



Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

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

Councillors:

J A Barron	D M McNaughton
B M Cross	A Nixon
P C Edgeller	D P Rouxel
A M Loughran	

Also present:-

Councillors	R Kenney - Cabinet Member
	A F Reid - Cabinet Member
	L Nixon
	J Pert

Officers in attendance:-

D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
J Holmes	-	Development Management Manager
M Smith	-	Economic Development and Regeneration Manager
A Yendole	-	Planning Policy Manager
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

### **EDP23 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2024, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

### **EDP24 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor E G R Jones.

### **EDP25 Members Items - Councillor F Beatty - Task and Finish-Town Centre Events - Recommendations**

Members gave an update since the last meeting of the Task and Finish Group. Discussions took place regarding:

- Funding for Town Centre Partnership (TCP)
- Stone Traders Group **ACTION** - Councillor R Kenney to contact Richard Stevens to see if he is happy for his contact details to be shared

- Expectations of TCP and SBC regarding events. It was noted that the TCP has been relaunched and it is taking time to become established and for partnerships to develop.
- Any future funding for TCP needs to be monitored to ensure accountability.
- An issue for community groups when organising events is obtaining insurance as they are not covered by SBC insurance.
- Freedom Leisure deliver events as part of their contract with SBC  
**ACTION** - Group to ask Freedom Leisure what its future plan looks like in terms of events.
- Councillor J Barron shared information regarding Street Pastors. Members noted that this was a valuable initiative.
- A new SBC Events Policy is being written. All information will be in one place for ease.
- It was noted that a Travel Plan had been included in a new development close to Stafford Town Centre that included the promotion of home shopping. **ACTION** - Group to contact Highways regarding Travel Plans
- **ACTION** - Group to ask TCP to ask traders to record impact of town centre events.
- **ACTION** - all information shared at Task and Finish meetings to be sent to MS. Next scrutiny meeting to include concluding report and recommendations to Cabinet.

## **EDP26 Development Management Update**

Head of Economic Development and Planning and Development Management Manager delivered a presentation, highlights of which included:

- Number of agency staff has been reduced as per the plan presented to Cabinet in November 2024.
- Chargeable pre-application advice to start this month.
- External consultants commissioned to review the department. The review has started and an update to the scrutiny committee will be provided following its conclusion.
- Information was shared regarding KPI's.

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

**EDP27 Stafford Station Gateway Project Update**

Economic Development and Regeneration Manager provided an update regarding the Stafford Station Gateway Project and summarised items within the report.

Further updates to be shared in the Autumn.

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

**EDP28 Section 106 Update and Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024**

Planning Policy Manager provided a summary to the report showing the latest position regarding S106.

Members requiring specific information regarding their Ward to contact AY outside of the meeting.

It was noted that none of the S106 are nearing the end of ten years since the development took place so are not considered to be vulnerable.

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

**EDP29 Work Programme**

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance, which presented the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meetings.

**ACTION** - add Parking Strategy, Business Growth Update to 13 March meeting

**ACTION**- Remove S106 from March meeting.

**ACTION** - move Local Plan from March to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme, subject to the amendments, be approved.

CHAIR