



Please ask for: Wendy Rowe
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22 September 2022

Dear Councillor,

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
6:00pm, Tuesday 4 October 2022
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:

Wilson, L.J. (Chair)
Pearson, A. (Vice-Chair)
Arduino, L. Kruskonjic, P.
Bancroft, J.T. Lyons, N.
Cartwright, S.M. McCall, M.
Crabtree, S.K. Thompson, S.L.
Dunnett, M.J. Thornley, S.J.
Haden, P.K.

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 personal, pecuniary, or disclosable pecuniary 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 5 July 2022 (enclosed).

4. Affordable Housing Delivery - Presentation

To receive a presentation from Sushil Birdi, Planning Services Manager.

5. Update of Scrutiny Reviews

To receive an update from the Head of Economic Prosperity with regards to the Scrutiny reviews in respect of Markets and Planning Enforcement.

6. 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 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

7. Levelling Up Fund Update

To receive a confidential presentation from the Head of Economic Prosperity.

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Economic Recovery Scrutiny Committee
Held on Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 6:00pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Wilson, Mrs. L.J. (Chair)

Pearson, A. (Vice-Chair)

Arduino, L.	Kruskonjic, P.
Bancroft, J.T.	Lyons, N.
Cartwright, S.M.	Thompson, S.L.
Haden, P.K.	Thornley, S.J.

Also in attendance:

Oliver Greatbatch - Community Safety and Partnerships Manager (observer).

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M.J. Dunnett and the Head of Housing and Partnerships. The Strategic Housing Manager was in attendance in place of the Head of Housing and Partnerships.

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 30 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

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

The Head of Economic Prosperity provided the Committee with a presentation. He outlined several presentation slides that covered:

- Support for the Committee
- Background

- The purpose of Scrutiny
- The Committee's role and remit
- The Work Programme
- Undertaking a Review

A Member commented that the capacity of Officers would need to be considered when determining the Work Programme for 2022-23. Another Member asked whether any review had not been completed during 2021-22. The Officer confirmed that the review of Affordable Housing Delivery had been carried over to this year. However, he would provide an update on this as part the Work Programme 2022-23 item which was to be considered later in the meeting.

5. End of Year Performance Information 2021-22

Consideration was given to the End of Year Performance Information for Supporting Economic Recovery (Item 5.1 – 5.17 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Economic Prosperity led Members through the information outlining some of the projects and actions that had been achieved during this quarter. The Head of Economic Prosperity and the Strategic Housing Manager also provided a summary of the slippage of some projects as at Quarter 4.

The Head of Economic Prosperity then referred Members to the performance indicators and commented that town centre vacancy rates continued to remain high, particularly in Cannock and Rugeley, whereas there had been a slight decrease in Hednesford.

The Committee noted that during Quarter 4 performance in relation to the statutory determination target for non-major applications had declined to 67.9% due to the current significant workload within the Team and the departure of Development Control Manager. Interim management arrangements had been put in place and processes would be reviewed and improved.

The Strategic Housing Manager referred to the increase in the number of Affordable Housing units delivered and Members noted the target had been exceeded. A Member sought clarification in terms of what price was classified as Affordable Housing. The Strategic Housing Manager confirmed that it was not the price of a property that determined whether it was Affordable Housing; it was the type of property. For example, Social rented housing, Registered providers, Shared ownership were all types of Affordable Housing.

Resolved:

That the End of Year PDP Performance information be noted.

6. Work Programme 2022-23

Consideration was given to the Joint Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity and Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 6.1 – 6.5 plus appendices of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Economic Prosperity outlined the report and referred Members to Appendix 1, the extract from the Corporate Plan 2022-26 relating to Economic Prosperity. He advised that the Committee would be re-named to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

He outlined the services and functions falling within the remit of the Committee as detailed in Appendix 2. He then referred to the proposed Work Programme for 2022/23 (Appendix 4) and explained that the Committee would need to determine any review topics and consider whether to set up Task and Finish Groups to undertake these reviews.

He commented that the suggestions for possible reviews were outlined in the report and were as follows: -

- (i) Affordable Housing Delivery
- (ii) Markets (Cannock Street Market and Rugeley Indoor Market)
- (iii) Business support offer to local businesses
- (iv) Planning Enforcement.

The Head of Economic Prosperity explained that Members should choose 1 or 2 items or alternatively, they may wish to put forward any further suggestions. With regard to the review in relation to Affordable Housing Delivery he advised that this had been carried forward from the 2021-22 Work Programme. However, the policy of 20% Affordable Housing provision was being reviewed as part of the Local Plan and it was therefore not recommended that a separate Task and Finish Group be set up. He confirmed that the Planning Services Manager would provide Members with a presentation at the October meeting to update them on the progress with this.

A Member considered that a review of Planning Enforcement would be appropriate given the backlog of complaints that had occurred due to the pandemic. The Head of Economic Prosperity commented that during the last two years there had been an increase in workload as more complaints had been received about breaches of planning control. Members agreed that this topic should be reviewed.

Another Member suggested that a review should be undertaken in respect of the Markets (Cannock Street Market and Rugeley Indoor Market). It was considered that Cannock town centre was struggling, and it would be useful to establish if the Street Market was increasing footfall or having a knock-on effect on businesses. A Member added that there were only two stalls open in Rugeley Indoor Market and therefore agreed that a review of Markets would be appropriate. The Head of Economic Prosperity commented that a review of Cannock Street Market had been undertaken by the Committee during 2018-19 and a new Operator had been appointed. It was therefore timely to undertake a review.

It was agreed that the two Scrutiny reviews for 2022/23 would be:

- Planning Enforcement
- Markets (Cannock Street Market and Rugeley Indoor Market)

The Head of Economic Prosperity advised that at the previous meeting he had provided the Committee with a confidential presentation on the Levelling Up Fund and had given a commitment to provide further confidential updates to the Scrutiny Committee. This would therefore be added to the Work Programme, and he would provide an update at the next meeting. He added that there may be role for the Scrutiny Committee to look at scrutinising this project in the future.

The Committee then agreed the membership of the two Scrutiny reviews and confirmed the Chair of each Group.

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The two Scrutiny reviews to be undertaken during 2022/23 would be:-
 - (i) Planning Enforcement
 - (ii) Markets (Cannock Street Market and Rugeley Indoor Market)
- (B) The membership of the Planning Enforcement Review would be made up of Councillors S.L. Thompson (Chair), P.K. Haden, S.M. Cartwright, A. Pearson, L. Arduino, and P. Kruskonjic.
- (C) The membership of the Markets Review would be made up of Councillors J.T. Bancroft (Chair), N. Lyons, L.J. Wilson, S.L. Thornley, S.M. Cartwright, L. Arduino and P. Kruskonjic.
- (D) The Planning Services Manager provide Members with a presentation at the meeting on 4 October 2022 to update them on the progress with Affordable Housing Delivery.
- (E) The Levelling Up Fund be added to the Work Programme and a confidential update be given at the meeting on 4 October 2022.

The meeting closed at 6:55pm

Chairman