

COUNCIL MEETING – 25 JULY 2017

QUESTION FROM ELECTOR UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 9

1. From Mr Kenneth Wright to Councillor Munawar

“The Five Year Plan just published in the Slough Citizen states that *we will recruit, retain and develop high quality people who are committed to Slough and supported to do their job*. When is it proposed to introduce this excellent commitment and will all senior members of staff be made aware of this mandatory requirement?”

Reply

This commitment has already been introduced and all staff are aware of this.

The purpose of the Five Year Plan is to set out our vision; to be clear about our priority outcomes and to explain how we will do this.

Our five priority outcomes are focussed on putting people first.

The commitment to “recruit, retain and develop high quality people who are committed to Slough and supported to do their job” underpins everything we do and applies to all of the services in the council.

All staff at all levels are aware of this commitment and it is an important element of our internal communication to explain how we will work together as one council to deliver the outcomes in the Five Year Plan.

This includes being the focus of the Human Resources and Organisational Development Service Plan; being built into our induction for new staff, annual staff appraisal process and part of our regular internal communications.

We cannot deliver the services and outcomes for the people of Slough without our staff and I am proud of their dedication and commitment.

2. From Mr Steven Gillingwater to Councillor Ajaib

“Slough High Street used to be the centre for shopping seeing visitors from all surrounding areas including parts of London. With news that Marks and Spencer, Next are leaving and T.K. Maxx rumouring to leave what hope does the Council have of attracting residents to the centre if all the commercial retailers are leaving or is it the Council goal to create a real life western ghost town?”

Reply

The Council are committed to facilitating the town centre's regeneration through attracting investment, jobs and opportunities. We are particularly disappointed to note that a number of high street retailers have decided to move their premises due to commercial decisions and to the changes in how

high streets perform generally. High streets throughout England are seeing major high street retailers restructure their offers due to the advent of online shopping, click and collect home delivery and other new shopping channels and methods.

The Council is mindful that although there are a number of these issues outside our control, we have a responsibility to seek to mitigate the impact of these high street changes on Slough.

The Council has put in place a multiagency partnership to address these challenges. This multiagency partnership called the Town centre partnership is made up of the Council, retailers, banks, police, artists and others. This partnership is driving a framework of activity focused on 'Now and soon' themed as a town centre that is clean safe and vibrant' a number of proactive activities have already been carried out including a town centre walkabout and an initial assessment for the 'purple flag ' an award for a safe evening and night time economy.

Further plans include a 'meanwhile' strategy to use existing assets in new ways such as pop up restaurants ,incubator business start ups , gallery's and co working spaces to activate the high street.

Ultimately Slough has worked hard to secure long term investment into the town centre which should see the wholesale demolition of the existing shopping malls. The Observatory and the Queensmere. the Abu Dubai investment authority are investing 650m in the centre to deliver a residential led regeneration providing a first class leisure 'offer' including a game changing customer experience. These include a gaming experience using new technology.