

Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

Meeting on July 1st 2015

Superfast Staffordshire

The meeting was addressed by Project Manager Paul Chatwin. He reported that 39 of the 66 cabinets within the Newcastle Borough area have already been or are in the process of being upgraded to date. The remaining cabinets are scheduled to be upgraded by 2016. At the end of the current process there will be approximately 2,000 premises without cabled superfast broadband within the Borough. However extra funding has been secured and this number is expected to be eventually reduced. Unfortunately there will be some premises in the more outlying districts that will not be connected.

Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

It was pleasing to note that Go Kidsgrove has finally produced a forward plan to use the £10,000 made available to kick-start some of the various projects. However the Committee was dismayed to hear that there is still a seeming reluctance on the part of Kidsgrove Town Council to engage in discussions to further the proposed projects. The Portfolio Holder pledged that he would do all he could to rectify this regrettable situation.

Newcastle Town Centre Partnership

An encouraging report that gave details on the BID project and proposed forthcoming events was accepted by the Committee. The partnership will be asked to produce statistics relating to KPIs at the September meeting.

Land Asset Disposal

With reference to a resolution of Full Council in April the feasibility of a cross-party committee was discussed. Following lengthy deliberation it was resolved by five votes to three that a cross-party committee would serve no useful purpose in the process of delivering land assets for sale.

Newcastle Housing Advice Contract

Figures for Quarter 4 were received. It was resolved that the process used in the last financial year should be continued for 2015-16.

HS2

It was resolved that the Working Party should continue with two aims – to ensure that the rights of those residents who would be affected by any line through the Borough are protected and that the Borough (in conjunction with other Local Authorities) is able to take full advantage of the benefits of increased capacity.

Ryecroft Regeneration.

An update on the current progress of this project was received by the Committee.

Dave Stringer

Chair

