

**Minutes of the Economic
Development and Planning Scrutiny
Committee held at the Civic Centre,
Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday
22 June 2021**

Chairman - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:

C A Baron	P W Jones
R J Barron	P A Leason
B M Cross	D McNaughton
A S Harp	M J Winnington
E G R Jones	

Also present:-

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

Cabinet Member - Councillor J M Pert - Community and Health Portfolio

Councillor A T A Godfrey

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs K Tierney	-	Head of Development
Mr R Simpson	-	Head of Operations
Mrs M Manning	-	Senior Investment Manager
Mr A Yendole	-	Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

EDP1 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2021, as published in Digest No 274, were submitted and signed.

EDP2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Phillips (Substitute P W Jones) and J A Barron (Substitute R J Barron).

EDP3 Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring

The Committee considered the performance management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 4 period up to 31 March 2021.

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

- An explanation as to what businesses had been offered £35 million in grants and how this was communicated to them
- An explanation of the £750 payments made to all taxi drivers
- Clarification that the Iron Man event was due to be held on 18 July 2021
- LI3 – Stafford Retail Premises Occupancy Rates – Clarification of the occupancy rates in Stafford Town Centre
- An update on the latest developments concerning the Guildhall Hall Shopping Centre
- 1.1.2 – Continue to supply affordable housing working with Registered Providers and Homes England – An explanation of the demand for affordable housing, the Local Plan process, how it was measured and the split between affordable and social housing
- 1.1.3 - Improve and maintain performance of development management and local land charges from April 2018 for 3 years – An explanation of the performance and the measures in place for improvement, staffing levels and complaints monitoring
- 1.2.5 – Strategic car parking in Stafford and Stone Phase 1 – An update on the progression and installation of charging points for electric vehicles
- 1.2.7 – Source and develop new Gypsy and Traveller sites – an update on the search for new Gypsy and Traveller sites
- 1.3.2 – Promote our visitor economy to demonstrate the offer in the Borough – Clarification of when and how this would be implemented
- 1.3.3 – Unlock economic opportunities in our rural areas – An explanation as to how economic opportunities in rural areas could be unlocked following the Pandemic
- 1.3.4 - Develop access to lifelong learning to create a local workforce with specialist skills that can respond to growth ambitions – An explanation as to how the Borough would respond to its growth ambitions
- 1.5.2 – Stafford Brooks Project – An update on when the Stafford Brooks Project would be delivered
- 1.6.2 - Monitoring of HS2 construction works to ensure approved policies and codes of practice has been implemented – An update on the route that HS2 trains would take through the Borough and how many trains would stop at Stafford station

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

EDP4 Business Planning Report

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (**V1** 06/05/21) which presented Members with a review of the programme of business considered by the Committee in 2019/21.

The Committee noted that during the last Municipal Year they had considered a wide variety of issues affecting the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio.

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

EDP5 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 following aspects of the Work Programme:-

- New Local Plan Update – A report to be received at the next meeting and the need for the Committee to effectively utilise its role in the strategic aspects of the Local Plan process
- Section 106 Agreements Update – The need for a Member training session on all aspects of Section 106 Agreements

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

CHAIR