

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

GROWTH AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillor J Garvey (Chair)

Councillors P Barks, A Church, B Emery, I Herdman, T Holmes,
M Johnson, J Kempster and G Taylor

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor L Malyon, I Plant, D Price, D Proudlove, M Swindlehurst
and C Wood

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Haines

9 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY**

Councillor Johnson was substitute member for Councillor Haines

10 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2024 be approved
as a correct record.

11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

12 **WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

13 **DRAFT GROWTH STRATEGY (PRESENTATION)**

Members received a presentation delivered by the Cabinet Support Member which
covered the following;

- Economic Profile
- Challenges + Opportunities
- Drivers
- Principles
- Objectives / Missions
- Constraints
- Interventions
- Delivery
- Outcomes

It was clarified that the reference to increased council tax and business rates was
concerned with the increase in revenues and not the increase of rates.

Growth and Economy Committee - 22 January 2025

Members discussed timetables and detail for deliverable actions against each of the strategies, the number of property developments passed but not built, land banking, affordable housing, wind farms, infrastructure requirements, transport plan considerations and contributions at planning applications.

Members commented that improved economic viability for the area was key, they also stated the need to reverse the growth stagnation by making the Moorlands more attractive to developers and businesses to support financial sustainability.

RESOLVED:

1. That the presentation be received.
2. That Officers provide information to members on the number of property developments which had been passed but not delivered.
3. That the committee have the opportunity to scrutinise individual plans to develop the interventions described in the presentation.
4. That members receive a further update at the next meeting.

14 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Members received a report which provided an update on the new National Planning Policy Framework which included the Grey Belt classification.

Latest population projections (2018 based) and Travel to Work figures by ward from the 2021 Census were presented. It was confirmed that the data was collected during the time of the pandemic which could lead to the work from home figures being artificially inflated.

Members made the observation that the current growth strategy left a void in the Moorlands.

Members discussed the current transport infrastructure, specifically the time taken to travel between home addresses and employment hubs. Members further discussed school capacity, rail transport links, grey belt review, and the need to inform residents of the reclassification.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

15 TO APPROVE THE EXEMPT MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

The meeting closed at 7.42 pm

Chairman _____ Date