

ECONOMIC STRATEGY PLAN

[Correspondence between JPC and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development 07.12.2023]

Subject: Representation to Council Meeting 11th December 2023/Question to Councillor Cowcher

For the attention of Head of Paid Service and Councillor George Cowcher Planning and Economic Development

Henley and Beaudesert Joint Parish Council

Statement to SDC Council Meeting 11th December

Agenda item 12 Economic Strategy and Plan

I am writing to the District Council and registering to speak at the meeting on behalf of Henley and Beaudesert JPC. The Parish Council and the local community have consistently made the point that the local physical infrastructure is in very poor condition and a major concern. The issue dominated our December meeting yet again specifically the recent flood damage and the possible loss of the town Fire Station being extensively discussed. It is a serious concern that the town lies outside the Core Opportunity Area in the Economic Strategy and therefore will have low priority for future infrastructure investment. This clearly conflicts with the town being identified in the draft Local Plan as an area of potential expansion. In order to address this anomaly we would like the District Council to approve an addendum to its decision today as follows.

“The District Council endorses the principle that no significant housing or other development proposal will be approved unless a fully funded infrastructure plan is in place for both the area and each specific development”.

Thank you for your attention

Richard Clark OBE

Response:

Dear Mr Clark

The economic Strategy mentions in several sections the need for infrastructure to accompany economic growth and future development. This is a key theme being discussed in the emerging local plan and will be a key consideration when our attention turns next year to assessing potential locations for new development. I know that potential flooding is a vital issue which is being taken extremely seriously. We share your concerns about the potential developments in the fire service which I am certain will be the subject of much public debate in 2024.

When I introduce the item on the economic strategy this afternoon I will emphasise the need for growth only to happen where there is the infrastructure to support it.

Yours sincerely

George Cowcher

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development