

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

10 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: S J Carr (substitute)
T A Cullen
M J Crow
P Lally
W J Longdon
M E Plackett (substitute)
R S Robinson
A W G Stockwell (substitute)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B C Carr, J W Handley, M Handley and D A Elliott.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M J Crow declared a non – pecuniary interest in item 9 as her employers have premises in Stapleford, minute number 26 refers. Councillor S J Carr declared a non – pecuniary interest in item 9 as his employers have premises in Stapleford, minute number 26 refers.

20. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2016 were confirmed and signed.

21. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS – BUSINESS GROWTH**

The Committee considered progress against outcome targets identified in the Business Growth Business Plan, with particular reference to the latest key performance indicators in the Business Growth Business Plan.

The Committee noted the key performance indicators for the year 2016/17 to date.

22. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee was informed about the progress of Neighbourhood Plans, which were being written by Town Councils, Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums.

The Committee noted the report, with specific reference to the progress of the areas writing plans and the aim for the Part 2 Local Plan to include them.

23. PART 2 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Part 2 of the Local Plan had been consulted upon, with many neighbourhood groups having been engaged in working with the Council through workshops.

The Committee noted that the outcomes from the consultation workshops were to be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

24. BEESTON TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

The Committee was provided with an update on the progress of development in Beeston Town Centre.

It was noted that the Phase 2 site would be used for a funfair between 19 and 24 December.

25. STREET TRADING CONSENT AREA FOR BEESTON

In response to a number of complaints from members of the public, the Committee was asked to consider the implementation of a street trading consent area for Beeston. This would allow the Council to regulate or even prohibit certain traders who were causing a nuisance, in particular a telecoms company. The consent area could also control a-boards.

There was concern that the consent area could impact negatively on street traders who had operated in Beeston for a number of years without a problem, particularly if they had to pay for a licence to conduct their business. It was added that street trade gave Beeston a lively and vibrant atmosphere, as did people giving out political leaflets and the many charities who publicised themselves by approaching shoppers in the town.

The Committee was assured that the consent area would specifically target business engaging in street trade for profit, so political parties would be exempt. It was added that there was flexibility in how the consent area could be applied and that it would be an opportunity to control who used the High Road for sales activities. It would not be a blanket ban and the cost of the implementation of the scheme could be covered by a charge for a licence to operate.

It was noted that the recommendation asked for permission to start the processes involved in implementing the scheme and that this could proceed whilst a more detailed policy was prepared for approval by the Committee.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to proceed with the formal and legal processes required for the introduction of a Street Trading

Consent Area in Beeston Town Centre, and that this be extended to the other three town centres if this proves necessary in future.

26. TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES – EASTWOOD, KIMBERLEY AND STAPLEFORD

The Committee discussed how best to allocate the funding available for town centre investment in Eastwood, Kimberley and Stapleford. Particular reference was made to a presentation that was given by a member of the Stapleford Town Team to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, making the case for the provision of free Wi-Fi in Stapleford. A similar scheme in Hinckley had attracted visitors and been well received. It was added that the Council would be able to gather data from the facility to inform its own marketing. Although the free Wi-Fi network would require a large investment initially, there would be opportunities for the Council to generate income from advertising space on the network. There was general agreement that Stapleford was the right size for the pilot, although some arguments were made for free Wi-Fi in Beeston and Kimberley. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for all members of the Committee to see the presentation given by the Stapleford Town Team. Detail on the cost of the scheme would be provided after it had gone out to tender.

Discussion progressed on to the where the remained of the funding could be allocated. The provision of a loyalty card for shoppers in Eastwood and Kimberley was agreed to be a cost effective way of promoting local businesses. It was noted that Kimberley businesses had not identified free Wi-Fi as a priority for them. It was added that if the Stapleford Wi-Fi pilot was successful, then it could be rolled out to other areas. It was noted that Kimberley businesses had asked for funding for food festivals.

RESOLVED that a decision on free Wi-Fi in Stapleford be deferred pending further investigation in to the costs of the scheme, with a report to be brought before the Committee at the next meeting. The balance of the funding was to be spent on loyalty schemes in Eastwood and Kimberley, and food festivals in Kimberley.

27. UPDATE ON KEY SITES

A report requested by the Chair regarding the possibility of development causing communities in Broxtowe to become 'ghost towns' had been included on the agenda under this item. It was agreed that the principles of good development needed further discussion and that a task and finish group should be established to consider how to keep communities vibrant. Councillors M J Crow, T A Cullen and W J Longdon volunteered to be members.

It was noted that at the Planning Committee of 12 October had resolved to support the Beeston Business Park application pending an acceptable degree of community provision through section 106 monies.

Clarification was given to the Committee that it was unlikely for building to start at Moults Yard until 2017. It was noted the compulsory purchase order had encouraged the owners of the land to put in a planning application and they had to be allowed reasonable time to start to build.

The Committee noted that the development of land at Barton's in Beeston would mean the loss of employment land. It was also noted that it was likely that the merits of the housing scheme would be, in principle, better than employment provision. The Cemex Concrete site at Attenborough was also noted as a site that might benefit from development as high quality housing, rather than employment land.

There was frustration that freight companies had been able to hold up the development of land owned by Network Rail at the former Blue Circle Cement site at Beeston, as they had not used the land in decades.

A motion was proposed by Councillor P Lally and seconded by Councillor M E Plackett that that the Committee should note with extreme disappointment the lack of redevelopment on the former Blue Circle Cement site at Beeston and urge Network Rail to undertake and successfully conclude the necessary negotiations with rail freight companies to release this site for redevelopment as soon as possible. On being put to the meeting, the motion was carried.

The Committee noted that the appeal regarding the Fields Farm development was to be considered on 13 December 2016, with the Inspector's report to be made around one month later. The report would be shared with the Committee when they were received.

The school site at Wadsworth Road, Stapleford was discussed with regard to options for redevelopment. It was noted that Nottinghamshire County Council were considering uses for the land, including the possibility of a school development.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted with extreme disappointment the lack of redevelopment on the former Blue Circle Cement site at Beeston. The Committee urges Network Rail to undertake and successfully conclude the necessary negotiations with rail freight companies to release this site for redevelopment as soon as possible.

28. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE

The Committee noted the report, in particular that the Geographic Information System (GIS) had been showcased at a national event. It was noted that any additional work resulting from the success of GIS would be carefully monitored in order that the GIS Officer could prioritise their Broxtowe work.

29. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the work programme and discussed the possibility of adding an additional meeting to consider the Local Plan Update.

RESOLVED that the work programme be approved with the addition of:

- **budget estimates for the financial year 2017/2018**
- **update on costs for Stapleford Wi-Fi**
- **findings of the task and finish group.**