

Regeneration & Planning Policy Deputy Leader's Statement

2020/21



INTRODUCTION

East Staffordshire Borough Council has three Corporate Priorities:

- **Value for Money Council**
- **Community Regeneration**
- **Environment and Health & Wellbeing**

The following statement sets out how the Deputy Leader (Regeneration & Planning Policy) and officers within this portfolio area will contribute to achieving these priorities, as well highlighting key achievements from 2019/20.

However the activities outlined in the statement are often cross-cutting themes with overlaps into other areas, and throughout the statement there may be examples of joint delivery with other Executive Members as well as managers from other sections.

Each of the statements made by the individual portfolio holders will then be collated to form the basis of East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan for 2020/21.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019/20

Over the past 12 months, the Council has been working hard to improve its services and is currently on track to achieve [TBC%] of this portfolio's milestones set for 2019/20 by the end of this financial year.

Some of these achievements are highlighted in the following section.

Regeneration Achievements

The Council has continued to work on developing the £2.05m Washlands Enhancement Project, which will begin delivery in 2020/21, including the securing of £1m of GBSLEP funding and provisional funding of £1.05 from the Council. Alongside the Washlands project, the Burton Regeneration Strategy was approved by Council in June 2019 in addition to the Station Street public realm project that was approved by Council in September 2019 and has commenced delivery at the end of 2019/20. After identifying a pilot project to be delivered through the Council's Brownfield Strategy, we have continued to work with Trent & Dove Housing in order to identify further opportunities to deliver affordable housing on brownfield land within the borough.

Although the Council was unsuccessful in its bid to the Future High Street Fund, Burton upon Trent was selected as one of 100 towns to benefit from up to £25m from the Towns Fund. In order to unlock this, we have established a Town Deal Board partnership made up of key private and public sector stakeholders, chaired by Ben Robinson MBE.

Informing Elected Members

Elected Members are integral to the smooth delivery of Planning Services and in order to ensure they are up to date with national policy, national and local initiatives and general working practices and access to information within the Planning Services team, the Council has provided regular Member Briefings. We have also continued to monitor and report on the delivery of sites against the Local Plan so that any issues are flagged up and worked on as soon as

possible. We have continued to work actively with Members, agents and the community with the delivery of strategic housing and employment sites.

Always Working Smarter

The Council continued to progress its “Smarter Working” agenda, investigating, through initiatives and revised guidance to applicants and agents, the possibility of reducing the number of invalid applications received by the authority. We have prepared and adopted a specific new Developer Contributions SPD, to not only help clarify requirements, but also improve validation and speed up planning processes. Whilst carrying out these initiatives, the Council has continued to achieve top quartile performance in accordance with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidelines.

Improving Planning Guidance and Raising Design Quality

We have delivered a new suite of either amended or new supplementary planning documents in order to provide clear guidance to developers on the standards expected by the Local Planning Authority when assessing proposals for development. These include revisions to the Housing Choice SPD and the ESBC Design Guide SPD, as well as a new Shop Fronts Design Guide SPD.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2020/21

The Council is determined to continue to build on its successes during 2019/20 as it moves forward into the 2020/21 financial year. It will continue to improve performance, service delivery and value for money through delivery of the Council's three Corporate Priorities. Achievement of these priorities will be supported by the Regeneration & Planning Policy portfolio through delivery of the objectives detailed in the following section. The specific performance indicators identified to measure these objectives are referenced in the paragraphs below.

Continuing to Work Smarter in Planning (Target Ref No. RPP01; RPP02; RPP03; RPP04; RPP07)

We will maintain top quartile performance and continue to improve our overall planning processes, procedures and practices to embrace improvements and new ways of working and we will also evaluate the costs/benefits of an integrated document management system within the Planning section. We will continue to inform Elected Members of new Planning legislation and local and national developments through a series of targeted briefings. We will publish the Infrastructure Funding Statement as legislatively required.

New and Refreshed Planning Policies (Target Ref No. RPP12; RPP15; RPP13; RPP14)

We will conclude and adopt the Brewery Building Conversion Design Guidance SPD. We will revise and adopt the Car Parking SPD. We will publish the Authority Monitoring Report, publish our revised Statement of Community Involvement and decide if and how we apply Permissions in Principle to our Brownfield sites to unlock the development potential by assessing the benefits of completing a Part 2 Brownfield Register.

Monitor the Local Plan Performance (Target Ref No. RPP05; RPP06)

It is time for the Council to decide on how to proceed with amendments to the current Local Plan which was adopted in October 2015. During the next financial year the Council will undertake early evidence to help determine the

need/ type of Plan Review required. In addition the Council will undertake a review of its currently adopted policies to ascertain their need for review.

The Council will continue to calculate its 5 year housing land supply position and performance against the national housing and delivery test.

Supporting Neighbourhood Plans (Target Ref No. RPP11)

The Council will continue to support neighbourhoods with the development and review of their Neighbourhood Plans, including the Rolleston on Dove Neighbourhood Plan which will finally be going to referenda in spring 2020.

Regeneration (Target Ref No. RPP16; RPP17; RPP18; RPP19; RPP20; RPP21; RPP22; RPP23; RPP24)

During 2020/21 the Council will continue to prioritise: Burton town centre and the Washlands through significant environmental regeneration; work towards achieving transformation regeneration for the wider Burton upon Trent of up to £25m through the Towns Fund; support the delivery of affordable housing on brownfield land through the utilisation of S106 commuted sums; identify a vision for the future regeneration of Uttoxeter; work in partnership to promote local employment opportunities; and continue to work effectively with regeneration partners. We will also create a grant fund to support small businesses to grow and innovate and will deliver the fund throughout the year to increase the rate of new business start-ups¹.

¹ 2018 rate of new business start-ups in East Staffordshire (per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above) was below the national average (LG Inform Report for East Staffordshire Borough Council)

MEASURES AND TARGETS FOR 2020/21

The Regeneration and Planning Policy portfolio has identified a number of measures and targets for 2020/21 which will contribute to the delivery of the objectives detailed above. These are set out in the following tables.

Value for Money Council

Ref	Measures	Target 2020/21
RPP01	Continue to develop SMARTER working practices for Planning	Two reports identifying reviews, changes and improvements (March 2021)
RPP02	Continue to develop SMARTER working practices for Planning	Electronic Document Management System Review and recommendation (March 2021)
RPP03	Continuing to inform and improve Planning awareness with Members	At least 2 briefings delivered to elected members during the year
RPP04	Continuing to inform and improve Planning awareness with Members	Targeted Planning Committee Briefings - 10 throughout the year
RPP05	Monitor Local Plan Performance	Authority Monitoring Report Prepared (December 2020)
RPP06	Monitor Local Plan Performance	Consider review of the Local Plan (October 2020)
RPP07	New and Refreshed Planning Policies	Prepare and publish Infrastructure Funding Statement (January 2021)

Community Regeneration

Ref	Measures	Target 2020/21
RPP08	Major Planning Applications Determined Within 13 Weeks	Top Quartile as measured against relevant MHCLG figures
RPP09	Minor Planning Applications Determined Within 8 Weeks	Top Quartile as measured against relevant MHCLG figures
RPP10	Other Planning Applications Determined in 8 Weeks	Top Quartile as measured against relevant MHCLG figures
RPP11	Supporting Neighbourhood Plans	Rolleston Neighbourhood Plan Made (June 2020)
RPP12	New and Refreshed Planning Policies	Finalise and adopt Brewery Building Conversion Design Guidance SPD (October 2020)
RPP13	New and Refreshed Planning Policies	Publish Revised Statement of Community Involvement (March 2021)
RPP14	New and Refreshed Planning Policies	Produce report and approach regarding Brownfield Register Part 2 (October 2020)
RPP15	New and Refreshed Planning Policies	Revise and adopt Car parking SPD (October 2020)

Ref	Measures	Target 2020/21
RPP16	Improve Burton town centre through significant environmental regeneration	Practical completion of the Station Street works via Amey (October 2020)
RPP17	Improve Burton town centre through significant environmental regeneration	Deliver phase 1 of the Washlands Enhancement Project, fully utilising the GBSLEP Local Growth Fund monies (March 2021)
RPP18	Work towards achieving transformation regeneration for Burton upon Trent of up to £25m through the Towns Fund	Working with the Town Deal Board, develop a Town Investment Plan for Burton and create a business case for funding (March 2021)
RPP19	Support the delivery of affordable housing on brownfield land through the utilisation of S106 commuted sums	Review the progress of existing S106 commuted sums and identify new projects for potential funding (October 2020)
RPP20	Identify a vision for the future regeneration of Uttoxeter	Member approval of the final Uttoxeter Masterplan (December 2020)
RPP21	Promote local employment opportunities	Working with the Worklessness Action Group and local MP, support the delivery of three job fairs (March 2021)
RPP22	Continue to support local businesses to grow and innovate	Create a grant fund to support small businesses and deliver throughout the year (March 2021)

Ref	Measures	Target 2020/21
RRP23	Continue to support local businesses to grow and innovate	Provide direct support to 20 businesses through the Growth Hub Advisor contract (March 2021)
RPP24	Continue to work effectively with regeneration partners	Continue to work with strategic tourism partners, such as the National Forest, the Campaign to Reopen the Ivanhoe Line and the TTTV, on the regeneration of the borough (March 2021)