

**REGENERATION, CULTURE AND  
ADULT EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2011  
at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor K Turner (Chairman)  
Councillor Islam (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Ali, Caunt, G H Davies, Evans, Knowles, Mottram, Mrs. Simms and  
J Woodall.

**Officers**

Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee); Director of Corporate Resources; Treasurer; Assistant Director Culture and Leisure; Assistant Director Economic Regeneration; Head of Sports and Physical Activities and Area Sport and Recreation Manager (all Directorate of the Urban Environment); and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

**Also in attendance**

Councillor Stanley (Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture)

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22      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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23      **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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24      PETITIONS

It was noted that there were no petitions for consideration at this meeting of the Committee.

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25      PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda Item.

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26      REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY, 2012/13

A joint report of Officers was submitted on the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy as part of the consultation being undertaken on the Strategy.

The proposed efficiencies and other savings falling wholly or partly within the Terms of Reference of this Committee were set out at Appendix A to the report submitted and summarised at paragraph 34 of the report.

Arising from the presentation given by the Treasurer on the content of the report and Appendix to the report, Members asked a number of questions to which responses were given.

In response to a particular question regarding the damping effect on the Council's budget it was noted that whilst it was considered that the Leader of the Council would already have made representations to Government on this, the matter would be raised with the Leader again.

A further particular question was also asked on the proposed efficiency and other saving outlined in Appendix A to the report under the heading Urban Environment, relating to the cessation of Town Centre Management roles in the context of a review of links with local traders and a reduction in project management support.

In response it was reported that it was envisaged that the cessation of these roles would give rise to the development of more direct links between local traders and key service areas. Therefore, links with traders would be developed in a way different to those currently undertaken.

The review indicated was currently underway and was expected to be completed by mid-2012.

Arising from the question asked, the Chairman raised the issue of street traders in town centres and their relationship to traders in these centres and considered that the proposed revised arrangements could include a role to more effectively manage street traders in town centres and have a charging policy that involved a realistic and economic rent.

The Director of Corporate Resources in responding indicated that he was aware of the issues raised by the Chairman and that these and other wider issues were currently being looked at by officers from his Directorate and that of the Urban Environment. He also indicated that he would have further discussions on this matter with a view to an update report being submitted to the Committee in due course.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix A to the report, submitted on the Cabinet's Revenue Budget Strategy proposals for 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted and that the Cabinet be informed that there were no specific observations that this Committee would wish to make.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of the Urban Environment be requested to submit an update report to the January meeting of this Committee on the reviews currently being undertaken into town centre management and on the wider issues being looked at by officers in their Directorates in the light of the comments made at this meeting.

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## 27 LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on recent investment in Leisure Centres and the impact that this had had on service performance. Supporting statistics were attached to the report as Appendices 1 to 7.

Arising from the presentation given by the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure on the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted Members asked a number of questions and made points which were responded to.

In commenting, Members considered that the report was a good news story and was a good example of a successful partnership arrangement with the private sector.

Arising from a particular comment made, it was noted that consideration was still on-going into an issue raised previously with the Directorate of the Urban Environment regarding extended opening times for Leisure Centres.

## RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices of the report, submitted on the recent investment in Leisure Centres and the impact that this had had on service performance, be noted.

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### 28 UPDATE ON THE RECREATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE HEALTHY TOWNS INITIATIVE

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted updating the Committee on progress made for the implementation of the Borough's Healthy Town programme with specific reference to the recreational element.

Arising from the presentation given by the Assistant Director Culture and Leisure on the content of the report submitted, Members asked a number of questions to which responses were given.

In response to a question regarding previous concerns raised about the conflict between park users and cyclists, it was reported that given the lack of complaints reported, it was considered that this was not an issue following on from the actions taken previously.

In response to a further question from Councillor Knowles, it was reported that traffic managers were currently looking at the position in respect of Racecourse Lane and its use by cyclists and that the Assistant Director Economic Regeneration would arrange for Councillor Knowles to be updated on this matter.

The meeting ended at 7.28 pm

CHAIRMAN