

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL, 2023

MEMBERS: Councillors Mohammad Islam (Chair), Josh Abey, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Ayten Guzel, Joanne Laban, David Skelton, Edward Smith and Nicki Adeleke

Officers:

Simon Gardener (Regeneration Director), Andrea Bugli (Place Shaping Delivery Manager) and Brett Leahy (Director of Planning and Growth)

Apologies: Cllr Thomas Fawns, substituted by Cllr Nikki Adeleke

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Thomas Fawns, who was substituted by Cllr Nikki Adeleke.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed with the following amendments.

Item 4 – amendment for Local plan to look for at least 25km of industrial/logistics space.

4. TOWN CENTRES ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Andrea Bugli (Place Shaping Delivery Manager) presented this item, highlighting the key points from the report on the plans to develop town centres that are vibrant, healthy, and inclusive.

Members had queries on the Pearson's refurbishment, to which officers explained that Palace Gardens are considering a redesign, the Council's role is to provide planning permissions. The Council has held discussions with Palace Gardens and owner representatives on their proposals. The tower block is still a live consideration for them; however, the focus is on public realm works. Officers confirmed they are having active conversations to ensure that the proposals are attractive while offering a safe environment for all. Maintaining safer streets is a key consideration.

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Members raised concerns on possible plans to change the market square cobble stones which have been in place since Tudor times. Officers clarified that no changes would be made without a discussion with the Market Trust.

Members shared feedback they received from the Community regarding the town centre plans, that there needs to be more electric charging points.

Action: Officers to confirm to Members where the 2 electric charging points currently on Coleman Parade are moving to.

Members requested more information on Angel Yard, to which officers explained that the work has been completed and ready to open this May, 18 units have already been let to Enfield Residents aged 18-30. Launchit are covering the costs at Angel Yard.

Action: Officers to provide a list of tenants and what they do.

Officers explained that the Living Room Library space in Angel Edmonton is also being used by Fore Street For All and React. There is an option for community groups to book on the space on Thursdays. Officers clarified that Fore Street For All gained funding from GLA to organise events within the Library in support of local residents and businesses. Fore Street For All are actively seeking more funding as the GLA support will terminate in September.

Action: Officers to get data on number of visits since Living Room Library works.

In relation to Southgate, the Council has received support from the GLA to help local business in Ashfield Parade, including adding greenery and seating. The Council are also working in collaboration with TFL to improve the area by the station. TFL are upgrading all plants near the station and completing restoration work to the building. Officers have been meeting with Ashfield Parade business owners once a month to listen to their concerns and brainstorm ideas. Similar meetings will happen with Chase Side business owners in the coming months.

Members commented that the traffic has always been an issue in Southgate and the LTNs have made this worse.

5. CULTURAL STRATEGY

Simon Gardener (Regeneration Director) presented this item highlighting the key points from the presentation.

The Council are supporting local Cultural businesses, through the grant funding it has received, such as Chicken Shed by commissioning them to do work.

Following a query from Members, Officers explained that some pubs have a license to include live music.

Members commented that the Forty Hall Café needs improvement. Officers confirmed the lease for the Café is coming to an end and they will be looking at new options for the Café and Banqueting suite. Members suggested that the brochure should be given at the beginning of the Forty Hall tour, rather than the end.

Officers explained that although the Month of Sundays was very popular it has been discontinued due to funding and capacity of the team decreasing. Large music events have also taken place in Trent Park. The company who run Drumsheds are looking to work with Ikea on a temporary basis to hold some events.

Museums have recently gained funding so that their catalogue of items can be digitalised.

Officers confirmed the newsletter is only provided in English but can be translated upon request. Members commented that this could be a barrier and it should be translated before the request to gain more attraction.

6. SKILLS ACADEMIES

Simon Gardener presented the item, detailing key points from the presentation.

Members held concern on the target of 500 trainees a year, to which Officers explained that the Council have been working with Vistry and CONEL to ensure local people can access the Skills Academy and suppliers can take trainees on to permanent roles. This includes giving the main developer a list of local suppliers to use. Officers are also looking to ensure good procurement by building into their contracts the requirement to take trainees from the Skills Academy. They are also looking to include all sub-contractors to be local suppliers.

Following Members questions Officers confirmed that Multi National Companies such as Warner Bros, Netflix and Amazon coming over to use the film studio facilities are looking to employ British based film crews, rather than bringing over their own. There is an opportunity to ensure local residents can make the most of these opportunities.

Officers explained that learning from similar projects which haven't worked well meant that timing of running courses is important, so that they finish in time to work within the subcontracted work going on.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

Noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.