



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Chair: Councillor Dave Stringer

Vice Chair: Councillor Mrs Gill Williams

Portfolio Holder(s) covering the Committee's remit:

**Councillor Terry Turner (Economic Development, Town Centres, Business
and Customer Services)**

Councillor John Williams (Planning and Assets)

Date of Meeting	Topic	Outcomes/Recommendations	Further Action Required/Feedback
Wednesday 2nd July 2014	Update on the Economic Development Strategy/ Year 3 Action Plan	<p>Members were updated on a resolution to an item Scrutiny submitted to Cabinet on the 18th June 2014 relating to the Economic Development Strategy/Year 3 Action Plan.</p> <p>Resolved:- That the Economic Development Strategy Year 3 Action Plan be approved and adopted as the basis for the Council's work over the next twelve months to promote the economic development of the Borough and bring new jobs to the area</p>	Cabinet agreed on the 18 th June 2014 that the Economic Development Strategy Year 3 Action Plan be approved and adopted
	Superfast Broadband	<p>Paul Chatwin, Project Manager from Superfast Broadband attended the meeting to provide an update on the Superfast Staffordshire project. He reported that the Superfast Staffordshire project was now in the process of fibre enabling approximately 500 existing cabinets within the project intervention area. Nearly 10,000 premises would have access to the superfast broadband network by the end of September 2014 and a further 80,000 by 2016</p> <p>Resolved:- That the Committee receive the report.</p>	A written update report to be submitted to Scrutiny on the 18 th March 2015
	Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre Partnership	<p>The Head of Housing and Regeneration gave a review of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre Partnership Business Plan and asked for Scrutiny to consider the key objectives of the Business Plan.</p> <p>The five key objectives were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategic partnerships • Improve marketing, communication and promotions • Improve safety and security • Improve economic viability and inward investment • Improve access and the environment 	<p>The latest trading and footfall figures for the Town Centre Partnership were presented, but these statistics were indecipherable to the Committee so it was agreed to postpone discussion to the next meeting.</p> <p>Trading and footfall figures were presented to Scrutiny on the 3rd December 2014 by the Chair of the Town Centre Partnership, Quarter 3 Chair's Report and</p>

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Wednesday 2nd July 2014 Cont'd ...		<p>Resolved:- That the Key Performance Indicators listed below are presented to the next Scrutiny meeting on Wednesday 3rd September 2014:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall monitoring • Property Vacancy Rate • Trading figures 	<p>received by the Committee</p>
	<p>Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership</p>	<p>Councillor Mrs Elsie Bates, representative of the Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership gave an update on the Kidsgrove Town Centre Community Interest Company Business Plan.</p> <p>Like Newcastle, the Kidsgrove Town Centre Community Interest Company Business Plan was established to be a private sector led initiative. It had been set up as a Community Interest Company, which was incorporated in September 2013. The small Board of Directors comprised representatives from local businesses, the town Council and the Borough Council. The use of sub groups allowed the Board to give voice to a much wider audience, build on people's interests and to draw on expertise in specific areas</p> <p>Resolved:- That Councillor Mrs Elsie Bates produce a report to the next Scrutiny Committee on Monday 3rd September 2014 outlining progress to date, particularly the steps to be taken to strengthen private sector membership and leadership of the company</p>	<p>An Action Plan for Kidsgrove Town Centre was presented to Scrutiny on the 3rd September 2014. However despite requests for attendance neither the Borough Council's representative on the CIC nor the Chair of the CIC were present. As a number of Members had expressed a wish to ask questions of clarification it was decided to postpone discussion on this item to the next meeting.</p> <p>An update report was provided by the Borough Council's representative of Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership to Scrutiny on the 3rd December 2014 and resolved that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balance sheet is produced at the next meeting to be held on 18th March 2015 showing how the £10,000 had been invested and the future aspirations of Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

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	Ryecroft Regeneration Project	<p>The Executive Director for Regeneration and Development gave a position update as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition works of the former Sainsbury's store and multi-storey car park had been completed well within the timescale and budget parameters that were agreed; • The two Councils had shortlisted three prospective development companies as potential preferred partners to take the retail-led regeneration project forward; • The shortlisted companies were Henry Davidson Developments; St Modwen and a consortium led by Zerum Consult; • The selection process involved the said companies making presentations to a joint steering group from the two Councils on the 11th June 2014, including the Portfolio Holder's attendance as an observer. <p>It was anticipated that the two Councils would be in a position to decide upon the outcome of the process by September 2014.</p> <p>Resolved:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That Members' note the information and agree to receive a further report at the earliest opportunity. (b) That members agreed in principle to hold a joint meeting with members of the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to review the matter. 	<p>A further update was provided to Scrutiny on the 3rd December 2014 where Committee were in agreement for Cabinet to be advised that the selection of Developer A as the preferred development partner for the Ryecroft scheme.</p> <p>Cabinet resolved on the 10th December 2014:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That, taking account of the commercially sensitive and confidential information contained in Part 2 report, the selection of Developer A as preferred development partner for the Ryecroft scheme be agreed and the other two shortlisted bidders be formally notified of this decision and thanked for their interest and proposals. • That Officers be instructed to enter into a Co-operation Agreement with Developer A, as described more fully

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Wednesday 2nd July 2014 Cont'd ...			<p>in the body of the reports during which detailed scheme proposals can be progressed in conjunction with the negotiation of a development agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the relevant Portfolio Holder be authorised to sign the formal and full version of the Co-operation Agreement at the earliest opportunity. • That Officers be authorised to continue working with County Council colleagues regarding preparation of the full business case for the re-provision of Civic Offices on the basis set out in the report.
Wednesday 3rd September 2014	Newcastle Housing Advice Service	<p>David Taylor from Midland Heart Limited attended the meeting.</p> <p>Midland Heart Limited were awarded the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) contract, which commenced on the 1st April 2014 for a period of three years, with the possible extension of a further three years following evidence of satisfactory performance and funding.</p> <p>The NHA service was now delivered from the ground floor shop of 61-63 Lower Street, Newcastle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyers were distributed to Members informing of the launch on the 24th September 2014. • Monitoring statistics are continually reported quarterly • Midland Heart quarter 4 update report to be produced at a future meeting

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Wednesday 3rd September 2014 Cont'd ...		<p>It was requested that monitoring statistic figures are brought to the Committee quarterly and for Midland Heart to be invited back to Scrutiny on 18th March 2015.</p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p>(a) That the Head of Housing and Regeneration Services distribute flyers to Members informing of the launch on the 24th September 2014.</p> <p>(b) That Newcastle Housing Association monitoring statistics are submitted to Scrutiny quarterly.</p> <p>(c) That Midland Heart is invited back to the meeting to be held on the 18th March 2015.</p>	
	Town Centre Parking	<p>In 2013 the Council received a number of approaches from the business community (via the Town Centre Partnership) to review its town centre parking charges in the hope that concessions may help to generate greater footfall with the consequent benefit to businesses and the overall town centre economy. The Council considered it appropriate to review options and decided upon a range of actions to strike a balance between the potentially adverse impact upon the Council's revenue budget and the expectation of direct benefit being achieved by town centre businesses.</p> <p>The Council approved 3 key initiatives; Nipper Parking, Double Ticket refund scheme and Enhanced Free parking days. Alongside an offer from a national supplier of car park management systems to install, as a 12-month trial, cashless parking with an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) systems at no cost to the Council.</p> <p>Resolved:-</p> <p>(a) To extend the successful Double Ticket Refund Scheme on Council maintained car parks.</p> <p>(b) That the Town Centre Partnership should be allowed to offer free parking after 3.00pm in the run up to Christmas</p>	<p>It was resolved at the Cabinet meeting held on the 15th October 2014:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members note the delivery of the Nipper Parking and the planned introduction of cashless parking including the automatic number plate recognition in a number of our car parks. • That the Just The Ticket refund scheme continues to be supported. • That Members note the decision to offer free town centre parking after 3pm for the 5.4 weeks prior to Christmas and the use of the free parking day by the Town Centre Partnership for the Christmas Lights Switch on.

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Wednesday 3rd September 2014 Cont'd ...			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the enhanced free parking days of 5 days to support town centre events and Christmas free parking equivalent to 5.5 weeks after 3pm are included in the calculation for the fees and charges for 2015/16 and budget setting process.
Wednesday 3rd December 2014	Newcastle Town Centre Partnership	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014 above	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014 above
	Kingsgrove Town Centre Partnership	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014 above	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014 above
	Newcastle Housing Advice Contract Monitoring	The Head of Housing and Regeneration Services provided a summary update to Quarter 2 2014/2015 – Newcastle Housing Advice Monitoring	Continued summary updates to be received quarterly
	Joint Housing Allocations Policy Review Progress	<p>The Head of Housing and Regeneration Services tabled an additional summary of interim results from the Housing Allocations Policy Review. The consultation process was still on-going and one-to-one meetings and group discussions were being held at the Lettings Forum</p> <p>Resolved:-</p> <p>(a) The Head of Housing and Regeneration Services to bring back to Scrutiny costings if these were not covered by the budget.</p> <p>(b) The Head of Housing and Regeneration Services to take back the views of Scrutiny.</p>	Report was received

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Wednesday 3rd December 2014 Cont'd ...	Review of Newcastles of the World Alliance	<p>Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council had been member of the 'Newcastles of the World' partnership since 1998 and had attended the biennial summit on most occasions since. In line with the 2012 and 2014 Declarations there was a commitment to have a paid Secretariat commencing early 2015. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council had committed to the first year's membership in 2015. If the Council were to consider a second year's payment in January 2016 this would need to be considered by Cabinet in February as part of the 2015/2016 budget setting process.</p> <p>Resolved:-</p> <p>That the Council withdrew from the Alliance to enable resources to be directed to activities which deliver priority local outcomes.</p>	<p>It was agreed by Cabinet on the 14th January 2015:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council maintain a limited membership of the Newcastles of the World Alliance but does not allocate any funding to support local business development initiatives. • That this membership be carried out through the office of the Mayor
	Portfolio Holder Question Time	The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centres, Business and Customer Services was in attendance to provide a statement on his current portfolio.	Committee received the update
	Ryecroft Redevelopment	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014.	Please refer to the meeting held on the 2 nd July 2014
	HS2 Briefing Note	<p>The Head of Planning introduced the HS2 Briefing Note which conveyed an up-date on the present proceedings.</p> <p>On the 28th October 2014 the Chairman of HS2, Sir David Higgins, published his report "Rebalancing Britain". One of his four main proposals was the need to take forward both legs of the HS2 Y-network, his conclusion being that the alternatives would not bring the same capacity, connectivity and economic benefits. In addition to his four main proposals the report set out a series of recommendations from his review of the proposals for Phase 2 of HS2.</p>	Planning agreed on the 9 th December 2014 that the Committee asked the Executive Director of Regeneration & Development and the HS2 Portfolio holder, Councillor Turner, to consider making the comments listed in the attached report to the Government on the questions posed in the safeguarding direction consultation

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Wednesday 3rd December 2014 Cont'd ...		<p>These included that the line should be extended to Crewe by 2027 – six years earlier than originally planned. The report had been submitted to Government and any final decision on the recommendations would be made by Ministers</p> <p>Resolved:-</p> <p>That Committee agree to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Development and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centres Business and Customer Services submit a response to the Planning Committee on the safeguarding consultation which would be then be presented to the Government.</p>	<p>on</p>