

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Wednesday, 21st March, 2018  
**Time** 7.00 pm  
**Venue** Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG  
**Contact** Jayne Briscoe 2250



**NEWCASTLE  
UNDER LYME**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Civic Offices  
Merrial Street  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2AG

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

### **AGENDA**

#### **PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA**

- 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in this agenda
- 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 6)  
To agree as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- 3 FUTURE USE OF LAND ASSOCIATED WITH THE RYECROFT DEVELOPMENT**  
To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development.
- 4 EXAMINATION OF TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**  
To receive a verbal update from BID Board Member.
- 5 DISTRICT DEAL**  
To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development.
- 6 ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE BOROUGH**

To receive a verbal update from the Reeneration and Economic Development Manager

**7 WORK PLAN (Pages 7 - 8)**

To discuss and update the work plans to reflect current scrutiny topics

**8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

**9 URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

**Members:** Councillors Allport (Vice-Chair), Fear, Gardner, Huckfield, Loades, Matthews, Olszewski (Chair), Owen, Spence and G Williams

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Council Chamber and Committee Room 1 are fitted with a loop system. In addition, there is a volume button on the base of the microphones. A portable loop system is available for all other rooms. Should you require this service, please contact Member Services during the afternoon prior to the meeting.

**Members of the Council:** If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

**Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.**

**FIELD\_TITLE**

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

**NOTE:** THERE ARE NO FIRE DRILLS PLANNED FOR THIS EVENING SO IF THE FIRE ALARM DOES SOUND, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FIRE EXIT SIGNS. PLEASE **DO NOT** USE THE LIFTS.

**COUNCIL CHAMBER:** FIRE EXITS ARE AT THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER AT BOTH SIDES AND THIS IS THE SAME FOR OCCUPANTS OF THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

**COMMITTEE ROOMS:** EXIT VIA THE WAY YOU ARRIVED AT THE MEETING OR AT THE FAR END OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE REAR OF THE ASPIRE HOUSING OFFICE OPPOSITE THE CIVIC OFFICES. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

*Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee - 18/09/17*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday, 18th September, 2017  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

**Present:-** Councillor Mark Olszewski – in the Chair

Councillors Gardner, Holland, Loades, Matthews,  
Northcott, Owen and Spence

Officers Jayne Briscoe - Scrutiny Officer, Kim  
Graham - Regeneration and Economic  
Development Manager and Jo Halliday -  
Head of Housing, Regeneration and  
Assets

Apologies Councillor(s) G Williams

### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Whilst not a declaration of interest Councillor Owen pointed out that he no longer represented UKIP in relation to the political balance and the future allocation of seats.

### 2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

### 3. **THE GOLD STANDARD FOR HOMELESSNESS SERVICES - DIAGNOSTIC PEER REVIEW**

The Head of Housing, Regeneration and Assets presented this report which provided an update on the DCLG Gold Standard Peer Review Assessment. Participation of the Gold Standard Process is considered to be a key process to support the continuous improvement of the homelessness/housing services at the Council. The Council passed the first stage with an overall score of 67%.

As part of the process a number of key recommendations were identified for the council to consider and implement prior to pursuing the further challenges which concerned the website, reception and interview facilities, homelessness case files and the overall quality of the housing options.

Members questioned whether improvements could be made alongside pursuing the challenges and the Chair explained that the process would be one of co-operation with the service provider to achieve the best outcome.

A member was concerned at the apparent difficulties with the IT provision and looked forward to an improvement upon the move to Castle House.

**Agreed:** That support be given to Option 2 – That the Council consider and implement actions from the improvement plan prior to pursuing the challenges.

### 4. **HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017**

The Head of Housing, Regeneration and Assets submitted a report based on The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 which was predicted to be enacted in April 2018.

The updated HRA sets out a framework for significant change to homelessness legislation with several new duties which will require a change in working practices and additional resources. The main aim of the new legislation is to help prevent the homelessness of all client groups, regardless of priority need.

As the full details of the legislative changes were not known it was considered sensible for the scrutiny committee to retain this item on the work programme and to examine it again when appropriate. Meanwhile it was recommended that a communication be sent to the DCLG which pointed out the difficulties in responding to the proposed legislation until details were published.

**Agreed:** That this item be retained on the work programme and that clarification be sought from the DCLG on the implications for Local Authorities of The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

## 5. **DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

A meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Sub Group was held on 19 July to inform the first draft of the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2018 – 2023 The draft EDS, subject to revision by this Committee will be used as a basis for consultation with partner organisations, local businesses and wider community.

Members felt that the support of local MPs should be enlisted to lobby for improvements at Junction 15.

It was noted that reference to knowledge based work should be included in the strategy.

Overall it was agreed that the aspirations expressed in the draft strategy should be accompanied by targeted outcomes, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, that the housing assessment was in line with the Borough Strategy and that reference be made in the document to the major changes which would occur during the life of the strategy 2018-2023 such as the impact of Brexit and HS2. Members also requested there should be reference to work with the rural communities and more detail on SMEs (small and medium enterprises).

**Agreed:** That, taking into account the comments of this Committee, the Draft Economic Strategy be revised and re-submitted for final approval by this Committee. Moving forward, the strategy be used as a basis to consult with our partner organisations and local business community and the results from the consultation reported to Cabinet.

## 6. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members gave consideration to their future work programme and the contents noted.

## 7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

8. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee will be held on 7 December 2017.

**COUNCILLOR MARK OLSZEWSKI**  
**Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.00 pm

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| Date of meeting                     | Item   | Reason for Report/Undertaking the Scrutiny  | Cabinet Response/Outcomes  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 21 June 2017                        | Economic Development Strategy  | For member input  | n/a  |
|                                     | Members develop the work programme   |   | n/a  |
| 18 September 2017                   | Gold Standard for Homeless Service   | For member input  | Recommend Option 2 to Cabinet  |
|                                     | Homeless Reduction Act   | For member information  | Retain on Work Programme to be reconsidered when the full details of legislative changes are known |
|                                     | Economic Development Strategy  | To consider updated draft policy following the work of the sub group  | Draft Strategy to be revised and re-submitted for final approval                                   |
| 7 December 2017 (meeting cancelled) | To consider a report outlining the Economic Performance of the Borough ( <b>moved to 21 March meeting</b> )  | Request from scrutiny member  |  |
|                                     | District Deal – District Commissioning Lead to be invited to attend the meeting for this item ( <b>moved to 21 March meeting</b> )                         | Request from scrutiny member  |  |
|                                     | Presentation on the work of the BID ( <b>moved to 21 March meeting</b> )   | Member request at Council   |  |
| 21 March 2018                       | Future use of land associated with the Rycroft development   | Request from scrutiny member  |  |
|                                     | Bid Manager to attend meeting in connection with an examination of town centre development   | Request from scrutiny member  |  |
|                                     | Planning Development and Building Control Regulation Policy ( <b>no further information received from member and so this item will not be considered</b> ) | Request from scrutiny member. Further information requested from member to enable detailed report to be written |  |
|                                     | District Deal – District Commissioning Lead to be invited to   | Request from scrutiny member  |  |

|  |  |                              |  |
|--|--|------------------------------|--|
|  | attend the meeting for this item                                       |                              |  |
|  | To consider a report outlining the Economic Performance of the Borough | Request from scrutiny member |  |