

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 15 November 2022

Chairman - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:

C A Baron R Kenney
J A Barron D McNaughton
B M Cross J A Nixon
R A James M Phillips

E G R Jones

Also present:-

Cabinet Members:

Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio Councillor M J Winnington - Environment Portfolio

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Councillor A T A Godfrey

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Jordan - Interim Head of Development

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Ms M Manning - Enterprise Growth Manager

Mr A Yendole - Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager

Mr P Beckley - Building Control Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

EDP19 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meetings held on 1 September 2022 and 4 October 2022, as previously published on the Council's website, were submitted.

EDP20 Section 106 Finance - Update

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 08/11/2022) that updated Committee on the current financial position on Section 106 monies associated with developer obligations provided for through the planning process.

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

- Breakdown of the current financial overview
- Project allocations
- Available money by contribution type/theme
- Invoiced funds
- Invoiced money by contribution type/theme
- Future potential funds

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

Councillor E G R Jones declared a personal interest in the following report and continued to participate in the discussion thereon.

EDP21 Economic Growth Development and Regeneration Projects Updates

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 7/11/2022) updating Committee on progress across a number of key development and regeneration projects within Stafford and Stafford Borough.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Interim Head of Development:-

- Market Square Renovation
- Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) Institute of Technology
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund

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

EDP22 Rural Economy Update

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 1/11/2022) that updated Committee on the approach of the Borough Council and partners towards supporting rural communities and the rural economy in Stafford Borough.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), the Interim Head of Development and the Enterprise Growth Manager:-

- Stafford Borough Rural Profile
- Enterprises
- Entrepreneurship
- Community Owned Businesses
- Employment
- Visitor Economy

- Connectivity
- Summary of Current Position
- Our Response

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

EDP23 Fees and Charges Review 2023

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 November 2022 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 26/10/22) in relation to proposed Fees and Charges for 2023.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Chief Accountant:-

- All car parking charges frozen
- All markets charges frozen on the basis of challenging trading environment and the fact that the number of market stalls/sites had fallen

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB34/22, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023 be noted.

EDP24 Quarter 2 Performance Reporting

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 2022.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), the Cabinet Member (Community Portfolio), the Interim Head of Development, the Chief Accountant and the Building Control Manager:-

- Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- LI3 Building Control Applications registered and acknowledged within 3 days of valid receipt
- 1.2.2 Work with registered Providers, Developers and Homes England to deliver 210 affordable homes per year
- 1.2.4 Improve and maintain the performance of local land charges
- The reasons as to why the £236,000 net spending was less than budgeted
- Borough Markets reduced rental income
- Gypsy and Traveller Site

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.

EDP25 Work Programme - Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 31/10/22), which presented the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meetings up to February 2023.

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