

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Economic Development Committee

This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at the meeting held on 22 June 2021.

1. Economic Development Committee – Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Committee noted its Terms of Reference.

2. Economic Development Team

- 2.1 The Committee noted a report on the work of the Economic Development Team to help promote the economic vitality of the Borough.
- 2.2 The Committee was informed that it would be involved in the development of the Economic Strategy, with a report on an updated Local Economic Assessment which will underpin the new strategy coming to the next meeting.

3. Impact of the pandemic on the local economy

- 3.1 The Committee noted a report on the economic impact of Covid-19 on Spelthorne business and employment, and the Economic Development Recovery Action Plan.
- 3.2 The Committee was advised that £1.6m was remaining to be allocated to local businesses from the Additional Restrictions Grant by 31 March 2022 and that members' views were sought on how the money could best be spent to support businesses.
- 3.3 The Committee agreed:
 - (a) The draft Economic Development Recovery Action Plan
 - (b) That a regular report comes to each Committee meeting setting out how the team is delivering on the economic development elements of the Corporate Recovery Action Plan and
 - (c) To set up a Task and Finish group led by Cllr. V. Leighton with Cllr. T. Fidler and Cllr. M. Gibson, to discuss the Council's policy on spending the £1.6m Additional Restrictions Grant, and report back to the next Economic Development Committee meeting.

4. Economic Development Team - Training

- 4.1 The Committee agreed to receive a training session on how skills and employment cuts across all areas of the economy.
- 4.2 I encouraged members to attend a meeting of Spelthorne Business Forum to learn more about business in the Borough.

5. Economic Development Committee – Forward Plan

- 5.1 The Committee noted the Forward Plan for future business and that a report from the Additional Restrictions Grant Task Group would come to the next meeting.

Councillor Colin Barnard

Chairman of the Economic Development Committee

15 July 2021