

**Minutes of the Special Economic
Development and Planning Scrutiny
Committee held at the Civic Centre,
Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday
4 October 2022**

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

C A Baron	E G R Jones
J A Barron	R Kenney
R P Cooke	D McNaughton
B M Cross	J A Nixon
R A James	R M Sutherland

Also present:-

Cabinet Members:

Councillor F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio
Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Councillors A P Edgeller, A D Hobbs, A M Loughran and B McKeown.

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Jordan	-	Interim Head of Development
Mr A Yendole	-	Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager
Mr J Martin	-	Leisure Policy and Implementation Officer
Mr N Holly	-	Principal Planning Officer
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

EDP15 Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

It was moved by Councillor R A James and seconded by Councillor D McNaughton that Councillor R P Cooke be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that Councillor R P Cooke be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

Chairman - Councillor R P Cooke - *In the Chair*

EDP16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from The Chairman, Councillor W J Kemp (Substitute Councillor R P Cooke) and from Councillors J A Barron (Substitute R J Barron) and M Phillips (Substitute R M Sutherland).

The Committee wished Councillor W J Kemp well for a full and speedy recovery.

EDP17 Update of the Sport Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy Evidence Base

The following report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 September 2022 (Minute No CAB18/22 refers) and had been "Called-in" to this Committee by Councillors A D Hobbs, D McNaughton and A M Loughran for the following reason:-

"To further discuss the issues raised by the Sports Facilities Strategy."

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 13/09/2022) that recommended the adoption of the interim update for the period 2019 - 2021 to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy, alongside the supporting evidence base / assessments.

Councillors D McNaughton and A M Loughran outlined the following reasons for calling in this matter for further scrutiny, which were discussed with the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio) and the Leisure Policy and Implementation Officer:-

- Concerns about the funding for leisure provisions in the Borough
- The composition of the Working Group that had been established with partners to oversee the development and monitoring of action plans to secure delivery of the strategies and their objectives
- The need for developers to contribute towards leisure facilities across the Borough
- Concern that there was not currently a 6 court sports hall within the Stafford area

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the following recommendations of the Cabinet Decision (CAB18/22) in relation to the Update of the Sport Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy Evidence Base, be noted as follows:-

- (a) To approve and adopt the Interim Updates within the context of the recommendations contained in the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Sport Facilities Strategy;

- (b) To use the information and recommendations within these Strategies to inform policies and allocations as part of the New Local Plan 2020-2040;
- (c) To note that a working group has been established with partners to oversee the development and monitoring of action plans to secure delivery of the strategies and their objectives.

The Chairman, Councillor R P Cooke, declared a Personal Interest in the following item in relation to the Stafford Station Gateway Project and continued to participate in the discussion thereon.

EDP18 New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report

The following report was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on 6 October 2022 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Development (V1 13/09/2022) that sought approval for the 'New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report' and associated documentation for consultation seeking views on key elements of the emerging new Development Plan reflecting changes in national policy and updated evidence base.

The report also sought to recommend that the New Local Plan programme was updated, with the latest revision of the Local Development Scheme brought into effect from 19 October 2022, replacing the existing Scheme published in November 2021.

The Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager presented the following aspects of the New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report to the Committee:-

- Local Plan 2020 - 2040
- Introduction
- Statutory and National Policy Framework
- Adopted Plan for Stafford Borough
- Purpose of the Local Plan 2020 - 2040
- New Local Plan Current Progress
- New Local Plan - Latest Timetable
- Introducing the Preferred options Stage
- New local Plan Evidence to be Published October 2022
- Current Local Plan Evidence and Information
- Preferred Options
- New Local Plan 2020 - 2040 Preferred options
- Preferred Options (Development Strategy and Climate Change)
- Stafford Borough Key Diagram
- Preferred Options (Development Strategy)
- Stafford Key Diagram
- Preferred Options (Settlement Hierarchy)

- Preferred Options (Climate Change Response)
- Preferred Options (Meecebrook Garden Community)
- Preferred Options (Site Allocations)
- Preferred options (Economic Policies)
- Preferred Options (Housing Policies)
- Preferred Options Design and Infrastructure Policies)
- Preferred Options (Environment Policies)
- Preferred Options (Connections)
- New Local Plan - Preferred Options - Appendices
- Communications Plan
- Any Questions?

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the following aspects with the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Planning Portfolio), the Interim Head of Development, the Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager and the Principal Planning Officer:-

- Clarification of total number of houses proposed to be built within the Borough considering those rolled over from the current Local Plan
- Clarification as to why the site at Meaford was not specifically mentioned as a Major Developed Site in the Green Belt for employment Land
- Confirmation that Parish Council's would be provided with a similar briefing including any amendments that Cabinet make
- Proposals contained within the New local Plan for sustainable and energy efficient homes
- Confirmation the Strategic Green / Blue Infrastructure linked to the wider Borough network for nature recovery within the New Local Plan
- Clarification as the housing provision at Meecebrook
- Clarification of the infrastructure investment at Meecebrook
- The need to consult with the National Health Service on the Local Plan proposals in the forthcoming Communications Plan
- Clarification of Sustainable Housing, Social Housing and Affordable Housing
- The need for more Affordable Housing in rural areas
- Provision for open space, sports and leisure to be considered
- The need for the continued role of Neighbourhood Plans in line with the Borough's Local Plan
- Clarification that, in addition to the Borough's own housing need, the development strategy also allowed for 2,000 homes as a contribution to meeting unmet need of other authorities in the region
- The identification of Gypsy Sites through the Call for Sites process
- Confirmation that there was sufficient staffing capacity to deliver the New Local Plan

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the following recommendations to the Cabinet meeting that was due to be held on 6 October 2022, be noted:-

- (a) That the New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report' be approved for public consultation, together with the supporting evidence-based documentation referenced in the Appendix to the report;
- (b) That the revised Local Development Scheme be brought into effect from 19 October 2022;
- (c) That the Head of Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, be authorised to make appropriate typographical and minor presentational amendments to the Preferred Options Document as may be required.

CHAIR