



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Promoting Local Economic Growth) Committee: Annual Report 2015/16
Meeting of:	Council
Date:	29 th February 2016
Is this an Executive Decision:	NO
Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	N/A
<p>Essential Signatories:</p> <p>ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE</p> <p>Monitoring Officer: Angela Wakefield</p> <p>Date Signature</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer: Sal Khan</p> <p>Date Signature</p>	

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date: 29th February 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Promoting Local Economic Growth) Committee: Annual Report 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO:	Leader of the Council	
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Chief Executive	
CONTACT OFFICER:	James Abbott	Ext. No. x1244
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Non-specific	

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To provide a summary of the Scrutiny activities undertaken by the Scrutiny (Promoting Local Economic Growth) Committee during 2015/16.

2. Background

2.1. The Council's various Scrutiny Committees discharge the overview and scrutiny function under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

2.2. The Committees are tasked with:

2.2.1. Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;

2.2.2. Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council;

2.2.3. Serving as consultees in relation to executive decisions and key elements of service plans when required; and

2.2.4. Producing progress reports and recommendations to the Executive arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process or refer to the Executive entire reports produced as a result of the scrutiny process. However it is

the decision of the Executive whether or not such a report is subsequently submitted to Full Council.

3. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

3.1. This report can contribute to all priorities to some degree (depending on the subject matter of the scrutiny review in question); however the remit of this particular Scrutiny Committee is to consider services within the corporate priority area of "Promoting Local Economic Growth".

4. Scrutiny Activities

4.1. Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)

4.1.1. In addition to scrutinising the standing items of the Corporate Plan Performance Report and Executive Decision Records, the Committee is undertaking a review of the benefits realised from the Council's membership of the GBSLEP.

4.1.2. This is an in-depth analysis of a range of factors including looking at the type and levels of funding available via the LEP, and the benefits realised by East Staffordshire Borough Council and local businesses in the area.

4.1.3. The review is also analysing the considerations made when joining the GBSLEP; governance arrangements within the LEPs; economic profiles of the GBSLEP, Stoke & Staffordshire LEP (SSLEP) and Derby / Derbyshire & Nottingham / Nottinghamshire LEP (D2N2) areas; and Business Rate pooling arrangements within the GBSLEP.

4.1.4. This review is ongoing with recommendations arising to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.

4.2. East Staffordshire Railway Stations

4.2.1. Arising from the Corporate Plan objective of conducting a scrutiny enquiry revisiting Network Rail's ability to bring about improvements to the stations in the Borough, the Committee has held discussions around the condition of the stations.

4.2.2. The Committee has requested written updates Network Rail and East Midlands Trains, revisiting the issues highlighted by the Council in the past and progress with the ongoing work that these organisations are undertaking at the stations.

4.2.3. For example, concerns have continued to be raised focussing on the general appearance and landscaping at Burton upon Trent station.

4.2.4. Following the Committee's enquiries, Network Rail have advised that:

"The local East Midlands Trains management team and our Estates management team have recently visited Burton to look at the

existing facilities and we are in agreement that the station is in need of some improvement, in particular the areas at platform level. We have appointed a team of local managers to produce an improvement plan for Burton and as such have arranged a further meeting in March to review. The plans will address several issues such as vegetation, cleanliness issues, car park facilities, signage and increased visibility of station staff. We will also be looking at how we increase our community engagement”.

4.2.5. This review is ongoing and as such progress will continue to be monitored.

5. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Lisa Turner

5.1. There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

6. Risk Assessment and Management

6.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

6.1.1. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

6.1.1.1. None

6.1.2. **Negative** (Threats):

6.1.2.1. None

6.2. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

7. Legal Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team: Angela Wakefield.

7.1. There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

8. Equalities and Health

8.1. Equality impacts: The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

8.2. Health impacts: The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

9. Human Rights

9.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

10. Sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

10.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)
N/A

11. Recommendation(s)

11.1. To note the report

12. Background Papers

12.1. None

13. Appendices

13.1. Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Promoting Local Economic Growth) Committee Reviews 2015/16

Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Promoting Local Economic Growth) Committee Reviews 2015/16

Benefits Realised from GBSLEP Membership

Background and Scope

At the meeting of the Promoting Local Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 18th June 2015, it was agreed that the committee would scrutinise the benefits the Council has realised as a result of its Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) membership. The following questions were suggested by the Committee in order to provide a focus for this review. The Committee was not limited to answering only the questions below.

1. Which LEPs were originally considered by the Council?
2. What were the reasons for joining the GBSLEP?
3. What evidence was taken into consideration when making the decision?
4. Is the original decision making criteria still relevant?
5. Have circumstances changed within the LEPs that were considered at the time?
6. Is it possible to belong to more than one LEP?
 - a) If yes, what are the benefits and drawbacks of belonging to more than one LEP?
7. Benefits of LEP Membership
 - a) What benefits has East Staffordshire Borough Council realised as a result of its GBSLEP membership?
 - b) What benefits have East Staffordshire businesses realised as a result of the Council's GBSLEP membership?
8. How are businesses able to influence the GBSLEP?
9. What are the Business Rate pooling arrangements within GBSLEP?
10. What are the Business Rate pooling arrangements within the other LEPs that were initially considered?
11. What funding has been obtained from the LEPs to date?
 - a) Grants
 - b) Loans
 - c) Capital
 - d) Revenue
12. How much funding has each LEP received?

Recommendations Arising

This review is ongoing, with recommendations to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.

East Staffordshire Railway Stations

Background and Scope

Arising from the Corporate Plan objective of conducting a scrutiny enquiry revisiting Network Rail's ability to bring about improvements to the stations in the Borough, the Committee has held discussions around the condition of the stations.

Concerns have continued to be raised about Burton upon Trent station, focussing on the general appearance at the station, including planting / landscaping and maintenance of building / bridge, but also continuous provision of the lift and waiting area.

There have also been concerns raised around overgrown vegetation at platform level and the bridge deck leaking and causing damage to the underside of the arches and paintwork.

Following the Committee's enquiries, Network Rail have advised that:

"The local East Midlands Trains management team and our Estates management team have recently visited Burton to look at the existing facilities and we are in agreement that the station is in need of some improvement, in particular the areas at platform level. We have appointed a team of local managers to produce an improvement plan for Burton and as such have arranged a further meeting in March to review. The plans will address several issues such as vegetation, cleanliness issues, car park facilities, signage and increased visibility of station staff. We will also be looking at how we increase our community engagement".

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