



Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 10 June 2025

Chairman - Councillor F Beatty

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

Councillors:

B M Cross	P W Jones
P C Edgeller	A M Loughran
A D Hobbs	J S Powell
F D J James	D P Rouxel

Also present:-

Councillors L Nixon, A F Reid and M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:-

G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Place
D Piper	-	Head of Economic Development and Planning
M Smith	-	Economic Development and Regeneration Manager
J Holmes	-	Development Management Manager
A Yendole	-	Planning Policy Manager
J Boulton	-	Principal Planning Officer
C Hyde	-	Assistant Planner (Planning Policy)
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

L Gibbs	-	Head of Client Solutions, Mondrem Group (via Teams, Minute No EDP3 only)
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Prior to commencing the meeting the Chairman welcomed those Members recently appointed to the Committee.

EDP1 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2025, as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record.

EDP2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B McKeown and D M McNaughton (substituted by Councillor A D Hobbs).

EDP3 Planning External Review Feedback

Lucy Gibbs, Head of Client Solutions, Mondrem Group, joined the meeting via Teams and led Members through the summary of the Development Management Improvement Project as recently considered by Cabinet, noting that the full report was available on the Council's website.

Members were encouraged to raise any issues arising from the presentation and summary report, with Officers responding accordingly queries relating to:-

- Pre-application charging schedule
- Impact of agile working
- Work in progress/productivity
- Project charter
- Planning Enforcement

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the content of the presentation be noted;
- (b) the comments of the Deputy Chief Executive - Place and the Head of Economic Development and Planning be noted;
- (c) a report detailing enforcement policy and protocol be submitted to the 1 October 2025 meeting of the Committee.

Councillor A F Reid thanked the Development Management Manager and his Team for their support in this area of work.

EDP4 New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Considered the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning updating the Committee on the new Local Plan 2025 - 2045 and associated documentation including new requirements and implications of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024, the latest evidence-based information and the Local Development Scheme.

The Planning Policy Manager confirmed that the Council does continue to hold an adopted plan, and that the process to introduce said new plan was a corporate priority. Continuing, Mr Yendole detailed the significant changes to national policy from December 2024 onwards, including the potential impact of Local Government Reorganisation, much of which was unknown at this point (further detail was expected from central government at the end of 2025).

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) a progress report regarding this matter be submitted to the 1 October 2025 meeting of the Committee.

EDP5 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme 2022-25

Considered the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning updating Members on the completed delivery of the UKSPF programme for 2022-2025.

The Economic Development and Regeneration Manager detailed the content of paragraph 5 of the report and confirmed that work had commenced on the 2025/26 programme, to be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

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

The Head of Economic Development and Planning thanked colleagues for their excellent work in delivering the UKPSF programme and utilising the full allocation of funding. The Chairman duly passed on her thanks and that of the Committee to those Officers in bringing such success in this area of work

EDP6 Work Programme

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance presenting the Committee's Work Programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.

The Chairman invited Members to comment on the proposed work programme and to suggest dates for consideration of those items put forward.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the 2025/26 work programme be set as follows (subject to further amendment and inclusion of statutory business):-

2 July 2025

Presentation - Tourism/Visitor Economy/Investment
Notice of Motion - Protecting our Rivers and Oceans

Business Planning Report

1 October 2025

Enforcement policy and protocol
New Local Plan progress report

Updates:-

- Gateway
- S106
- Solar farms
- UKSPF
- Development Strategy

18 December 2025

Masterplan (including Parking Strategy)(Joint with
Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)
Historic Buildings, conservation areas, listing policies
Cumulative Impact Assessment Report (Staffordshire
Police Chief Inspector Giles Parsons)

19 March 2026

BNG update
Development Management - Progress Review

CHAIR