Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 12 November 2019

Chair - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:
A G Cooper  B McKeown
B M Cross  G P K Pardesi
A S Harp  M Phillips
P A Leason  M J Winnington

Cabinet Member - Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor J M Pert - Community and Health Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor J K Price - Environment Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Miss M Smith  -  Strategic Business Manager - Development
Mrs E Fullagar  -  Chief Accountant
Ms J McCloy  -  Deputy Chief Accountant
Mr R Simpson  -  Interim Head of Operations
Mr J Holmes  -  Development Manager
Mr A Yendole  -  Planning Policy Manager
Mr A Bailey  -  Scrutiny Officer

EDP14  Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 August 2019, having been published in Digest No 259, were submitted and signed.

EDP15  Apologies

An Apology for absence was received from Councillor J A Barron, following which the Committee wished her a speedy recovery from her illness.

EDP16  New Local Plan - Introduction

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Development that provided Members with an introduction and presentation on the New Local Plan 2020-2040 including the statutory and policy context, progress to date and on-going member involvement.
The Committee received a presentation from the Planning Policy Manager, which covered the following areas:-

- Introduction
- Statutory and National Policy Framework
- Process of Development Plan
- Neighbourhood Plan Process
- Adopted Plan for Stafford Borough
- Relationship of Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans
- Purpose of the New Local Plan 2020-2040
- New Local Plan Current Progress
- New Local Plan Latest Timetable
- Introducing the Issues and Options Stage
- Community Involvement and Engagement
- Any questions

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, the Development Manager and the Planning Policy Manager:-

- The Relationship between Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan
- The current stage of the Stone Local Plan
- Engagement with Parish Councils
- Government Housing Policy Provision
- The need for additional housing to support economic growth
- Flood Risk Assessments
- The new requirement to complete 408 new houses each year
- Sustainable development
- Viability of Affordable Housing and the requirement for a needs-based assessment
- Clarification that existing Neighbourhood Plans will only need to be amended in those cases where it came into conflict with the new Local Plan
- Clarification of the affects of HS2

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

EDP17 **Fees and Charges Review 2020**

This matter had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 7 November 2019 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Head of Finance (V2 4/11/19) which proposed to the Council the Fees and Charges for 2020.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Chief Accountant and the Interim Head of Operations:-
Short Stay car parking charges
Sunday car parking charges
Disabled car parking charges
Out of hours call out fee
Car parking charges in Stone
Dispensation to park (waiver)

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB48/19, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2020 be noted.

EDP18 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 2 period up to 30 September 2019.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Interim Head of Operations, the Strategic Business Manager - Development and the Deputy Chief Accountant:-

- LI2 - % increase in footfall associated with major events in Stafford Town Centre
- 1.1.3 - Improve and maintain performance of development management and local land charges from April 2018 for 3 years
- Building Control expenditure
- Off Street Parking Services expenditure
- Borough Markets reduced income
- Gypsy and Traveller Site capital provision

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.

EPD19 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 2020.

The Committee noted that the next meeting had been rescheduled to 14 January 2020.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be noted, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.

CHAIR