

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL (STATE OF ASHFIELD DEBATE)

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 24th October, 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Tony Brewer in the Chair;

Councillors John Baird, Chris Baron, Christian Chapman, Ciaran Brown, Melanie Darrington, Samantha Deakin, Andy Gascoyne, Dale Grounds, Arnie Hankin, Andrew Harding, Tom Hollis, Trevor Locke, Rachel Madden, Sarah Madigan, David Martin, Andy Meakin, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Warren Nuttall, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, John Smallridge, Helen-Ann Smith, David Walters, Lee Waters, Daniel Williamson, John Wilmott and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Kier Barsby, Jim Blagden, David Hennigan, Matthew Relf, Dave Shaw and Caroline Wilkinson.

Officers Present: Craig Bonar, Lynn Cain, Carol Cooper-Smith, Ruth Dennis, Katherine Green, Theresa Hodgkinson, Mike Joy, Abbie Smith and Shane Wright.

In Attendance: Rachel Quinn (D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership) and Stuart Young (Executive Director, East Midlands Councils).

C.54 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

C.55 State of Ashfield Debate - Economic Growth

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised that he had called the meeting, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to enable an annual State of Ashfield debate to take place.

The debate would be focussing on Economic Growth and presentations had been arranged to be given by Stuart Young, the Executive Director of East Midlands Council, Rachel Quinn from the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Council's Interim Chief Executive, Carol Cooper-Smith.

The Chairman explained to Members that the main purpose of the meeting was to enable the Leader and his Cabinet colleagues to gather information on the issues and matters which were of concern to Members and which could be considered as part of the preparations for business planning and the proposals for the Council's budget and policy framework.

In order to enable effective discussion to take place and to ensure a more flexible committee style of meeting, it was moved and seconded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 30.1, the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 16 (Rules of Debate). Upon being put to the vote, the motion was duly carried.

No formal recommendations or decisions were to be taken at the meeting but informal next steps and common understanding between all parties would be formulated at the end of the meeting.

A State of the District debate then ensued during which the Council received three presentations detailing the following:-

East Midlands Councils

- HS2 National Context;
- HS2 Eastern Leg and what it means for the region;
- Local Economic Profiles;
- Future Opportunities;

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

- Local Enterprise Partnerships;
- Our Place;
- D2N2 Vision for 2030;
- D2N2 Capital Programme;
- Ashfield Projects;

Ashfield District Council

- Place and Setting the Scene;
- Statistics and Challenges;
- Strength and Opportunities;
- Town Centres.

Members then took the opportunity to raise and discuss their ideas and observations via a question and answer session as agreed.

During the course of the meeting it was moved and seconded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23.1 (Conclusion of Proceedings) to extend the meeting until 9.30 p.m. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was duly carried.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Leader of the Council thanked the Council's Members and guests for their contribution and hoped that they had found it informative and useful, particularly as Cabinet Members would now be able to assimilate the comments made and take them into account during the business planning process which was to commence shortly.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman.