



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15th JUNE 2021

PRESENT: Councillor S Goodall (Chair), Councillors T Clements, J Chesworth, R Claymore, A Cooper, D Maycock, Dr S Peple, B Price and M Summers

CABINET: Councillor Jeremy Oates

The following officers were present: Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Thomas Hobbs (Regeneration Officer) and Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peple)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Committee to the meeting and thanked the retiring members, and additionally noted that Councillor Tina Clements had been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee at the full Council meeting on 20th May 2021.

4 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

The Chair reported that he had attended Cabinet on 8 April to support the recommendations within the CIL Spending Report, which had been considered by this Committee at its previous meeting. The Chair reported that Cabinet had approved the Report's recommendations.

5 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

The Chair reported that there had been no matters referred to this Committee by Cabinet or Council, other than the request for this Committee to consider the State of Tamworth Debate discussion as part of its work plans going forwards, which was considered later on the agenda.

6 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair invited the Leader of the Council to introduce the Future High Street Fund: Terms of Reference Report to the Committee. The Leader of the Council provided an overview to the Committee on the extent to which the council could influence town centre activities and recent trends on high streets and how town centres were used. He further drew the attention of the Committee to the appointment of two external executives to the Programme Board; the Chief Executive of South Staffordshire College and the Chief Executive of the Stoke-On-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Leader of the Council introduced the Assistant Director, Growth & Regeneration and the Project Officer to the meeting. The Assistant Director highlighted to the Committee that the aim of this report was to set out clear governance arrangements in terms of decision making and the application of financial guidance, which allowed decisions to be taken quickly and at the appropriate level of seniority within the authority. Following consideration by this Committee this report was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 17th June 2021 with recommendations to approve the report and to approve an indicative programme timeline in accordance with the terms of reference.

The Assistant Director provided an overview of progress to date on the project including commencement of enabling activity and the set up of the programme office as well an overview of the recruitment to posts and the arrangements put in place to continue with the current interim Programme Manager for a fixed three year period. The Assistant Director highlighted to the Committee the importance of moving the project forward consistently over the full period in order to deliver the requirements in accordance with the programme required and that the proposed governance structure aimed to deliver that, and the Programme Board had been meeting regularly since February 2021.

The Assistant Director reported that whilst the funding from the Future High Street Fund had to be spent by April 2024, work could continue beyond that date provided that the funding was from partner organisations.

In terms of reporting arrangements, both Cabinet and this Committee would be updated quarterly on progress against delivery of the programme.

The Committee sought and received clarification in the following areas:

- Programme – the extent to which the indicative programme included any contingencies where it was reported that the programme remained

indicative and a working document, and whilst it had been prepared on a fairly conservative basis, it was likely to change over time. Assurances were sought and received that once the programme was fixed, that progress would be reported to this Committee against that baselined plan.

- Status of College funding – clarification was sought on the status of the College funding application where it was reported that whilst a round 1 bid had been made, as yet the College had not heard back from the Department for Education, which had been expected by this date. Further clarification was requested on how far the council was prepared to progress without confirmation of this funding stream to the College being received and whether there was any plan B. It was reported that the council's programme to deliver the projects required activity to commence prior to September, which was when the College expected to receive a final decision from the Department for Education on its bid, and that accordingly the council was already working closely and collaboratively with the College to procure the multidisciplinary team to support the project.
- Reporting on progress – confirmation was provided that reporting to this Committee would be planned to come prior to reporting being made to Cabinet such that this Committee could review and feed its considerations into Cabinet. It was further confirmed that where possible the project would be flexible in providing the Committee with areas of information which this Committee specifically requested.
- Skills - clarification was sought on how the council could feed into ensuring that the wider skills agenda was supported by the project including through the delivery of appropriate courses and skills from the College. The Leader confirmed that the council had an interest in ensuring that the enterprise centre and the college were linked. It was considered that engagement with the principal of the College in this regard would be beneficial and that this could be though inviting the Principal to attend either this Committee or one of the other Scrutiny Committees.
- Archeology – it was reported that the county archaeologist would be involved as part of the planning process, and that accordingly this area was a risk recorded in the risk register for the project.

RESOLVED that:

- The Report be noted; and
- This Committee's comments be reported to Cabinet.

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

7 CONSIDERATION OF STATE OF TAMWORTH DEBATE ITEMS

The Chair introduced this item and requested that members consider whether any of the discussion points at the State of Tamworth debate should be developed further into work plan items for this Committee.

From the discussion, the main areas for consideration by this Committee were:

- The importance of green and open spaces and access to those;
- The Green agenda, and in particular electric vehicle charging points. One area for further consideration could be how the Garage Sites project could support the delivery further charging points;
- Crime, including modern slavery and human trafficking.

It was agreed that these would continue to be considered through the municipal year as the work plan developed.

8 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan and agreed that there was nothing specific at this time to bring forward onto the work plan, although the committee noted that the work on the Dry Recycling Contract renewal may be revisited.

9 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Following the consideration of the previous agenda items the Committee considered its work plan and agreed the following:

- The possibility of looking at a broader item on community safety earlier in this municipal year which could look to consider E-scouters and E-bikes, CCTV and modern slavery. Invitations for both the Tamworth Police Commander and the new Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner to attend the meeting.
- To consider and provide (in advance) to external attendees questions / areas of focus which the Committee would like addressed.
- Bring forward potentially to November 2021, the consideration of the Taxi Licensing Points System and invite the Chairman of the Taxi Drivers Association to attend that Committee meeting;
- to update its work plan for 2021/22 as follows:

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2021 - 2022	
DATE	SUBJECT
Quarterly updates	Future High Street Fund (Growth) – Quarterly updates – starting March 2021
July 2021	Local Development Scheme and Local Plan Timetable
Sept / Oct 2021	Kettlebrook and Bolehall Public Space Protection Orders
Date to be confirmed – 2021 / 22	Community Safety overview to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to Tamworth Police Commander • Invitation to Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner • CCTV update • E-Scouters and E-Bikes • Modern Slavery update • Business Crime Reduction Partnership Update
Date to be confirmed - 2021 /22	Garage Sites & EV Charging update
November 2021	Review of Taxi Licensing Policy – Points System
When clarity on legislation	Fire Safety Update

Working Groups		
Topic	Possible WG Members	Target IS&G Com meeting date
Fireworks	Open to all	July 2021
Events	SP, RB, AF, PB, SG	

Upcoming Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee Meetings
7 th July 2021
15 th September 2021
12 th October 2021
23 rd November 2021
19 th January 2022
24 th March 2022

10 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Committee agreed that the ICT Working Group had completed its work following agreement by Cabinet of the ICT Strategy at its April meeting, which the working group had reviewed with the Head of Technology.

The Chair aimed to provide an update on Fireworks to the next meeting in July.

The Committee agreed to consider further the requirement or otherwise to continue with the Events Working Group.

Chair