



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th MARCH 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Jay (Chair), Councillors S Goodall, M Oates, Dr S Peale, P Standen, M Summers and P Thurgood

The following officers were present: Matthew Fletcher (Head of Economic Development and Regeneration), David Hunter (Senior Regeneration Officer), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager), Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer) and Adam Deakin (Technical Infrastructure Engineer)

### **78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Price. The Chair further reported that Councillor J Oates, the Leader of the Council, was unable to attend due to other council business.

### **79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **80 CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair thanked the members of the Committee their work over the past year during which twelve meetings had been held.

### **81 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET / COUNCIL**

None.

### **82 2020/21 FORWARD PLAN**

Following comments from members of the Committee regarding the addition of new items to the Forward Plan, which had limited time for scrutiny pre Cabinet decision, the Chair requested that the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council be notified of this Committee's request that, whilst the need to flexibility was

understood, that consideration be given to the process to enable timely input by the relevant scrutiny committee.

### **83 GUNGATE PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT**

The Chair reported that the Leader of the Council had sent his apologies for this item at which he had been due to attend, and requested that his thanks to Officers for the production of the report be noted.

The Chair welcomed Mr Matthew Fletcher, Head of Economic Development & Regeneration and Mr David Hunter, Senior Regeneration Officer to the meeting to introduce the report which updated the Committee on the findings of the Gungate Regeneration Quarter Consultation.

It was reported that the masterplanning work for the area had been carried out in 2019. A digital public consultation had been held during February 2021, to which 209 responses had been received as well as social media comments and these had been summarised in the report for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee considered and debated the report and highlighted the following:

- The report provided a good and balanced summary of the disparate responses received from the public, that demonstrated that there was no single answer and that a number of issues were identified;
- The public did not want to see the local heritage damaged and that the heritage was important;
- There was an acknowledgement that the council could not deliver the solutions ourselves and that there would need to be parties and partners who were prepared to come forward to develop solutions;
- There appeared to be, on balance, a view that developing the area for shops would be unlikely;
- There was some consensus that the site would support mixed uses, including residential use, although there was not a consensus on the type of residential use;
- More people living in the town centre could support its vibrancy;
- The possibility of the site for use for some centralised medical services, given the transport links into the town, although not at the expense of services in the local neighbourhoods;
- The importance of the road infrastructure;
- Overall the Committee considered that it was important that flexibility was retained in the aspirations for the area to ensure that responses to changing trends could be made.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

1. Noted the results of the Public consultation on the future of the Gungate site and the proposed next steps; and
2. Noted the public's desire for a mixed use solution and Recommended to Cabinet that the council embraces a mixed use vision for the future of the town centre.

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

## 84 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received and updated the Work Plan as follows:

### Corporate Scrutiny Work Plan

| <b>Work Plan 2020 – 2021</b> |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>TARGET MEETING DATE</b>   | <b>SUBJECT</b>  | <b>MEETING WHEN ITEM ADDED TO WORK PLAN</b> |
| March / June 2021            | Review of Cabinet decisions over previous 12 month period       | December 2020                               |
| June 2021                    | Consideration of State of Tamworth Debate items                 | March 2021                                  |
| Quarter 4 2020/21            | Asset Management update   | December 2019                               |
| June 2021 (tbc)              | Review of Write Offs (full update)                              | July 2020                                   |
| <b>Dates to be agreed</b>    |   |   |
| TBC                          | Update on corporate prioritisation                              | August 2020                                 |
| TBC                          | Market tender progress Update                                   | August 2019                                 |
| TBC                          | Parking Toolkit review  | October 2019                                |
| TBC                          | Housing Repairs & Investment Contract Review                    | November 2019                               |
| TBC                          | Solway Trading Company Update (2x per year – March & September) | December 2019                               |
| TBC                          | Gungate Masterplan  | January 2020                                |
| TBC                          | Customer Portal - post implementation review                    | November 2020                               |

### Upcoming Corporate Scrutiny Committee Meetings

*Dates to be confirmed*

**85 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF CORPORATE SCRUTINY - 2020/21**

The Chair introduced his draft Annual Report of the Committee which he had brought it to this meeting for any comments members may have on it, prior to its presentation to full Council in the next municipal year. The report was intended to formally update Council on the activities of the Committee over the year 2020/21. The Chair reported that the draft report would be updated following this meeting.

The member attendance table would be updated and circulated to committee members.

Members welcomed the report and thanked the Chair for the timely and detailed report provided.

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Chair