

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2025

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Timms (Chair), S Edwards, Freeman, Hassell, Lawrence, New and Srivastava

Officers:

Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance), Nicola Smith (Chief Officer – Growth and Investment) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. GROWTH AND INVESTMENT UPDATE

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 4) regarding the plans and resources for the key projects.

The Chief Officer for Growth and Investment was present and answered a number of questions put by the committee on the topics of the Local Plan, the Issues and Options consultation, housing targets, the South West Rugby development and infrastructure, staff resources and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

It was reported that the draft Design Code for South West Rugby was now due to be submitted to Cabinet on 8 April 2025 and Council on 23 April for approval and adoption. This was to allow time for consideration of consultation responses.

The message from Government is that production of Local Plans should not be delayed by the local government reorganisation. All local authorities are required to have an up-to-date plan. The Council would continue with the current timetable for the Local Plan, as published, and the aim was to submit the Local Plan for examination by June 2026.

Planning Services Working Group was the cross party Cabinet working group appointed to consider and make recommendations on matters of policy and strategy relating to Council functions delivered with Planning Services that primarily relate to the establishment of Borough planning policy in the form of the Local Plan.

A question was raised about whether a briefing session on the Local Plan should be held for all councillors prior to Cabinet and Council would be held.

Concerns were raised about town centre businesses acting as money laundering fronts and it was agreed a letter should be sent to Warwickshire Police to understand the level of activity and what action was being taken.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) a briefing be held on the Local Plan for all councillors; and
- (2) a letter be sent to Warwickshire Police to ask about the level of money laundering activity in the town centre and what action was being taken to address this.

CHAIR