

Chairman - 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	P Roycroft
P W Jones	M J Winnington
P A Leason	

Cabinet Members:

Councillor R M Smith	- Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio
Councillor F Beatty	- Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
Councillor J M Pert	- Community Portfolio
Councillor C V Trowbridge	- Leisure Portfolio

Also present:

Councillors A M Loughran, A Nixon and A N Pearce

Officers in attendance:

Mrs K Tierney	- Head of Development
Mrs T Redpath	- Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr P Gammon	- Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
Mr R Gatensbury	- Economic Development Manager
Mr J Dean	- Democratic Services Officer

EDP1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2019, as published in Digest No 253, were submitted and signed.

EDP2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J A Barron (substitute P W Jones) and M Phillips (substitute P Roycroft).

EDP3 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in paragraph 3 of the Schedule 12A to the Act.

Recording of the meeting was suspended at this point.

EDP4 Gypsy and Traveller Site Acquisition - Delegated Authority - Called-In Item - Confidential

The following matter had been published in the Members Digest No 256 of 14 June 2019 and had been called in to this Committee by Councillors A T A Godfrey, A Nixon and G P K Pardesi for the following reason:-

“Committee involvement with site acquisition and how sites will be identified.”

Councillor G P K Pardesi set out the reasons behind the call-in of this matter:-

- Was looking for re-assurance that the proposal would be successful;
- Sought clarification regarding the number of pitches, budget provision and timetable;
- Hoped would be seen as a prime opportunity to set an example of best practice and community cohesion.

Karen Tierney, Head of Development provided the following response:-

- Sought to provide up to 20 pitches to future proof provision;
- Budget was sufficient to purchase site - additional funding to be sourced to support provision;
- Was an opportunity to set the tone for future acquisitions.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report:-

- Links to local plan;
- Statutory requirement to provide said sites;
- Was a good opportunity to progress the matter quickly.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the power delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet in reaction to Gypsy and Traveller Site Acquisition - Delegated Authority, as set out in Minute No CAB 13/19, be noted.

Recording of the meeting re-started at this point.

EDP5 Town Centre Development Programme Update

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 13/06/19) updating Members on progress regarding town centre business support and investment activities.

The Economic Development Manager provided a presentation detailing the matter and providing context for regeneration, ongoing town centre initiatives and longer regeneration projects within the Borough.

Links between regeneration and the Stafford Western Access Route (together with the Stafford Gateway Project) were detailed along with the potential for further growth.

During discussions regarding the importance of an integrated transport network, provision of a Stafford town centre bus station was explored.

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

EDP6 Performance Reporting 2018-21

Considered the report of the Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager (V1 14/05/19) updating Members regarding performance reporting for Quarter 4 of 2018-2021, as previously considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 June 2019 (minute no CAB5/19 refers).

The Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager detailed the revised format of the report and highlighted that there were no under performing indicators under the purview of the Committee.

Arising from consideration of the report, Members raised questions relating to the following which were addressed accordingly.

- LI4 Number of jobs created
- LI11 New businesses located in Stafford
- LI1 Number of houses built per year
- LI2 Number of affordable houses built per year
- 1.8.2 Creation of Leisure Centre at Westbridge Park
- 1.7.1 Revise and refresh the Local Plan
- 1.8.1 Deliver agreed programme of development

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

EDP7 Business Planning Report

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Law and Administration (V1 11/06/19) reviewing the programme of business considered by the committee during 2018/19 with a view to the report being submitted to Council.

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

EDP8 Work Programme - Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Law and Administration (V1 11/06/19) setting out the committees work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.

The Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager noted the ongoing development of the Councils Work Flow document which would directly populate future agendas of the Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted, subject to the inclusion of regular reporting of key Economic issues.

CHAIR