



Chair - Councillor E G R Jones

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

Councillors:

A G Cooper

A P Edgeller

B Mckeown

A Nixon

G P K Pardesi

M Phillips

C V Trowbridge

Officers in attendance:-

Mr S Manley - Development Management Support Officer

Ms L Pogson - Development Lead

Mr S Owen - Planning Officer

Ms R Hurst - Principal Solicitor

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

PC76 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Beatty (Substitute M Phillips), A D Hobbs and P W Jones.

PC77 Application No 22/36791/FUL - Proposed construction of three new closed houseblocks and one new open houseblock; demolition works; internal fence alterations; PV panels; extensions to carparks; one new Offender Management Unit; two plantrooms, relocation of the Farms and Gardens compound and ancillary development - HMYOI Drake Hall, Swynnerton Road, Sturbridge, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST21 6LQ

(Recommendation Approve, subject to conditions and the completion of planning obligation to pay the fee of £10,000 towards monitoring of the Travel Plan).

Considered the report of the Head of Development regarding this matter.

The Committee viewed the proposal from the Visitor's car park and the Training Centre car park.

The Committee arrived at the site at 10.00 am, departed at 10.18 am and reconvened at the County Buildings at 12.00 pm.

Public speaking on the matter was as follows:-

Ms S Tucker raised the following points during her support for the proposal:-

- There was a substantial need for this proposal
- The Ministry of Justice was due to expand the number of prisoner places by 20,000 by 2027
- There was a need for 500 additional places in Staffordshire
- This proposal represented significant investment in the Borough
- The proposals would provide gender specific accommodation
- The proposal consisted of 4 houseblocks, 3 closed and 1 open
- Permission was sought to increase the prison population by 103 persons
- The proposed operational capacity within the secure boundary would increase from 340 to 418 persons and open facility would increase from 25 to 50 persons
- The existing training facility would be demolished
- Thanked officers for their comprehensive report
- There were no objections to the proposals
- There were no planning policies for prison development
- The proposal was in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework
- The proposal brought benefits such as 103 new prison places, improved resettlement and a 10% biodiversity net gain
- The proposal was acceptable in planning terms

The Committee discussed the application and raised a number of issues, including:-

- Clarification of the Travel Plan for the proposal and the delegated authority for its approval
- Clarification of the parking provision for the proposal
- The need for the open house block to be sympathetic to the surrounding area
- Clarification of the Rehabilitation Block
- Clarification of the biodiversity net gain

It was then subsequently moved by Councillor C V Trowbridge and seconded by Councillor A G Cooper, that Planning Application Number No 22/36791/FUL be delegated authority to approve, subject to conditions and to the completion of a planning obligation to pay the fee of £10,000 towards monitoring of the Travel Plan.

On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- That Planning Application Number No 22/36791/FUL be delegated authority to approve, subject to conditions and to the completion of a planning obligation to pay the fee of £10,000 towards monitoring of the Travel Plan.

.CHAIR