

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY REGENERATION) COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration) Committee in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall Burton upon Trent on Monday 3rd October 2022.

Present:

Councillors S McGarry (Chairman), L Beech, Mrs B Brady and Mrs J Jones.

Officers Present:

Thomas Deery (Interim Head of Regeneration), the Enterprise Manager, the Programmes and Transformation Team Leader and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Councillor M Metcalfe.

10/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

11/22 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

12/21 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th July 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		
Councillor Mrs B Brady		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor S McGarry		

13/22 **PRESENTATION REGARDING JOBS FAIR AND BUSINESS GRANTS**

A representative from the Regeneration team had been invited to the meeting give a short presentation regarding the Council's Job Fair and Business Grants. Kelly Kerr-Delworth, Enterprise Manager attended the meeting on behalf of the team.

She reported that the **Business Springboard Boost** was launched in 2021/22 and have allocated funds of £200,000 to businesses over the two year period. Businesses could apply for funding from between £500 to £10,000, and which new businesses and existing

businesses are eligible to apply. A total of 118 businesses enquired about the fund between April 2021 and September 2022. Full and valid applications have been received from 20 businesses in round 1 and 9 to date in round 2. 13 businesses were successful in round 1; and 8 so far in round 2.

She reported that a total of £421,775 of private sector funds had been matched with £159,565 investment from East Staffordshire Borough Council to date, with the project costs being £581,340. So every £1 of grant, £2.64 of private sectors' money was levied. It was noted that this was one of the strongest returns on investment for recent grant schemes.

A range of outcomes from job creation and safeguarding jobs to supporting local community groups included:

- HFE Signs who were successful in 2022 have already recruited a designer;
- A boost in online presence for Baggy Boys, their sales increased in sale due to the investment;
- Ashes Memorial Jewellery had an increase in sales as a direct result of the new marketing campaign part funded by ESBC and appointed a new member of staff as a result.

She also reported that Acorn Training had brought a disused building back to life, with 166 residents supported as of February 2022, and resulted in 30 learning outcomes. This included one in customer service, level one in health and social care and a forklift licence. Privilege Bar and Restaurant at No 42 Interiors was another successful business who benefited from BSB.

The Business Springboard Boost panel consist of Councillors, business representatives and Council officer from the Enterprise team. Decisions are made on the strength of the project, potential outcomes, level of risk of supporting project based on documentation from ESBC accountants. It was noted that there was now £39,450 left in the 2022/23 allocation, and the next panel meeting would on Thursday 5th October 2022, with 5 applications to take forward.

She reported that the **Job Fairs** were led by Job Centre Plus, and supported by a partnership consisting of BSDC, Burton Albion Community Trust, Trent and Dove Housing, South Derbyshire District Council, Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Sharpe's Pottery Museum. This service has been delivering for our ten years and on average 4 job fairs are held annually. ESBC contributes to the venue costs, the venues for the fairs are rotated between BSDC, Burton Market Hall and Burton Town Hall.

Virtual and bespoke job fairs were held throughout the height of COVID pandemic, however this year in-person events had been held. The Town Hall event held in June 2022 was one of the best attended; with 501 job seekers attending with 48 employers promoting job vacancies. Employers recorded 322 positive actions. 107 job seekers recorded 322 positive actions, with 107 job seekers left with an interview secured; 193 application forms completed and 22 job offers made on the day.

92% of employers rated the event as good; 84% of job seekers recorded the event as "very good" or "excellent", which are quite typical ratings for the job fairs.

14/22 **CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT END OF YEAR – QUARTER 1**

The Report of Sal Khan, Head of Service, regarding the end of year performance was considered. The Programmes and Transformation Team Leader provided a brief overview of the report to the committee.

An opportunity for questions followed.

Councillor Jones requested an update on indicator on CR20a Major Planning Applications Determined within 13 Weeks as this was marked as “In Danger of Falling behind Target”. Councillor Jones also requested an update on the two targets with a determination time within 8 weeks.

The Programmes and Transformation Team Leader informed Members that he would respond outside of the meeting.

NOTED

14/22 **STATION STREET REGENERATION REVIEW**

At the meeting of the Committee on 4th July 2022 it was agreed that the Committee would review the Station Street Regeneration. The Programmes and Transformation Team Leader informed Members that he had circulated an electronic scoping paper to members of the Committee and was awaiting their response.

The Chairman requested that Members gave consideration to signing off the scoping paper at the meeting.

Discussions took place.

It was agreed that the Programmes and Transformation Team Leader would circulate an email to Members with the questions and requested a response by 14th October 2022, in order that a final version of the questions could be forwarded to the officers concerned for information.

It was also agreed that the Leader and the Interim Head of Regeneration would be invited to next meeting of the Committee.

15/22 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Councillors received for information a list of public Executive Decision Records.

NOTED.

16/22 **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

17/22 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on 19th December 2022.

NOTED.

18/22 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the

proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS

Chairman