

ECONOMY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 7 December 2017

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Oliver Johnstone (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Graham Greenhalgh (Vice-Chair); Councillors Stuart Bodsworth, Richard Coaton, Philip Harding, Charlie Stewart, Jon Twigge and Suzanne Wyatt.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded during the consideration of agenda item 11 ‘Town Centre Regeneration – Merseyway’ which contained information “not for publication” by virtue of category 3 as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

5. STOCKPORT WORK AND SKILLS COMMISSION: UPDATE

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress with the Stockport Work and Skills Commission.

The Cabinet Member (Economy & Regeneration) and Paul Holmes, Chair of the Work and Skills Commission answered questions in relation to the report.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The Commission would be a short, focused exercise to lead a public debate with relevant stakeholders and partners on the work and skills issues that were impacting, and will impact, on the local people, businesses and economy in Stockport.
- Workshops would be held to generate a range of views on what the main issues and problems with work and skills were and to provide suggestions for priorities and actions.

- Plans to investigate the impact of universal credit and the poverty insight work being undertaken which linked directly with the work of the skills commission.
- Understanding the barriers for people to access work but also their ability to stay in work once they have successfully gained employment.
- The different challenges facing the commission moving forward – the issues of the *here and now* which can be dealt with in the next 6 mths, then medium term issues over the next 18 mths and then then longer term considerations which need to be addressed which could involve planning for the next 10 years.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. SAFER STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

The Cabinet Member (Economy & Regeneration) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) inviting members to comment on the proposed priority areas for the Safer Stockport Partnership to focus on as part of the Safer Stockport Partnership Plan.

The following comments were made issues raised:-

- Councillors asked that District Centres be given consideration as part of the plan noting that a lot of work was undertaken in the Town Centre.
- In order to ensure that people can best enjoy the evening economy in District Centres – they should be given high priority.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing feedback on the consultation on the draft strategy which had been undertaken with key stakeholders in Stockport Town Centre and seeking feedback on the proposals.

The Cabinet Member (Economy & Regeneration) answered questions in relation to the report.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- The Committee noted that the current car parking strategy for Stockport Town Centre was adopted in 2012, and since then, there had been a period of change in which the nature of the town centre and local road network had changed significantly as a result of ongoing investment through programmes such as TCAP and schemes such as Redrock and Stockport Exchange.
- The draft strategy provided an overarching framework and a proposed way forward in line with the identified objectives. The objectives, particularly those relating to tariff structures and income generation, were intrinsically linked to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- Whilst great efforts were being made to encourage residents to use public transport especially when accessing the town centre – it was still vital to ensure that the car parking strategy was working as effectively as possible.

- Flexibility had been built into the strategy to allow it to react as the size of the Town Centre changes – there would also been enhanced harmonisation of tariffs amongst the Council owned car parks.
- The effect of new developments and the need to ensure that any new developments do not have any adverse effect. The Local Plan was integral to this process and how the Council wanted places to function.
- Town Centre Living work was underway to assess the potential for increased town centre living.
- Future revenue streams associated with electric parking.
- The Chair reported that he had requested that the report in relation to District Centre car parking be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. RESILIENT NETWORK REVIEW

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out a review of the Council's Resilient Network document including consideration of other issues requested by the Department of Transport beyond weather related incidents impacting on the highway.

The Cabinet Member (Economy & Regeneration) answered questions in relation to the report.

The following comments were made/issues raised:-

- Councillors noted that whilst under all but the most extreme conditions the presumption would be to keep the network open. However, in certain circumstances the closure of routes would be considered and alternatives planned.
- Procedures for responding efficiently to emergencies on the highway and how information is shared between agencies and partners.
- Work undertaken at a Greater Manchester level but also the emergency planning powers available to the Council to take quick action to deal with an emergency – an explanation of the Silver Commander role undertaken by senior Council Officers was given.
- How members of the public and councillors can report any concerns of incidents to the relevant council officers.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. REVIEW OF THE A6 VIADUCT MAINTENANCE SCHEME

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the lessons learnt from the delivery of the first phase of essential works that were carried out to the grade II listed Wellington Road Viaduct on the A6 in Stockport Town Centre which will inform the delivery of future highways maintenance and improvement schemes.

The Chair thanked officers and partners for the excellent work undertaken implementing the scheme. He suggested that any learning from delivering the project on time be applied to other schemes.

Councillors sought further explanation as to how contractors were selected and how the best market rates were achieved. Further information was sought in respect to the Alliance Framework and how such a framework offered better value.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. TOWN CENTRE ACCESS PACKAGE (TCAP) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER - PROJECT 601

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the Committee with an update in respect to the Travis Brow Scheme as it related to the Town Centre Access Package.

The Cabinet Member (Economy & Regeneration) answered questions in relation to the report.

The Committee discussed the time taken, the use of and the circumstances in which Compulsory Purchase Orders were utilised.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Democratic Services Manager circulated a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out planned agenda items for the Committee's next meeting and Forward Plan items which fall within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Item not for publication

12. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - MERSEYWAY

The Corporate Director for Place Management and Regeneration and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview on the strategic approach that the Council has taken to the current and future role of Merseyway Shopping Centre with the Council's wider ambition for Stockport Town Centre.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm