

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO COUNCILLOR T HALLAM

### Portfolio Report to Council – 12 October 2022

#### Planning

Development Control Recently recruited 2 new planning and enforcement officers, to help with the ever increasing workload.

- 2021 – applications were up 20% on the year before
- At the point in 2022 we are 15 planning applications less than last year, but have received more formal planning enquiries and enforcement cases than at the same time last year. Overall work received is therefore higher than last year and shows no signs of abating.
- Several major applications received this year including Field Farm Phases 2 and 3, Boots, Chilwell College, West of Coventry Lane, St Johns College, Beeston Square, Ellis Grove, Chewton Street and large scale housing allocations in Brinsley and Awsworth.

#### Planning Policy

##### Strategic Plan

Following previous consultation on the 'Issues and Options' ('Growth Options') document, a 'Preferred Approach' document has been prepared. This will be considered by the Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB) on September 27. It will then be considered by each of the authorities: for Broxtowe, provisionally, this would be by the Cabinet in November. Subject to Members' decisions, consultation on this document will take place before the end of the year. Following consideration of responses to the consultation, a full draft of the Strategic Plan would be prepared, for consultation next year, to be followed by an examination by a Government inspector. The 'Preferred Approach' document focuses on the preferred strategy, housing and employment. It proposes that each authority other than the City should meet the housing need identified by the Government's 'standard methodology'. For Broxtowe the 'Preferred Approach' would involve focusing housing development at Chetwynd and at the land previously removed from the Green Belt at Toton. No further Green Belt releases would be proposed. Further details are included in item 4 of the attached JPAB agenda available at the website below

<https://www.gnplan.org.uk/media/3375234/jpab-agenda-27-september-2022docx.pdf>.

#### Neighbourhood Plans

The Awsworth plan was adopted this year. The Independent Examination of the Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Plan has commenced and it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held in November. In addition, the Regulation 14 consultation of the Cossall Neighbourhood Plan is currently underway for the period until 1 November'.

Economic Development:

## Key for Acronyms

BCR- Benefit Cost Ratio

CIO- Community Interest Organisation

DLUHC- Department levelling Up Housing Communities

LUF- Levelling Up Fund

Levelling Up Fund Bids were submitted for Kimberley & Eastwood on the 2 August 2022 as per the council's press release - Both contained 3 projects which are as follows:

## Kimberley Levelling Up Fund Grant Request £16.6M

Project Name	DLUHC Grant (£m)	BCR	Value for money
Cycle Ways and Bennerley Viaduct	8.7	2.9	High
Industrial units and improved sports	4.3	2.3	High
Town Centre Regeneration	3.5	2.7	High

## Eastwood Levelling Up Fund Grant Request £19.99M

Project Name	DLUHC Grant (£m)	BCR	Value for money
Cycle Ways	1.3	2.2	High
Durban House CIO and Retrofit	1.4	3.4	High
DH Lawrence Library and Life Chances Centre	17.3	2.4	High

Nationally around 540 bids were made which equates to about a 25% chance of success. No date has been set for the announcement of successful applications, but suggestions are that it should occur in late Autumn, perhaps November.

The team continues to monitor news items and any change in inference for Levelling Up following the new prime minister. An announcement about 35 low-tax investment zones across the country to "level-up" lagging areas is expected before the end of September.

Both Levelling Up Fund programmes commit the Council and its partners to delivering significant spend this financial year. This would almost be impossible from a "cold start" in November, so we are exploring some areas of early activity including:

Cycle link into Panattoni Park  
Land options in Kimberley  
Grant Scheme in Kimberley

Durban House planning application  
Bennerley Viaduct planning application and next steps.

All work done on these projects will have a dual purpose: accelerate the LUF delivery if successful and undertake actions which strengthen the projects chances of delivery either through future funding opportunities; private sector investment or in smaller packages of work that Broxtowe could do; in effect strengthening the Borough's future project pipeline.

### Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan was submitted on 1 August 2022. It is a three-year plan where the Borough can prioritise a range of actions and interventions similar to those being supported by EU structural funds.

All SPF have three Investment priorities:

- Communities and Place: Broxtowe's Key investments include library community services, financial advice to address the cost of living crisis and projects encouraging cycling.
- Supporting Local Business, the focus is on spend on nurturing pre-start businesses, town centres and business networks, helping existing SMEs to grow, grant schemes and programmes encouraging BAME and women entrepreneurship.
- People and Skills: spend is focussing on Not in Employment Education or Training people and those with multiple complex barriers to employment. Some of these programmes will be joint commissioned with other local authorities to continue existing service offerings.

Year One spend is £313,650 and at least 50% must be defrayed this financial year. Again it is unclear when the funding will be received but it is declared funding (i.e. not bid for) and would be unwise to wait too long before projects get started:

Early actions include:

- A feasibility study into internet and mobile connectivity in the North of the Borough;
- Community measures to reduce the cost of living;
- Communities and Place Good Ideas Fund;
- Entrepreneurial support;
- Recruitment of a programme support officer (potentially shared with another Borough)
- Seminars with local businesses explaining what SPF means.

### Stapleford Town Deal

The Council has 5/6 projects green-lighted, with the 6th being the Traffic Management & Street Scene for which a Business Case is being targeted for submission in December; VIA East Midlands are doing this work together with Focus.

**Grants Fund**

We have applications for £1.18million from over 80 businesses. 38% of the fund has been paid and a further 53% is committed to approved applications. Outputs and spent targets are on course.

**Cycle Hub and Cycle Routes**

The Hub building has been ordered and planning permission applied for on Ilkeston Road, a contract for designing a cycle training track is going out shortly and more work is required to tie in with Notts County Council on the substantive routes.

**Community Pavilion at Hickings Lane**

Faithful & Gould have been engaged to develop the next stage of design and support there is an opportunity for co-funding from the FA to widen the project scope and build some new facilities for displaced clubs. A new Master Plan is being prepared.

**Town Centre Enterprise Hub**

Tiles UK is currently being demolished and targeted to be operating as a car park by Q1 23/24.

Work has started on early site exploration at Victoria Street and re-design of the ground floor of the Enterprise Hub is under consideration. There is a need to go to market very soon for consultants to design and develop the facility for planning submission.

**Library and Learning Centre**

This project has been split into two sub projects for internal & external elements. Commissioned an architect company for next stage design – focussing on building the three library learning spaces this financial year.

Other Economic Development Activity

Markets in Stapleford and Beeston are to be performing well and the officer is implementing some service changes in relation to use of the Welcome Back Fund equipment and by way of an internal audit report.

The team is following up a decision made by Jobs and Economy in 2021 to recruit an apprentice to support the department's substantial workload.

Following Cabinet's endorsement of the Economic Development Strategy Framework there is a need to bring forward a final version of the full strategy early next year.

Asset Management Strategy

The Asset Management Strategy has been reviewed by GMT and will be finalised and presented to Cabinet in November.

## Parking Services

### **Car Park Usage and Income**

Whilst recovery from the effects of the pandemic on the visitor numbers has been steady, the Council is now seeing income and usage of the car parks slowly increasing towards pre-COVID levels. The Parking Services team will continue to carefully monitor data and be proactive in encouraging customers into the Council's town centre car parks.

### **Usage Trends**

The majority of visitors to the Borough's Pay & Display car park take advantage of the free one-hour period. Whilst this may not improve the overall parking income, it does encourage a high turnover within the car parks so the Council can be confident that visitors have a high chance of finding a parking space and will then return on multiple occasions. Most car parks have a turnover of between 2-3 cars per space per day (Monday to Saturday).

### **Parking Charges Payment Options Update**

The Council introduced the PayByPhone option in July 2020 which has been well received by customers using the car parks. Currently, the payment methods are averaged as below:

- 61% of customers using coins
- 11% of customers using card or contactless
- 28% of customers using PayByPhone

The Council will continue to encourage customers to use the PayByPhone option going forward as this can save the costs of Pay & Display machine maintenance and ticket rolls.

### **Safer Parking Award**

In 2022, the Council was once again successful in achieving the PARK MARK Safer Parking Award in 15 car parks across all town centres. Car parks that have this prestigious award have been fully assessed for their quality management, effective surveillance, appropriate lighting and clean environment which all helps to reduce the levels of crime and fear of crime in that car park.

**Scargill Walk car park** in Eastwood is the latest car park to benefit from the Council's rolling programme of continued improvements having been fully resurfaced and re-marked in 2021.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging**

The Council has now successfully installed 32 charging points in public car parks as detailed below to ensure future proofing for motorists as sales in electric and hybrid vehicles continues to increase. This is also a big part of working to fulfil the Council's environmental commitments and strategies.

- 8 in Beeston – Portland Street car park

- 12 in Stapleford – 8 at Cliffe Hill Avenue car park and 4 at Victoria Street car park
- 8 in Eastwood – Victoria Street car park
- 4 in Kimberley – Victoria Street car park