

Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

December 3rd 2014

Newcastle Town Centre Partnership

A report on performance during Quarter 3 was received. It was pleasing to note that Property Vacancies in the Town Centre had dropped and that special activities – especially in connection with the Christmas period – continued to be successful. Unfortunately trading is generally below the national average – particularly with relation to Cards, Jewellery and Food – according to Retail Index data.

Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

The Chair's report was received but, as the Chair was unable to attend, it was difficult to ask meaningful questions. There remain some concerns regarding the use of the money provided by the Borough to support Go Kidsgrove enterprises and the CIC has been asked to provide a full financial statement to the next EDE meeting.

Newcastle Housing Advice Monitoring

The statistics for Quarter 2 were received. It was generally acknowledged that Performance Indicator targets were being met.

Joint Housing Allocations Policy Review

This concerns the review of the Assessment of Registered Provider Tenants and the administration of the Housing Register. The consultation progress was discussed and was generally favourably viewed.

Newcastles Of The World

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet that financial support to this organisation should cease.

Ryecroft Development

The Committee examined the development proposals from three prospective developers. It was decided to recommend to Cabinet that the developer of the scheme that is offering an interesting mix of retail and residential use should be given Preferred Developer status.

Portfolio Holder's Question Time

An interesting and informative question and answer session was held.

HS2

It was agreed that the HS2 Working Group should meet to discuss the Secretary of State's decision to safeguard the section from Fradley to Crewe. The purpose of that meeting would be to recommend a response that could be used by the Borough in the consultation process.

Dave Stringer

Chair