

## **Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee**

Report from the Meeting held on March 18th 2013

### **Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership**

This section was attended by the Chair of the CIC. There was some concern expressed regarding the slow progress being made but it was felt that the project is worthwhile and should continue to be supported by the Borough. It was resolved that the CIC should narrow down its current wide-ranging aims and aspirations and concentrate on a limited number of strands that the CIC could really influence. It was also resolved that there should be a meeting of stakeholders in Kidsgrove to progress the wider aims and ambitions.

### **Newcastle Town Centre Partnership**

Information was given regarding the progress of the BID Business Plan and the progress made by new businesses that have set up in the Town Centre. It was pleasing to note that there had been a very positive response to trading during the run up to the Christmas period. It was also good to be informed that there is a mentoring process in place to assist those traders who are finding it difficult to make progress in the current High Street trading climate.

### **Newcastle Economic Development Strategy**

Year 3 was reviewed and the Year 4 Action Plan was introduced. Both received a clean bill of health. It was resolved that all Elected Members would receive written guidance on funding opportunities and contacts that would be available to those of their residents who may wish to follow the route of self-employment.

### **Newcastle Housing Advice Contract Progress**

It was decided to defer this to the next meeting in order that Quarter 4 statistics would be available.

### **Newcastle Housing Advice Contract Monitoring**

Quarter 3 statistics were reported and were approved by the Committee.

### **Joint Local Plan**

An informative update was presented to the Committee regarding the progress made in preparing the Joint Local Plan and the timetable to obtain key pieces of evidence.

### **Superfast Staffordshire Project**

The latest work programme was presented. This shows that some of the work has now been completed in Kidsgrove and the intention is that work within the Borough would be completed by 2016.

### **Work Plan**

A motion was passed that Cabinet should consider establishing a Cross-Party Working Group organised by the EDE Committee to examine the issue of Capital Management. This would replace the proposed Cabinet Panel.