

Minutes of the Economic Development Group

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at TMC Creative's office

Present

D Watson (Chairman)  
D McGifford  
A Pear  
P Aston  
R Burns  
T McCloud  
K Cook  
B Hogan

Apologies

Apologies were received from A Bird and P Bowers

1. Feedback from meeting with LEP and next steps

Whilst the outcome of the meeting with the LEP was disappointing in that there is no prospect in the short term at least of Congleton installing an enterprise zone, the meeting nonetheless was quite positive in terms of information.

It was suggested that CEC should be lobbied to set up an enterprise zone in the Town with appropriate incentives to attract new businesses.

LP2 should be reformed to progress infra structure projects such as the Link Road and provision of sufficient employment land.

The future demand for employment land can be predicated and forecast and this should be passed to CEC - **Action DMc**

2. Master Planners progress

The master planners have produced a draft report and this has been passed to officers in CEC. The next step is for the Cabinet to consider it then it needs to be adopted into the Local Plan

The planning application for the Link Road should be coming forward in early October

3. Planning applications in Radnor Park for commercial use

A developer will be submitting a plan for residential and commercial use in Somerford Green located off Back Lane.

There will be a public exhibition of the developer's proposals which will take place in the Town Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

4. Review aims and objectives

**Objectives**

1. To achieve better than average job density for Congleton in comparison with the rest of Cheshire East
2. Retain and attract high calibre businesses that offer a high job density
3. Work with the local authority to incentivise the retention and attraction of quality businesses
4. To work in collaboration with the local authority to create sustainable travel infrastructure
5. To work with Cheshire East to implement the required infrastructure to support the development of the employment sites
6. Improve public transport to service the employment areas
7. Encourage the use of renewable energy
8. Long term plan to relocate the Green Island and Buglawton businesses to the new employment sites
9. Encourage the creation a specialist college in the town
10. Encourage completion of the Public Realm Strategy
11. Work with the local authority to incentivise the retention and attraction of quality businesses in the town centre
12. Encourage high quality retail, leisure and accommodation within the town centre

13. Increase focus on cycle and walkways within the town centre and surrounding areas

Objective 3 needs further clarification and a session is required with Adrian Fisher to determine what the local authority can provide by way of support to incentivise and attract new business to the area

Any release of land from existing employment sites needs to be matched with an equal amount of new employment land located elsewhere within the immediate vicinity of the Town

5. Employment sites in Congleton

Noted that there are 12 employment sites located in the Town most which must be retained.

There are some industrial sites in Buglawton and Green Island which could be released as brownfield sites for residential use, but, only on the strict understanding that the industrial land released must be provided elsewhere in the immediate vicinity of the Town for employment use.

6. Date of next meeting

LP2. 28<sup>th</sup> September time to be confirmed