

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 16th December, 2019.

**Present:** Cllr Chris Barlow (Chair), Cllr Louise Baldock (Vice-Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Alan Watson and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

**Officers:** Andrew Corcoran, Jo Fryett (EG&DS); Gary Woods, Peter Bell (MD).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** None.

### **1 Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **3 Minutes for the meeting held on 25th November 2019 for approval / signature**

Consideration was given to the minutes for the meeting held on 25th November 2019.

The Scrutiny Officer reported that with regard to the recent developments in relation to the ongoing Grenfell Tower public inquiry, the Link Officer had been contacted regarding the outstanding recommendation from the previously completed Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings scrutiny review. The Link Officer reported that it would be the next phase of the inquiry that the Council would need to be mindful of, and as such, the review would remain on the Work Programme of the Committee until this was completed.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **4 Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy.

AGREED that the final report of the Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy be approved for submission to Cabinet.

### **5 Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement**

Prior to consideration of the draft scope and project plan for the review of Business Support and Engagement, Members received a background presentation from the Business Relationship Specialist, which included the

following key areas:-

- Objectives / Priorities (Economic Growth Plan)
- Business Size
- Employment Figures by Broad Industrial Sectors
- Functions of the Business and Enterprise Team (Relationship Management Framework)
- Partner Agencies
- Number of Engaged Businesses
- Internal / External Business Referral
- Wider Networks
- 'Made in Stockton-on-Tees'

Following the presentation the main issues that were discussed could be summarised as follows:-

- There is a forever changing funding landscape, but the fundamental objective is to ensure local businesses grow and prosper.
- The Business and Enterprise Team had numerous contacts and included Stockton BID and other partners.
- There has been many trends in the town centre, a growing trend has been in the micro pub and brewing industry.
- The Borough could help businesses of many sizes and had premises to fit individual needs, including the Enterprise Centre and Fusion Hive.
- Site visits to the Enterprise Centre and Fusion Hive would be beneficial.
- The current staff situation of the Business and Enterprise Team was given.

Consideration was then given to the draft scope and plan. This review will examine the Council's overall business support / engagement role, how this is utilised and viewed externally, and whether the necessary resources are in place to satisfy existing and future demand.

AGREED that:-

1. The presentation be received.
2. The draft scope and project plan of the review be approved.

## **6 Work Programme 2019-2020**

Consideration was given to the Place Select Committee Work Programme 2019-2020.

The Scrutiny Officer reported that the review of Contaminated Land would now be an Officer-led reporting-in review (following approval by the Council's Executive Scrutiny Committee) as most of the work had already been completed.

It was also reported that the review of Planters in Residential Streets may be able to be undertaken via a Task and Finish Group if there was a need to begin

this work before the end of the current municipal year. Further details would follow.

**7 Chairs Update**

The Chair had nothing further to update.