

Report from Chair of Economic Development and Regeneration Committee meeting

22nd June 2016

The main aim of the meeting was to establish the work plan for the coming year. Prior to this agenda item the Chair introduced herself and spoke of how the scrutiny committee's aim was to be pro-active and to drive forward improvements by proper scrutiny and recommendations. All committee members also introduced themselves and stated areas of expertise relevant to the committee's focus.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, with one amendment being made to Item 3 referring to disappointing take up of training by market stall holders but that 18 entries in relation to Business Boost 2015 were received and 13 went through to the final round.

Items placed on the work plan are as follows:

- Review of LEP funding: members received an outline explanation from the Regeneration and Economic Development Manager regarding the application for LEP funding. The advantages of Growth Deal 3 funding was stressed and that funding is often awarded when there was strong local government support for an application. The Chair encouraged members to lobby relevant decision makers prior to the decision deadline of 28 July, emphasising the importance of the collective voice.
- Business Support Helpline Review: Uptake has been low compared to other areas. Officers will provide a performance report for presentation to the committee's September meeting. The chair asked for a member of the committee to be a point of contact within their area of expertise to have input prior to consideration (member to be confirmed). Following review of this report further investigation will then occur to suggest ways to move forward.
- Optimising the economic benefits of HS2: The HS2 group will be reformed and developed in line with economic strategy and to receive and review research commissioned for the Northern Gateway Development Zone. Councillors Gardner, Loades and Proctor volunteered to members of the working group. The committee will receive regular briefings on this topic.
- Review of impact on highways of planning developments: a working group has been established to review the issue of the wider impact on highways of planning developments and the A34 traffic policy and will report back to the Scrutiny Committee. Councillors Gardner, Loades and Proctor volunteered to members of the working group
- Review of Borough market performance: Councillor G Williams will examine the reasons for the current under-performance of the Borough market with the Cabinet Portfolio holder and officers.
- Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership: a half-yearly report will be submitted to the committee for consideration and possible future involvement if required.

Additional areas discussed:

The Community Infrastructure Levy is scheduled to be discussed by Cabinet in October. Item concerning Superfast Broadband was removed for consideration for this year. It was noted that

planning application for the Ryecroft development is being considered in August. The number of CCGs and impact of housing development on existing CCGs was discussed and was suggested as a possible topic for joint scrutiny with the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Allison Gardner

Chair of Economic Development and Regeneration Committee