



CABINET

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To: Councillors Miah (Leader), Hamilton (Deputy Leader), Ashcroft, Blackshaw, A. Gray, Jadeja, Jones and Tillotson (for attention)

All other members of the Council
(for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Thursday, 8th February 2024 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

26th January 2024

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT – SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORTS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 11. | <u>HOUSING STRATEGY 2024-29</u> | 3 - 4 |
| | A report of the Head of Strategic Housing. | |
| | <i>Key Decision</i> | |
| 12. | <u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024-27</u> | 5 - 6 |
| | A report of the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration. | |

Key Decision

CABINET – 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

HOUSING STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Housing Strategy.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Strategic Housing.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. It was highlighted that it was not a statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Housing Strategy, but that the Council did have responsibility to assess and meet the housing needs if the local population.
- ii. Partnership working was vital in order to deliver a suitable Housing Strategy. Working with partners in the public and private sector provided opportunities to add expertise and pace to the implementation of the strategy.
- iii. Asylum Seekers and Refugees with indefinite leave to remain were assessed for housing in the same way as other applicants. One of the aims of the Housing Strategy was to increase housing stock levels to meet the needs of a growing population. An increased housing stock would mean more opportunities to house Asylum Seekers and Refugees and other customers requiring housing.
- iv. Affordable housing on market-led developments was secured through section 106 agreements. These legal agreements between local authorities and developers were linked to planning permissions.
- v. The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment Housing Distribution Paper (HENA), published in April 2022, identified the housing requirements in each local authority area in Leicestershire. The Council was required to establish a housing figure for the area, showing the extent to which the housing need could be met and any needs that could not be met within neighbouring areas. The Council's Local Plan would contain policies and proposals that would encourage suitable developments in the right locations.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 103 2023/24, 5th February 2024.
Officer to Contact:	Sally Watson Democratic Services Officer (01509) 634969 Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023-27

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Economic Development Strategy 2023-27.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. An Economic Development Strategy was not a statutory requirement and members were pleased that the Council had developed one to facilitate a stronger economy for Charnwood.
- ii. The work involved in the Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 27 covered the whole of the borough. It was recognised that there were benefits in supporting events in towns and smaller areas across Charnwood and the Council had recruited an Events Manager to maximise event opportunities.
- iii. The town of Loughborough featured heavily in the strategy as this was an area of critical mass activity, with a significant amount of business and leisure opportunity. It was highlighted that supporting the economy in the Loughborough area benefitted the Borough as a whole.
- iv. There was a trend in the number of vacant units, which tended to increase and decrease over time. The most recent figures suggested that there were fewer vacancies and so the situation was improving.
- v. The Council was working with local colleges to provide T-Level opportunities for young people. It was hoped that this would provide a positive example to local businesses to encourage a similar approach. In addition, the Careers and Enterprise Hub project, which was part of the Loughborough Town Deal, was open to the public and was supporting local people in training and skills development.

- vi. The Loughborough area had a renowned reputation for sports excellence and there were a number of developing projects in the borough that supported this. The Healthy and Innovative Loughborough project, which was part of the Loughborough Town Deal, and a number of business start-ups in areas outside of Loughborough would focus on the health and wellbeing of residents in Charnwood. There was also potential opportunities to bring more sport events into the area in the future.

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