

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: S J Carr (substitute)
M J Crow (Vice Chair)
E Cubley
T A Cullen
D A Elliott (substitute)
L Fletcher
J W Handley
M Handley
R I Jackson
P Lally
R S Robinson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B C Carr.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

29. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2017 were confirmed, with an amendment to minute no. 30 - Part Two Local Plan - to include the words "and flood mitigation" after the words "These were to remain as open space" in the second paragraph thereof.

30. **OCCUPANCY OF THE MAIN EMPLOYMENT SITES AND BUSINESS SURVEYS UPDATE**

Members considered the report which gave an update on the occupancy rates of key employment sites, including Beeston, Eastwood, Kimberley and Stapleford town centres and informed of business survey results gained following data capture visits to those sites.

The absence of reference to visitor economy and heritage tourism was queried and it was noted that the sites visited were B Class employment use sites, although that was not to suggest that the visitor economy was not important.

It was stated that the graphs contained within the report were not particularly informative and a break down was requested in respect of the terminology "other" in the graph relating to the overall industry sector split. Officers

confirmed that, in future, the information would be presented in a more specific manner and that the Committee would be updated in relation to this.

RESOLVED that the update on the occupancy of main employment sites be provided to Committee twice a year, subject to when the new data is captured, these figures would be reported to the next available Committee.

31. UPDATE ON KEY SITES

Members noted the report which provided an update on the progress of housing sites across the Borough.

It was stated that progress had been made further to the Committee's previously expressed concerns about sites which were stalling. Some sites had section 106 agreements signed and were active sites. The overall picture was positive which was reflective of the significant upturn in housing numbers which were expected to come forward in 2017/18.

Progress on Moults Yard, Stapleford was queried and it was stated that work on site was anticipated to commence within the next couple of months.

Residents at Eastwood had queried progress of road works in proximity to the Beamlight site and it was stated that discussions were ongoing between County Highways and the developer over visibility splays. Consequently, there had been some delays although, on the eastern side of the site, all conditions regarding contaminations and vent drainage were being resolved in preparation for selling the site to a developer. Regarding the Eastwood side of the Beamlight site, it was noted that this had been sold to a separate developer.

Further information on flooding issues in relation to the Manor Garage Site at Toton was requested and concern was expressed that the waterway may be fenced off and not maintained. It was stated that although the site was in close proximity to the watercourse, this was not defended by the left bank flood defences. Work was underway to make development of the site possible.

The position regarding Mushroom Farm was queried and it was stated that the site was being sold, although the developer currently wished to remain anonymous. A further update would be brought to the March Committee.

Regarding the former cash office at Hill Top House, Eastwood, a member observed that the asking price for the accommodation on offer did not, contrary to some views expressed, appear to be unreasonable.

32. GRANT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT

Members noted the progress made on the grant scheme expected to launch in the new financial year, as outlined in appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

33. BUSINESS PLANS AND FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

The Committee considered the proposals for business plans, detailed revenue budget estimates for 2018/19, capital programme for 2018/19 to 2020/21 and proposed fees and charges for 2018/19 in respect of the Council's priority areas.

RESOLVED to approve the following:

1. **The Framework for Business Planning contained in appendix 1a of the report.**
2. **a) the detailed revenue budget estimates for 2018/19 (base) including any revenue development submissions.**
b) the capital programme for 2018/19 to 2020/21.
3. **The fees and charges for 2018/19.**

34. BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN

The Committee considered the draft Business Growth Plan.

The forecast for growth was queried and it was stated that this related to the planning process and the estimated growth of £40,000 related to anticipated fees for planning application receipts. Major sites would carry significant fees hence the reasoning behind the prediction of likely fee receipts.

The Leader was asked for his views on wider strategic growth for the area and whether or not he felt the Council was keeping up with changes taking place. The Leader responded that there was much cross-party work being undertaken around economic growth and he had felt strongly that the first metro strategy should be rejected.

It was stated that in terms of town centres and the Portas review, the Council currently had a town centres team which had been incorporated into the economic development team to ensure that town centre issues were considered comprehensively by gaining a better understanding of specifics. The Council was aiming to achieve successful places people would want to visit by tailoring things specifically to respond to issues affecting each town centre.

RESOLVED that:

1. **The Business Growth Plan be approved.**
2. **It be RECOMMENDED to the Finance and Resources Committee that a sum of £20,000 be included in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 revenue**

budgets to meet the cost of contributing to the work of the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board on reviewing the Aligned Core Strategy.

35. HOUSING DELIVERY WORKSHOP AND DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOL

Members received the update on the workshop and a potential protocol across greater Nottingham to assist in the delivery of housing on previously developed sites, together with the draft version of the protocol. The protocol was intended to build on the good practice already taking place across Greater Nottingham to promote a more collaborative approach.

That Chair referenced Broxtowe's role as Chair of the Joint Planning Advisory Board. One of the criticisms of joint working was that councils with geographically different areas did things in different ways which posed difficulties. The proposals were an attempt to achieve a greater degree of consistency with the aim of making things more attractive and sustainable and ensuring that developers were clear in their expectations.

RESOLVED to endorse the Development Protocol.

36. HS2 UPDATE

Members noted the update on progress on HS2 and related Growth Strategy issues. It was stated that a lot of work had been undertaken in the East Midlands by many organisations which was ongoing.

It was noted that details of a strategic meeting in Leicester on the East Midlands infrastructure project had not been disseminated by East Midlands Councils (EMC). Officers would liaise with colleagues at EMC to ensure that such invitations were disseminated appropriately in future.

The strategic attitude towards Toton was queried, bearing in mind the influence of the City given that the location was in Broxtowe. It was stated that Broxtowe was playing a positive role and was desirous of seeing junction work and access roads put in as soon as possible and jobs being created on the site. Broxtowe had been in discussions and was looking at how it might be able to 'forward borrow' to get the infrastructure in place. It was a balancing act requiring patience to work with various groups and Ministers were also being spoken to.

37. STAFFING UPDATE

The Committee noted the staffing update report for the Planning Department following a departmental restructure which was reported to the Policy and Performance Committee on 4 July 2017. Recruitment was underway to address under-staffing. Members thanked officers for their diligent work.

38. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Members noted the progress on preparation of the ten Neighbourhood Plans, as set out in the appendix to the report. There were challenges but it was a positive picture.

Councillor S J Carr stated that there was likely to be a Plan launched for Beeston North in the spring.

Councillor J W Handley placed on record his thanks on behalf of Brinsley to officers for their hard work.

Councillor M E Plackett, ward member for Bramcote, was invited to address the Committee. Councillor Plackett thanked officers for their work with the Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum. Councillor Plackett also specifically thanked the Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum for its diligence and hard work on Bramcote's Neighbourhood Plan. The Forum's consultation process of meetings and workshops had given Bramcote residents the opportunity to engage in the process and the steering group had been ably led by its Chair, Paul Nathaniel.

Residents were concerned to protect the Open Green Spaces in Bramcote as referenced in the Borough Council's Part 2 Plan. Although it had been advised that Local Green Spaces were afforded the same protection as Green Belt, Councillor Plackett stated that nothing resonated more in the public's mind than protection of such open spaces as Green Belt. Councillor Plackett therefore requested that the Committee submit in its Part 2 Plan proposals to the Inspectorate for their consideration those remaining plots of Bramcote green spaces retain their Green Belt defined status.

Officers confirmed that the Part 2 Local Plan would be coming back to this Committee. Officers were clear of the Bramcote Forum's stance and that would be debated when the Part 2 Local Plan was reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

39. WORK PROGRAMME

The most significant upcoming item would be the Part 2 Local Plan which was anticipated to be on the March or April agenda. A report on Phase 2 funding for The Square development would be presented to the March Committee.

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

Chair