

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE – 8 JUNE 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ORDER IN WHICH THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE WILL INVITE QUESTIONS BELOW RECEIVED IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

1. From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper
2. From Mr Chester to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper
3. From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper
4. From Mr Chester to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper
5. From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper
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FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED BELOW

Note, the Chair will:

- invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution;
- explain that the questions received will be answered by the Chair or other appropriate Members of the Committee
- confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question.
- state that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

QUESTION ONE

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

The Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee has made a decision concerning changes at the Place St Maur. Will he confirm that the Place forms part of the Regis Centre regeneration site as defined in the extant 2004 Masterplan?

Response

Thank you for your question.

I can confirm that as a matter of fact Place St Maur is shown as part of the wider Regis Centre proposals in the 2003 Masterplan.

QUESTION TWO

From Mr Chester to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

The latest public statement on the Littlehampton Public Realm works was that the contractor 'Edburton' had been appointed on 25 March. Final details of the scheme are still to be approved. Why is it not on this agenda nor on the work programme for the next Committee in July?

Response

Thank you for your question.

At the time you submitted your question the committee work programme hadn't been updated. However, i can confirm a report regarding the construction contract will be reported to the July committee.

QUESTION THREE

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

Will he agree that this decision must now be considered by his Committee before work can proceed given that regeneration issues are in his Committee's purview?

Response

Thank you for your question.

There are many matters that the Council will consider that will potentially fall under the terms of reference of several committees. However, it does not automatically mean that each matter will need to be considered by multiple committees. Instead each matter will need to be considered on a case by case basis. I can confirm that the Place St Maur proposals will remain within the purview of the E&NS committee.

QUESTION FOUR

From Mr Chester to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

Bearing in mind recent examples of Arun submitting planning applications and having them refused by its only planning committee, in the main because of an absence of local consultation, is the headlong rush to find projects to meet the deadline for applications to the Levelling Up Fund in danger of going the same way? As members of the public we cannot even read these proposals as it is to be dealt with tonight by a verbal report. The only shovel ready scheme with demonstrated support I can identify is the public realm project from Littlehampton Rail Station to High Street and that should be the one submitted to the first phase surely?

Response

Thank you for your question

I would invite you to listen to the presentation on the potential bid to the levelling up fund which is later on this agenda which will hopefully address your questions. However, I would add that the funding scheme has a short deadline which meant the Council did not have the opportunity to undertake additional consultation. Given there is potentially £20 million on offer I am sure you would agree that making a bid is the overriding priority.

QUESTION FIVE

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

Were the principal organisations with regeneration plans/proposals for the whole Regis Centre site consulted as to the impact the Place development might have on their plans?

Response

Thank you for your question

I can confirm that they were not, although it was open to any party to submit comments as part of the public consultation undertaken.

QUESTION SIX

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

Surely he will agree that it is important that proposals and funding are considered in a coherent manner, Coast2Capital, Levelling-Up Fund and Private Regeneration investment, so as to gain maximum regeneration impact and results?

Response

Thank you for question.

As a matter of general principle, I concur.

QUESTION SEVEN

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

The agenda for 8th June contains a proposal to submit a bid to the Levelling-Up Fund re the Regis Centre site. If approved this would completely wreck the opportunities for proposals made in the Presentation process by other bodies.

What does the Chairman propose should be done given that part of the site (Place St Maur) has already been proposed to be chopped off, and given the amount of private investment that is at stake? Will he ensure that Guidance on this aspect which has not been drawn to the Committee's attention in the Officer report will be made clear to the Committee at this meeting?

Response

Thank you for your question.

I would encourage you to watch the presentation in respect of the item regarding the levelling up fund which is later on this agenda which I believe will cover the matters you raise. There is some synergy between the proposals the Council is considering tonight and at least one of the presentations you referred to and parts of others.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economic Committee, Councillor Cooper

Will the Chair please note this statement and ask Councillors to consider its content during the relevant item since writing my questions I have read the new constitution which reserved regeneration matters to Full Council, so this Committee should only be making recommendations, but if this is refused, this will be taken as proof by the public that the Regis Centre is not to be regenerated rather than piece mil redevelopment and that Arun council is willing to gamble on a speculative competitive bid to levelling up whilst ignoring alternative possibility for the funds which would inform maximum private investment in line with levelling up guidance and for example would develop a new Hotel and space for Arun Arts akin to its current requirements and if this is ignored and the low vision proposals here are steamrollered through, he can expect a complaint and determined possible legal action from this Council.

Response

The Chair confirmed that the points raised by the member of the public had been noted.

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