staffs Fest be added as case studies to the final document

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet, as set out in Minute No CAB81/20, regarding the draft Stafford Borough Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2025, be noted.

EDP27 **Parking Orders**

This matter had been considered by Cabinet on 6 February 2020 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Operations regarding the objections received during the consultation on the off-street Parking Orders and consideration of the approval and the implementation of the off-street Parking Orders

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio) and the Head of Operations:-

- Concern over the cost of evening and Sunday charges in Stone
- Clarification of the arrangements for the enforcement to cover the additional chargeable hours in Stone
- An explanation as to whether additional Season Tickets could be made available in Stone
- £1 was a minimal cost for overnight and Sunday parking in Stone
- The increases were required in order to maintain the car parks, including the provision of electric charging points
- Clarification over the consultation arrangements for the off-street parking orders
- There had been no increase in car parking charges for a number of years
- An explanation as to why a parking bay could not be used for sleeping, camping, eating or cooking purposes
- The fact that all Stafford car parks were at 100% capacity

Following the discussion, a motion was moved by Councillor P A Leason and seconded by Councillor G P K Pardesi, that the Cabinet be asked to consider the scrapping of the proposed evening and Sunday charges in Stone, and that the potential loss in income be compensated for by increasing the fees and charges for weekday, daytime use.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be lost.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet, as set out in Minute No CAB82/20, regarding the off-street Parking Orders, be noted.

EDP28 **Performance Reporting 2019-20**

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 3 period up to 31 December 2019.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), the Strategic Business Manager - Development and the Deputy Chief Accountant:-

- An explanation that some of the targets listed were statutory
- Confirmation that further information in relation to 1.5.2 - Stafford Brooks Project would be provided once it became available
- An explanation as to why there was a favourable variation for off street reduced rates for car parks
- An explanation of the increased charges for off street parking electricity

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.

EPD29 **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 for forthcoming meetings up to February 2021.

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

EDP30 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to section 100A(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the following item of business was discussed on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A to the Act.

The recording of the meeting was stopped at this point.

EDP31 **Stafford Indoor Market**

Considered the report of the Head of Operations which updated the Committee with the presentations and the recommendations arising from the Stafford Indoor Market Task and Finish Review Working Group.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted and that further meetings of the Stafford Indoor Market Task and Finish Review Working Group be reconvened.

CHAIR