

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

2 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: T A Cullen
M J Crow (Vice Chair)
E Cubley
D A Elliott (Substitute)
L Fletcher
E Kerry
W J Longdon
K E Rigby

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B C Carr, J W Handley, M Handley, R I Jackson, M Radulovic MBE and R S Robinson.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 were confirmed and signed, with an amendment to include Councillor R S Robinson on the list of apologies.

21. EXPANSION OF TOWN CENTRE WI-FI

The Committee heard a presentation from a representative of Elephant Wi-Fi regarding the implementation of a free wi-fi scheme in Stapleford. The representative of Elephant Wifi left the meeting to allow members to debate the recommendation.

It was considered that Wi-fi had proved popular in Stapleford, with 663 users logging in between 3 October and 2 November 2017 and that it could be of benefit to all of the town centres. Collecting data on Beeston, Eastwood and Kimberley, along with Stapleford would provide a suite of figures that could be used to direct the strategies of existing businesses and attract new businesses. The information could also be used to inform the actions of the Town Centre Managers as well as the Council's overarching economic strategy.

RESOLVED that quotations be sourced for the provision of free Wi-Fi in Beeston, Eastwood and Kimberley.

22. ECONOMIC REGENERATION UPDATE AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY REPORT 2017 – 2021

The Committee noted the Economic Regeneration Strategy. It was clarified that Local Enterprise Partnership funding, which had been provided by the European Union, would be available until 2020.

Discussion progressed on the creation of the database of businesses. The intention of this was to create a relationship between businesses within Broxtowe and the Council so that there was a dialogue about what businesses really needed to flourish. There followed a discussion about a multi modal study which had been undertaken by the Department for Transport that had highlighted Broxtowe as an area ripe for development because of its connectivity. The Committee requested that a report on the multi modal study be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy 2017 – 2012 be approved.

23. BUSINESS HEALTH CHECK AND ADVICE EVENT

The Committee noted that there had been a Business Health Check and Advice Event organised by members of the Economic Development Team to help businesses that were starting up or looking to expand.

It was noted that six businesses had taken up the eight available appointments and this success had led to the booking of a further, similar event. Consideration was given to the suggestion that finding help can often take too much time for businesses that are starting up or growing. It was noted that the agencies providing assistance would be receptive to any requests for a more flexible approach.

24. UPDATE ON KEY SITES

The Committee noted the update on key sites for development across the Borough.

It was noted that the section 106 agreement for Beeston Business Park was due to be signed shortly. There had also been progress on the Walker Street site, which had been the subject of discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council.

It was commented that there had been a delay to building work on the western side of the Beamlight site due to a problem with the legal notice for the road closure. The technology for decontamination had progressed over the years and that a trench may be a suitable way to rid the site of leachate.

There followed a discussion about section 106 agreements and the length of time they took to agree. The Committee was informed that the largest site for development were the most complicated in terms of agreeing section 106 contributions and that they were subject to scrutiny from other public authorities, in particular Nottinghamshire County Council.

25. BUILDING CONTROL ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee noted the performance data regarding the Building Control Service being provided for the Council by Erewash Borough Council.

The discussion centred on the difficulty in finding and retaining professionally qualified staff. It was noted that any increase in development would be dealt with through hiring agency staff. It was also noted that there could be opportunities to work with other authorities in the area on the same shared service basis

26. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS – BUSINESS GROWTH

The Committee noted progress against targets identified in the Business Growth Business Plan.

The Committee noted that the Nuthall Neighbourhood Plan was nearly ready to submit to examination and a number of other neighbourhood plans were in their final stages. The first plans were expected to be adopted in early 2018. It was noted that the Planning Department was recruiting to support communities to produce their plans.

A question was asked about the Stapleford Gateway. It was noted that the Stapleford Gateway would be discussed at the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee on 21 November 2017. It was considered that getting free Wi-Fi was part of improving the offer in Stapleford to attract visitors to the town centre. In the long term, plans were being made to ensure that Stapleford would benefit from its proximity to the HS2 East Midlands Hub, which was expected to be finished by 2033.

It was noted that snagging works around the tram route were continuing throughout Beeston and Chilwell. It was considered that this would be addressed by a report that was to be heard by the Policy and Performance Committee on 21 November 2017

27. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee requested a report on the Multi Modal Study be added to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, as amended, be approved.