

## **Minutes of the Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 6.00 pm**  
**In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley.**

### **Present:**

Councillor D Stanley (Chair)  
Councillor S Henley (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors C Eccles (From Minute No. 52), J Foster (From Minute No. 52),  
A Hopwood, L Johnson, E Lawrence, N Neale and P Sahota (From Minute No. 52).

### **Officers:**

H Martin (Director of Regeneration and Enterprise), P Mountford (Head of Economic Growth and Skills) and K Taylor (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

#### **47    Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor S Mughal.

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#### **48    Appointment of Substitute Member**

There were no substitute Members appointed for this meeting of the Committee.

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#### **49    Declarations of Interest**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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50 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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51 **Public Forum**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

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52 **Dudley Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the work undertaken to date on the proposed Dudley Borough 'Economic Regeneration Strategy', in advance of a report to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

In presenting the report submitted, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise advised that the development of an Economic Regeneration Strategy for the Borough was required to address a corporate priority highlighted in the internal Regeneration and Enterprise audit and to underpin future funding bids to Government and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) in order to maximise external funding opportunities. The Strategy also included the strategic priorities for regeneration and economic growth in the Borough, future delivery and governance requirements across four key themes and a cross-cutting priority that would strengthen actions and investment.

Following approval by the Council in June, 2023, SQW was appointed to prepare the Strategy following a competitive tender exercise, and had since developed a draft Strategy and Action Plan which was submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023 with comments provided by the Local Authority on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The Director of Regeneration and Enterprise gave a detailed overview of the four key themes namely, Unlocking enterprise and innovation; Investing in people and building skills for tomorrow; Creating a vibrant creative and cultural environment, and supporting the Visitor Economy and Reinventing town centres across the Borough.

It was noted that SQW had identified a cross-cutting priority to maximise impacts from the Metro Extension, particularly in redefining the borough's role in the West Midlands.

It was further noted that the Action would set out the schedule of interventions that needed to be progressed to deliver the strategic themes.

The Chair invited Members to comment on the report. At this juncture, Councillor J Foster apologised for not being present during consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting, however she indicated that she wished to raise issues concerning the minutes. This matter is referred to in Minute No. 53 below.

Members asked questions, made comments and responses were provided where appropriate as follows: -

- a) Following a request by the Chair for an update on progress made regarding the regeneration of Stone Street, Dudley, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that the old museum building had now been sold and that she wasn't aware that a planning application had been submitted concerning the future development of the building.
- b) Councillor J Foster referred to the recommendations of the report and sought clarification as to whether there was anything further that Members could contribute to the Strategy rather than just noting the contents of the report submitted.

In responding, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise clarified that the Strategy and Action Plan would be submitted to the Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and that this was an opportunity for the Committee to make any comments or contributions.

Further to comments made, Councillor J Foster requested that future reports clearly outline the purpose of the report and the response or observations required by Members.

- c) In responding to a question by Councillor J Foster, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that the Economic Regeneration Strategy would be aligned to the new Council Plan. It was noted that the suspension of the previous Council Plan 2022-25 was approved by Full Council in February, 2024.

- d) Councillor J Foster also sought clarification as to whether there were any associated timescales for allocating funding before the end of the financial year that had been awarded by the Government for developing Town Forums.

In responding, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that she was unaware of such timescales concerning allocation of funding for any projects that were included within the Strategy.

- e) Following a question raised by Councillor J Foster in relation to the development of the Towns Boards, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that £50,000 capacity funding could be rolled over to the next financial year if unspent.
- f) Councillor P Sahota although welcomed the forthcoming Strategy, raised concern that no mention had been made in relation to Inclusive Growth principles, and referred to the series of stakeholder consultations undertaken and queried what consultation had been undertaken with community groups and the voluntary sector.

Reference was made to the four key themes set out within the Strategy and Councillor Sahota suggested that themes 1 and 2 were similar to those included in previous strategies and therefore queried whether the Local Authority had considered lessons learnt from past experiences that had not been successful in order to prevent any issues going forward.

The proposed measures in supporting the Visitor Economy was welcomed given the substantial assets within the Borough that should be promoted. Councillor Sahota therefore queried whether there was a need for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Tourism Group/Team to help move this area forward.

Whilst acknowledging that the Strategy focused on reinventing town centres, Councillor Sahota emphasised the importance of improving and supporting the 15 local centres that were located across the Borough, and queried what support was available to ensure centres were improved and remained fit for purpose.

Councillor Sahota suggested that the Strategy should include information specifically relating to proposed measures for improving both local centres and capacity for employment land.

- g) Councillor P Sahota referred to maximising the impact of the Metro and suggested that an extension to an existing metro line from the Five Ways in Birmingham along the A456 towards Halesowen and beyond should be considered to improve connectivity.

In responding, the Chair referred to the proposed metro extension from Solihull to Walsall and suggested that Councillor Sahota review the proposals and consider whether this would be a viable option for Halesowen.

- h) In responding to all comments made by Councillor P Sahota, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that the proposed document was intended to be a high-level Strategy and Action Plan which would be essential in progressing the proposals. Whilst it was accepted that the Strategy did not specifically refer to Inclusive Growth, this area had been referenced under Theme 2: Investing in people and building skills for tomorrow. The Strategy also promoted the need to maximise and sustain town centre economies including those in disadvantaged areas.

With regard to consultation, it was noted that community groups had been consulted however it was anticipated that further engagement with community and voluntary groups would be undertaken as the Strategy progressed.

The Director of Regeneration and Enterprise referred to the extensive work undertaken with regards to both the Tourism and Cultural Strategies which would embed the principles of the proposed Economic Regeneration Strategy. The comments made in relation to local centres were acknowledged and it was anticipated that Local Centres would improve through the proposals implemented within the high level Strategy.

The limited capacity of employment land was acknowledged and the need to maximise existing space was emphasised. With regard to the Metro Extension, the Local Authority would continue to work with the West Midlands Combined Authority to identify and unlock any available space or area that could be utilised to ensure and maximise connectivity to both local and town centres.

- i) Following the response received, Councillor P Sahota shared his disappointment that local centres would not be specifically referred to within the Strategy and reiterated that this area should be included to ensure that they were regenerated and remained viable within the communities. He raised further concern that the funding that had been made available was not being allocated towards smaller projects.
- j) Councillor E Lawrence agreed with comments made in that local centres were important and referred to Theme 1: Unlocking enterprise and innovation and queried whether consideration was being given to core business strengths across the Borough and whether they would all link together as one.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the Economic Regeneration Strategy was an overarching Strategy focusing on both key strengths and sector strengths. It was noted that the Strategy connected with the West Midlands Plan for Growth and West Midlands Local Skills Improvement Plan developed by the West Midlands Combined Authority, to further improve skills of local people to obtain jobs in new and growing sectors within the region.

- k) Councillor C Eccles welcomed the report submitted and sought clarification on how the measures included with the Tourism and Cultural Strategy were impacted upon the Local Authority's spending controls that were currently implemented, and how local heritage assets and business could be supported to continue and thrive should funding be withdrawn. She also requested an update on proposals in relation to Business Improvement Districts (BID) in areas across the Borough.

In responding, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise referred to the current improvement works to the Red House Glass Cone and considered that by having repairs completed would enable similar assets to maximise the ability to draw down grant funding and funding streams which would be considered accordingly once available.

The Head of Economic Growth and Skills reported on progress made in relation to Business Improvement Districts advising Members that work was progressing and funding options considered in relation to Stourbridge BID. It was noted that work in Dudley Town Centre was slightly less advanced however a Dudley Town Partnership Group had now been established and would provide a vehicle to engage and potentially progress future options for a BID. Reference was also made to the Brierley Hill Community Forum which had been established and included a number of business activists which would help drive forward the Brierley Hill BID.

- l) Councillor J Foster referred to the lack of progress made in relation to developing a Brierley Hill BID. Although it had been recognised that there had been a lot of work undertaken to improve the environment of Brierley Hill, she considered that the local offer was still limited. There had been a degree of civic society in Brierley Hill and it was queried how this could be brought together for business improvement with traders and that those discussions should start to take place.

In acknowledging comments made, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills considered that advance improvements had been made to Brierley Hill and that the Brierley Hill Community Forum did have a close working relationship with local traders, therefore anticipated that there was already a solid platform to allow those conversations to take place.

In responding, Councillor J Foster emphasised the importance of understanding what the local offer was in order to increase footfall and trade. It was suggested that a Brierley Hill Bid would enable better synergy and following a suggestion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the relevant Cabinet Member to consider the feasibility of the development of a Business Improvement District for Brierley Hill Town Centre to support the economic sustainability and vitality of the Town Centre following recent and ongoing investment.

- m) Following a request by Councillor J Foster, it was agreed that an agenda item looking at the regeneration programme, the breakdown of funding awarded, how much was retained within Dudley and where it can be quantified the economic benefit and social value obtained would be included on the future work programme of the Committee.

- n) Councillor S Henley commented positively on the collaborative working undertaken in the development of the Business Improvement Districts, in particular referring to the work undertaken in Halesowen.
- o) Councillor P Sahota although recognised the staffing issues within the Directorate requested whether there was a need for a dedicated pool of officers within the Regeneration Team to focus on inward investment to work with developers to improve sites.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that there were several officers within the Team with the right skills that engage with other partners and specialising in inward investment. It was noted that opportunities to developing land for commercial use was limited therefore conversations were being undertaken on growth opportunities and improving the quality of existing building stock. It was acknowledged however that the majority of grant funding available via the West Midlands Combined Authority to support the redevelopment of brownfield land was largely focused on housing developments rather than commercial growth.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted on the work undertaken to date on the proposed Dudley Borough 'Economic Regeneration Strategy', in advance of a report to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, be noted.
- (2) That all future reports clearly outline the purpose of the report and the response or observations required by Members.
- (3) That the relevant Cabinet Member be requested to consider the feasibility of the development of a Business Improvement District for Brierley Hill Town Centre to support the economic sustainability and vitality of the Town Centre following recent and ongoing investment.
- (4) That an agenda item looking at the regeneration programme, the breakdown of funding awarded, how much was retained within Dudley and where it can be quantified the economic benefit and social value obtained, be included on the future work programme of the Committee.



In responding to a question raised by Councillor J Foster in relation to Cabinet Member attendance at Committee meetings, the Senior Democratic Services Officer confirmed that all Cabinet Members with portfolios that fell within the remit of the Select Committee had a standing invitation to meetings. They also received a copy of the agenda documents and this would be reflected on future agendas.

Following concerns raised by Councillor J Foster in relation to the Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report not being included in the agenda, the Senior Democratic Services agreed to forward the concerns raised during the meeting to the Corporate Performance Management Team.

Following a debate with regard to the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, in relation to the scheduling of a special meeting to discuss the Medium Term Financial Strategy proposals, Councillor J Foster expressed the view that the minutes did not reflect a discussion and a recommendation made by the Committee. She therefore requested that her comments be formally recorded. As the meeting had been recorded she stated that she would review the recording following the meeting.

It was confirmed that the comments made by Councillor J Foster were noted and that the minutes had been approved as a correct record earlier in this meeting.

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#### 54 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund / Multiply Programme Update**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on an update on the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) and Multiply Programme.

In presenting the report submitted, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that Dudley had been allocated £4,496.355 as part of the double devolution of UK SPF funding to support Communities and Place, Local Business Support and People and Skills activity to cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. An additional local funding allocation of £2,333,830 to support with the development of a core business support programme as part of the regional UK SPF business support allocation would also be received.

It was noted that in March, 2023, the Cabinet approved the high level year 2 and 3 programme schedule together with the governance arrangement.

An overview of core funded projects that had been undertaken during Year 1 activity that had met the UK SPF eligibility criteria was provided including Masterplan and Feasibility Studies for supporting Town Centres and enhancements to local parks.

Reference was made to the four functional pillars that had been split into nine service lots each with a focus of activity and indicative funding allocation.

The anticipated value of activity to be procured against each service lot for years 2 and 3 was outlined in paragraph 16 of the report submitted, and the Head of Economic Growth and Skills gave an update on progress made including developing a business led partnership for Dudley Town Centre to help shape the recommendations and actions from the feasibility study and £40,000 allocation towards improvements to Dudley Market. It was also noted that refurbishment work would be undertaken to nine outdoor gyms across the Borough, including Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and Buffery Park, Kates Hill.

It was noted that the Cultural Strategy and Action Plan was due to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 and would maximise culture's contribution to Dudley's economy, through collaborative working and implementation of a 10-year strategic vision and supporting action plan involving key partners and stakeholders. Six community organisations were appointed through the Dynamic Purchasing System in September, 2023 to deliver community engagement programmes across the borough with a focus on engagement with local hard to reach residents to support their journey back into education and employment.

Progress was being made to the 'Start-Up Dudley' Project to help support improving life chances of new businesses with an initial cohort of local residents involved to help develop business ideas. It was noted that a programme of innovation engagement was also being developed including working with Innovate UK to bring an Innovate Local event to Dudley during 2024.

Members were informed that the Council had appointed Oxford Innovation Services in November, 2023 as the supplier for the business support delivery contract to run across years 2 and 3 to provide navigator and account management services. It was noted that funding for service lot 8, namely, Engagement, employment, training and skills would not be released until Year 3.

The focus of the Multiply activity was to support residents to improve their financial resilience by working closely with voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver support.

In concluding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills referred to the governance arrangements implemented for the UK SPF programme including the establishment of a UK SPF Steering Group that met on a quarterly basis to help deliver the projects and consider activities, progress, achievements, risks and issues.

Members asked questions, made comments and responses were provided where appropriate as follows: -

- a) Councillor S Henley commented positively on the report submitted and expressed his appreciation for the progress made in the development of the Shell Corner masterplans.
- b) In responding to a question raised by Councillor C Eccles in relation to the proposed refurbishment of outdoor gyms across Dudley within nine local parks, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that projects that were not delivered during Year 1 would be carried forward to Year 2.
- c) Councillor J Foster referred to the recommendations of the report and reiterated that reports should clearly outline the purpose of the report and the response or observations required by Members in order for Cabinet Members to be informed of any recommendations or comments, as necessary.
- d) Councillor J Foster also referred to the independent consultant that had been appointed to advise on the work required to improve the vibrancy of Dudley Market and queried what extent money could be saved by the Local Authority by reviewing and adopting best practice and considering lessons learnt without the need for external consultants in order to reduce costs.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the Regeneration and Enterprise department were overseeing the delivery of the UKPSF programme with projects often being delivered by other Teams across the Council. It was noted that external consultants were appointed for specialist areas however he acknowledged and noted the comments made.

- e) Councillor J Foster referred to the financial resilience training launched in September, 2023 to residents in Dudley and queried when the training was delivered and whether the number of residents that had been trained (sixty-two) was expected by the Local Authority.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that due to the delays in the confirmation of the funding agreement by the Department for Education, this had impacted the commencement of the Multiply activity and delayed engagement with residents, therefore sixty-two residents was welcomed. The overall target for the number of engagements in the delivery of Multiply was 240.

- f) The Chair referred to the proposals in developing and improving the vibrancy of Dudley Market and queried whether there was any appetite in expanding the market to food vendors to create a new catering area.

In responding, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that the independent consultant engaged had vast experience in this area and they determined that there was demand in retaining Dudley Market and recommended the catering area to compliment the other market stalls in order to attract more customers.

- f) Councillor P Sahota welcomed the report presented and the progress made and funding allocated to projects. He referred to the nine parks that had been identified by Greencare for refurbishment work and queried how Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge had been selected given that this was located within an affluent area of the Borough.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the sites identified had been selected due to the age and condition of the outdoor gym equipment, however undertook to investigate further.

- g) In responding to a question raised by Councillor P Sahota, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that Year 3 priorities would be considered in conjunction with the procurement of a crowdfunding platform to deliver community grants.

In responding, Councillor P Sahota queried whether ringfenced community funding would disadvantage less established groups within the communities. The Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that all options would be considered through crowd funding and that Elected Members could be included on future distributions for information.

- i) Councillor P Sahota referred to the five organisations that had been appointed to deliver Multiply activity on behalf of the Council and queried how feedback would be obtained on progress made.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that quarterly reports would be submitted to the West Midlands Combined Authority on outputs and deliveries.

- j) Councillor P Sahota welcomed the tourism link within the regeneration strategy and queried whether performance data could be shared with the Select Committee once available.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that finalised Year 2 figures would be available in Q1 24/25 and could be brought back to a future meeting of the Select Committee if requested.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted and as reported at the meeting, on the update on the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Multiply Programme, be noted.
- (2) That the progress being made with regards to the Council's financial year 1 (2022-23) and year 2 (2023-24) programme of activity be acknowledged.
- (3) That the continued risk linked to the original delays in the receipt of both year 1 and year 2 funding be acknowledged.
- (4) That the year 3 funding allocations and the proposed range of activity across Communities and Place, Local and Regional Business Support, People & Skills and Multiply be acknowledged.
- (5) That the Head of Economic Growth and Skills be requested to provide a written response as to the reasons why Mary Stevens Park, Halesowen had been identified as a site for refurbishment works.

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## **55 Stalled Sites – Strategies for bringing back into use privately owned vacant land and property**

A report of the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise was submitted on the activity undertaken by the local authority to bring back into use land and property which remained derelict or untidy or where development was stalled since the last update to the Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. It was noted that Committee Members were provided with a list of stalled and derelict sites that had been developed by Officers prior to the meeting for information.

In presenting a summary of the report submitted, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills reported that progress had been made in relation to the vacant and derelict sites that were in categories 1 and 2 and that the cross directorate multi-disciplinary task and finish working group continued to meet on a monthly basis to oversee actions to sites that were in categories 3 and 4.

It was confirmed that following the success of first round of Homes England revenue funding to support the activity, the Local Authority had recently been successful in securing an additional £70,000 revenue funding to procure specialist property development and legal expertise, which must be spent by financial year end 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024.

Members were advised that a report was approved by the Cabinet in December, 2023, to establish the principle of progressing background work including the service of statutory notices, reinforcing the Council's willingness to use its Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers on sites all within the programme, subject to meeting the CPO tests, suitability, funding and end use. It was noted that 16 statutory notices of possible use of CPO powers had since been issued.

An overview of case studies where positive action on derelict sites was outlined, including the work undertaken to the redevelopment of Market Street, Stourbridge Former Commercial Inn, Pensnett, 122-128 Colley Gate, Cradley and Enville Street, Stourbridge.

The Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that work was ongoing in relation to the nine sites that had been selected for more focused work across the Borough; a review in updating scoring of sites added to the long list since 2021 and prioritising next tranche of priority sites. Further options would also be considered in securing additional funding to progress priority sites following the introduction of spending control measures. It was noted that any future spend relating to the £1 million stalled and derelict sites fund would be delayed until the 2027/28 financial year.

Members asked questions, made comments and responses were given where appropriate as follows: -

- a) Councillor N Neale commented positively on the report and expressed her appreciation for the significant progress made and support received on the redevelopment of the land located at 122 to 128 Colley Gate. She queried what the site would look like once the demolition had been completed and that she had received a number of ideas and suggestions from local residents for the redevelopment of the site as an alternative to residential.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills acknowledged comments made and confirmed that hoarding would be erected around the area once demolished and that further consideration would be given to next steps and options in terms of the future redevelopment of the site.

Councillor N Neale emphasised the importance of redeveloping the site and progressing with the tender exercise within a short timeframe in order to progress the area and avoid any potential anti-social behaviour problems.

In responding, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that due to restricted resources, work was being undertaken with colleagues in Corporate Landlord Services to release the site back to the market. The hoarding around the site would display the proposed redevelopment of the area once confirmed.

- b) In responding to a question raised by Councillor C Eccles, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the planning permission obtained for the development of 10 apartments at the vacant site at Enville Street, Stourbridge would not be progressed, therefore it was likely that the site would be released back into the market with the approved planning permission.
- c) Following a request by Councillor C Eccles, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills undertook to provide an update in relation to Site 8 of the stalled and derelict sites long list.
- d) Councillor J Foster reflected on the third recommendation of the report submitted in relation to the methodology used in selecting sites to be included in the programme for the next period. In considering the significant number of buildings identified on the long list including those within her ward of Brockmoor & Pensnett that required resolutions, she suggested that she could not endorse the current methodology.

In responding to further comments made, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills undertook to contact the Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward Members in relation to a site located in the ward and included as part of the stalled and derelict sites long list.

- e) Councillor P Sahota welcomed the report submitted and progress made and queried whether a map could be provided identifying all derelict and vacant sites across the borough. In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that following the resolution of the meeting in September, 2023, Members had been informed that all sites were mapped on the Council's Geographic Information System available through the Council website.
- f) Councillor P Sahota sought clarification of the criteria used in identifying sites as it appeared that a large proportion were predominately situated within Halesowen and Stourbridge areas, and therefore suggested that it would be useful to review whether there were sites in the North of the Borough that may fit the criteria.

In responding, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the prioritisation of sites were driven by a number of factors including previous / current enforcement actions, ward members requests and the scale and opportunity of the redevelopment of sites therefore unlikely to include single dwellings homes.

- g) Following a request by Councillor A Hopwood, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills undertook to provide an update in relation to Site 58 of the stalled and derelict sites long list.
- h) Councillor E Lawrence commented positively on the report presented and the progress made to sites that had originally been presented to the Future Council Scrutiny Committee in September, 2022.
- i) In responding to a question raised by Councillor E Lawrence, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that sites that were completed would be removed from the short list and replaced with sites identified in the long list.
- j) In responding to a suggestion by Councillor N Neale in relation to the disposal of unused council owned garage sites in order to generate revenue to help regenerate the sites, the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise confirmed that this area was being considered by colleagues in the Housing and Communities Directorate. The need to maximise resources and prioritising works was emphasised and it was confirmed that all viable options would be considered as part of the Local Plan.



- k) Following a question raised by Councillor J Foster, the Head of Economic Growth and Skills confirmed that the list of stalled and derelict sites that had been shared with the Members prior to the meeting should not be shared due to information containing commercially sensitive information.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted be noted.
- (2) That the progress made since the report was submitted to the Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, be noted.
- (3) That the positive actions being undertaken by services in seeking to bring back into use privately owned land and property which remained vacant and derelict, be acknowledged.
- (4) That the methodology for drawing up the revised short and long list of sites to be included in the programme for the next period, be endorsed.
- (5) That the limitations of statutory powers in requiring private landowners to bring forward vacant and derelict sites for development be recognised.
- (6) That the constraints on resources following the introduction of spending controls measures and the implications on service priorities be recognised.
- (7) That the Head of Economic Growth and Skills be requested to:
  - (i) provide a written update on progress made in relation to Site 8 and 58 of the stalled and derelict sites long list;
  - (ii) contact the Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward Members in relation to a site included as part of the stalled and derelict sites long list.

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## 56 **Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee Progress Tracker and Future Business**

A report on the Progress Tracker and Future Business was received and noted by Members.

### **Resolved**

That the Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee Progress Tracker and Future Business be noted.

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57 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

There were no questions to the Chair pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

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58 **Chair's Comments**

This being the last meeting of the municipal year, the Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the Committee.

The meeting ended at 8:25pm.

CHAIR