



Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economic Development
and Planning Scrutiny Committee held
at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford
on Tuesday 19 August 2025**

Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

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

Councillors:

B M Cross

P W Jones

A M Loughran

J S Powell

D P Rouxel

M J Winnington

Also present:-

Councillors A F Reid (Cabinet Member - Economic Development and
Planning Portfolio)
J Hood (Cabinet Member - Community Portfolio)
A N Pearce (Cabinet Member - Climate Action and Nature
Recovery Portfolio)
G P K Pardesi (Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio)
J T Rose
A J Sandiford

Officers in attendance:-

D Piper - Head of Economic Development and Planning
J Allen - Democratic Services Officer

EDP14 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2025, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

EDP15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors P C Edgeller (substituted by Councillor M J Winnington), B McKeown and D M McNaughton.

EDP16 Protecting Our Rivers and Oceans Motion

The Chair welcomed the following to the meeting:

Ed Ruane - Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Severn Trent Water
Craig Benson and Paul Jones - Shire Group of Internal Drainage Boards

The Chair noted apologies from:

Roy Stokes - Place Manager Staffordshire, Environment Agency
Andrew Brett - Principal Flood Risk Engineer, Staffordshire County Council

A presentation had been sent by Staffordshire County Council which was circulated for Members to read prior to discussions.

Councillor J Rose raised the initial motion in 2023. He addressed the committee and thanked external members for their attendance, referring for the need for clear communication and the importance of a shared goal. He asked for information regarding capacity of the current system with new developments, and reassurance of the health of the rivers.

Councillor D P Rouxel added that he would like information on the cumulative impact of more housing and more output, and stressed the importance of receiving expert responses to planning application consultations.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning also asked for responses to planning application consultations.

Head of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that Severn Trent Water are a consultee for planning applications but said that the number of responses was limited.

Ed Ruane delivered a presentation to the committee:

- Severn Trent Water is not a statutory consultee. Evidence provided by them would not be used in a judicial review.
- Members were invited to Strongford Sewage Treatment Works
- Councillor enquiry email address cllr.enquiries@severntrent.co.uk

Craig Benson and Paul Jones delivered a presentation:

- IDB's are not statutory consultees and can only comment on drainage. Comments are based on run-off only.
- Details of new model was shared and the detail will come from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust later this year. This will provide an updated picture of flood risks for the area. Planning and developers will have access to this information.

Actions:

- Ed Ruane to provide an update to Councillor J Hood regarding the sewage in the river in Stone.
- Letter to be sent to Environment Agency from the committee stating the disappointment from the committee of their non-attendance.

- Ed Ruane to provide information regarding reservoir expansions.
- Ed Ruane to share information regarding 5 year investment plan.
- Website for sewage map and flooding therivertrust.org/sewage-map
- Councillor Rose to raise any additional points not covered in tonight's meeting with the Cabinet Member.
- Letter to MP asking for water authorities and IDB's to be statutory consultees in planning applications.
- Cabinet to look at original motion again then refer to Council before the end of the year.

The Chair thanked the external speakers for their attendance at the meeting.

CHAIR