

Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 13 September 2017 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor L A Keen

Councillors: T A Bond
P I Carter
N Dixon
P J Hawkins
M J Ovenden
G Rapley
N A G Richards

Officers: Head of Inward Investment
Policy and Projects Manager
Team Leader - Democratic Support
Democratic Services Officer

42 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Cowan and R J Frost.

43 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

45 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 14 June 2017, 12 July 2017 and 1 August 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Team Leader – Democratic Support advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

47 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE

Members received the decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet decisions relating to recommendations from the Scrutiny (Community and Regeneration) Committee be noted.

48 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

There were no matters for consideration.

49 ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY OR PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, ANY INDIVIDUAL NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OR PUBLIC PETITION

There were no matters for consideration.

50 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Team Leader - Democratic Services presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

51 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Team Leader - Democratic Services presented the Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

It was suggested that Stagecoach and Kent County Council be invited to a future meeting to discuss the changes to the bus timetables and its impact on local communities, particularly rural.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of an item on bus services.

52 DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Policy and Projects Manager presented the report on the Local Development Scheme.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) set out the timetable for the production of key planning documents that would form part of the District's Local Plan. It was a legal requirement, and as such, it was important that it was kept up-to-date to reflect the Council's progress and keep residents and key stakeholders informed.

This LDS superseded the Council's previous one published on 1 March 2017 and it had been updated to take into account changes to the preparation, consultation and adoption of the Dover Waterfront Area Action Plan, the District Local Plan; and a number of Conservation Area Character Appraisals (CACA).

The revised timetables were as followed:

Local Plan Review – Consult: October/November 2018
Publication: September/October 2019
Submission: January 2020
Examination: April/May 2020
Adoption: July 2020

Dover Waterfront Area Action Plan - Consult: January/February 2018
Publication: June/July 2018
Submission: October 2018
Examination: January 2019
Adoption: June 2019

Sandwich Walled Town CACA - Consult: April 2018
Upper Walmer CACA Adoption: July 2018

In respect of the Dover town area there was work ongoing to look at the public realm and connections within the town. The Council had also submitted a bid for a Bus Rapid Transit service to link the town with the new housing at Whitfield in order to encourage footfall for town centre retail.

A retail study would be undertaken and following that there would need to be work undertaken in respect of future retail provision in the town.

In response to a question about resources, it was stated that the Policy and Projects Manager was currently in the process of trying to recruit temporary cover for a member of staff on maternity leave. Members expressed concern that any staffing shortage could affect the proposed timescales.

- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the revised Local Development Scheme, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and brought into force.
 - (b) That Dover residents and shopkeepers be asked what they would want for the Dover Bench Street to London Road area at a suitable time in the Local Plan consultation.
 - (c) That, due to the difficulties in recruiting Planners, a Planner be recruited to initially work for the Policy and Projects Manager but, at the end of providing maternity cover, be moved to Planning to reduce the need and expense of consultants.

53 REGENERATION UPDATE - DOVER WATERFRONT AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The Head of Inward Investment provided an update on the Dover Waterfront and Town Centre Regeneration.

Members were advised that the bulk of the physical construction had been completed for the hotel and that a site visit of the St James development would be arranged for members of the two scrutiny committees who wished to attend.

The scheme was about 80% let and Legal and General had expressed confidence that the scheme would be filled.

It was hoped that the cinema would bring more people into the town centre which would increase footfall for retail businesses. It was also part of the changing dynamic of the town which was transitioning from pure retail to a leisure/retail mix.

The importance of links between the waterfront and the town centre were discussed as well as the need for a full partnership approach from the key stakeholders in the town (Dover District Council, Kent County Council, Dover Town Council and Dover Town Team).

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.16 pm.