

Chairman - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:

J A Barron

M Phillips

B M Cross

M J Winnington

D McNaughton

Also present:-

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

Councillors A T A Godfrey and L Nixon

Officers in attendance:-

Mr A Yendole - Strategic Planning and Placemaking
Manager

Mr J Holmes - Development Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

EDP19 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 November 2021, as previously published on the Council's website, were submitted and signed.

EDP20 Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors C A Baron, E G R Jones and P A Leason.

EDP21 New Local Plan Update

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 26/11/2021) that provide Members with an update on the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

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

- An explanation of the process from the submission of the new Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate to the examination of the proposed new plan
- Clarification over the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Special Area of conservation, and various Local Authorities involved
- Confirmation that the new Local Plan would include all of the relevant planning issues raised in the new Environment Act 2021
- Confirmation that the current Plan for Stafford Borough covers the period 2011 to 2031, and will be replaced by the New Local Plan at the adoption stage, currently scheduled for October 2024
- The need to be firm with developers over the need for electric car charging points and a range of other initiatives to achieve net zero
- The need for rural redundant unusable land to be considered as rural exception sites
- The importance of affordable housing across all of the Borough using a formula that was attainable to all
- The importance of 5G mobile phone reception in rural areas as working from home increased, as well as local facilities & services
- The need for the new plan to address poor design in the Borough and for local authorities to adopt their own design code
- The need for the new plan to push for the gold standard for design
- Clarification that the formal publication of a new plan from July 2023 onwards would carry more weight with future planning applications
- The need for a greater Parish Council input to facilitate the bringing forward of rural exception sites
- Confirmation that the new local plan would lead to more certainty for rural communities as defined by the settlement hierarchy in terms of future new developments
- The importance of not overloading the Borough's infrastructure with too many large developments, particularly at Stafford Town
- Gratitude for the assistance in providing an objection to a large development proposed through the new Local Plan in South Staffordshire that would have significant impact on the Borough
- Clarification to the changes in permitted development rights in town centres and commercial areas
- An explanation of the funding for the new local pan from allocated reserves

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

EDP22 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 the forthcoming meetings up to February 2022.

The Committee discussed the need for an update on the High Street and Markets at the next meeting.

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

CHAIR