

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 22 nd January 2020
Subject: Chairs report for Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee	Wards Affected: All
Committee Chair: Cllr James Tumbridge	
Report of: Cllr Tumbridge	Public FOR INFORMATION

The full activity of the Committee can be seen from the minutes of its meetings of September 11th, November 27th, 2019, and January 8th 2020. This report highlights two parts of that work:

Economic Development, Business Support

Almost 400 delegates attended the 2019 Brentwood Business Showcase on Thursday 31 October at the Brentwood School. The event included 13 keynote speakers, 3 business workshops, 58 exhibitors, networking opportunities, a Brentwood Chamber zone and a drinks reception hosted by Morgan Sindall Investments. The Showcase made a profit of £1,000, in part due to revenue generated by sponsorship from 10 businesses. Next year's Brentwood Business Showcase will be brought forward to July 2020.

47 businesses attended business support workshops hosted by Brentwood Borough Council between July and November 2019, including 'Podcasting and Video for Business', delivered by Carmel Jane Talks Business and HNE Media; 'Brentwood Business Showcase exhibitor masterclass', delivered by PDT Sales Consultancy; and 'Make 2020 Your Best Year Yet', delivered by Pro-actions Business Support and Coaching.

Strategic Planning

The Local Development Plan is now progressing towards Submission for the Examination-in-Public process. Following consideration of comments made in response to the Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation in early 2019, the Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee noted significant concern expressed by residents regarding development on sites in Blackmore and Shenfield. Taking account of this, an Addendum of Focussed Changes was published for consultation. These changes included the reduction in new homes in Blackmore and Shenfield by 70 and replacing these by increasing the minimum number of new homes to be delivered in the plan period at Dunton Hills Garden Village. It also ensured sufficient access points on sites off Priests Lane will be part of the proposal. The Addendum of Focussed Changes will be submitted as part of the Local Plan for a Planning Inspector to consider. Submission is expected by the end of January 2020 with the hearing sessions of the examination likely taking place later this year.

The Brentwood Town Centre Design Guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by the Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee in December 2019. This is an important step in ensuring the quality of development proposals is improved in and around the Town Centre. The document

will be an important tool for the Council to advise and engage with those proposing development before plans are finalised.