

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4  
MAY 2022  
10.00 - 11.39 AM**

**Responsible Officer:** Shelley Davies  
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**Present**

Councillor Robert Macey (Leader)  
Councillors Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea, Dan Morris,  
Nicholas Bardsley (substitute for Mark Jones) and David Vasmer (substitute for Nigel  
Hartin)

**41 Apologies for absence and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ted Clarke, Nigel Hartin, Mark Jones and Viv Parry. Councillor Nick Bardsley was present as a substitute for Councillor Mark Jones and Councillor David Vasmer was present as a substitute for Councillor Nigel Hartin.

**42 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**43 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**44 Member Question Time**

A question was received from Councillor Julian Dean in relation to the council debt collection policy adopted in 2016. A full copy of the question and response provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

Councillor Julian Dean stated that the response did not refer to the fact that the policy had changed and did not answer his question in regard to how many times enforcement agents had been used. The Chairman noted the points raised by Councillor Julian Dean and agreed to feed this back to officers.

## 45 Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

The Chairman welcomed Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place and Hayley Owen, Growth Programme and Strategy Manager to the meeting.

Hayley Owen gave a very informative presentation and update on the development of the Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027 which provided the committee with detailed information in relation to the framework and content of the strategy and outlined the strategy's core principles and themes.

Councillor Ed Potter, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning noted that the consultation process was the next important stage for the strategy and urged Members to be involved and provide feedback. Hayley Owen confirmed that the consultation process would involve Member briefings and added there would be an opportunity for the strategy to come back to this Committee following the consultation period.

In response to questions from Members the following points were made:

- It was explained that key infrastructure projects such as the Northwest Relief Road and the Mile End Roundabout were key to the strategy and that connectivity was a key theme to attract to businesses to Shropshire.
- It was noted that the importance of encouraging young people to be involved in the economy to ensure they do not move away from Shropshire was a vital element of the strategy.
- The trend for working from home with people moving out of cities and to places such as Shropshire was highlighted, and it was stressed that broadband and transport links were essential for this to continue.
- A point made in relation to the lack of KPI's was taken on board and it was explained that an action plan for delivery to include detail for KPI's was to be developed to implement key themes in the strategy.
- It was noted that since Covid there had been a number of changes and Officers were now working with local businesses to understand the economy in Shropshire and this would feature in the action plan.
- Future governance was stated as being essential to success of the strategy and it was explained that the current economic taskforce could potentially evolve into an Economic Investment Board, which would have overview and oversight of the strategy going forward and would monitor and review delivery.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for the presentation and noted that he would welcome the opportunity for the strategy to come back to this committee in due course.

**RESOLVED:** That the development of the Economic Growth Strategy be noted.

**46 Work Programme Review**

The Scrutiny Officer gave a presentation in relation to the work programme for 2022/23 and noted the topics that the Committee had agreed to look at again as stated below:

- Domestic Abuse
- Armed forces
- Housing
- Town/Parish Councils
- Buses/community transport
- Economic Growth
- Blue badge applications

The Chairman stated that there was a number of options and suggested that an informal meeting with Members and Substitutes to discuss the work programme was the best way forward.

It was agreed that the Domestic violence strategy would be built into the work programme for 2022/23 and the following suggestions were also noted by the Scrutiny Officer:

- Waste Minimisation Strategy
- Leisure Centre pricing
- Crime and drug related activity

**47 Date/Time of next meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday, 20th July 2022.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: