

**Minutes of the Economic
Development and Planning Scrutiny
Committee held at the Civic Centre,
Riverside, Stafford on Thursday
1 September 2022**

Chairman - Councillor W J Kemp

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

Councillors:

C A Baron

B M Cross

J Hood

R A James

E G R Jones

D McNaughton

J A Nixon

M Phillips

Also present:-

Cabinet Members:

Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio

Councillor A T A Godfrey

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Jordan - Interim Head of Development

Ms M Smith - Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Manager

Ms J McCloy - Interim Chief Accountant

Mr J Holmes - Development Manager

Mr P Beckley - Building Control Manager

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

EDP8 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 June 2022, as previously published on the Council's website, were submitted.

Following a query in relation to section 106 Agreements and on being put to the vote, the Committee subsequently agreed that the Minutes be signed.

EDP9 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A Barron (Substitute J Hood) and R Kenney.

EDP10 Members Item

The Chairman, Councillor W J Kemp submitted the following item for consideration by the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee in accordance with paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

“Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning Portfolio please report back to the Committee on the opening of the new Business Centre at the Shire Hall?”.

The Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio) accordingly updated the Committee on the opening of the new Business Centre at the Shire Hall.

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

EDP11 Members Item

Councillor J A Nixon submitted the following item for consideration by the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee in accordance with paragraph 2.8 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules:-

“I would like to propose that Stafford and Stone High Street is a permanent agenda item for the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee”.

The Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio) and the Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Manager explained that it would be more beneficial for the Committee to receive regular update reports on the progress across a range of projects and funding streams within the Borough.

It was subsequently move by Councillor R A James and seconded by Councillor B M Cross that the Committee receive regular update reports on the progress across a range of projects and funding streams within the Borough.

On being out to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Committee receive regular update reports on the progress across a range of projects and funding streams within the Borough.

Councillors F Beatty, E G R Jones and J Hood declared a personal interest in the following report and continued to participate in the discussion thereon.

EDP12 Economic Growth Development and Regeneration Projects Updates

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 17/8/2022) update 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 Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), the Interim Head of Development and the Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Manager:-

- Stafford Town Centre Transformation
- Stafford Station Gateway
- Meecebrook Garden community
- Westbridge Park, Stone
- Shire Hall Repurposing
- Staffordshire History centre
- Eastgate
- Stafford College Skills and Innovation Hub
- Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) Institute of Technology
- Levelling Up Fund - Round 2
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund

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

EDP13 Quarter 1 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 1 period up to 30 June 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 Interim Chief Accountant, the Development Manager, the Building Control Manager and the Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Manager:-

- LI2 - Number of new start ups in commercial premises, shared space pr domestic properties
- LI3 - Building Control - Applications registered and acknowledged within 3 days of valid receipt
- 1.1.2 - Work with Registered Providers, Developers and Homes England to deliver 210 affordable homes per year
- 1.2.3 - Improve and maintain performance of Development Management
- 1.2.4 - Improve and maintain performance of local land charges
- 1.3.4 - Stone Leisure

- 1.4.1 - Develop Stafford as a hub of productivity to help business develop, grow and thrive
- Parking increased income £199,000
- Car Allowances £5,000
- Increased Utilities costs (£26,000)
- Increased parking contract costs (£11,000)
- Gypsy and Traveller Site
- Future High Street Fund

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.

EDP14 Work Programme - Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 19/08/22), 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