

**FOR: COUNCIL MEETING**

**8 JULY 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**(BUFF ENCLOSURE)**

**REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
(OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Cox (Chairman), Drinkwater (Vice Chairman), Mrs Eagland (Vice Chairman), Mrs Barnett, Mrs. Fisher, Isaacs, Mrs. Richards, Smedley, Mrs Stanhope MBE, and Willis-Croft.

(In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No.17 Councillors Pritchard and Wilcox attended the meeting).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors Roberts, Hogan and Wilks.

At the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 the following matters were considered:

**1. CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Forward Plan had been circulated and was considered and noted in relation to the responsibilities of the Committee.

**2. WORK PROGRAMME**

- 2.1 The Work Programme had been circulated and considered. A concern was raised regarding the European Funding Grant for small businesses not being promoted sufficiently. It was advised that there was an application form and related information currently available on the Council's website and £78.000 had so far been granted by this scheme. Information about the grant was sent out together with the annual rate bill, although it was agreed that further enquiries would be made to ensure further promotion of the scheme.
- 2.2 It was proposed to add Tourism to the work programme, The Chairman wanted the Committee to note that the Parish and Town Council comments on Planning Applications and referrals to Planning Committee had been moved to September's Committee meeting due to the volume of the agenda.
- 2.3 It was noted that a report would come to Members at their September meeting on Compliments and Complaints.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the Work Programme be noted.

**3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 3.1 The document had been updated, and all agreed to the changes made.

#### **4. PARKING POLICY AND TRENDS**

- 4.1 Members considered a detailed report on matters relating to parking supply, demand and strategy for Lichfield District, including in particular Lichfield City. On the issue of fees and charges, a discussion took place around introducing an evening car parking fee in the Lichfield City Centre.
- 4.2 Members were informed that this issue has been considered in the past and was being looked at again in the context of the Council's Fit for the Future/Service Review programme. It was agreed that a recently prepared report on the matter should be forwarded to Committee members following the meeting.
- 4.3 The following was agreed
- (1) That the Committee notes the contents of the report.
  - (2) That the Committee supports the undertaking of a review of the Council's policy and strategy on parking including in respect of parking charges.
  - (3) That the views of key stakeholders on the contents of the review and any emerging recommendations be sought.
  - (4) That a future report on the outcomes of the review be submitted in due course.
  - (5) That the Committee agrees that the Council should respond to the County Council's review of the Civil Parking Enforcement service and determine what the future role of Lichfield District Council should be in the provision of this service.

#### **5. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE OPTIONS REGARDING PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

- 5.1 Consideration was given to a report on arrangements concerning on street parking enforcement and guidance was sought from the Committee on the District Council's future intentions for off-street parking enforcement.
- 5.2 It was agreed that the Committee confirm the view that it would not be appropriate for the District Council to commit to funding the deficit in the on-street budget and that officers should also continue to work towards finding a suitable alternative for off-street parking enforcement to operate when the current arrangements ends.

#### **6. LICHFIELD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN: UPDATE**

- 6.1 Members were advised on the progress with the Lichfield District Local Plan, the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and ongoing work to inform the production of a Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.
- 6.2 It was agreed that the Committee notes the progress of the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan Preparation and work to progress the Community Infrastructure Levy.

## **7. FIT FOR FUTURE – REVIEWS OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

- 7.1 Members received a report updating on the progress of the review. The Chairman welcomed the report. Concern was expressed about resources being cut too much and Councillor Pritchard confirmed he understood the concerns raised.
- 7.2 It was noted that Mr. Trill, the Council's Principal Assistant (Regeneration) was leaving the authority and the Committee expressed their appreciation of his work for the Council.
- 7.3 It was agreed that the Committee notes the contents of the report and the work that has taken place to date as part of the review and recommends approval of the strategy going forward to inform detailed proposals being presented in due course to Cabinet.

## **8. FAZELEY AND BONEHILL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE**

- 8.1 Members received a report on the development of a Townscape Heritage (TH) Programme, based within the conservation area of Fazeley and Bonehill. If agreed by Cabinet a stage 1 application would be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) before the end of August 2014.
- 8.2 The Committee welcomed the report, supported the objectives of the TH and recommended it being taken forward as an application. The Chairman passed on his and the Committee's appreciation for the quality of report presented by Officers.
- 8.3 The following was agreed
- (1) That the Committee notes the contents of the report.
  - (2) That the Committee support the programme and recommends that Cabinet approve the submission of an application for the HLF for a TH in Fazeley and Bonehill conservation area.

## **9. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW 2013/2014**

- 9.1 The Committee received a report on the End of Year Performance 2013/14. This indicated good progress against most objectives with high quality outcomes. Members noted the contents of the report. Councillor Pritchard asked that a vote of thanks be extended and recorded to all staff for their hard work.

Mrs J. Eagland  
Vice-Chairman

Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee