

Duty to cooperate Protocol between Stafford Borough Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

Submitted by: Executive Director of Regeneration and Development

Portfolio: Economic Development, Regeneration, and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members, that on behalf of the Council and with regard to the council's 'general instructions' relating to matters of urgency, the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development and the portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration and Town Centres, have a) agreed and; b) signed a Protocol between Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stafford Borough Council, demonstrating the duty to cooperate, pursuant to section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, for submission to the Examination in Public of 'The Plan for Stafford Borough.' (Stafford Borough's Core Strategy).

Recommendations

1) That Cabinet note that the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development has taken urgent action to agree and sign a Protocol, countersigned by the portfolio holder for Economic, Development, Regeneration and Town Centres, demonstrating the duty to cooperate between Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stafford Borough Council and that this has been submitted to Stafford Borough for inclusion in their Duty to Cooperate Statement to form part of the evidence supporting the Submission version of 'The Plan for Stafford Borough' Examination in Public.

Reasons

The matter does not make or change policy and therefore in accordance with the Council's constitution (appendix 4 General Instructions Matters of Urgency) any action taken as a 'matter of urgency,' shall be reported to the next available committee as appropriate.

1.0 Background

1.1 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is a neighbouring Authority to Stafford Borough. The Duty to Co-operate Protocol is based on protecting the adopted strategy for the Borough, as set out in the Core Spatial Strategy, for the benefit of the area, existing businesses and residents and to ensure there are no

unacceptable impacts on the borough as a result of the Plan for Stafford Borough.

1.2 In September 2013 the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development and the portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration and Town Centres, considered and approved a report which recommended:

1) That the Protocol between Stafford Borough Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council (Appendix 1) is approved.

2) That the Protocol is signed by the Executive Director of Regeneration and Development, and countersigned by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Regeneration and Town Centres and thereafter submitted to Stafford Borough for inclusion in their Duty to Cooperate Statement to form part of the evidence supporting the Submission version of 'The Plan for Stafford Borough' Examination in Public.

1.3 The signed Protocol now acts as evidence of the discussions which have taken place with Stafford Borough Council and provides a statement on the outstanding issues prior to Stafford Borough Examination in Public

2.0 Background Papers

- The Stafford Borough Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Duty to Cooperate Protocol
- Report detailing the background to the Protocol and containing the recommendation set out in section 1.2