

Please ask for: Wendy Rowe
Extension No.: 4584
Email: wendyrowe@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

19 September 2023

Dear Councillor,

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
6:00pm, Wednesday 27 September 2023
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

You are invited to attend this meeting for consideration of the matters itemised in the following Agenda.

Yours sincerely,



T. Clegg
Chief Executive

To: Councillors:

Mawle, D. (Chair)
Dunnett, M.J. (Vice-Chair)
Bancroft, J.T. Pearson, A.R.
Cartwright, S.M. Prestwood, F.
Fisher, P.A. Sutherland, M.
Foley, D. Theodorou, P.C.
Haden, P. Wilson, L.J.
Jones, P.T.

Agenda

Part 1

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

(i) To declare any interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct and any possible contraventions under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(ii) To receive any Party Whip declarations.

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July, 2023 (enclosed).

4. PDP 2023/24 - Quarter 1 Performance Report

To receive the Q1 performance information for the Economic Prosperity Priority Delivery Plan (Item 4.1 - 4.9).

5. Proposed closure of Amazon Fulfilment Centre, Rugeley

Update from the Head of Economic Development and Planning.

6. Review of Work Programme 2023/24

Update from the Head of Economic Development and Planning.

7. Exclusion of Public

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Agenda

Part 2

8. Levelling Up Fund Update

To receive a confidential verbal update from the Head of Economic Development and Planning.

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
Held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 6:00pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Mawle, D. (Chair)	
Dunnett, M.J. (Vice-Chair)	
Aston, J. (Substitute)	Pearson, A.R.
Cartwright, S.M.	Prestwood, F.
Fisher, P.A.	Sutherland, M.
Haden, P.K.	Wilson, L.J.
Jones, P.T.	

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bancroft, D. Foley, and P. Theodorou.

Notification had been received that Councillor J. Aston would be in attendance acting as substitute for Councillor D. Foley.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

3. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2023 be approved.

4. Introduction to the Role of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Economic Development and Planning that covered:

- Support for the Committee
- Background
- Purpose of Scrutiny and Effective Scrutiny
- Committee's Role and Remit
- Work Programme and Examples of Work Scrutiny
- Undertaking a Review

5. End of Year Performance 2022/23

Consideration was given to the end of year performance information for the Economic Prosperity Priority Delivery Plan 2022/23 (Item 5.1 - 5.6).

Members noted that the overall performance for the Economic Prosperity Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) was positive, with the majority of actions having either been completed or were on target. The only slippages were in relation to the Levelling Up Fund project, Cannock Railway Station and Rugeley Boardwalk. The reasons for the slippages were set out in the report.

6. Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Economic Development and Planning (Item 6.1 - 6.14).

The Head of Economic Development and Planning provided an overview of the report, outlining the services that fall within the Committee's remit and noting the key section for Members' consideration was the draft work programme included at appendix 4, which included the following suggested topics:

- Procurement - opportunities for local businesses to bid for Council tendered projects and services
- Levelling Up Fund / Cannock Town centre
- Amazon - Impact of proposed closure
- McArthurGlen - review of economic impact and social value
- Local Plan
- Administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy

It was explained that the Committee would need to determine which review topics they wished to consider this year and to select no more than two items that could be reviewed via a Task and Finish Group.

In addition to the suggested topics outlined above, several other topics were proposed by Members. The Committee discussed all the suggestions and considered the merits of each topic. It was agreed that the two Task and Finish reviews for 2023/24 would be:

- Procurement - opportunities for local businesses to bid for Council tendered projects and services.
- Administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Committee agreed the membership of the two Task and Finish reviews and confirmed the Chair of each Group. As Councillors J. Bancroft, D. Foley and P. Theodorou were not in attendance at today's meeting, it was agreed that the Senior Committee Officer would contact them to establish whether they wished to sit on the Procurement Review.

Members discussed other topics for inclusion on the Work Programme. In respect of Amazon and the impact of the proposed closure, the Head of Economic Development and Planning advised that Cabinet had considered a report last week and noted that a

task group which comprised of the Council and key partners had been established to manage the immediate implications of the proposed closure, with a specific focus on assisting residents who were affected by the proposals. Cabinet had agreed that a report be received in three months' time to provide an update on the situation. The Committee considered that this topic should be added to the Work Programme with an update/discussion at the meeting in September.

A Member suggested that the Committee could look at the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The Head of Economic Development and Planning explained that the investment plan had been approved, the Board had been established and the schemes identified in the plan would be progressed. It was agreed that an update would be given at the December meeting.

In respect of the Levelling Up Fund the Committee agreed that updates would be included on the agenda for each meeting. The Head of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that updates would continue to be confidential, with the aim of being more open about the proposals moving forwards.

A Member asked for an update on the current position with the Rugeley Power Station. It was noted that the owner was seeking to sell the site and a process for doing so was being followed. The Head of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that the results of the process and the next steps were expected in August/September and therefore Members may wish to re-visit this later in the year.

In terms of the Local Plan, it was agreed that this should be added to the Work Programme and an update be given at the December meeting.

With respect to the suggestion to review the economic impact and social value of McArthurGlen it was noted that the planning application for Phase 2 was expected to be determined by the Planning Control Committee this summer. It was agreed that it would be sensible to wait until the outcome of the planning application given that Members of the Planning Control Committee were also on the Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

- (A) That two Task and Finish Groups be established to review Procurement and the Administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- (B) That the membership of the Review of Procurement be made up of Councillors D. Mawle (Chair), M. Dunnett and M. Sutherland.
- (C) That the membership of the Review of the Administration of the Community Infrastructure Levy be made up of Councillors P. Fisher (Chair), S. Cartwright, P. Haden, P.T. Jones, A. Pearson and L. Wilson.
- (D) That Councillors J. Bancroft, D. Foley and P. Theodorou be contacted to establish whether they wished to sit on the Review of Procurement.
- (E) That an update/discussion on the impact of the proposed closure of Amazon be included on the agenda for the September meeting.
- (F) That updates on the UKSPF and the Local Plan be included on the agenda for the December meeting.

(G) That updates on the Levelling Up Fund be included on the agenda for the September, December, and March meetings.

(H) That further consideration be given to whether the topic in relation to McArthurGlen be included the Work Programme once the Planning Application had been determined.

7. Exclusion of Public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
Held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 6:00pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock
Part 2

8. Levelling Up Fund Update

The Portfolio Leader for Regeneration and High Streets remained in attendance for this item.

The Head of Economic Prosperity provided Members with a confidential update on the progress of the Levelling up Fund project. He set out the background of the scheme for the benefit of new Members and outlined the current position. Members noted the challenges that the delivery of the project presented.

The Portfolio Leader for Regeneration and High Streets then commented on the project and advised that there would be a focus on engaging with residents once more to share the vision of the scheme.

Members were then offered the opportunity of asking questions and making comments.





The meeting closed at 7:20pm.

Chair

Priority Delivery Plan for 2023-24

PRIORITY 1 - ECONOMIC PROSPERITY “To reinvigorate the economy and create a District that thrives”

Summary of Progress as at end of Quarter 1




				N/A	Total Number of Projects
Action completed	Work on target	Work < 3 months behind schedule	Work > 3 months behind schedule	Action not yet due	
1	16	2		1	20



Summary of Successes as at Quarter 1




- Progress continues to be made with the Levelling Up Fund scheme, the Council has now developed detailed designs for the scheme and has formally made a Compulsory Purchase Order to support land assembly.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund - good progress made in establishing governance and initiating first tranche of projects to be funded by UKSPF.




Summary of Slippage as at Quarter 1




- Levelling Up Fund - whilst good progress has been made during Q1, it should be noted that the CPO process has delayed the delivery of the overall programme and the Council will need to seek from DLUHC an extension to the project timeframe.
- Cannock Railway Station - while further work has been undertaken in relation to the design and feasibility of achieving a transformational upgrade to the station, the Council is not yet in a position to develop a detailed business case, and there are no active opportunities to bid for external funding to fund the project.

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
Attract investment to develop the District's economy							
Deliver the Levelling Up Fund regeneration scheme for Cannock Town Centre, creating a new cultural hub and high-quality public realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure outline planning consent for LUF scheme 	X				<p>The LUF scheme is progressing with detailed designs now worked up to RIBA Stage 3.</p> <p>The cost plan has been reviewed to take account of adjustments to the project design. The Council is currently working on a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) to submit to the DLUHC to seek an extension to the project timeframe.</p> <p>The outline planning application is on track to be determined during August and the Council has formally made the CPO and submitted this to the Secretary of State.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of design and cost plan Commence demolition and clearance of existing sites Compulsory Purchase Order approval from Secretary of State 	X			X		
Work in partnership to secure investment in major projects to create confidence in our district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the UKReIFF 2023 event to promote the district to developers/investors 	X				Head of Economic Development & Planning attended UKReIFF event as part of the 'We are Staffordshire' team. Promotion of LUF Cannock town centre scheme as part of a Staffordshire wide prospectus.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-development of former Rugeley Power Station as a Zero Carbon community - owner to commence build out of development scheme 				X	Awaiting further details on ownership of site and programme for development.	

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannock Railway Station - transformational upgrade. Detailed business case and funding strategy. 	X				<p>The Council continues to work with West Midlands Railways and Staffordshire County Council (the client team) to progress design and feasibility work for a transformation to the station.</p> <p>Further design and feasibility work has now been completed by Network Rail on behalf of the client team, with a decision to be taken on next steps for the project.</p> <p>Part of this will be to identify potential funding streams and further work needed to develop the business case.</p>	
Identify a pipeline of future projects to support economic growth opportunities and the rejuvenation of our town centres across Rugeley, Hednesford, Cannock and the surrounding villages and maximise investment and funding into the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of projects set out in the Council's approved UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan 	X	X	X	X	<p>West Midlands Grant Programme, Net Zero Pathfinder, Go Digital Accelerator & Cannock Construction Excellence Initiative project sponsors have all signed their grant agreements with launch of the programmes imminent.</p> <p>Cannock Construction Excellence construction work is nearing completion with provision of learning and training opportunities starting in September.</p> <p>Agreement from the UKSPF Project Board to progress the Enterprise Advice & Support Programme with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and to competitively tender for the Youth Aspiration Project.</p> <p>The Beat the Cold initiative is also at draft grant agreement stage.</p>	


Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
						<p>A meeting has been arranged with SCC to discuss next steps to invest in the UKSPF People and Skills reserve budget.</p> <p>Request to roll over funding from 22/23 to 23/24 approved by DLUHC.</p>	
Encourage entrepreneurship, promote apprenticeships, and support business							
Seek to identify and promote employment sites for new and growing businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New employment allocations to be identified via new Local Plan 		X	X	X	<p>Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan will be presented to Cabinet in October: ahead of a public consultation.</p> <p>Consultation will consider proposed new employment allocations.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposal for business workspace in Levelling Up Fund project 		X			<p>The requirements for business workspace have been built into the LUF RIBA stage 3 design work. Demand assessment identifies potential market for small business workspace and lack of existing provision.</p> <p>Officers are currently reviewing potential model for management and operation of the facility and will work up a business plan for consideration by Cabinet.</p>	
Work with established Growth and Skills Hubs to streamline and simplify access to business support services, access to training and apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote availability of support from existing Growth and Skills Hubs to increase business referrals 	X	X	X	X	E-bulletins sent to businesses on our database as and when information is shared with the Economic Development Team.	

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
Continue to work with partners to secure additional funding to be able to continue business growth and start-up schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission and procure new start up support provision utilising UKSPF funding 		X			<p>UKSPF Project Board in July agreed that Staffordshire County Council would be commissioned to deliver the Enterprise & Advice Service which covers start-ups and young businesses.</p> <p>West Midlands Grant Programme, which provides grants for start-up and growing businesses, will also provide diagnostic support for existing businesses seeking to grow. This will be a variation to their existing grant agreement.</p>	
Attract modern, green and skilled industries, and create jobs							
Work with our colleges and training providers to equip young people and all residents with skills they need to access employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission and fund Cannock Construction Excellence project (South Staffordshire College) utilising UKSPF allocation 	X	X	X	X	<p>Cannock Construction Excellence Initiative is underway with the construction of the new facility nearing completion.</p> <p>The training elements of the project will commence in September.</p>	
Work with partners to identify and support businesses to become more carbon efficient and identify opportunities to create green jobs in our district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission and fund Staffordshire Net Zero pathfinder project 	X	X	X	X	<p>Grant Agreements with Staffordshire University have now been signed - start of the project is imminent.</p> <p>Officers are awaiting the launch date, PR / comms will be prepared to accompany the launch.</p>	

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
Rejuvenate our town centres							
Identify opportunities to improve public realm in our town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannock Town Centre - LUF investment in public realm enhancements - sign off of detailed scheme and cost plan 		X			Public realm enhancements included as part of RIBA Stage 3 design work; these include proposed new connection into the town centre (Northern Gateway) and creation of new public square adjacent to the refurbished Prince of Wales Theatre and wider cultural hub.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugeley Boardwalk - replacement scheme - review inflation and construction cost pressures and present options to Cabinet 				X		N/A
Work with town and parish councils, local businesses and traders to support the development of initiatives to increase vibrancy of our town centres and increase footfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison meetings with town and parish councils to identify opportunities for joint working 	X	X	X	X	Officers are seeking to arrange meetings during September to meet with town and parish councils to discuss progress and future projects using UKSPF Thriving Communities funds.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch the Thriving Communities project and invite town and parish councils to bid for funding 	X	X	X	X	Thriving Communities project launched in early 2023 and an allocation of funds have been set aside for 7 town and parish council areas. Each area is using the funds to enhance their local area and arrange events to encourage more footfall into the high street.	

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
Support the development of our visitor economy							
Work with Destination Staffordshire (DMP) to promote our key attractions, accommodation providers and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DMP to deliver the county-wide visitor economy strategy 	X	X	X	X	To support delivery of the county wide strategy, the DMP is currently seeking formal accreditation as a Local Visitor Economy Partnership with Visit England, an application is being prepared to Visit England in September 2023.	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in joint marketing initiatives and development of themed campaigns 	X	X	X	X	<p>Cannock Chase participates in Enjoy Staffordshire marketing campaign as part of its membership of the DMP.</p> <p>The DMP is currently promoting a number of campaigns including '£30 days out under £30' to coincide with the summer holiday period. Cannock Chase Forest is featured as part of this campaign.</p>	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of Destination Staffordshire investment 				X	The DMP has commissioned an Economic Impact assessment for Staffordshire and the model will track and monitor the number and types of visitors attracted to the county along with associated spend and consumer behaviour; these figures will be broken down at district level and enable the Council to review the impact of its investment in the DMP.	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with McArthurGlen on encouraging overnight stay packages in the district 	X	X	X	X	Discussions to be held with McArthurGlen to identify whether marketing information can be expanded to encourage people from further afield to visit and book a short break.	✓

Item No. 4.8

Projects	Actions and Milestones	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr4	Progress Update	Symbol
<p>Maximise the legacy of the 2022 Commonwealth Games by using the event to help boost the district's profile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for new visitor accommodation/ eco accommodation to encourage those visiting Cannock Chase Forest to stay in the district 			X	X	<p>Discussions are ongoing with Forestry England regarding early-stage feasibility work/ design work.</p>	

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 2023/24 - as at end of Quarter 1

KPIs for Priority 1 - The Economy

Indicator	Target	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year End	Symbol	Comments
Planning								
Major Planning Applications determined within time	60%	N/A					N/A	No majors determined in period
Non-major Planning Applications determined within time	70%	96.6%					★	
Building Control								
Applications registered and acknowledged within 3 days of valid receipt	90%	100%					★	
Full plans applications with initial full assessment within 15 days of valid receipt	70%	95%					★	