

Committee Name: Economic Development & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr David Stringer

Vice-Chair: Cllr Sophia Baker

Portfolio Holder(s) Covering the Committee's Remit:

Cllr Terry Turner – Economic Regeneration, Business & Town Centres

Cllr Mike Stubbs – Finance and Resources

Date of Meeting	Topic	Outcomes / Recommendations	Further Action Required / Feedback
26 th June 2013	Newcastle Economic Development Strategy - Year Two Action Plan and Year One Review	<p>The Regeneration and Economic Development Manager undertook to give a written response to a number of questions from Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assistance was available for graduate business start-up, • An age breakdown of FEI customers • Some information on what the Council was doing to promote Apedale County Park and the Borough generally for tourism • An update on talent match and the total number of apprenticeships as part of the 100 in 100 event. <p>The Chair requested an idiot's guide to the main strategies for Members' use with the key points for each strategy incorporated.</p> <p>The Chair asked that a simplified version of the Action Plan be made available to all Elected Members and that the Year Two Action Plan should have more definitive deadlines for the</p>	Updates to continue to be received on the action plan.

		expected completion of individual Actions.	
	Cabinet Meeting July 2013	<p>(a) That receipt of comments from the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.</p> <p>(b) That the review of the Economic Development Strategy Year One Action Plan be noted and that the Year Two Action Plan be approved.</p> <p>(c) That officers continue to seek Members' approval for the annual Action Plans and to keep Members informed of progress made with the same.</p>	
	(10 th September 2013)	<p>Modified Action Plan considered:</p> <p>That the revisions made to the Borough's Economic Development Strategy Year Two Action Plan be endorsed.</p> <p>That the Committee supports the formulation of a simple guide to accompany the Economic Development Action Plan.</p>	
	Town Centre Partnership Business Plan	That a representative from the Town Centre Partnership be invited to the Committee in approximately six months time	
	Broadband	The Committee was pleased to have read that the County Council would invest £7.83m, BDUK £7.4m and BT £12.47m over the lifetime of the project.	
	(12 th March 2014)	Update from Paul Chatwin at SCC – still nothing to report regarding Broadband but this is about to change and an update should be available by the end of March 2014.	Paul Chatwin to attend future meeting of the Committee. superfaststaffordshire.co.uk
	Home Improvement Agency	Options for the future of the Service considered.	

	Services	The Scrutiny Committee recommended Option C – Retender the Home Improvement Agency Services in partnership with Staffordshire County Council.	
10th September 2013	HS2 Working Group	The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, who was also the Chair of the HS2 Working Group, gave a status update on the work of the group. Their task had been to examine the available evidence and to determine if HS2 would be beneficial to the Borough. The Group had been unable to establish any substantial benefits outweighing the negative consequences.	
	(4 th November 2013)	First Preliminary Report Received. That the report and recommendations from the HS2 Working Group be endorsed and be presented to Council on the 27 November 2013.	
	COUNCIL MEETING 27 th November 2013	That the Council oppose the HS2 proposals. In so doing, it should join forces with Staffordshire County and the other Councils within Staffordshire to establish a joint policy of opposition but not necessarily link in with any national protest movement. However in the event that the scheme is given assent in Parliament the following recommendations are made: 1. That the Council should work with the relevant parties to ensure that the environmental impact is kept to a minimum. Wherever possible land should be restored to its original condition after the completion of construction 2. That the Council should work with the relevant	

		<p>parties to ensure that compensation is full and fair with particular reference to those who live outside the area where compensation is automatic and those who are owners of agricultural land</p> <p>3. That the Council should work with Network Rail to ensure that the provision of train services to London from Stoke are as frequent as possible. Also that quality commuter services are initiated at the earliest possible opportunity.</p> <p>4. That the Council should continue to seek opportunities to enhance the development of business and employment that may arise from the rail network.</p>	
	(12 th March 2014)	<p>Working Group reconvened following new proposal from Stoke on Trent City Council and request for the Working Group to consider these proposals.</p> <p>'Cautious Welcome' of the Stoke proposals but no change to official Council Stance - continue to monitor and consult with the City Council.</p>	<p>Comments from the Committee to be passed to Cabinet June 2014.</p>
	JCB and Blue Planet	<p>The Committee noted the contents of the report and took on board the good lessons learnt for the future.</p>	<p>Cabinet decision 18th September 2013</p>
	Local Enterprise Partnership Planning Charter	<p>Interim report received and noted.</p>	<p>Officers would meet with LEP consultants and bring forward proposals on the steps that were likely to be required to achieve Planning Charter Mark Status. The Planning Committee would also be asked for its views.</p>

<p>4th November 2013</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder Question Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ryecroft development was a key priority and part of this work was the relocation of the main Council Offices. • A significant piece of work was taking place on the Asset Management Strategy. • A report on the process for preparing a new Local Plan would be received by Cabinet in December. There was clearly a decision to be made on whether the Council should join in collaboration with Stoke-on-Trent City Council. 	
	<p>Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnerships</p>	<p>Members asked the Portfolio Holder if he had any figures on business closures in Kidsgrove since the partnership had formed. The Portfolio Holder said he would endeavour to obtain the data.</p>	
<p>17th December 2013</p>	<p>Aspire Board Membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council's representative on the Aspire Board should be a Member of the Executive and that they are able to nominate a substitute. • That adequate training be given to the Council's representative on the Board. 	<p>Cabinet decision 15th January</p>
	<p>Housing Capital Programme</p>	<p>Recommended that funding be allocated as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Schemes • DFGs - £350,000 • Health & Safety - £50,000 • Home Improvement Agency - £13,000 • Optional Schemes • Additional support for Health and Safety - 	<p>Cabinet decision 15th January</p>

		<p>£30,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency measures through the Energy Service Provider - £20,000 • Empty Homes - £20,000 • Accredited and Licensed Landlords Support - £32,000 • Affordable Housing - £100,000 • Stock Condition Survey - £0 <p>After discussion about the use of virements, if a particular funding allocation was being under used, it was:-</p> <p>Recommended that the Portfolio Holder be given the power in conjunction with officers to authorise virements for use of the New Home Bonus funding together with the £100,000 valued land to be disposed of for delivering affordable housing.</p> <p>A Member suggested that the credited landlord scheme should be scrutinised in the future.</p>	
	Ryecroft	The Chairman stated that the report referenced the potential for meeting Cushman and Wakefield who had been advising the Council on the scheme at its next meeting on 12 March. It was agreed that if this did prove to be an appropriate time to meet the consultants then the commencement time of the meeting could be at 6pm.	Cushman and Wakefield to be invited to a future meeting after annual council 2014.
	Asset Management Strategy	Comments passed to Cabinet	Cabinet decision – Asset Management Strategy approved 15 th January

			2014.
2nd January 2014	Call in regarding the Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent City Council.	That the call in be rejected and the original decision taken by the Cabinet now take effect	
6th February 2014	Call in regarding the Asset Management Strategy	That the call in be rejected and the original decision taken by the Cabinet now take effect	
	Call in regarding the Newcastle Housing Advice Service Housing Contract Award	That the call in be rejected and the original decision taken by the Cabinet now take effect	
12th March 2014	Economic Development Strategy Draft Year 3 Action Plan and Year 2 Review	Committee highlighted crucial areas and pinpointed action points for prioritisation.	

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Task and Finish Groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 Working Group • Town Centre Car Parking - complete
Future Task and Finish Groups:	
Suggestions for Potential Future Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Economic Development Strategy – on going • Community Infrastructure Levy • Newcastle Housing Advice Contract

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Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for:

- Building Control
- Design and heritage champion
- Economic development
- External regeneration funding
- Housing and homelessness

- Inward investment/marketing
- Land and property (asset management)
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Planning policy and development control
- Transport strategy and policy (planning)