

**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee
28 September 2023**

Present:

Councillor H.R.D. Williams (Chair)

Councillors:

M. Bing Dong

S. Gyawali

A. Mathur

J. Button

M. Lee

Apologies: Councillors J.R. Boughtflower, R. Geach and D. Geraci

In Attendance: Councillors C. Bateson and M. Beecher

20/23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 Jul 2023 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.

21/23 Disclosures of interests

There were none.

22/23 Questions from members of the Public

There were none.

23/23 Ward Issues

There were none.

24/23 Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee **resolved** to not make any amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference pending the outcome of the proposed changes to the Committee System.

25/23 Economic Prosperity Strategy Update

The Committee received an update from the Economic Development Manager (EDM) on the progress of the 2023-2028 Economic Prosperity Strategy that was adopted in January 2023.

The Committee asked the EDM to advise on the current situation in respect of the wish to include Staines within Zone 6 on the rail network. A public consultation had taken place with the majority of residents in favour but those living nearer to Staines Station expressed concerns about the increase in the number of cars parking around the station. The Committee were advised that talks had been held with both the South West Rail and Transport for London to demonstrate the financial benefit of including Staines but at this present time there was still no indication from South West Rail that they wished to invest in this project.

Committee **resolved** to note the update on the Economic Prosperity Strategy.

26/23 Review of the Economic Prosperity Strategy

The Committee considered the Economic Prosperity Strategy 2023-28 and provided feedback to the Economic Development Manager (EDM).

Concerns were expressed that the current issues surrounding the Local Plan may impact on the Economic Prosperity Strategy. The reference to the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) needed to be amended to make it clearer that not all cars entering the zone would be subject to the ULEZ charge.

The Committee asked that the Local Procurement Limit be reviewed with a view to increasing the current limit of £5,000 but evidence would be needed to show that any rise would have a beneficial impact on businesses within the Borough.

The EDM advised that a Procurement Portal was in the process of being built and it was planned that this would be available to officers within the next two months. This portal would enable officers to view service providers throughout the Borough when looking to source local businesses. It was suggested that Members engaged with businesses to encourage them to register their business to be included on the portal.

The Committee **resolved** to note the update.

27/23 EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership

The Group Head Place, Protection and Prosperity advised the Committee that the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) would cease from 31 March 2024. A decision was still needed as to whether the assets and functions of the LEPs would sit with Surrey County Council or whether they would become a stand

alone company that were employed by Surrey County Council. The Committee were advised that how the EM3 LEP would be split was still under discussion.

The Committee were advised that the LEPs still had residual money that they were looking to distribute and had asked that Local Authorities identify any projects that they could put forward for the next round of funding.

The Committee agreed that the Group Head Place, Protection and Prosperity would arrange for Surrey County Council's Economic Development Team to give a presentation to the next meeting of the committee. Surrey County Council will be advised of the areas of concern that the committee had so that they could be included within the presentation. It was agreed that all members would be invited to attend the meeting.

The Committee **resolved** to note the update on the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership.

28/23 Forward Plan

The Committee requested that an item be added to the Forward Plan to review the current Contract Standing Order that states:

“all items under the value of £5,000 must be purchased in Spelthorne if available (subject to best value considerations).

The Committee **resolved** to note the Forward Plan for the business of this Committee subject to the additional item as outlined above.

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