

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO COUNCILLOR T HALLAM

Portfolio Holder's Report to Council – 14 December 2022

Planning

Two new planning and enforcement officers that were appointed earlier in the year, have settled in really well and are helping make inroads into the Enforcement case load, which still stands at about 250 cases.

- As mentioned at the previous Council meeting we have received marginally fewer planning applications but the Council has received more formal planning enquiries and enforcement cases than at the same time last year. Overall work received is therefore running at higher levels than last year overall.
- Several major applications were received this year including Field Farm Phases 2 and 3, Boots, Chilwell College Phases 1 and 3, West of Coventry Lane, St Johns College, Beeston Square, Ellis Grove, Chewton Street and large scale housing allocations in Brinsley and Awsworth. Many of these schemes were determined in the Autumn of this year, with a few going to Planning Committee in January 2023.

Planning Policy

Strategic Plan

Following previous consultation on the 'Issues and Options' ('Growth Options') document, a 'Preferred Approach' document has been prepared for consultation. This was considered by the Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB) on 27 September 2022 and Cabinet on 8 December 2022. 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 Nottingham City Council 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.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Awsworth plan was adopted this year. The Independent Examination of the Chetwynd: The Toton and Chilwell Neighbourhood Plan took place in November. In addition, the Regulation 14 consultation of the Cossall Neighbourhood Plan has now concluded.

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 and Eastwood on the 2 August 2022 as per the council's press release - Both contained three 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 recently this decision has been deferred to the end of the year.

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" but 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: to 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. The Council is awaiting confirmation that funding is available.

Stapleford Town Deal

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

Stapleford Town Centre Recovery Fund

The Council have received applications for £1.18million from over 80 businesses for town centre recovery grants. 42% of the fund has been paid to date and more committed to approved applications. Outputs and spend targets are largely on course, though due to a few businesses withdrawing or reducing their application. Officers are now turning to a reserve list of those who applied after the July deadline.

Stapleford Safer Cycling Scheme

The Hub is now running and offering free cycling services to the community on Sundays, with good uptake. The cycle proficiency track build opportunity has now gone out to tender, with a goal of finishing construction by March 2023. More work is required to tie in with Nottinghamshire County Council on the substantive on road routes.

Community and Young People's Centre at Hicking's Lane

Faithful & Gould have engaged with stakeholders to develop the next stage of design and support with an opportunity for co-funding from the FA to widen the project scope. Funding has been secured to build some new facilities for the potentially displaced cricket club. A new Master Plan is being prepared following ongoing negotiations with Nottinghamshire County Council youth service.

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 Learning Facility

This project has been split into two sub projects for internal and external elements. Officers have 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 considered to be performing well and the Markets officer is implementing some service changes in relation to use of the Welcome Back Fund equipment.

The team is following up a decision made by Jobs and Economy Committee 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 on 8 December 2022.

The refurbishment of the Argos block was completed on the 21 November 2022 and electricity meters are being installed on Monday 28 November 2022 followed by hard wire testing. A detailed meeting with agents is being held on 7 December 2022 to agree a marketing strategy and review current interest. Legal work is well advanced for the letting of the first floor.

There is one unit remaining in phase two and the Council are in negotiations with an interested party.

The toilets are under construction with completion scheduled for mid-January 2023.