



Please ask for Emily Taylor
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The Chair and Members of Enterprise
and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

23 November 2022

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE to be held on THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022 at 5.00 pm in Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' And Officers' Interests Relating To Items On The Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Cabinet Member for Housing - Decent Homes Standards Update
Report to follow
4. Scrutiny Monitoring (Pages 3 - 8)
5. Forward Plan

The latest version of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 December, 2022 to 31 March, 2023 is available via the link below;

[Forward Plan](#)

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP

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6. Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
(Pages 9 - 12)
7. Minutes (Pages 13 - 18)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Head of Regulatory Law and Monitoring Officer

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
CCO1 Page 3	Statutory Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Ctte	CCO 29.09.11 (Min. No. 44)	Progress report on sharing information re alcohol related health problems and hospital admissions.	6 monthly wef 29/09/11.	Statistics requested for each 6 monthly meeting	Agreed on 08.01.15 that statistics on alcohol related health problems / hospital admissions be reported to each 6 monthly meeting.
CCO2	Visitor Economy	CCO 03.02.22 (Min. No.	<p>Visitor Economy SPG report approved by CCO 03.02.22, recommending:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the findings of the scrutiny project group be considered by Cabinet alongside consideration of the visitor economy strategy and action plan. 2. That subject to the approval of the strategy and action plan by full council on 23 February, 2022, an update on the delivery of the action plan be reported to the CC&O 	12 months wef. 03.02.22	Update requested in line with recommendations in February 2023	

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			Scrutiny Committee after the strategy has been in place for 12 months to allow scrutiny to review the progress made.			
EW6	Skills	EW 05.02.19 (Min. No 48)	<p>Skills SPG report approved by Enterprise and Wellbeing 05.02.19</p> <p>Cabinet Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the Cabinet thanks the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the report which highlights an important area of work for the Council and reflects our commitment to driving skills development in the Borough through our support of the Skills Action Plan and continued engagement with key partners and stakeholders. That the Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations, and acknowledges that the recommendations can be accommodated within the normal work programme and through partners. 	Monitoring Action is being developed in consultation with senior officers to identify target dates for completion.	Progress reported to E&W – 4.02.21.	Monitoring Action is being developed in consultation with senior officers to identify target dates for completion. Update due Sept 2022

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Page 5			<p>3. That the decision to co-fund the Enterprise Co-ordinator post be deferred for consideration as a growth request as part of the budget setting process for 2020/21. The Cabinet recognises the positive impact of the Enterprise Co-ordinator for Chesterfield and that this is currently co-funded for 2 years until 2019/20.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
EW8	Parks and Open Spaces and Play Strategies	EW 14.10.21 (Min. No. 16)	<p>Committee Resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the feedback provided by the committee be submitted as part of the public consultation process 2. That a further update be brought to the committee to demonstrate how the consultation feedback has influenced the final versions of the strategies. 3. That the committee undertake a monitoring role, particularly at the implementation stage of the process. 	Ongoing	The final strategies were presented to Cabinet 22.02.22 and then to council 23.04.22	Update report on implementation due February 2023

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OP8	HS2	<p>OPSF 11.09.18</p> <p>Cabinet 23.10.18 (Min. No. 48)</p>	<p>Cabinet Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Cabinet thanks the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum for the first class work that has been taken forward in looking at how the Council is preparing for HS2 and, in particular, for the Forum's efforts in broadening and deepening the understanding of Council Members of the subject matter. 2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. 3. That Cabinet endorses, in particular, the Forum's recommendation to establish a new Skills Scrutiny Project group and resolves to defer to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum 	Following Parliament's consideration of the Hybrid Bill	<p>Recommendations approved by Cabinet 23.10.18</p> <p>Monitoring update considered by OPSF - 19.03.19 and 27.02.22.</p>	<p>Monitor after Hybrid Bill has been taken to Parliament.</p> <p>Update from the Leader requested for second half of 2022/23 OSC work programme.</p>

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Page 7			<p>further consideration of the merit of establishing new Scrutiny Project Groups to look at particular aspects of HS2 as part of the future work programming discussions.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
<p>Abbreviations Key : OP = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. EW = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee). TBA (to be agreed). * Note recommendation wording may be abridged.</p>						

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WORK PROGRAMME: ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1 DECEMBER 2022

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Cabinet Member Responsibility
1	24.05.22	Private Sector Housing – to review a number of policies in development	Policies were presented for review and feedback provided.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022	Housing
2	14.07.22	Consultation Exercise on Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield and Recycling Communications Plan	Feedback was submitted to the Economic Development Team as part of the Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield consultation. Discussion took place around the Recycling Communications Plan and common queries from residents.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022	Town Centres & Visitor Economy, Health & Wellbeing
3	22.09.22	Skills Action Plan Update & Measuring success of the town centre – scrutiny focus group on developing a set of measures by which to measure the success of the town centre.	Emily Williams presented an update on the Skills Action plan and will come back with a draft action plan once ready. Economic Development Team to provide update in 6 months' time on Town Centre progress.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022	Economic Growth, Town Centres & Visitor Economy

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Cabinet Member Responsibility
4.	01.12.22	CBC Housing – decent homes standard (Government consultation – awaiting further announcement), turning round a vacant property and the impact of Covid on the backlog of repairs.		Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022	Housing
5	09.02.23	Communications plan for town centre developments – how are the public being kept informed of progress/disruption, how can members be kept informed to respond effectively to resident's queries.		Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022	Town Centres & Visitor Economy
6	30.03.23	TBC		Annual Scrutiny Work	

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Cabinet Member Responsibility
				Programme 2022	
<i>Scrutiny Project Groups (SPG) :</i>					
<i>Items Pending Reschedule or Removal:</i>					
<i>New Business Items Proposed:</i>					

Note: Items for monitoring (from scrutiny reviews and/or recommendations) are not included above but are listed in the Scrutiny Monitoring Form a separate item on the agenda. Items from the Forward Plan and Scrutiny Monitoring Form can be included in the work programme. *[KEY to abbreviations : O&P = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. E&W = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. TBC = to be confirmed. KD = Forward Plan Key Decision].*

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ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22nd September, 2022

Present:-

Councillor Flood (Chair)

Councillors Dyke Coy Hollingworth	Councillors Snowdon Brittain Wheeldon
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*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

18 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caulfield.

20 DEPUTY LEADER - UPDATE ON THE SKILLS ACTION PLAN REFRESH

The Senior Economic Development Officer presented an update to the committee on the Skills Action Plan refresh. A key objective of the Plan was to ensure that residents had the skills they needed to take advantage of economic growth in the town. The Plan would be aligned with the Council Plan and the Growth Strategy.

A number of consultation exercises had been completed following the previous scrutiny workshop including;

- Skills and Employability Conference
- An engagement group in Staveley involving 30 young people from Springwell and Netherthorpe Schools
- An Employer Round Table event at Chesterfield Football Club
- University of Sheffield research project, involving masters students investigating recruitment challenges, in conjunction with ten businesses

The findings of the consultation work suggested a number of areas of focus for the updated action plan. Youth unemployment had improved during the pandemic but was increasing again. Employers continued invest in training and upskilling their staff, which presented an opportunity to signpost organisations to funding support available.

High job vacancy rates were evident but businesses faced recruitment challenges and it was acknowledged that there were differences in employers' expectations versus candidates expectations which would need to be balanced. Apprenticeships had been impacted by the growth in low-skilled higher paid jobs available and there was continued demand for Green and Digital Skills.

The role of Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) was seen as that of a conduit, to continue leading on skills acquisition by facilitating skills events, signposting employers and workers to available resources, engaging in partnerships and building on the successes of its Local Labour activity.

The Committee heard that Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP) were under development and that each Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) would be required to have one. The LSIP aimed to be more responsive to local labour demands and involve employers more. It would cover a three-year period and be predominantly focussed on post 16 employability. There was a clear expectation that cross-cutting themes such as digital skills would be a priority. The themes of CBC's Skills Action Plan should enable the council to engage with and complement the new LSIP.

The forthcoming introduction of the East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority involved the devolution of some skills and education provision, predominantly training for over 19s, which would be important to support upskilling employees in the region. The details of the devolution deal had not been confirmed but reference had been made to how the Combined Authority would work strategically with the Department for Work and Pensions.

The committee was reminded of the planned projects that formed part of the Staveley Town Deal, including the Construction Skills Hub and the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle (DRIIVe). An investment plan had been submitted to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in July and had been successful in securing funds for future skills development, to replace European Social Fund (ESF) monies that would end in 2024/25. This would help to support the economically inactive cohort and align with the Derbyshire County Council Multiply initiative.

Discussion took place around industry sectors that have entry level jobs accessible to young people, such as hospitality, and whether any emphasis was placed on these, as this could offer multiple benefits ie by reducing youth unemployment but also stimulating the town centre economy. The Senior Economic Development Officer advised that CBC works with partners to focus skills delivery and provided examples where this has worked particularly well, such as the new Subway store that had opened in the town centre and the Premier Inn at the site of the former department store on Elder Way. The University of Derby were leading on a focus on jobs in the Care Sector which was acknowledged as an area of high demand.

RESOLVED –

1. That the update be noted.

2. That a further update be brought to the committee once the draft action plan was available as a draft document.

21 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED –

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

22 **CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES AND VISITOR ECONOMY - MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

The Service Director for Economic Development introduced the Senior Economic Development Officer who presented an overview of the town centre. He outlined the economic context, including the cost-of-living crisis and the steep decline in demand for goods and services. There had been a significant switch to online retail, driven in part by the global pandemic and this had resulted in retailers moving out of the town centre or ceasing to trade. In contrast, there was significant capital investment planned in Chesterfield in the next few years.

It was explained that Town Centre Vacancy Rates were one of the indicators currently used to measure success. The data was collected monthly by CBC and although Chesterfield had consistently had a lower vacancy rate than the national average, the gap had narrowed and almost reached a level of parity.

Another measurement used was the level of footfall in the town centre, provided by Vicar Lane Shopping Centre. Levels were back to 80 – 90% of pre-pandemic figures and this was similar to what had been reported nationally.

Town centre car parks revenue had exceeded the 2019 levels since May 2022, but it was noted that there had been an increase in tariffs, so the figures did not necessarily equate to an increased usage of the carparks.

The town centre employment figures were available retrospectively and these did indicate a declining trend since 2016. The STEAM visitor numbers covered the borough as a whole rather than the town centre specifically. There had been a steady upward trend prior to the pandemic and although there had been a sharp decline due to lockdowns the recovery was positive and improving.

A discussion took place around how footfall statistics are determined and it was explained that as part of the redevelopment plans for the town centre a Wi-Fi net would be created and this would enable much more comprehensive data about the movement of people. A question was asked about whether there were any seasonal patterns in footfall numbers, and it was noted that the 'welcome back' funding and the

animations it provided had generated an influx of people but hybrid working continued to impact the number of people using the town centre.

The officer noted that compiling the data into this format had been a useful exercise. Members and officers agreed that providing this snapshot regularly would help to build a fuller picture and identify trends.

Ongoing conversations with retailers and town centre businesses would continue, particularly in relation to any disruptions caused by the redevelopment work. Work would be carried out at night where possible and an open dialogue ensuring that everyone understands the benefits of the schemes would be crucial.

A question was asked about the Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre and how the occupancy rates compared with the original business plan. It was explained that at the time the business plan was created both the Tapton and Dunston Innovation Centres were at capacity. The new centre had been open for two months, almost all of the smaller rooms were occupied, and the tenants were young and dynamic. The building was 52% let.

Members requested a further column of information on projects that detailed any partner agencies involved and highlighted where CBC was the project lead.

RESOLVED –

That a bi-annual update on the town centre projects be brought to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Committee.

23 RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That after consideration of items containing exempt information, the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

24 SCRUTINY MONITORING

The Committee considered the Scrutiny recommendations monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny monitoring schedule be noted.

25 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 October, 2022 to 31 January, 2023 was presented for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

26 **WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The 2022/23 Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was reported for information.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme be noted and updated to include the decisions of the current meeting.

27 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 14 July, 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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