

Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

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

Councillors:

K M Aspin

B M Cross

F D J James

P W Jones

B McKeown

D M McNaughton

J S Powell

D P Rouxel

J Thorley

Also present:-

Councillors A F Reid - Cabinet Member (Economic Development and
Planning Portfolio)

R P Cooke - Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio)

Officers in attendance:-

D Piper - Head of Economic Development and Planning

M Smith - Economic Development and Regeneration Manager

A Yendole - Planning Policy Manager

J Allen - Democratic Services Officer

Also present:

L Gibbs - Mondrem

EDP1 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026, as previously circulated,
were approved as a correct record.

EDP2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Nixon (substituted by
Councillor J Thorley) and M Phillips (substituted by Councillor K M Aspin).

EDP3 Development Management Improvement Plan Update

Lucy Gibbs from Mondrem was welcomed to the meeting and delivered a
presentation updating the committee of progress made within the
Development Management section.

It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated with the minutes.

It was noted that the Development Management team had all had an input into the new Customer Charter which is currently being trialled. This was commended by Members of the committee.

The successes of the team were shared and noted that the team are striving to improve further.

It was agreed that Lucy / Dean investigate the portal at Cheshire West Council which has a lot more information available to the public. It was not known what software was used to produce this.

A new Interim Deputy Development Manager has been appointed.

L Gibbs was thanked for attending and for the work done with the team.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the verbal update be noted.

EDP4 Annual Business Report

Head of Economic Development and Planning presented the report which highlighted the work of the three scrutiny committees over the past year.

The Head of Economic Development & Planning to provide feedback from Cabinet (December 2025) regarding the Notice of Motion: Protecting Rivers and Oceans.

A letter to the MP to be written requesting that water authorities and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) should become statutory consultees in planning applications.

Members requested a refresher Biodiversity Net Gain session.

Cabinet to be asked to secure resources to enable a heritage assets list to be produced.

A workshop regarding Heritage Assets had been offered by the Conservation Officer.

RESOLVED:- that:

- a) in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted
- b) the report be recommended for submission to Council

EDP5 New Local Plan Update

Planning Policy Manager delivered a presentation to summarise the report, including the timetable, which had been included within the agenda.

Members were encouraged to ensure community groups communicate their vision through the Local Plan consultation.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the presentation be noted.

EDP6 Stafford Town Centre Development Framework

Economic Development and Regeneration Manager presented the report. Key development areas were highlighted.

The document is designed to attract investors to work alongside the council and includes the parameters of the council.

Concerns were raised regarding losing public toilets, but it was noted that there is no immediate need to do so. Timing for this will depend on emerging plans from the college.

Parking was also raised but it was clarified that the plans shown were indicative and more detail would be available when a development partner was on board. Positive conversations had been taking place with representatives of Trinity Church who had also expressed concerns regarding parking.

Economic Development and Regeneration Manager to investigate if there were any complaints regarding noise from residents already located in the town centre.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the report be noted.

EDP7 Q4 and End of Year Performance Report

Head of Economic Development and Planning summarised the appendices, noting that things have already moved on since the data was captured.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the contents of the appendices be noted.

EDP8 Work Programme

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance presenting the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

The Committee noted that some changes to the Work Programme, with the item on Infrastructure Funding Statement and Section 106 update removed from the agenda. The Chair noted that Section 106 issues were largely in hand, so an item on tourism and Local Plan could be added to the March meeting agenda instead.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the work programme be noted.

CHAIR

Work Programme

Tuesday 6 October 2026 at 6:30pm

Report Deadline: Monday 21 September 2026

Officer Reports:

**Conclusion of Task and Finish Working Group
Evening Economy**
Councillor D P Rouxel

Q1 Performance Report
Head of Economic Development and Planning

**Stafford Regeneration / Masterplan / Stafford Station
Gateway**
Head of Economic Development and Planning / Economic
Development and Regeneration Manager

Work Programme
Head of Law and Governance

Thursday 17 December 2026 at 6:30pm

Report Deadline: Wednesday 2 December 2026

Officer Reports:

Development Management Progress Review
Head of Economic Development and Planning

Q2 Performance Report
Head of Economic Development and Planning

Conservation and Heritage Update
Conservation Officer

Pre-Application Service Update
Head of Economic Development and Planning

Work Programme
Head of Law and Governance

Tuesday 16 March 2027 at 6:30pm

Report Deadline: Monday 1 March 2027

Officer Reports:

Tourism Update

Charlotte Cain - Visitor Economy Partnership Development Manager

Q3 Performance Report

Head of Economic Development and Planning

Local Plan Update

Planning Policy Manager

Updates from Annual Business Reports (feedback from Water Authorities)

Head of Economic Development and Planning

Work Programme

Head of Law and Governance

Future Items:

Development Strategy / Investment Prospectus

Biodiversity Net Gain Workshop

Rural Economy