

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: M J Crow
T A Cullen
J Handley
M Handley
R I Jackson
E Kerry (sub)
P Lally
W J Longdon

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B C Carr and H G Khaled.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

42. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

43. WI-FI FOR STAPLEFORD TOWN CENTRE

The Committee was updated on the progress of the installation of public Wi-Fi in Stapleford Town Centre. The project was on time, though there had been some issues with BT installing the required infrastructure. It was recommended that the Committee monitor the progress of the project through a quarterly report.

RESOLVED that the Town Centre Manager prepare a quarterly report to be brought to the next meeting.

44. FUNDING UPDATE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PRE-DEVELOPMENT FUND – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted that the Council had received funding from Nottinghamshire County Council for pre-development work on sites that could be suitable for housing, but were difficult to develop.

There was concern that the tone of the report predetermined that land at Chewton Street, Eastwood would be suitable for housing. The Committee was assured that the funding was to conduct the early stages of a scoping report, contamination survey and remediation strategy. If it were found that the site could not be remediated, the Council would not build housing on it.

45. JOB FAIRS

The meeting noted that there had been a successful jobs fair in Stapleford on 8 March 2017, with another planned in Kimberley on 24 April 2017.

A report on the Stapleford jobs fair from Councillor Richard Macrae was read out by the Chair. There was concern over the type of jobs on offer, with particular reference to a lack of jobs in engineering and industry. It was noted that another jobs fair was to take place in Stapleford in September 2017. The Committee was informed that areas with high unemployment were to be targeted with jobs fairs.

46. PART TWO LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

The Committee considered policies that were to be included in the Part Two Local Plan.

There was a discussion about what constituted quality employment land. It was noted that regular inspections of employment land were undertaken to ensure that the buildings, size, parking, communications and environment were such that they would be attractive to employers and employees. Poor sites had previously been protected by a blanket policy on employment land. The importance of retaining quality employment sites was emphasised and it was considered that the policy on employment land would allow the Council to repurpose sites that were no longer useful as employment land and increase flexibility with the land resource.

There followed a discussion about Mushroom Farm. It was clarified that the site was considered of a high quality for employment and that the developer was starting to take orders from the business that were to occupy the site for bespoke buildings.

RESOLVED that the policies listed in the appendix be approved for inclusion in the Part Two Local Plan.

47. WORK PROGRAMME

A report containing more detail about HS2 development and one on the outcome of the Gedling Local Plan Examination were added to the 11 May 2017 Committee.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.